Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges

Board of Presidents

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 28, 2025

8:30 P.M. – Noon
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

## Members Present

Lin Zhou, Bates

Jim Lemerond, Bellingham

Sara Thompson Tweedy, Big Bend
Eric Murray, Cascadia

Bob Mohrbacher, Centralia

Karin Edwards, Clark

Joyce Loveday, Clover Park

Rebekah Woods, Columbia Basin

Chemene Crawford, Everett

Carli Schiffner, Grays Harbor

John Mosby, Highline

Amy Morrison, Lake Washington

Rachel Solemsaas, North Seattle

Marty Cavalluzzi, Olympic

Suzanne Ames, Peninsula

Chio Flores, Pierce Puyallup

Yoshiko Harden, Renton

Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, Seattle District

Chantae Recasner, Seattle Central

Joe Mazur for Jack Kahn, Shoreline

Chris Villa, Skagit

Tim Stokes, South Puget Sound

Monica Brown, South Seattle

Kevin Brockbank, Spokane District

Jenni Martin, Spokane

Kimberly Messina, Spokane Falls

Ivan Harrell, Tacoma

Chad Hickox, Walla Walla

Faimous Harrison, Wenatchee Valley

Nate Langstraat, Whatcom

Teresa Rich, Yakima Valley

## Ex-Officio Members — SBCTC

Chris Bailey, interim executive director

Grant Rodeheaver, information technology

Joyce Hammer, education

Choi Halliday, finance

Darrell Jennings, capital budget

Stephanie Winner, operating budget

Ha Nguyen, SBCTC

Arlen Harris, SBCTC

## Guests and SBCTC Staff

Martin Valadez, State Board

Bertha Ortega, ACT

Jamie Traugott, SBCTC

Jason Hetterle, Wenatchee Valley College

Julie Huss, SBCTC

Katie Rose, SBCTC
Kim Tanaka, SBCTC

Lia Homeister, Renton Technical Colleges

MarcusAntonio Gunn, SBCTC

Marie Bruin, SBCTC

Maya Esquivido, SBCTC

Michael Brown, SBCTC

Monica Wilson, SBCTC

Nanette Angel, SBCTC

Sam Herriot, SBCTC

Stephanie Winner, SBCTC
Summer Kenneson

Will Durden, SBCTC

## Call to Order and WelcomeAmy Morrison, President of the Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges (WACTC), convened the meeting at 8:30 a.m., welcomed the attending presidents, and provided a brief overview of the agenda. She emphasized the full day ahead, highlighted the importance of staying on schedule, and set expectations for the updates and discussions to follow.

## Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to approve Feb. 29, 2025, minutes as presented without amendments.

**MOTION PASSED.**

## Treasurer’s Report — Joyce Loveday, WACTC president- elect

## Joyce Loveday presented the latest financial summary, included in the WACTC packet, reporting a carry-forward balance of $49,799.95.

## She noted that this balance does not yet account for the following unpaid contributions:

## FSOCC: $12,500

## SOCC: $12,500

## The total outstanding contributions of $25,000 are currently undergoing the approval process and will be reflected in a reduced balance in the next report.

## The $40,000 for the All-Washington Scholarships has been paid.

Legislator Visit

Representative Dave Paul joined the meeting for a legislative update.

1. Budget Challenges & Appropriations Process:

* The House Appropriations Committee met the night before and processed approximately 70 amendments.
* An amendment to restore community college funding in the supplemental budget was not introduced, despite advocacy.
* The Senate version includes this funding, and there's hope it will be restored during conference negotiations.
* Emphasized the importance of engaging with legislators to maintain pressure, especially ahead of floor votes and the conference process.

2. Advocacy Strategy:

* Urged college leaders to reach out to their local legislators, especially those in Republican and Eastern Washington districts, to explain how state and federal budget issues impact students and colleges.
* Highlighted the importance of telling specific stories and sharing the direct impact of funding gaps on programs and services.
* Encouraged use of upcoming work sessions and ongoing legislative meetings to educate lawmakers about these challenges.

3. Federal Funding Uncertainty:

* Shared concern over the federal budget environment, noting threats to over $360 million in federal funds that support the community and technical college system.
* Stressed that while state budget uncertainty has a foreseeable endpoint, federal funding risks are ongoing and unpredictable.

4. Tuition Backfill and Institutional Support:

* Spoke about efforts from past sessions to backfill institutions for unfunded COLAs (cost-of-living adjustments).
* Expressed disappointment that the House budget includes a $2 million claw back from the College Access Program Fund, affecting the financial stability of colleges.
* Additional concern raised over $6 million in reductions without a tuition increase, potentially worsening institutional strain.

5. Next Steps & Engagement:

* Encouraged ongoing collaboration and strategy among presidents, trustees, and system leaders.
* Expressed willingness to visit campuses in both Eastern and Western Washington, including Big Bend and Central Washington institutions.
* Reinforced the message that bipartisan education efforts are essential to securing long-term stability for the system.

