**WSSSC Call Notes, 4.2.2020**

**Financial Aid/CARES Act**

Christina, Michele, and Joe reported on the meetings of the Financial Aid Council and the smaller workgroup responding to questions from the field. Christina reported that CARES provides flexibility on R2T4, SAP, I grades, workstudy and SEOG. She further cautioned that there would be workload impacts on FA offices, for example students completing special circumstances paperwork due to loss of income, and the distribution of minimum 50% of CARES funds to students

Three areas needing clarification:

1. Clarification on student eligibility for the CARES funds, for now we assume the 50% of CARES funds still must go through FA office and go to students with financial aid eligibility, but what about additional CARES funds?
2. Need to clarify if CARES student aid will affect students’ maximum allowable financial aid (i.e., can it go beyond cost of attendance?)
3. Need to clarify WSAC guidance on paying workstudy students based on their scheduled hours—at least one AAG thinks this is not allowable under state law

Also in regard to CARES, when determining how to convert workstudy to grants, the advice of the financial aid directors is to make sure decisions are equitable and document everything

Questions are coming up regarding impacts on veterans benefits. Should this be incorporated into the work of the FA workgroup and any guidance they produce?

Christina wondered if there should be a consistent system-wide FAPC award code. Joe commented that an SBCTC data services person was on the FAC call. He will check within SBCTC

**Spring/Summer Term Planning**

Clark is doing lecture first, labs later in spring

LWIT is splitting spring (lecture) and summer (lab), will result in reduced credit load for some students in spring, backfill with gen ed courses where possible. Students who have completed gen eds already will need to be reduced to less-than-fulltime in spring term

Most are not planning summer yet, still focused on spring, however some (SPSCC, WVC, Grays Harbor for example) already do primarily online summer term

**Commencement**

Green River College will hold a virtual commencement June 16; Bates and WVC will also hold virtual ceremonies

Pierce College is looking at vendors for a virtual ceremony

Cascadia College and Edmonds will be virtual, also will invite 2020 graduates to 2021 ceremony; Edmonds will also do a webpage the June with a short video of president remarks and list names of 2020 grads

LWIT has moved commencement to August 21

Other colleges are making decisions this week or next

**Residence Halls**

Significant exodus of students from residence halls, up to 2/3 in some cases

Edmonds student housing is apartment style, they closed their common areas, no visitors, self-isolation if sick, cleaning instructions, hand sanitizer available. They used departures to spread students out. Tracking lost revenue due to COVID-19

Everett has also cleared space for isolation, quarantine

Highline has reserved 11 rooms for self-isolation, delivers care packages to students’ doors, closed common areas, experiencing a challenge keeping nonresidents out

Lower Columbia reports they have moved all students into single rooms (although they still share a bathroom). They are continually providing information and resources to students about staying home, staying safe, social distancing, meal planning, etc. Many students have moved out so there are some empty apartments if needed for quarantine

Columbia Basin reports they have an emergency plan created and the director would be willing to share...doing many of the same things discussed

Green River has a housing continuity planning document they are happy to share

**2020 Census**

Joe Holliday asked if the colleges would have bandwidth to send a message to students about participating in the Census. Yes, colleges can push out a message, although there is concern that this will not be a high priority for students amid all the messages they are getting. Joe will draft a message and include the WA SEN video and send to WSSSC list for use in messaging

**Budget**

Carli Schiffner updated WSSSC on the budget. Budget reductions are being discussed. The Governor may veto some bills that have appropriations attached to them. A special Legislative Session is anticipated, around the next state revenue forecast on June 17

**Dual Enrollment**

Joe highlighted some points from a draft guidance document on College in the High School, currently being vetted with OSPI. The draft was sent to the WSSSC listserv. He encouraged comments and suggested edits. There was a discussion of Running Start. TCC sent a letter from the President to all of the Superintendents for RS students. There is some discussion about allowing summer Running Start, currently not permissible by statute. Joe reminded the group that a Running Start guidance document has already been produced and distributed.

**Miscellaneous**

Luca asked about planning for enrollment shifts, Carli replies meetings are in progress, can update on next Wednesday/Thursday IC/WSSSC calls

TCC had a Zoom Town Hall, more than 150 students participated

Glen asked for an update on Guided Pathways timing, Kristi replied that Workplans were submitted, revisions are now not due until June. She offered to forward an update to WSSSC

Discussion of VA housing allowances and how they are impacted by delayed start dates for spring. Centralia only delayed one week to avoid this issue. Scott Copeland reached out for guidance with state certifying agency. Clark delayed two weeks, is providing gap funding for veterans housing expenses (2 weeks). VCOs are being asked to indicate first day of instruction by VA. Scott Copeland will share what he learns

Special admits: SPSCC is getting requests, WVC also. Dave says holding off on individual requests and focused more on Running Start surge

Spring meeting, will be virtual, possibly 2 half days, stay tuned for details