

**WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018, 1-3 PM, MICROSOFT CAMPUS**

MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) met on April 16, 2018 at the Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

Board members: Miller Adams, Diane Cecchetti, Joelle Denney, Mack Hogans, Jane Park, Gary Rubens, and Jim Sinegal present; Antony Chiang and Mike Wilson by phone

Additional attendees: Naria Santa Lucia, Erin Ashley, Youcef Bennour, Gina Breukelman, Theresa Britschgi, Jane Broom, Klondy Canales, Meg Chambers, Kimber Connors, Karyl Gregory, Cindy Gustafson, Mesa Herman, Reiko Kono, Jessica Monger, Patrick Okocha, and Aileen Tubo present; Caroline King, Jenna Magnotti, Joanna Moznette, Dave Stolier, and Keith Swenson by phone

Meeting Called to Order

Mack Hogans called the Board Meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Hogans identified each person who joined the meeting in person and by phone. Diane Cecchetti moved that the minutes of the January 8, 2018 Board Meeting be approved. Miller Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Hogans reported that board member Stan Deal has been transferred by Boeing to Texas and expressed thanks to Stan for his valued service on the Board. Hogans then welcomed new WSOS board member Joelle Denney, who is also from Boeing. Denney shared her background at Boeing and conveyed her excitement to serve on the Board.

Scholar Spotlight

Naria Santa Lucia introduced WSOS Scholar Youcef Bennour, a senior at UW-Tacoma. Bennour shared his personal story living first in Algeria, then to Federal Way where he experienced homelessness, to being accepted to UW and receiving a scholarship from WSOS. Bennour reported that Husky 100 is an annual honor which recognizes students who have made the most of their time at UW. Bennour shared that he was recently named to the Husky 100.

Cohort 7 Applications & Selection

Next, WSOS staff Kimber Connors and Reiko Kono presented the Cohort 7 application and scholarship selection recommendation to the Board.

First, Kimber Connors compared earlier cohorts with the new cohort, Cohort 7, and reported on the evolution of the selection model with earlier cohorts. Connors then presented the proposed selection model factors for Cohort 7 and how those factors would be measured. Changes from Cohort 6 to Cohort 7 include refreshed job openings as they relate to specific majors, showing family income by decile rather than quartile, reading every essay, and adding two new factors: home county and an accommodation for extenuating circumstances. Connors reported that the weighting of previous factors would be adjusted for the inclusion of new factors.

Reiko Kono presented preliminary outcomes using the proposed selection model factors.

After discussion, Diane Cecchetti made a motion to allow discretion of 5-20% weighting for the essays and 0-8% weighting for home county. Jim Sinegal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Scholarship

Services will run a new data analysis for preliminary outcomes using these revised criteria and then email this information to the Board for their final decision of the selection model factors.

2018 Legislative Session Update & Expansion Exploration Planning Process

Jessica Monger reported on three bills which were passed with strong bipartisan support. First, HB 1452 expands WSOS to fund high-demand STEM and health care professional/technical certificates and associate degrees and will be called the Opportunity Pathways Scholarship. Second, HB 2177 builds on HB 1452, focusing on students from rural counties. Third, HB 2143 expands WSOS to fund high-demand, advanced health care degrees for students who agree to complete a service obligation in a rural or underserved community upon graduation.

Monger further reported that the state budget includes a \$4.3 million state match for existing scholarship funds and \$500,000 to fund WSOS expansion with the three new bills.

Monger also reported that WSOS supported the successful passage of HB 1488, which expands access to the College Bound Scholarship and improves access to WSOS for students with DACA or undocumented status.

Santa Lucia reported on the WSOS expansion exploration planning process for implementing the three new bills. Visioning sessions will be conducted over the summer and board members are invited to participate. Implementation recommendations will be presented at the next board meeting in September.

Program Update

Santa Lucia reported on the WSOS 3.0 Growth Plan including continuing operational development as well as onboarding four new staff members. In addition, the Near Peer Mentoring program has been developed for fall 2018 and the "Scholar Leads" job description has been posted. These second, third or fourth year Scholars will mentor 10-15 younger Scholars with the support of a WSOS Success Advisor. The goal is to hire 225 Scholar Leads who will receive a \$1800 stipend for the year.

Theresa Britschgi reported on the rising skills of some of our enrolled Scholars during network events hosted by McKinstry, Boeing, the Infectious Disease and Research Institute (IDRI) and Life Science Washington.

Santa Lucia reported that 199 Scholars are participating this year in the Skills that Shine (STS) program. Board members are invited to attend the STS programming celebration/networking event on April 17th at 415 Westlake in Seattle. Over the next six months, Santa Lucia reported that the STS program platform will be revamped with re-designed modules and new talent will be added to better support future mentors and mentees.

Erin Ashley presented details regarding the fourth annual OpportunityTalks Breakfast which will be held on November 1st at the Sheraton Seattle. The keynote speaker will speak about accessible education. Yarely Gomez has been selected as the Scholar speaker. Ashley encouraged each board member to begin thinking now about their guest list.

Finance & Program Administrator Update

Hogans reported that WSOS funds are performing at or above benchmarks. Hogans further reported that the WSOS Finance and Investment Committee is comfortable with the current asset allocation.

Hogans expressed thanks to George Zinn for his service on the Committee. Hogans then recommended Beau Damon, also from Microsoft, to serve on the Committee. Hogans reported that Damon has been engaged with the Committee since the beginning so the transition will be smooth. Cecchettini made a motion to appoint Beau Damon to the WSOS Finance and Investment Committee. Sinegal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Cindy Gustafson congratulated WSOS on a terrific year with \$22M in revenue earned last year. Gustafson also reported that \$11.6M were received in state matching funds and stock market returns were solid.

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Gustafson reported that she will be retiring soon and expressed her thanks for the opportunity to partner with WSOS and the Finance & Investment Committee. On behalf of everyone, Hogans shared his sincere appreciation to Gustafson for her valuable assistance and dedicated service.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karyl Gregory