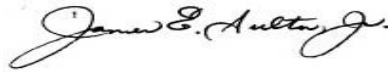


August 14, 2006

TO: HECB Advisory Council
Members of the HECB

FROM: James E. Sulton, Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director



SUBJECT: Enhancing Diversity in Higher Education

Attached for your information and review is a tentative agenda for the upcoming meeting of the HECB Advisory Council set for Thursday, August 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tacoma Community College.

Our economy and our educational system are becoming increasingly influenced by global events and international competition. In April, 2006, Gov. Gregoire's Global Competitiveness Council made recommendations to "Expand opportunities for more overseas education...[and] Establish an educational relationship with colleges overseas, especially in China, India, Japan and Great Britain". We have yet to establish a statewide approach to encourage the expansion of these kinds of opportunities and others including greater access to world language study and infusion of international issues and culture into the curriculum that can provide students with the tools to become effective leaders in a global economy.

Internationalization of education in one form or another has become an important strategy for most of our colleges and universities and is increasingly important in the K-12 sector. For example, more than 90% of the colleges and universities in Washington have established international study/exchange programs. However, there is no central planning or marketing in Washington to attract international students nor is there a centralized mechanism to market international study opportunities to Washington students. Similar barriers exist in the establishment of other types of exchanges or cooperative agreements that could benefit individual students as well as the state as a whole.

The upcoming meeting will be the first opportunity for the Advisory council to hear from experts in the field about activities underway to improve international education and global responsiveness. Presenters from a variety of sectors share their experience and will begin a discussion that will lead to the development of policy options to improve access to international education opportunities and encourage development of additional opportunities across education sectors.

We look forward to seeing you next Thursday at Tacoma Community College.

Attachment

M E E T I N G

HECB ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 24, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Senate Room, Opgaard Student Center

Tacoma Community College

6501 S. 19th St, Tacoma

International Education

AGENDA

1. Global Competitiveness

2. Institutional Global Initiatives and Study Abroad

- Susan Jeffords, Vice Provost for Global Affairs University of Washington
- David Fenner, Assistant Vice Provost for International Education, University of Washington
- Josephine Yung Director for International Exchange Programs, St Martins

3. World Language Study

- Bridget Yaden, Pacific Lutheran University
- Lauren Kiolet, Washington Association for Language Teaching

Lunch

4. International Education in K-12

- Michele Anciaux Aoki - Consultant

5. International Studies in Higher Education

- Anand Yang, Director, Jackson School, Professor, International Studies - confirmed

HECB Advisory Council Meeting on International Education

August 24, 2006

Tacoma Community College

HECB members present:

Bill Grinstein
Roberta Greene
Betti Sheldon
Jesus Hernandez
Sam Smith
Charley Bingham

Advisory Council members present:

Kyra Kester for T. Bergeson, OSPI
Charlie Earl, SBCTC
Don Bennett, WTECB
David Lovell, AFR
Cedric Page, proprietary schools
Violet Boyer, independent colleges
Ruth Windhover, WEA
Alan Wood for Pres. Emmert, UW

Global Competitiveness

Bill Grinstein chaired the meeting. Washington's economy and education system are increasingly influenced by global events and international competition. Grinstein said the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for experts in the field to talk about activities in the campuses and in the community pertaining to international education.

More than 90 percent of the colleges and universities in our state have international study or exchange programs, and the K-12 sector is beginning to implement programs of their own. However, many of these activities are fragmented and foreign institutions or government agencies do not have one point of contact in Washington State. The lack of statewide coordination means that institutions currently develop and manage their own programs without state-level support and funding. In contrast, other states are beginning to implement statewide policies to coordinate international education. As a result, exchange programs are being funded; there is more collaboration among institutions and there is oversight of the various programs.

Washington State depends on foreign trade and technology transfers for its survival. In April, Governor Gregoire's Global Competitiveness Council recommended that the state "...expand opportunities for more overseas education ... (and) establish an educational relationship with colleges overseas." Grinstein said the day's discussion marks the beginning of a dialogue that is expected to lead to statewide policy options for improving Washington's global responsiveness by focusing on international education. He called for more study and analysis of the state needs and an increased research support in international education.

Institutional Global Initiatives and Study Abroad Programs

The subject of international education encompasses a host of education issues: foreign language acquisition, study abroad, visiting foreign students and faculty, collaboration with foreign institutions, exchange opportunities for faculty and students, and foreign-based U.S. institutions.

Representatives from the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Saint Martin's University described their institution's efforts to internationalize education. They provided evidence that students who spend some portion of their studies abroad tend to graduate faster and with higher GPAs than their peers. On the other hand, sending faculty abroad compounds the benefit as the faculty members share their experience with generations of students. And while the U.S. higher education system is currently still considered the best in the world, the presenters concurred that it must adapt to an increasingly global environment by expanding its international exchange programs and promoting the study of foreign languages.

