WACTE January 25, 2024:

Business Meeting Consent Agenda

President’s Written Report

(previously presented as the WACTE Liaison Report to PESB 1/19/24

*Good morning. I am Rachel Oppenheim, President of WACTE, The Washington Association for Colleges of Teacher Education. I am happy to be here this morning to update you on the work of our organization and of Educator Preparation Programs across the state.*

*After adding three new members in the fall, WACTE is very excited to have a complete Executive Board! Kelly Koch from Yakima Valley College is our Secretary, Tariq Akmal from Washington State University is our Treasurer, and Jeremy Delamarter from St. Martin’s University is our Researcher. We’re so grateful to have them all on board. We also welcome the two new higher education representatives to the PESB Board: Kevin Roxas and Michaela Jackson. We have reached out to them and invited them to join our Executive Board as liaisons between WACTE and the PESB Board.*

*WACTE is embarking on a new legislative strategy that we’re eager to tell you about. With the support of Pete Renn, our At-Large member, we have formed a new Legislative Subcommittee. The subcommittee has created a set of goals that emphasize information-sharing and two-way communication with our members, with the goal of listening to members’ ideas and concerns and communicating them to legislators and policymakers. The group is also tasked with helping to improve WACTE’s image in Olympia by developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with key legislators and policymakers involved in education legislation. And they will specifically advocate for initiatives & legislation that advances equity & antiracism in teacher education and in K-12 education broadly. Zack Turner, PESB’s Director of Government Relations, has communicated his excitement for collaborating with this group and we truly appreciate his support!*

*We are excited for our upcoming WACTE meeting, which will be held next week. Our January meeting will feature the topic of how to respond to fraught political times and how to support our faculty, teacher candidates, and K-12 teachers to respond to them in their classrooms. The conversations started because of the recent events in Gaza, but we all agreed that this is just one example of an event that is quite complicated and that we are all grappling with how to adequately address, including the presidential election later this year. As a part of this theme, we will host a keynote panel that will include higher ed faculty and administrators who have thought deeply about how to engage with tough geopolitical circumstances and support faculty, candidates, and K-12 teachers during these fraught times. They will share stories of what they've done and how they've thought about their roles (knowing that nobody has the "right answers" right now). We aim to create a space for teacher educators to come together to share stories, reflect, and learn with and from each other around how to support our future teachers, and ourselves in these kinds of realities. The Social Emotional Learning EPP sub-committee is helping us to frame the panel and craft questions that help participants think about their own emotional learning, as well as that of teacher candidates and K-12 students. There will be breakout groups after the keynote panel and the Social Justice Committee will host a session on identity-based caucusing as one approach to navigating fraught political circumstances.*

*The WACTE meeting will also include a number of other sessions. As always, we will host role-alike meetings, which give members in similar roles an opportunity to collaborate and share information. PESB will host a session in which they will present the revised program review rubrics for feedback from the larger membership. And our new Legislative Subcommittee will facilitate a session, with help from Zack Turner at PESB. We will also continue our “coffee chat” format, in which participants opt into breakout rooms based on their particular needs and interests. The Since Time Immemorial group will facilitate a coffee chat, as will PESB’s own Koray Lynx, who will share about his newly-published book!*

*Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the work and priorities of our organization! We look forward to continued conversations and collaborations with the PESB Board and staff. We want to thank you for being open and available for ongoing dialogue with our leadership and constituents.*

*We wish you a rewarding rest of your meeting and a wonderful holiday season!*

