

December 12, 2006

A-10

Representative Hans Dunshee
Representative John Lovick
Representative Al O'Brien
Representative Mike Sells
Representative Mark Eriks
Senator Rosemary McAuliffe

Dear Representatives and Senator McAuliffe:

I am pleased to respond to your letter requesting a plan for a University of Washington option to offer baccalaureate programs in the Everett/Marysville area under the management of the UW Bothell administration. We have waited to propose such a plan until the Higher Education Coordinating Board acted on the Snohomish/Island/Skagit study. In keeping with the HEC Board recommendation that future options be explored, we have designed a proposal to begin, in partnership with our local community colleges, an upper division technology bachelor's program in the Everett area. We believe we can provide, economically and efficiently, the beginnings of "polytechnic" educational offerings in the Snohomish area, producing the first cohort of graduates by 2012.

I attach a short summary of the proposal with the key elements highlighted, as well as a full proposal with greater detail. These proposals have been shared with President Emmert and the Board of Regents of the University, as well as having been shared with our Community and Technical College presidential colleagues from Everett, Edmonds, Shoreline, Skagit Valley, Bellevue, North Seattle, Cascade, and Lake Washington.

I would be pleased to provide any additional information you might like.

Sincerely,

Steven G. Olswang
Chancellor

cc: President Mark Emmert
Mr. Randy Hodgins
Mr. Aaron Reardon
Mayor Ray Stephanson
Senator Jean Berkey
Senator Mary Margaret Haugen

Proposal to serve Snohomish, Island, and Skagit Counties (SIS)

Background

The University of Washington Bothell was created by the State Legislature in 1989 to serve the citizens of the north Puget Sound region. In its 16 year history, over 10,000 state residents, from northern King County and southern Snohomish County in particular, have attended UW Bothell, and 90% of its graduates still live and work in the region.

During this same time, the population of the region has increased significantly. Projected future growth in Snohomish, Island, and Skagit (SIS) Counties suggest the need for extensions of educational opportunities north of UW Bothell. Tied to the explosive business growth in the north I-5 and I-405 corridors in the areas of biotechnology, biodevise, computer software, and aerospace engineering, the need for large numbers of technology trained baccalaureate graduates in science and engineering is intensified.

These circumstances have led the State of Washington to commission, through the Higher Education Coordinating (HEC) Board, a study of the educational needs of Snohomish, Island, and Skagit Counties. After a study lasting almost 16 months and involving many community members, the HEC Board has recommended that, considering the critical need to fully fund existing higher education programs, the time is not ripe to establish another institution of higher education in the region. Nonetheless, the HEC Board encouraged additional planning and collaboration between neighboring institutions in an effort to better serve the baccalaureate needs of the area.

The Common Objectives

In conversations with those involved in serving the higher educational needs of the citizens of Snohomish, Island, and Skagit Counties several common objectives emerged:

- ◆ Bring new baccalaureate programs to the region.

By doing so, provide local inspiration to the high school population that they can go to a high quality university education without incurring costs for relocation and residential living.

- ◆ Focus any curriculum on science and technology degrees, so graduates can readily find professional jobs in the region.

By doing so, provide the incentive of having a highly educated workforce available to future businesses to encourage them to relocate into the region.

- ◆ Expand public and private investment in the region, promoting economic development.

Context

The State of Washington has proven models for how to offer baccalaureate programs in partnerships between the community colleges and the universities. Since 1990, the UW Bothell, UW Tacoma, WSU Tri-Cities, and WSU Vancouver have all been upper division institutions. Over 16 years, 30,000 students from all of the state's 34 community and technical colleges have taken their first two years of educational preparation and transferred to one of these campuses and received upper division education towards baccalaureate degrees.

