Program Approval Task Force

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Task Force is to create a more meaningful, consistent and accessible application process and inventory of programs.

**Authority**

The requirements for certificates and degrees awarded by the state’s community and technical colleges must follow guidelines and approval processes established by the SBCTC.

RCW 28B.50.000

State Board Policy Manual

**Goals**

A useful program approval process will...

- Drive college efforts for student success, innovation, and economic growth.
- Where possible, align accreditation, CtcLink, statewide policies/initiatives, and special funding requirements.
- Collect information and data using valid and consistent methodology to support multiple instructional and research purposes.
- Describe how the proposed program fits within one or more educational pathways.
- Clearly identify when full program approval is required and when an abbreviated process is sufficient.
- Streamline procedures to reduce complexity, errors and re-work.
- Create retention protocols for pertinent program approval data and documents.
- Provide clear instructions and common templates.
- Offer a glossary that defines terms used in program approval documents.

**MEMBERS**

Lynnette Bennett  
WEC

Sharon Buck  
IC

Ryan Davis  
WEC

Will Durden  
CBS –SBCTC

Jessica Gilmore  
WEC

Aaron Parrott  
CBS

Mike Potter  
BLC

Juliet Scarpa  
RPC

Val Sundby-Thorp  
ATC

Peter Williams  
ATC

Joshua Slepin  
RPC

Theresa Stalick  
CBS

Rebecca Williamson  
IC

Kathy Goebel  
SBCTC

Mason Norman  
SBCTC
Guiding Principles

- The Task Force will be an active, representative body advocating for the interests of students and their respective councils and commissions, while maintaining a statewide system perspective.

- Timeliness and communication regarding progress towards the group’s goals take priority.

- Members commit to considering equally all ideas (even “radical” ideas) put forward. Brainstorming and creative thinking is encouraged.

- Members will respect constructive differences of opinion.

- Members will address all complex issues to reach resolution even if there is outside pressure to maintain the status quo.

- Members will strive for fair standards and expectations. For all colleges, members will consider equitable access to information and technologies (labor market tools, data visualization, etc.)

- Members will oversee the creation of clear and concise procedures, products and services.

- Members will build the most simple and efficient process possible to meet the goals of program approval. Members commit to developing a meaningful process that does not cause unnecessary burden for college and State Board staff.