



E-Newsletter

TACTC President's Report

December 2005

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Letters from Larry

The state money colleges receive goes through two different allocation processes. The first allocation of money from the legislature goes to the state board, once at the state board the money goes through an allocation formula that drives the money out to the colleges.

The State Board allocation formula was the topic of discussion at the president's academy on 12/8. Whenever an inadequate amount of money is distributed amongst many entities there is usually a perception of winners and loser. The original formula was in place from the early 1970's to 1985. By 1985 colleges felt there were inequities in the formula so it was revised. Dissatisfaction with this formula resurfaced which led to another allocation formula revision in 1999. Formula is being questioned again, the main issues on the table is how high-cost programs are to be funded. This issue is of particular concern to the technical colleges and community colleges with a high percentage of vocational and technical programs. State Board staff gave a historical background presentation and then the president's talked about the proceed flaws in the current formula as well as the principles we want to have as a foundation for any formula. The president's and the state board staff on the WACTC operating budget committee will take the information they heard at the academy and will work on trying to find an equitable solution. We will be hearing more on this subject over the next several months.

First Electronic Edition



TACTC is ringing out 2005 with the introduction of its new electronic newsletter. Copies will be printed for those trustees without email. Please contact Cindy Hough (chough@sbctc.ctc.edu) or Holly Longo (hlongo@sbctc.ctc.edu or 360-704-4317) if you have trouble accessing the newsletter or would prefer to receive a printed copy. Feedback on the new format is welcome!

Presidential Search Workshop

Three Colleges, Clover Park, Shoreline and South Puget Sound, are currently going through a presidential search process. TACTC sponsored a workshop for trustees from those three colleges, as well as any other trustees interested in the subject.

Carol Carlstad, Grays Harbor trustee; Mike Emerson, Highline trustee; Jim Robinson, Olympic trustee; Larry Brown, Green River trustee; Rich Rutkowski, Green River president; Charlie Earl, Everett president; Howard Fischer, senior assistant attorney general; Earl Hale, SBCTC executive director; Chris Reykdal, SBCTC administrative services director; and Cindy

Hough, TACTC administrator, were on hand to present their experiences on presidential searches.

The topics ranged from how to choose a presidential search consultant, to how to set-up a search committee, to what a board can do to make a new hire successful. It is anticipated the system will experience a high turnover of presidents during the next three years. Therefore, TACTC intends to annually present a similar workshop over the next several years.

Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Legislative Steering Committee

Trustee representatives gathered at Renton Technical College on November 10 for a joint meeting of the TACTC Board of Directors and Legislative Steering Committee. It was an information-packed meeting which generated a great deal of discussion.

Jim Garrison, State Board chair, called in with an update on the Executive Director Search and gave the trustees another opportunity to provide him with feedback. At the time of his report, the screening committee had received 30 applications and was to screen the number down to 7 candidates for interviews. (Larry Brown is the TACTC representative on the screening committee.)

Charlie Earl, Everett CC president, was on hand to give the WACTC report. He thanked TACTC for its continued support and outlined WACTC's goal for this academic year. The goals include:

- Continue to strengthen the public's positive attitude toward two-year colleges (support of the statewide communications plan as developed by the Creating Opportunities Committee)
- Support the research, design and implementation of an economic development strategy
- Improve key decision processes
- Participate in the Executive Director search process
- Address Capital projects

A large portion of the agenda was devoted to the 2006 Legislature – setting the stage and the context within which higher education issues will be addressed, as well as going over the system's legislative priorities. Please contact your college's representative(s) to the meeting to get a copy of the legislative request package, the talking points and a briefing on the discussion.

The November 10th meeting was the last trustee meeting for Earl Hale before his scheduled retirement on December 31st. Earl took some time to lay out his view of the issues impacting the two-year colleges system and applied an historical perspective to the forces at play today. Former TACTC presidents were on hand to help the trustees in attendance thank Earl for his 35 years of service to the two-year college system and his continuous support of TACTC and all local trustees. Earl plans to spend much of his retirement time outdoors hiking, camping, and biking. TACTC presented him with an annual State Parks pass as a token of their gratitude.