The Proposal

The University of Washington Bothell could work in partnership with community and technical colleges in the SIS area in the service of three intertwined agendas: (1) Offer new baccalaureate degree programs focused on science, engineering and technology, (2) Establish a K-12 partnership to expand math/science education and opportunities, and (3) Foster local economic development networks, professional development, and entrepreneurship mentoring. These agendas extend current UW Bothell partnerships with Snohomish, Island, and Skagit Counties, and are directly interconnected with current UW Bothell programs.

Possible Elements for New Degree Programs

1. Efforts and resources could be focused on new program options that are complementary to those that already exist in the vicinity and across the state. For example, the initial curriculum could be focused on science, engineering and technology. A first program might possibly be in electrical engineering or general engineering. All programs could be accredited as part of the University of Washington. To the extent possible, distributive education technology would be utilized to allow classroom access from remote locations.
2. A new campus, if developed, could begin as an upper division campus. The lower division might be offered by the partner community and technical colleges (Skagit Valley, Everett, Edmonds, Shoreline, Cascadia, North Seattle, Bellevue, Lake Washington Technical College), and at the University of Washington Bothell. Representatives from each could collaboratively design the first two years curriculum with expertise provided by faculty from UW Seattle.
3. Students entering as freshmen at any participating campus could be jointly admitted to the new campus, if it is developed. This would ensure that all students have a four year degree plan if they successfully complete the lower division curriculum.

4. If it is desirable and feasible to create a new SIS program location, the City of Everett seems to be the logical place to begin the upper division program. Existing transportation corridors favor Everett as the place to start. Further, accessible facilities exist at the Everett Center, the Everett Community College campus, or possibly the vacated Cogswell building.
5. An initial upper division class of 30 to 60 students for the first engineering degree program seems achievable. Growth would be conditioned on future entering lower division student demand.

If desirable and feasible, a reasonable timeline is as follows:

2007-2008	Lower division planning/high school recruitment
2008-2009	First lower division class enters/upper division curriculum, facilities, and equipment planning continues
2009-2010	Upper division planning continues/facilities completed/new faculty hired
2010-2011	First upper division class enters
2011-2012	First graduates, June 2012

Under such a plan no significant capital budget appropriation is required in this biennium. An operating budget for the coming biennium would need to be developed but it would be relatively small. In the first year a budget would be needed for planning and coordination; in the second year the budget would be distributed across the partner community colleges, Lake Washington Technical College, and University of Washington Bothell, in order to develop and/or expand the required lower division courses.

K-12 Outreach and The Pipeline Project

Creating technology oriented bachelor degree programs will not in and of itself change the fact that the communities served are not producing sufficient numbers of high school graduates prepared adequately in math and science to support new technology degree programs. All the research shows that the latest point at which to keep students interested in pursuing math/science-based careers is middle school.

In conjunction with beginning technology oriented bachelor degree programs, we propose to create a "Math/Science Technology Pipeline Project" to be started in the Snohomish, Island, and Skagit County region. This Pipeline Project would provide an articulated math/science curriculum for students going from middle school, high school, community college, to a four year degree. It would also provide unique educational program support for students, using university personnel and middle school/high school master teachers. The idea is to assure students an accelerated and guaranteed pipeline through all levels to university bachelor's degree. If done right, it could be more than a pilot project for a few, but a transformation of educational attainment for all. And it might solve, over time, the issue of "where will our qualified future engineers, scientists, and technology managers come from" for our region.

Performance Outcomes

Providing technology focused bachelor's degree programs for residents in Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties can be feasible. The fundamental question is how this can be accomplished in the most high quality, timely, yet economical manner. This proposal offers a possible answer to these questions. If we were to start with a twined UW quality education at the upper division, with preparatory education in the community and technical colleges and at UW Bothell campus, the first new degrees could be in students' hands, and those students could be employed by local employers, by summer, 2012. This is timely and economical. Money is spent on education, not institution building. And it is a new wave of education, not replication of existing education already offered in the region by the community and technical colleges and UW Bothell.

