**SBCTC UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 8 WSSSC MEETING**

Submitted by Joe Holliday, SBCTC Director of Student Services

**Senate Higher Education Committee Work Session, October 1**: SBCTC Deputy Director Carli Schiffner coordinated a panel to update the Committee on our system’s response to the pandemic and our challenges going forward. Panelists included a VPI, a faculty member, a student, and two presidents. It was well-received. A recording of it should be available on TVW.

**Disability Support Services Council (DSSC) Meeting with SBCTC CIO Grant Rodeheaver**: I sat in on a meeting of DSSC leadership with Grant and Sandy Main. While there has been a system buy of Okta for multi-factor authentication, there are accessibility concerns. Grant indicated they were resolving this with the vendor. It won’t be implemented until the concerns are resolved, per Grant. WSSSC Liaison Brendon Taga has the meeting notes and could provide more information from the notes if desired.

**Outreach and Recruitment Workgroup:** We recently formed this group to combine efforts aimed at connecting those who have outreach and recruitment responsibilities throughout Washington’s CTC system. This group, and subsequent structure and goals, is an outcome of the partnerships developed from the Direct Admissions Initiative task force. The group met October 6 to discuss systemwide efforts in financial aid completion. The group discussed current challenges, workarounds in a remote environment, collaboration that is occurring with multiple colleges (i.e. holding ctc admission fairs together in one event). The group will be surveyed on hot topics to shape our work. Meetings are every first Wed of the month from 1-3pm via zoom. SBCTC’s Jamie Traugott and Kristi Wellington Baker serve in a coordinating role with this group.

**Executive Order on Equity Training**: I have no further update at this time except to remind you that our Executive Director Jan Yoshiwara sent out a guidance document last week that I shared with the WSSSC list. We are in active communication with DSHS regarding the possible effect the EO will have on their list of approved training providers, some of which are our colleges. One clarification on paying employees who are federally grant funded: the EO does not affect salaries, but we advise that you not pay their salaries during their participation in equity training that falls under the EO.

**Counselor Taskforce**: The Taskforce has been meeting regularly and has two remaining meetings, October 22 and November 12. An additional meeting in late November may be scheduled if needed. The survey of colleges was completed, with 100% college participation. Recommendations for minimum standards for counselors were approved at the October 1 meeting. Sue Orchard represents WSSSC on the Taskforce and coordinated the minimum standards work. Two additional sections, in addition to a final recommendations section, are best practices and student/counselor ratios. A panel of 5 students spoke about their experiences with counseling in a recorded session at the October 1 meeting. We anticipate making the recording available at the Taskforce webpage. I will send a link to the page if/when we are able to do that.

**Title IX**: Robert Cox, Jack Huls and Dave Pelkey represent WSSSC on the combined WSSSC/HRMC/AG/SBCTC workgroup looking at Title IX rules and processes. We are optimistic that colleges will be able to use Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) as hearing officers, at an hourly cost. A survey of Title IX Coordinators on complaints and hearings over the last three years – though an underestimate – showed that very few cases went to a hearing over this time period. We discussed developing an annual Title IX training that could combine national and state expertise. SBCTC could coordinate the training if desired. We want to expand the current group to other WSSSC members.

**Staffing Update**: Student Services Policy Associate Ha Nguyen has been appointed as SBCTC’s first-ever Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. She began in this new role October 1. We just received permission to go ahead with a search to replace her in Student Services. We will be seeking representatives from CUSP, FAC, and MSSDC and other groups to serve on the first-round interview team.