

# MINUTES

## GOVERNANCE COUNCIL –October 7, 2025

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**Members Present:** Matt Seimears, Kristen Finnel, Wendy Hall, Nolan Wheeler, Brad Benjamin, Kailie Drumm, Lucas Myers, Alex Brehm, Shiree Bent, Ashleigh Kruckenberg, and Tracy Powell

**Guests Present:** Naser Chowdry, Lori Babbick, Adrienne Godschalk, Alexander Ivory-Brown, Mara Slabu, Rayelynn Camp, and Crista Braun

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting were approved with a minor change to correct a faculty member's name.

**MOTION:** By Shiree Bent, seconded by Kailie Drumm,

The minutes of May 14, 2025, be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

#### 2. ASLCC Presentation

- a. ASLCC Executive Director, Mara Slabu, expressed her appreciation for sharing voices and opinions and looks forward to additional engagement opportunities.
- b. Marketing Director, Rayelynn Camp, encouraged Faculty to promote ASLCC events during their classes, attend events when possible, and refer students to available resources.
- c. Faculty and staff who identify recurring student needs are encouraged to refer students to Student Affairs Director Vicky Chen. ASLCC is also developing a form to collect suggestions and recommendations.
- d. Mental Health Director, Crista Braun, invited the group to reflect on their favorite mentors and personal passions—reminders of how meaningful engagement can change lives.
- e. Kristen Finnel provides monthly instructional updates and will share this message with faculty. She appreciated the thoughtful discussion and reaffirmed her commitment to continued engagement.
- f. Lucas Myers proposed creating a Canvas linking directly to ASLCC information, which could also be incorporated into informational videos.
- g. Crista Braun also shared her insights from her Washington, D.C., visit last year and encouraged support from the entire campus community, noting, “We all matter”.

- h. Marketing Director, Rayelynn Campu, expressed enthusiasm for promoting ASLCC activities through posters and other creative outreach efforts.
- i. Alexander Ivory-Brown will reach out to see who may be interested in serving as an advisor for an ASLCC trip.
- j. Event information is available on the ASLCC LCC Instagram account, campus poster boards, and other on-campus postings. A mass email system will be implemented to help reduce communication gaps.

### **3. Policies and Procedures**

- a. [Policy 102 - Administrative Policy Process](#)
  - i. Lucas Myers proposed revisions to draft policy 102, specifically items 2.5 and 3.5. The proposed changes would require housekeeping revisions following the complete revision and approval process.
  - ii. Discussion followed regarding the importance of shared governance, the timing of policy approvals related to accreditation, and possibly approval pathways, including the option of reviewing minor policy changes during a shared governance meeting rather than restarting the entire approval process.
  - iii. Alex Brehm noted that a potential challenge may involve ensuring confidence in newly appointed individuals responsible for policy decisions.
  - iv. Brad Benjamin reminded the group that substantive comments have historically been brought back to Governance Council for discussion.
  - v. Wendy Hall will draft revised policy language. President Seimears and Lucas Myers will prioritize policies and items required for Accreditation.
- b. [Procedure 102.1A - Administrative Policy Review](#)
  - i. This procedure is moving forward as presented.
- c. [Procedure 102.1B - Administrative Procedure Revision](#)
  - i. This procedure is moving forward as presented.
- d. [Policy 730 - Data Governance](#)
  - i. The council agreed that data responsibility is crucial and LCC must align with SBCTC.

**MOTION:** By Brad Benjamin, seconded by Ashleigh Kruckenberg

That Policy 730 be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

4. Budget Update and Work-Study Allocations
  - a. Budget Update
    - i. President Seimears shared that he spent two days at a WACTC event discussing the new budget allocation model. The old allocation model favored LCC's enrollment growth. The latest model has a group of takers (green) and givers (red). Seattle and South Puget Sound are included as "Takers," and LCC is among the "Givers". The payback timeline options were 6 years, 4 years, or variable. The State Board approved the allocation model but rejected the proposed 6-year payback period. The "Givers" united and discussed budget cuts, etc. The Capital Committee voted to move a 4-year proposal to the state board. If approved, LCC would see budget cuts next year based on trending enrollment, approximately \$680,000 over 4 years.
    - ii. Nolan Wheeler stated that increased enrollment positively impacts the funds. Adding the last FY to this 4-year average has been a benefit. Under the current model, LCC would only forfeit funding if another college is over-enrolled.
    - iii. This model is based on a 4-year rolling average with no target. Funds will be calculated on FTE and headcount. No target increases volatility. Additionally, the state tax revenue forecast is down due to federal funding cuts, etc., so there is a lot of pressure on the state budget.
    - iv. President Seimears will maintain campus communication through Quarterly Conversations, emails, etc. LCC must be fiscally proactive.
    - v. Kailie Drumm asked if LCC is in a holding pattern. Nolan Wheeler noted that Instruction will have a list of vacant positions, and needs will be prioritized. Kristen Finnel indicated that the faculty hiring timeline starts at the end of October and that she will share this information with the IC Council.
    - vi. July 1, 2026, is what we are preparing for. Collectively, leadership has looked at multiple options to save money - taking a building offline, etc. Trying to eliminate redundancies and promote efficiency.
  - b. Work Study Allocation
    - i. Nolan Wheeler recommended staying the course and analyzing the allocation budget in December. He stressed the importance of keeping students working to help them build skills and confidence and maintain retention.

**5. Continuous Improvement in Student Services**

- a. Faculty members expressed concerns regarding Student Services workflows and gaps, budgets, the rationale behind organizational changes, the balance of responsibilities, and leadership qualifications.
- b. In Dan Ruiz's absence, Alexander Ivory-Brown was available to answer questions. The group agreed to hold a brief discussion. Tracy Powell will extend the November 5 meeting by 30 minutes to allow time for an in-depth conversation about Student Services.
- c. Ongoing Student Services meetings are helping leadership identify opportunities for improvement. Kristen Finnel shared that additional conversations have occurred with Student Services leaders since the decision not to replace the Vice President of Student Services position was announced.
- d. Alex Brehm and Kailie Drumm conducted listening sessions with faculty regarding organizational changes. Brad Benjamin noted a shift in perception between the summer and fall sessions.
- e. Nolan Wheeler noted that the duties and responsibilities of frontline staff remain unchanged. Leadership is taking an intentional approach, with adjustments limited to reporting structures rather than workflows.
- f. President Seimears acknowledged the efforts of Dan Ruiz and Alexander Ivory-Brown to address the sense of lost identity within Student Services. He noted that the team remains open to hosting a listening session.

**6. VOC Project Update / Parking Update**

- a. The VOC and Student Services parking lots are closing on Monday; therefore, people must park at Don Talley.
- b. The City of Longview proposed converting Maple Street to a one-way configuration with angled parking. Nolan Wheeler contacted Father's House Church regarding potential student parking options. Other suggestions included carpooling or using RiverCities Transit, which is available at no cost to students, staff, and faculty.

**7. Other**

- a. None

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 PM.