

Higher Education Advisory Committee Meeting
October 19, 2005
Staff Notes

The Higher Education Advisory Committee members participated in two joint meetings the morning of October 19.

JOINT EARLY LEARNING/K-12/HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING

The K-12 advisory committee met with the Early Learning Council and Higher Education Advisory Committee members to hear a presentation of the overall Washington Learns Work plan and another presentation on the Education Pathways in Washington State.

JOINT K-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING

The K-12 advisory committee met with the Higher Education Committee to consider draft recommendations related to transition issues. The four areas under consideration included: Student Planning for College and Career, High School Pre-Apprenticeships, Dual Credit Options, College Readiness and Admissions. In table conversations with members from both committees participating, feedback was discussed and shared with the group as a whole. This information will be folded into the recommendation considerations that are forwarded to the Steering Committee for their consideration.

The two advisory committees also heard a panel discussion entitled "College readiness and admissions." Participants shared their views on necessary changes to college admission requirements and high school graduation requirements as well as their views on the necessary supports the systems need if change is to occur. Additionally presenters shared their thoughts on the scope of the issues that need to be addressed.

HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING

The higher education advisory committee engaged in a spirited discussion about their roles and responsibilities within the Washington Learns structure, and about the committee's process and progress to date. Committee members want to know what the steering committee's vision is and what they expect from the advisory committee. Some wanted the steering committee to set specific goals for the system, so the advisory committee could offer suggestions for strategies to reach those goals. Others suggested that the advisory committee set its own goals and develop strategies for the steering committee to consider.

Concerns were expressed about not having had the opportunity to develop a strategic vision or think more broadly about the system, before being asked to respond to smaller issues and discuss programs that already exist in the state. The committee

expressed the desire to have more time to set larger goals and develop original ideas and solutions to the larger issues, such as funding and enrollment.

Members of the committee made two suggestions for improving the committee's work process. They asked to be divided into smaller work groups around the major issues, and they asked that a facilitator be engaged to help develop the committee's vision and to help with process issues between and at meetings. (Note: Three work groups have been formed around the following issues: Funding; Enrollments; Transactions and Cross-sector issues. A fourth smaller work group for research issues will be created. The idea of engaging a process facilitator is also being investigated.)