Some of the efforts and campus initiatives mentioned during the meeting include the following:

- Saint Martin's University programs in China include enrolling 900 students in Shanghai and another 300 in Wuhan. It created the Chengdu Summer Institute in Sichuan and sent faculty and education majors to teach English there. It is also in the process of establishing a Saint Martin's University extension campus in Hong Kong.
- WSU has incorporated its internationalization goals into its strategic plan, and offers faculty-led activities, partnerships with international institutions, and an expanded foreign language program. It has also created the Global Studies Unit, which offers an interdisciplinary minor in global studies and helps departments determine the appropriate global competencies in their field.
- The University of Washington created the Office of Global affairs, which coordinates all international activity at the institution, and has developed partnership with institutions around the world to provide exchange opportunities for students and faculty. It has also created a new Global Health Department. The UW is also considering offering joint degrees in partnership with foreign institutions. This is a growing phenomenon in Europe, but something that US institutions have been slow to consider. The UW's goals are to increase the number of students to study abroad, to increase university capacity and to increase international partnership in student exchange, education programs, joint degrees and research, and direct programs offered overseas.
- The two-year colleges have been participating in international faculty exchange programs, study abroad opportunities for students, and other international education initiatives. Charlie Earl, executive director of the public two-year system, offered to provide hard data on international programs at the two-year institutions.

One of the challenges universities face in internationalizing their curricula is that entering students are not prepared -- linguistically and academically -- to participate in international programs. While some institutions are designing collaborative programs to teach Chinese to K-12 students, the current focus is on math and science and other high-demand fields. As a result, the number of qualified foreign language teachers is diminishing and more and more of them have trouble finding jobs. Another challenge is lack of financial aid for students to study abroad.

The World Affairs Council

Ian Moncaster, president and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Puget Sound, provided a briefing on the work of the council. The World Affairs Council of Seattle is the leading foreign affairs forum in the Pacific Northwest, promoting a greater understanding of global affairs through a balance of public events, educational activities and international visitor program.

Some of the council's activities include the World Affairs Fellows Program, which offers a series of monthly seminars on international affairs issues to a small group of future international leaders. The International Visitor Program arranges meetings for over 900 prominent visiting professionals from over 120 nations; and the Global Classroom supports K-12 educators as they teach about the world and youth through its Youth Leadership program. Through this initiative, students engage in discussions about world cultures, peoples, histories, languages, and economies. Moncaster said his group was particularly proficient in producing support materials and reports for K-12 classroom teaching.

World Languages and International Programs

In most of the world, children begin studying their first foreign language in grade school. Representatives from the K-12 sector stated that the U.S. is well behind the rest of the world in terms of its approach to globalism in education. In fact, foreign language programs in public schools are being cut to make room for more math and science classes. While the latter subjects are vital to the success of the state, fewer language programs lead to a culturally and linguistically impoverished student body.

In Washington State, there is no position at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) with responsibility for foreign language acquisition, and there are no statewide standards for proficiency levels in foreign language education. Foreign language requirements are based on "seat-time" instead of proficiency; as a result, high school language classes are inadequate at preparing students for college language classes.

Furthermore, although a great number of Washingtonians already speak a language other than English, in most schools, this is not recognized as strength. Nonetheless, empirical evidence shows that teaching "heritage speakers" to read and write in their native language before English helps a great deal in closing the achievement gap.

Some suggestions for improving international education within the K-12 system:

- Expand the minimum language requirement to all students, not just to students who are college-bound.
- Create a position within OSPI to coordinate world languages.
- Provide financial aid for students to travel abroad.
- Promote programs wherein K-12 teachers are sent abroad.
- Take a multidisciplinary approach to international education.

Next Steps

The following suggestions were made to promote international education in Washington State:

- Expand the scope of the discussion and segment the information into different areas for more in-depth conversations.
- Collaborate with OSPI to make sure international education becomes part of the state's public policy agenda.
- Coordinate a "best practices" gathering.
- Recognize the importance of foreign language acquisition and international exchange programs.
- Analyze available resources and resource allocation, including possible legislation; explore public-private partnerships.
- Promote collaboration between agencies and institutions to coordinate international education.

Presenters:

- Susan Jeffords, Vice Provost for Global Affairs, University of Washington
- David Fenner, Assistant Vice Provost for International Education; Director, Office of International Programs and Exchanges, University of Washington
- Josephine Yung, Associate Vice President of International Programs and Development, St Martin' University
- Lance T. LeLoup, Associate Vice Provost of International Programs; Chief International Officer
- Ian Moncaster, President & CEO, World Affairs Council
- Bridget Yaden, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Director, Language Resource Center, Pacific Lutheran University
- Lauren Kiolet, Executive Director, Washington Association for Language Teaching
- Sharon Rodgers, Hamilton International Middle School Building Leadership Team Member, President, PTSA.