



**WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP BOARD MEETING
JUNE 22, 2016, 12:00 - 3:00 P.M., MICROSOFT CAMPUS
MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) met on June 22, 2016 at the Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

Board members: Brad Smith (Board Chair), Miller Adams, Antony Chiang, Mack Hogans, Gary Rubens, Julie Sandler, and Jim Sinegal present.

Additional attendees: Naria Santa Lucia, Terrie Ashby-Scott, Erin Ashley, John Bowden, Theresa Britschgi, Jane Broom, Kimber Connors, Karyl Gregory, Caroline Maillard, Joanna Moznette, Megan Nelson, Darrell Powell, Juliette Schindler Kelly, Andy Shouse, Caitlin Spence, and Dave Stolier; Jeff Knudsen, Olivia Thurmond, Vickie Rekow, and Brandon Yu by phone.

Meeting Called to Order

Having a quorum of the Board, Brad Smith, Board Chair of WSOS, welcomed everyone and called the Board meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

All those participating in the board meeting introduced themselves. Smith introduced Julie Sandler as a new WSOS board member.

Mack Hogans moved that the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting be approved. Gary Rubens seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mack Hogans also moved to amend the December 15, 2015 WSOS Board meeting minutes from “fiscal year 2016” to “calendar year 2015” in reference to the WSOS Executive Director’s compensation.

Landscape of Financial Aid Funding in Washington State

Rachelle Sharpe, Executive Director of the Washington Student Achievement Council, presented on the affordability of college for Washington students. Going forward, Sharpe will advise the Board on what is most actionable for WSOS.

Opportunity Expansion Grant Proposals

Smith reported that the Opportunity Expansion Grant expands the number of seats at colleges/universities to provide high-demand STEM degrees. Jane Broom reported that the Opportunity Expansion Grant was formed as a result of companies who could donate high-tech, research and development tax credits. Microsoft was the only company who donated their tax credits which totaled \$6M.

Smith reported that a decision was made to allow the Opportunity Expansion Grant money to accumulate so more could be accomplished with it. A follow-up decision was made to spend the money on something the WA Legislature could not; something that would stimulate innovation.

Andy Shouse, WA STEM’s Chief Program Officer, presented three proposals for the Board’s consideration: CWU UTeach - \$2,189,801; University of Washington-Seattle STARS Program - \$2,189,987; Western Washington University - \$1,620,212. Total - \$6M. All three proposals promised sustainability and their success is dependent on this grant.

Miller Adams made a motion to approve all three proposals. Mack Hogans seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.



Following the vote, Smith noted three things about this Opportunity Expansion Fund program. First, this grant will help provide more opportunities for students in our state, especially in the areas of computer science and math. Second, the program will help lower-income students get into college and strengthen pathways for these students in high-demand areas. Third, Smith noted that this program shows the importance of innovation and how we can use innovation to solve important problems – including the lack of capacity at our state’s colleges and universities. Finally, since the tax credit which funded the Opportunity Expansion Fund has been phased out, Smith noted that while this is the end of a chapter, it may not be the end of the book.

Presentation of Post-Graduation Survey

Kimber Connors, former CSF staff member, presented the post-graduation survey for 2015 WSOS graduates. Connors reported that this is the third year the survey has been administered. The results show great success for WSOS Scholars with landing jobs, seeking further education, and receiving high salaries. The Board requested that the next survey include a comparison of WSOS Scholars versus all students in the US in reflecting those employed within their field of study, or outside, or still searching for employment.

New Ideas Discussion & Brainstorm

Next, the WSOS Board and attendees engaged in a brainstorming session on expanding the WSOS Statute to include professional and technical degree programs and marketing strategies.

WSOS Staff Report

Theresa Britschgi, WSOS Director of Programs reported on the WSOS program update. Erin Ashley, WSOS Director of Corporate Relations & Special Events, reported on the WSOS development update. Megan Nelson, WSOS External Affairs Manager, provided a media update.

Finance & Investment Update

Darrell Powell, CSF CFO, reported that the WSOS Finance & Investment Committee met and confirmed a strong financial base for WSOS funds.

2016-18 WSOS Program Administrator Contract & FY17 Budget

The 2016-18 WSOS Program Administrator Contract with the College Success Foundation includes Core Services (Human Resources, Finance, Operations, and Information Technology) for two years - \$335,656; separate additional services (Scholarship Services, Data Management, and Advocacy) for one year - \$350,786. The contract is in process and should be completed by end of the week or early next week.

Resolution: Provide the Board Chair the ability to continue negotiations and finalize the FY17-18 Program Administrator Contract.

Adams made a motion to approve the Resolution which was seconded by Hogans. The motion carried unanimously.

Santa Lucia presented the FY17 Budget which reflects higher expenses due to an increase in the number of Scholars and staff as well as the expansion of program offerings.

Hogans made a motion to approve the budget and Antony Chiang seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm and went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Karyl Gregory