**Council/WSSSC (*please select from list*)**

[ ] WSSSC [ ] ACC [ ] ARC [ ] CESC [ ] CUSP [ ] CWPC
[ ] DSSC [ X ] FAC [ ] MSSDC [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Date & Quarter** *Date(s) of Meeting*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
*Quarter/Year*:
[ ] Fall [ ] Winter [ x ] Spring [ ] Summer [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
[ ] 2017 [ ] 2018 [ x ] 2024 [ ] 2020

 **Primary Focus Areas & Hot Topics***Bulleted list or brief description of top focus areas and scope of impact*

Spring FAC Agenda Attached: 4-17-19

**Key Topics:**

Financial Value Transparency/Gainful Employment Summer Kenesson (SBCTC)

Work Study Reconciliation Cindy Saucedo (RTC)

Pivot Table & VLookup Tips/Tricks Lee Grubb (Seattle Colleges)

WSSSC Liaison Update/Q&A Karl Smith (TCC)

WSAC Update/Q&A Becky Thompson

SBCTC IT Update/Q&A Ana Ybarra

SBCTC Legislative Update/Q&A Jennifer Dellinger

FTI – Security, etc. Anatasia Lebedinski (SFCC)

Emergency Funds – Item Types Ashley Clark (SFCC)

Action Plan/What do we do now and/or next? Deann Holliday (Cascadia)

Other Discussion Topics

• Fraud @ LCC Jessica Harris (LCC)

• Late Start Classes & R2T4 Joshua Temple (SCC)

**WSSSC Liaison Led Discussion**

Office Staffing

Common Business Practices

FAFSA Simplification Position Paper

FAFSA Simplification Action Plan Template

Creation of Financial Aid Canvas Page

Office Closures

Common Business Practices Putting FAC in the Drivers Seat

**Decisions and Recommendations***For any issues focusing on member voting, please include vote counts/results*

Decision to use SBCTC FAFSA Canvas Page – no vote

Hello Karl,

As FAC president, and on behalf of the Financial Aid Council, I am emailing you as our WSSSC liaison, officially requesting that you continue to advocate regarding a collective need FAC discussed this week.

As you know, in June, when ctcLink is fully available to start processing for the 2024/2025 aid year, there will be a concentrated effort on behalf of aid offices across the state to get as many applications loaded into the system as possible, with the support of SBCTC.

SBCTC is planning to host a number of Webex sessions to assist colleges as they jumpstart the year (beginning June 10th). Due to the number of regulatory and thus system changes, offices will need assistance in ctcLink, just as each college did after their ctcLink Go-Live date.

With that, however, comes the need to also keep current year deadlines met, like checking SAP at the end of the spring quarter, federal and state aid reporting, and year-end reconciliation.

We are collectively asking for the support of our administration, to be able to suspend office hours during a three-week period of time between June 10th and 28th, as each college may need, in order to focus on Webex support and trainings with SBCTC, dedicated processing time, or other quarterly and annual deadlines.

Ashley had emailed you the notes from the Spring FAC meeting discussion regarding this topic, which I'm reattaching to this email for your reference.

Thank you for your continued support,

~Kim

Kimberly Geer

Director, Financial Aid and Veteran Services

FAC President 24/25

**Questions or concerns to forward (please select from list)**

[ ] WSSSC [ ] ACC [ ] ARC [ ] CESC [ ] CUSP [ ] CWPC
[ ] DSSC [ ] FAC [ ] MSSDC [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Description of question or concern. Please be specific, and state any desired outcomes or suggestions if applicable.*

Office Closures:

FAC Notes Regarding Office Closures

• Many in attendance mentioned their VPs have approved closures for multiple weeks after June 8th

• This rollout of simplification is as big, if not bigger than go live with ctcLink, which during that time many offices closed. Similar treatment should happen for this.

• The questions staff will be getting in FA offices from customer service will take away from ability to process awards. Whereas if FA offices are closed, they can process awards and actually help customer service needs as students will be getting their aid.

o Many colleges mentioned doing trainings with other departments on a campus to help in assisting in basic knowledge and document collection if FA offices close. This can help in still assisting students but also protecting the time of FA staff to process. Also, some colleges are trying to create training tools for navigating the student center and task list items.

• Student employees may be impacted, so if departments want student workers or if those workers are serving in any customer service capacity to help answer questions, there will be a need for FA staff to package and process student workers. Impact to college departments who utilize student workers can be large.

• Important to note that end of year is traditionally a busy time already with year end activities but with a 5-month timeline condensed to 3 weeks, additional pressures are on. Funding students/ file review are not only things the FA office has to do to maintain office/compliance. At this same time (June- July) additional regulatory/required processes are running simultaneously.

• Additional Year end processes happening at the same time:

o Interim report due to WSAC beginning of July, prep time can take long as it is reconciling to the penny all state funds.

o Disbursements and final confirmation of aid to be disbursed, working with all other stakeholders to ensure disbursements and allocations out by end of year 6/30.

o Draws and reconciliation down to the penny- communications with Finance/Business Office and other key stakeholders.

o SAP run and special summer SAP processing (appeals, setup, communications)

 Additional configuration and setup changes with New WSAC Guidance on policy changes—system has to be updated and tested prior to SAP run to ensure compliance

o Reconciliation and allocation spend out of All funding sources- Examples- Workforce, WSOS, Scholarships, federal and state funding, institutional funds

o Unofficial Return to Title IV (R2T4) for Spring students after grades post

o State Workstudy Report due to WSAC mid-July

• A way to honor the commitment and tenacity of those who are working in FA offices and staying through this all is to give staff the capacity to do their job. To do that, offices need to close.

• Once we get the system, issues are still unknown. Currently there are many bugs and issues with the system itself from Oracle, so the continued impacts are still unknown. Closure may be needed to be able to work through fixes or even manual work arounds if Oracle has not released fixes.

• Mentioned that SBCTC will be offering training from June 10th-28th and that staff need to be able to attend and get questions answered to be able to fund students.

• There may be a need for closures closer to Fall as well for Fall start students as we are behind for that as well, especially if you are a header.

• It was mentioned some VPs are worried that if students questions are not served, they may go to another college. On that note, not having the time to fund students because you are dealing with higher customer service can lead to students not being funded and selecting another college.

o In addition, if all CTC’s have the same/similar closure dates then the worry a student may go elsewhere may go down as all other CTC’s are in the same boat.

**Other information to share**

**Compiled/Submitted by (liaison name, college)**: Karl Smit Tacoma Community College\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted to WSSSC (date): 5/16/2024**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_