



March 13, 2008

## **HECB Legislative Issues - Final Update**

### **Background**

The 2008 session of the Legislature concluded today, Thursday, March 13 with passage of a supplemental budget and final approval of various legislation. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 335 bills were passed. This summary describes enacted legislation and budget items related to the Higher Education Coordinating Board and issues we have been monitoring. Most items discussed below have not yet been acted upon by the governor, who has until April 5 to approve or veto all measures passed within the last five days of the session.

### **System Planning, Alignment and Efficiency**

#### **Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education**

The House added 15 policy statements to the resolution originally introduced. The Senate approved two sets of amendments to the concurrent resolution. Amendments by the Senate Higher Education Committee removed 10 of those 15 policy statements, and re-cast the remaining five statements as policy issues the HECB should consider in adopting a final master plan. The Senate Ways and Means Committee further revised the resolution and the House concurred in all the Senate amendments.

The Legislature approved the strategic master plan in the final adopted form of the resolution, conditioned upon the HECB making certain revisions to the final master plan. Specifically, the HECB is to develop new proposed goals for bachelor's and advanced degree production based on the needs of Washington's economy, rather than benchmarks from Global Challenge States. In developing the final plan, the HECB is also required to consider ways to maximize the use of full-time faculty, to employ industry best practices, to review cost of service delivery, to enhance access and to consider program capacity at public, independent and career schools to meet workforce needs.

## Transfer

The Legislature passed E2SHB 2783 requiring formation of work groups convened by the HECB to conduct a series of transfer-related projects.

- One project will develop and implement, by September 2009, a list of rights guaranteed to students who earn a transfer associate degree under a direct transfer agreement.
- Another project will develop and implement, by September 2009, a system for identifying the transferability and applicability of community and technical college courses to students' baccalaureate degree goals. The extent to which each course published in an institutional catalog is transferrable must be identified in a manner that is mutually agreeable to both two-year and four-year institutions.
- A third project requires developing plans for monitoring and regularly reporting the progress and success of transfer students. The initial report, provided by the HECB in collaboration with SBCTC and a broadly representative work group, is due in January 2009. The information must include the percentage of students who transfer within three years, the percentage of students who earn a bachelor's degree within three years of earning an associate degree, the average length of time to an associate degree, the average number of credits earned by recipients of associate degrees, and the average GPA of transfer associate degree recipients. An analysis of barriers facing transfer students and recommendations are to be included in the plan.
- Finally, the HECB must convene a work group to develop a detailed plan for implementing a statewide web-based academic planning tool. The HECB must report recommendations to the Legislature on the most robust and cost-effective options by December 15, 2008.

The *supplemental budget provides \$30,000 to the HECB* for implementation of this legislation.

## eLearning

The WTECB and SBCTC are to convene a work group (including the HECB) to identify and evaluate workplace-based educational programs with electronically distributed learning components provided by public colleges and universities. The workgroup is directed to review standards and best practices for electronically distributed learning, recommend how student access can be increased and identify barriers to success. Preliminary results are due December 1, 2008, and a final report one year later.

## Prior Learning

The *supplemental budget includes \$14,000* and a requirement that the HECB convene a work group to assess current institutional practices regarding acceptance of prior learning credits. Findings and recommendations are to be submitted in a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2008.

## Dual Credit

OSPI is directed under 2SHB 3129 to compile information about dual credit options and programs for high school students and to place such information online. High schools are directed to make teachers and counselors aware of the college credit programs and to help students and parents find the information.

## Accountability: Performance Agreements

Performance agreements between the state and public four-year institutions will be pilot tested under EHB 2641. The six-year agreements will discuss such matters as performance measures, degree production goals, level of resources, capital project prioritization and student outcomes. Flexibility or waivers from certain state rules may be considered. Specified topics cannot be included, such as laws and rules dealing with collective bargaining, health and safety.

Institutions develop an initial draft agreement and are required to involve faculty and students internally as designated representatives. A state committee, consisting of four legislators and representatives of the governor, OFM, OSPI and the HECB, will then proceed to negotiate a proposed agreement with the institutions. Draft agreements are presented to the governor and Legislature by September 1, 2008, and a final proposed agreement by November 1, 2008.

