

**WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019, 1-3 PM, MICROSOFT CAMPUS**

MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) met on June 19, 2019 at the Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

Board members: Brad Smith, Miller Adams, Joelle Denney, Mack Hogans, Jane Park, Gary Rubens and Julie Sandler; Antony Chiang and Mike Wilson by phone

Additional attendees: Naria Santa Lucia, Erin Ashley, Douglas Barrancotto, Gina Breukelman, Theresa Britschgi, Jane Broom, Kimber Connors, Hannah Olson, Patrick Kang, Jessica Monger, Wendy Ni, Yoko Shimomura, Dave Stolier, Tin Vo and Steve Walker; Lianda Abraham, Terrie Ashby-Scott, Rachel Darany, Mesa Herman, Jenna Magnotti, Joanna Moznette, Cristal Rangel Peña, Stan Pichinevskiy and Aileen Tubo by phone

Meeting Called to Order

Brad Smith called the Board Meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Mack Hogans moved that the minutes of the April 1, 2019 Board Meeting be approved. Jane Park seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Program Expansion Update

Kimber Connors, WSOS Deputy Director, summarized the Board directive from spring 2017 in which the Board of Directors instructed the WSOS team to recommend the best use of available funds to grow the Opportunity Scholarship program. In December 2017, the Board voted to use the funds for program expansion with specific focus on building a near-peer mentoring model. Connors reported the WSOS team enacted this directive in 2018-19 by launching the pilot Scholar Lead near-peer mentoring model and expanding the Skills that Shine (StS) industry mentoring program to serve all third-year Opportunity Scholars. Connors described the goal of the Scholar Lead program as enhancing Scholars' academic and social foundation. The pilot model of the Scholar Lead program included recruitment of 152 Scholar Leads who were trained at in-person events across the state and supported throughout the year by a WSOS staff advisor. Scholar Leads were paid an \$1,800 stipend for their work.

Theresa Britschgi, WSOS Scholar Placement Director, reported on the expansion of StS. Britschgi reported the goal of the program is to enhance Opportunity Scholars' career readiness skills and network through industry mentoring. Through a proprietary matching platform, 167 mentors from 63 companies were matched with third-year Scholars. Mentor-mentee pairs moved through a guided curriculum and participated in a networking celebration event. The events were held in Seattle and Spokane and well-enjoyed by both mentors and mentees, Britschgi reported.

Hannah Olson, WSOS Talent Resource Manager, and Patrick Kang, WSOS Scholar Success Advisor, moderated a panel with Douglas Barrancotto (Skills that Shine Mentor), Tin Vo (Skills that Shine Mentee) and Wendy Ni (Scholar Lead). Vo shared the value he found in the program in preparing him for career launch. Barrancotto spoke about the benefits he received as a mentor in the program and spoke about how much he learned from his mentee. Ni shared how much she has valued serving as a peer mentor to her fellow Opportunity Scholars and noted she wished she had the benefit of a Scholar Lead when she was new to campus.

2019-20 Career & Technical Scholarships

Steve Walker, WSOS Awards Administration Director, summarized the first Career & Technical Scholarship (CTS) application and selection. Walker first summarized the new CTS program as supporting associate degrees, certificates and apprenticeships with a \$1,500 per quarter scholarship. WSOS will select 550 CTS recipients in 2019-20 with 275 selected for fall quarter, 165 selected for winter quarter and 110 for spring quarter. Given the application is actively open, Walker noted the remainder of his presentation was based on preliminary information. Walker reviewed the typical applicant profile along key demographics such as gender, age, median income and intended program of study. Walker highlighted that due to the low-income nature of applicants for CTS, the financial impact of receiving WSOS on a typical awardee will be significant. Walker also noted many students from rural areas live many hours away from the nearest community college. Walker presented two options for CTS selection using Cohort 8 Baccalaureate as a baseline for comparison.

Joelle Denney and Gary Rubens each noted the under-representation of applicants from some of the most in-demand fields the program aims to support. The Board discussed the need to incorporate a stronger consideration of program and relationship to high-demand fields in the selection model given the statutory focus on such. Brad Smith proposed a modified selection model to include: 25% weighting to GPA and essays, 45% weighting to intended program and community opportunity, 20% weighting to family income and 10% weighting to first-generation status. Smith recommended the Board vote to allow staff flexibility within these guidelines with the provision that staff would reach out if they saw any serious departures in the final selection data. Joelle Denney made a motion to adopt the selection model described by Smith; Gary Rubens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WSOS Leadership Transition

Jane Park, WSOS Board Member, provided an update on the executive director search. Park highlighted the strength of the applicant pool and rigor of the candidate evaluation process. The search is being facilitated by Clover Search Works. Park and Mack Hogans are the Board members represented on the search committee.

In recognition of Santa Lucia's departure at the end of June and the naming of the next executive director falling in July or later, Park requested the Board consider the Resolution to Appoint an Acting WSOS Executive Director included in the Board book. After discussion, Miller Adams made a motion to adopt the resolution as drafted. Julie Sandler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finance & Program Administrator Update

Mack Hogans, WSOS Board Member and Chair of the Finance & Investment Committee, provided an update. Despite a very negative market in Q4 of 2018, the portfolio experienced a sharp increase in returns in Q1 of 2019. The committee feels confident in the current allocations and is satisfied with fund performance. Boeing released their gift that had been held in the endowment account for use toward the Career & Technical Scholarship. The committee plans to discuss the allocation strategy at their next meeting. Additionally, Hogans reported a pledge receivable of \$7M from the Rubens Family Foundation. This pledge receivable was originally to be paid and was budgeted in 2019 but has since been restructured for partial receipt in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

WSOS Program Update & Reflection

Naria K. Santa Lucia, WSOS Executive Director, shared her gratitude for the five years she spent leading the organization. She thanked the Board and staff for their support of her growth and celebrated shared successes. Erin Ashley, WSOS Development Director, announced five Cohort 8 Opportunity Scholars from Federal Way, Santa Lucia's hometown, will be named Naria Santa Lucia Opportunity Scholars in honor of Santa Lucia's years of service. Brad Smith, WSOS Chair, expressed his sincere appreciation for Santa Lucia's commitment to Scholars and our state.

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyl Gregory