New Trustees

Welcome the return of Shoubee Liaw. Shoubee was a Shoreline trustee from 1995 to 2001. Earlier this month she was appointed by Governor Gregoire to replace Elsa Welch on the Shoreline board. The Governor also appointed in November Karen Vander Ark replacing Michael Allan on Highline's board and Chuck Robinson replacing Jim Wilson on Whatcom's board.



WASL - What's Next?

Education reform included the development of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). The WASL is administered to 4th, 8th and 10th graders. By June 2008, high school graduation will be dependent on passage of the 10th grade WASL. Currently only about 50 percent of students taking the WASL are passing all three parts of the WASL test. This has legislators worried.

It also has former Governor Booth Gardner worried. Gardner made a presentation to the State Board on December 1st to talk about his concerns and to lay out solutions. Gardner stressed he is not against the WASL. "What I am against is making the 10th grade WASL a requirement for receiving a high school diploma. What I am against is having a single test measure all that matters in a young person's education." Gardner is proposing the use of multiple measurements to determine high school graduation eligibility. ". . . the state of Washington need to develop a comprehensive set of measures sufficient to determine a student's ability to compete in, and contribute to, the adult world. . ."

Legislative staff is drafting a bill to expand high school completion programs at community and technical colleges. The Instruction Commission and Student Services Commission have a joint Education Reform committee working to provide input about how to structure a program in which the colleges can successfully serve these students.

In response to a request that community and technical colleges serve students who have not graduated from high school either because they did not pass the WASL or because of a shortage of credits, the colleges have agreed on core principles to help shape an expanded high school completion program:

- ✚ The goal is to set up a program that provides a safety net for students but does not provide an incentive for students to leave high school early.
- ✚ The expanded high school completion program would be specifically for students 18 and over (there is already a referral system in place to serve students under 18).
- ✚ Community and technical colleges want to support high schools in helping students achieve the high standards that are integral to the new graduation requirements. CTC high school graduation standards need to meet state defined requirements as a minimum.
- ✚ It will cost more than the average K-12 Basic Education Allocation (EA) to serve these students successfully.

Several issues have yet to be decided. Among the unresolved program details are:

- ✚ **Accountability** – What graduation rate will be expected of college programs? Colleges are being asked to bring a challenging group of students to a high level of achievement.
- ✚ **Funding** – Rate and mechanics still need to be determined.
- ✚ **Partnership** – It is unclear at this point what the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's position is on these programs.
- ✚ **Number of students** – the potential number of students likely to participate is difficult to calculate. Colleges currently serve about 3,000 students a year in high school completion programs. About 25-30 percent of the people in the state aged 18 – 21 who do not have a high school diploma are currently served either in high school completion or GED programs offered at the two-year colleges.

High school completion programs will be one of the leading issues of the 2006 Legislature.

Celebrating Success!

Big Bend Community College has been selected as one of the 10 Bellwether finalist for its IBEST for Commercial Truck Driving program. They will compete for the prestigious **2006 Bellwether Award** at the upcoming Community College Futures Assembly in Orlando.

Congratulations Big Bend for this awesome accomplishment!!

Part-time Faculty Best Practices Report

The 1996 Legislature adopted provisions requiring the State Board to convene a taskforce to identify best practices related to part-time faculty compensation and working conditions. The report was presented to the State Board system and the Legislature in 1997, with an update in 1998. The 2005 Legislature passed SB 5087, which required the State Board to re-convene a taskforce to review and update the best part-time faculty employment practices.

Helen Malone, Spokane, and Steve Koch, Bellingham Tech, were TACTC's representatives on the newly convened Best Practices Taskforce. Helen was one of the Taskforce members who made a presentation to the State Board on December 1st. The Taskforce presented, and the State Board adopted, the following ten "best practices".