Performance agreements must align with enacted state budgets, and must be revised to stay aligned with state budgets enacted in the future. HECB is to provide staff support to the state performance agreement committee, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee is to conduct an evaluation of the pilot by November 1, 2014. The *supplemental budget includes \$60,000 for the HECB* and \$38,000 for JLARC to implement the bill.

## Capital Budget Process

ESHB 3329 repeals current law on the responsibilities of the HECB and the four-year institutions regarding capital budget request prioritization. A new process is created in which OFM develops common definitions and a scoring system to be used for ranking project requests. Staff from SBCTC, HECB and four-year institutions are to provide technical assistance on the development of the scoring system. Each project request will be ranked within one of five categories according to the primary purpose of the project.

The five categories are enrollment growth, replacement and renovation, major infrastructure, research promoting economic growth and other categories.

Beginning in 2008, institutions will submit prioritized lists of projects requested within these categories. (On a pilot basis, OFM will require one of the research institutions to submit two separate lists – one for the main campus, and one list for all branch campuses.)

The HECB is required as part of its capital budget recommendations to recommend the relative share of the higher education capital budget that should be assigned to each project category. HECB capital budget recommendations are due to OFM by November 15 of even-numbered years and to the Legislature by January 1 of odd-numbered years.

OFM is required to submit a higher education capital facility financing study by December 1, 2008. The study will involve review of capital financing in other states, alternatives for reducing expenditures per student, and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of potential new revenue sources for funding higher education facilities.

## **Program Planning and Expansion**

### **UW North**

Several bills were introduced this session seeking to establish a new campus of the University of Washington, or related to the determination of where such a new campus would be located. None of those measures was enacted. Instead, the *Legislature approved \$100,000 for the HECB* to convene interested parties from Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties to consider site options and recommendations addressed in the report issued last November. The local communities are directed to develop a consensus recommendation on a single preferred location and present that recommendation to the HECB, which then presents the recommendation to legislative committees by December 1, 2008.

### **Kitsap Baccalaureate Opportunities**

The HECB is directed in the budget to prepare program and operating plans for a higher education center in the Kitsap County area. A local advisory committee is to be consulted, and components of the work are to include enrollment projections, assessment of employer needs, and postsecondary programs currently available and needed. A report to the Legislature, due by December 1, 2008, is to include estimated operating and capital costs of the center and recommended strategies for promoting extensive program offerings by public and private baccalaureate institutions at the center. The *budget provides \$212,000 to the HECB for the project*.

## Applied Baccalaureate Programs

In 2005 the Legislature authorized four two-year institutions to offer, on a pilot basis, applied baccalaureate degree programs. In 2007, the budget authorized two additional two-year institutions to offer such programs. This year, through passage of SSB 5104, the Legislature put the budgetary authorization from 2007 into statute, and further increased the number of institutions, authorizing a total of seven two-year institutions to offer applied baccalaureate degree programs. At least one of the institutions selected for this pilot program must be a technical college.

Bellevue, Olympic, Peninsula and South Seattle are the community colleges already authorized to proceed with programs. The three additional colleges must be selected by SBCTC by February 2008, and may not begin admitting upper division students until the fall of 2009.

## Student Services

### Child Care Program

For several biennia the HECB has administered a competitive grant program providing modest support for child care on or near campuses. SHB 2582 directs the HECB to distribute available state grant funds on a *proportional* basis to the baccalaureate institutions for supporting quality child care for students to reduce barriers to access and to support students in attaining their educational goals.

Grant amounts are to be based on the level of funding for child care made available through student government associations and any contributions received from private organizations. Since the program began in 1999, state funding has remained unchanged at the level of \$75,000 annually. The ***supplemental budget increases state funding to \$500,000 annually*** for the baccalaureate sector. Another \$500,000 is provided for the two-year colleges, up from the prior funding level of \$50,000 annually.