## Executive Committee Report — Amy Morrison, WACTC president

## Amy Morrison provided updates:

* Nominations are open for WACTC chair-elect; if none, Bob M. to be appointed.
* May presidents meeting moved to Shoreline, future meeting in Wenatchee.
* Events: All-WA in Lacey (April), retreat at Suncadia (July).
* The executive director’s search is in progress; the position is open until Monday.

## State Board Report — Chris Bailey

## Chris Bailey shared updates:

* New templates for financial reporting are being developed.
* Online college bill discussed; system planning to meet some bill intents.
* The State Board is working to improve transparency and access to college programs online.
* Housing legislation discussed; colleges advised to assess underutilized property.
* Financial emergency declaration discussed; premature to act now.

## Technology Committee — Kevin Brockbank

* Advocacy for national affiliate status with American Association of Community Colleges.
* Criteria for hosting events under discussion.
* CTC Link enhancements and usability improvements are in progress.

Business Process Alignment Workgroup

* Jason Hetterle (Wenatchee Valley College) and Lia Homeister (Renton Technical College) provided updates:
	+ Travel and expense task force meeting weekly.
	+ Preliminary report shared; recommendations expected in May.
	+ Final recommendations and surveys to guide the next focus area.

Financial Aid and Policy Updates

* Update on citizenship field removal from admissions application (effective April 26).
* Student Financial Responsibility Agreement policy presented (first reading).
	+ Discussion on student groups needing exemptions.
	+ A revised vote is expected April 2025.

## Operating Budget Committee — Carli Schiffner

* Survey development underway.
* A PowerPoint presentation reviewed prior will inform the survey responses.
* Presidents were encouraged to start working with local teams to draft responses.
* A joint session with the Legislative and Operating Budget Committees may be scheduled soon.
* Emphasis on understanding the 50% FTE and 50% headcount calculations.
* Discussion of how excluding international students affects building fees.

## Legislative & Public Information Committee Report — Chemene Crawford and Arlen Harris

* Emphasis on continued legislative advocacy.
* Coordination with Arlene Miller and Representative Paul to influence budget outcomes.
* Committee supporting communication strategy to highlight federal funding threats.
* Encouraged outreach to legislators, particularly in Eastern Washington and Republican districts.

Capital Budget Committee — Chio Flores and Darrell Jennings

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to approve the Capital budget as presented without amendments.

**MOTION PASSED.**

Next Steps:

* The capital budget had already been presented in two sessions with BAC (Business Affairs Commission), which included positive feedback and process questions.
* Chio Flores and Eric Murray will brief the State Board at their April 9 meeting.
* Continued work will follow to implement the new capital model and finalize next steps based on approval.

Housing Study and Environmental Policy

* Survey and qualitative data collection ongoing.
* Colleges were reminded to work with facilities and capital teams to review their baseline site analysis maps, especially as the housing policy conversation advances.

## Educational Services Committee — Rosie Rimando Chareunsap

* Guided Pathways playbook and 1-pager in development.
* Student success software FAQs available.
* Student housing and financial aid equity audit updates shared.
* Financial responsibility agreement policy brief reviewed.

Federal and Workforce Program Updates

* Significant federal uncertainty: layoffs, funding cuts, administrative changes.
* Monitoring risks and need for advocacy emphasized.

## Aileen Miller and DEOC

* House Appropriations Committee Activity:
	+ Met the night before; session included 70 amendments.
	+ An amendment to restore supplemental funding was requested but not introduced.
	+ The House bill passed out of committee and will be taken up on the floor Monday.
	+ The Senate version includes the funding.
* Strategy & Advocacy:
	+ Communication underway with House Speaker and key members to influence floor amendments or conference outcomes.
	+ Presidents encouraged to contact legislators, especially those in Eastern Washington or Republican districts, to raise awareness of how federal funding uncertainties are impacting colleges.
* Budget Concerns:
	+ $2 million pulled from the College Access Program Fund, previously used to support salary gaps due to unfunded COLAs.
	+ Additional $6 million pullback discussed — noted to be without a tuition increase, which is a serious concern.
	+ Clarified that institutions are not in a deficit but are trying to preserve funds for the rainy-day fund.

Next Steps:

* A conference letter will be drafted to serve as a foundational advocacy tool in the coming weeks.
* Presidents should prepare for a 90-minute session next Friday (April 4) to walk through updated state budgets in detail.

## Trustees Report — Bertha Ortega

* Updates from Equity, Operating Budget, Legislative & Public Information, Capital Budget, and Trustees committees.
* Continued emphasis on state and federal advocacy.

## Adjournment

With no further business, the Mar. 28, 2025, Board of Presidents’ regular meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next business meeting will be held Apr. 25, 2025, at the South Puget Sound, Lacey campus in conjunction with the All-Washington Scholarships event.

### Next WACTC meeting:

May 29-30, 2025: WACTC host Shoreline Community College

Minutes prepared by Nanette Angel