- ✚ **Salary:** *Part-time faculty should be paid a rate equal to that paid full-time faculty having the same qualifications and experience for doing the equivalent instructional and non-instructional work.*
- ✚ **Benefit Participation:** *Eligible part-time faculty should receive all state mandated benefits, and college provided employee benefits proportionate to those received by full-time faculty.*
- ✚ **Faculty Mix:** *The ratio of full- to part-time faculty at each college district should be based upon program and student need. The funding necessary to improve services to students through increasing courses taught by full-time faculty should be provided by the Legislature.*
- ✚ **Initial Recruitment and Selection:** *Part-time faculty should be initially selected through a structured professional process that is based on the same or similar criteria as applied to full-time faculty.*
- ✚ **Job Security:** *Upon successfully completing a review period, regularly employed part-time faculty should achieve a form of job security.*

- ✚ **Performance Review:** *Part-time faculty should be evaluated using comparable criteria, standards and procedures which are applied to evaluate full-time faculty.*
- ✚ **Professional Development:** *Colleges should assist part-time faculty to identify and address their development needs in ways which are accessible and affordable.*
- ✚ **Support Services:** *Part-time faculty should be treated with the same professionalism as full-time faculty and provided the necessary support services to do their jobs.*
- ✚ **Communications:** *Part-time faculty should be afforded easy access to communications from the college and have the means to communicate with the college community.*
- ✚ **Best Practices Report:** *The best practice principles should be used in making state and local decisions and agreements affecting part-time faculty. The "Part-Time Faculty Best Practices Report" will be published and distributed to all college presidents, human resources directors, trustees, and local faculty union presidents. At least annually, each college should conduct a review of their actions related to achievement of these best practices.*

2006 Legislature Opens January 9th

The 2006 Legislature will convene on Monday, January 9th. The system's legislative request package, as well as the one-page information documents for several of the issues before the Legislature, can be found on the State Board website. For the "one-pagers", click on: <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/legislative/currentlegsession.asp>

Ronnie Behnke, Renton Technical College, and Mauri Moore, Edmonds Community College, serve as TACTC's Legislative Steering Committee chair and vice-chair respectively. Trustees will be hearing from them as they seek help in communicating with local legislators on the impact the system's request will have on their local colleges.

Earl Hale's Retirement Party

Approximately 248 people gathered at South Puget Sound Community College on December 3rd to congratulate and roast Earl Hale as he prepares to wind up a 35-year career with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. His career included serving as the State Board's executive director for 19 years.

People representing all 35 years of his work history were on hand. Former State Board members came from as far as California. The gentleman who hired Earl came from Oregon. Former Governor Booth Gardner was there, as were former and current college presidents and trustees. Both business and labor had complimentary things to say about Earl.

Larry Brown represented TACTC during the program. TACTC arranged for Bates Technical College to video the evening. Students at Bates will edit the video and Earl will be presented with two DVDs so he can relive the evening as many times as he wants over the years to come.

Earl's retirement date is scheduled for December 31, 2005. Anyone wishing to drop him a line can do so by contacting him at P.O. Box 42495, Olympia, WA 98504-2495 or by emailing him at ehale@sbctc.ctc.edu. His phone number is: 360-753-7412.

Calendar

December 2005 - November 2006

Yearly Planner

December 05						
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December

- 8** Dec. 8-9, WACTC, Highline Community College
- 13** Dec. 13, Governor's Board & Com missions Conference, South Puget Sound CC, Reception following at Governor's Mansion

January 06						
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January

- 18** Jan. 18-19, State Board, State Board Office, Olympia
- 25** Jan. 25-27, WACTC, State Board Office, Olympia

February 06						
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February

- 5** Feb. 5-8, ACCT National Legislative Summit, Washington DC
- 12** Feb. 12, New Trustee Orientation, State Board Office, Olympia
- Feb. 12-14, TACTC Legislative Contact Conference, Phoenix Inn, Olympia

March 06						
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March

- 1** Mar. 1-3, WACTC, South Puget Sound CC
- 2** Mar. 2, All Washington Academic Team Ceremony, South Puget Sound CC
- 8** Mar. 8-9, State Board, State Board Office, Olympia

April 06						
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April

- 7** Apr. 7, TACTC Joint Board of Directors & Legislative Steering, TBD
- 20** Apr. 20, WACTC, South Seattle CC

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May

- 10** May 10-11, State Board, Olympic College
- 18** May 18-20, TACTC Continuing Education Convention, Alderbrook Resort
- 25** May 25-26, WACTC, Grays Harbor College

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June

- 21** June 21-22, State Board, Walla Walla

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