### Campus Safety

Institutions are required make available to students, faculty and staff a campus safety plan under provisions of SSB 6328. The measure specifies that the plan must include policies, procedures and programs related to preventing and responding to violence or other campus emergencies, weapons policies, mental health and counseling services available, communication procedures during emergencies, and other topics. Institutions are required to enter into agreements with local jurisdictions setting forth responsibilities and providing for sharing equipment and technology in the event of a campus emergency. Task forces at institutions are required to annually update safety plans.

Each institution is required to conduct a self-study by October 30, 2008 on its capacity to facilitate the safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors on campus. They are to

evaluate the effectiveness of current efforts and describe in their reports plans to maximize effectiveness of safety measures. Four-year institutions submit their reports every two years to the HECB, and two-year institutions to the SBCTC. By December 31, 2010 and biennially thereafter, the HECB and SBCTC are required to report on the efforts of institutions, the extent of their compliance with these provisions of law, and provide recommendations to enhance campus safety. *Each four-year institution was given additional funding sufficient to increase mental health professional staff by one FTE employee.*

### **Campus Security Mapping – 2507**

House Bill 2507 requires the Washington State Patrol and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs to assess the need for and cost of college and university campus security improvements, including mapping information systems. The *capital budget includes \$200,000* for the study.

### **Career and Technical Education**

Substantial reforms in career and technical education were approved in 2SSB 6377. The broad purpose of the bill is to improve the quality and rigor of career and technical education while providing for integration with postsecondary education, including at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. The role of the HECB in this legislation comes mainly in two areas.

The OSPI is to work with the HECB and other state agencies in developing model programs of study. These programs of study are to include those leading to associate and bachelor's degrees.

Second, the future teachers conditional scholarship program administered by the HECB is modified. Previously, prospective teachers interested in teaching math, science, technology or special education were granted priority for available conditional scholarships. Future teachers in career and technical education are now included among those given priority.

### **College Bound Scholarship Eligibility**

E2SSB 6673 charges the Professional Educator Standards Board to form a work group, including the HECB, to develop recommendations for revision of teacher certification requirements and teacher preparation programs to improve teachers' capacity to address the needs of English language learners. This bill also includes a minor revision to the College Board Scholarship program. Most students are required to sign up for the program in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. However, in order to give the first group of students two years to sign up, students who were in 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the first year of the program (2007-08 school year) may sign up during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year in 2008-09.

## Additional Topics

### Member Confirmation

Three members of the HECB were appointed by the governor within the past year, and thus were subject to Senate confirmation this session. Jesus Hernandez, Sam Smith and Sasha Sleiman each were confirmed by unanimous vote of the Senate this session.

### E-Science Institute

The University of Washington was provided *\$1 million in the supplemental* budget to establish an E-Science Institute. The project will provide infrastructure and consulting expertise to university researchers in advanced computational techniques needed to extract information from massive data sets.

### Star Researchers

The biennial budget created a program to recruit exceptionally promising researchers to Washington in an effort to boost commercially viable research. UW and WSU had nearly completed their first successful recruitments when the House announced a proposal to cut \$1.5 million from a 2009 appropriation of less than \$2 million. However, the approved supplemental budget *increased program funds by \$265,000*.

### Student-Employee Collective Bargaining

Student employees at the University of Washington, such as graduate teaching assistants, graduate staff assistants, graduate research assistants and others are already permitted to engage in collective bargaining. SHB 2963 extends those same collective bargaining rights to student employees at Washington State University. The *budget provides \$160,000 to WSU* for administrative resources and personnel needed to implement this bill. Tuition, class size, academic calendar and termination over academic progress cannot be bargained.

### Food Animal Veterinarian Conditional Scholarship

A conditional scholarship is created for students with a declared major in veterinary medicine and a declared intention to practice in Washington emphasizing food animal medicine. WSU administers the scholarship program, which includes resident tuition, room and board, lab fees, supplies and books for up to five years.

### Young Adult Unemployment Study

WTECB is directed by SB 6261 to research workforce development programs designed to reduced unemployment among 18 to 24-year-olds, examine effectiveness of programs in relation to public investment, and report findings every two years beginning November 15, 2008.