

College Council Minutes

Organizational Meeting May 7, 2025, 3:00 PM

Present:

Chair: Chad Miltenberger

David Johnson	Erika Bockmann
Rachel Warren	Mike Rostollan
Jennifer Clayton	Rhonda Miller
Lisa Chamberlin	Marley Olson
Lauran Schaefer	Ricardo Chavez
Sara Egbert	Natalie Wade
Angela Evensen	Patrick Sisneros
Stephanie Groom	

- I. Welcome by Chad Miltenberger. Chad asked if everyone had reviewed the draft minutes from the College Council meeting of April 16, 2025, and if there were any changes needed. With no changes requested, a Motion was made by Marley Olson, Seconded by Lisa Chamberlin and approved by quorum to accept minutes as written.
- II. Pat Sisneros and Stephanie Groom provided an update on the Leadership Academy. Currently the participants have been divided into three groups of 4-people per group and Pat, Stephanie and Allen are sponsoring/supporting each group. These groups are creating three different projects aimed at improving our college, supporting our students and employees, and enhancing overall college culture and climate. The groups will be presenting their projects at the Leadership Academy graduation on Friday, May 16th at 3:00 pm in the WEC.
- III. Pat reviewed the current budget status. The Governor has until May 17 to act on the state budget, there are three options: Sign the budget as is, line-item veto specific portions or Veto the entire budget (which would trigger a special session, risking missing the June 30 fiscal deadline.)

Tariff and Trade Uncertainty: Federal-level tensions, especially regarding China tariffs (145%), are causing supply chain and pricing disruptions. Treasury officials suggest negotiations are underway, but the President remains firm.

Local Economic Softening: Issues like Port of Seattle slowdowns and reduced Canadian tourism may affect state revenue projections. The Governor likely wants to avoid a budget re-do or mid-year cuts due to worsening economic conditions.

Federal Budget Proposals: Proposed cuts at the federal level are also troubling as Pell Grant eligibility may be limited for part-time students. The TRIO program (supporting underserved college students) has been zeroed out in the current Republican bill. With around 8% of the college's budget linked to federal funds, the impact could be significant.

Implications for College Planning: The college has been deliberately reducing its reliance on reserves over the past two years. From over \$1 million two years ago to under \$1 million now, aiming for \$500k or less next year.

However, that strategy is no longer sustainable given the unpredictability at both the state and federal levels.

The College must pivot away from reliance on reserves and make tough budget decisions to remain viable long-term. Unfortunately, this has real and immediate impacts on staffing and programs. The outlook remains murky, and clarity from the state or federal level does not appear imminent. Discussion and questions followed.

- IV. ELT approved the Innovation Fund though ELT had a few recommendations which will require College Council to provide a response (the approval from ELT will be provided following these minutes for anyone to review.) Discussion followed on how to respond to ELT and David was going to work with Lisa and Sara to get the information needed for the response to ELT.

- V. Report Outs:

David and Rhonda announced that the Classified Council will be hosting a three-part guest speaker series with Dave Mitchell, who serves as the Chairman on the College's Business Advisory Committee. Dave has also authored several national bestselling business books. Be on the look-out for these invites as they will be sent by E-Mail to all WWCC employee's and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Lisa reported a status update on the STEPS work being done by the Annual Report Committee (ARC) which falls under the Institutional Effectiveness Council (IEC). The STEPS data review is complete and summary draft of findings and recommendations has been prepared. This draft will be taken to IEC tomorrow to seek formal approval from the full council.

Upon approval from IEC the results will be shared with Student Services Leadership Council and Instructional Leadership Council for discussion and feedback. The Plan is to share outcomes and recommended directions with these leadership groups.

Pending IEC approval, a request will be made to present the results at the next College Council meeting with the purpose of informing the broader college community and leadership of the ARC's findings and recommendations.

VI. Good of the Council: Nothing was reported.

Next meeting is May 21, 2025, at 3:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 4:16 PM