Performance indicators include in the first six years:

1. Number of students enrolled in preparatory transfer programs.
2. Number of students enrolled in upper division technology degree programs.
3. Number of graduates of the new program employed in local counties
4. Number of new businesses attracted to region which identify the new educational access as a reason to relocate.
5. Additional expenditures by state, students and private partners in the region.
6. Growth in employment directly related to the technology degree programs.

With funding for the K-12 Pipeline Project, additional indicators include:

1. Number of students intent on technology degrees, who are in Pipeline Project classes.
2. Increased number of math/science teachers employed in partner school districts.
3. Master teachers enrolled in or who have completed middle school/high school master teachers program at UW Bothell.

Economic Development

With a secured position in the northern region, UW Bothell could establish a number of additional programs to assist in the economic development of the region. For those in the existing workforce, continuing education in the form of short courses, professional education programs, appropriate professional certificate programs, and possibly graduate degree cohort programs could be provided. The Student Entrepreneurship Program and Business Development Program of the UW Bothell could provide support systems to enhance local businesses through faculty and student engagement.

The Future Beyond 2012

Just as UW Bothell matured into a four-year university to meet the growing need to have more local places for high school graduates to enroll, it is not unlikely to foresee a

maturity over time for this venture. As the Pipeline Project succeeds and significant numbers of new students interested and capable of technology studies balloons, it is entirely possible that the call for greater access to meet the created need will transform the small beginning into something significant. But, that is for the future to show.

This proposal creates an economically appropriate pathway to begin providing needed bachelor's degrees in the northern counties. It does so utilizing existing institutions, expertise, and infrastructure. If success leads to further growth, this can only be good for the region and the State of Washington, and their residents.

Summary

Proposal to serve Snohomish, Island, and Skagit Counties (SIS)

The University of Washington Bothell could work in partnership with community and technical colleges in the SIS area in the service of three intertwined agendas: (1) Offer new baccalaureate degree programs focused on science, engineering and technology, (2) Establish a K-12 partnership to expand math/science education and opportunities, and (3) Foster local economic development networks, professional development, and entrepreneurship mentoring.

Possible Elements for New Degree Programs

1. Efforts and resources would be focused on new program options that are complementary to those that already exist in the vicinity and across the state. For example, the initial curriculum could be focused on science, engineering and technology. To the extent possible, distributive education technology would be utilized to allow classroom access from remote locations.
2. A new campus, if developed, could begin as an upper division campus with lower division being offered by the partner community colleges (Skagit Valley, Everett, Edmonds, Shoreline, Cascadia, North Seattle, Bellevue), Lake Washington Technical College, and at the University of Washington Bothell.
3. Students entering as freshmen at any participating campus could be jointly admitted to the new campus, if it is developed.
4. If it is desirable and feasible to create this new campus, the City of Everett seems to be the logical place to begin the upper division program.
5. If desirable and feasible, an initial upper division class of 30 to 60 students for the first engineering degree program seems achievable. Growth would be conditioned on future entering lower division student demand. Progress on growth and goals would be re-examined every six months.

If desirable and feasible, a reasonable timeline is as follows:

2007-2008	Lower division planning/high school recruitment
2008-2009	First lower division class enters/upper division curriculum, facilities, and equipment planning continues
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If a plan like this is adopted, we do not anticipate significant capital budget in this biennium. An operating budget for the coming biennium would need to be developed but we expect it to be relatively small.

K-12 Outreach

If growth is desirable in the future, it would be best if a program were developed to integrate the local school districts into the math/science design. Together, the parties can design and implement a ten year curriculum in math/science that allows students to progress from middle school through high school, to the 2+2 engineering degree program proposed. Such a plan ensures an expanding stream of well prepared students.

Economic Development

If a secured presence in Snohomish were created for UW Bothell, graduate and professional education programs, short courses, and certificates could be brought forward. In addition, the Entrepreneurship Program and Business Development Center could provide support to enhance local businesses through faculty and student involvement.