Monday, May 19, 2008

2.00 - 4.00 pm  
Montana Room

Ad Hoc Committee for Self-Funded Units Meeting

Roy Ogawa (HI), chair
Jane Nichols (NV), ex officio
Camille Preus (OR), ex officio

Diane Barrans (AK)
Joel Sideman (AZ)
Appointment pending (CA)
David Skaggs (CO)
Helene Sokugawa (HI)
Robert Kustra (ID)
Ed Jasmin (MT)
Dave Nething (ND)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Carl Shaff (NV)
James Sager (OR)
Tad Perry (SD)
David Buhler (UT)
Ann Daley (WA)
Tom Buchanan (WY)

Agenda

Presiding:  Roy Ogawa (HI), chair

Staff:  Louis Fox, executive director of WCET and vice president for WICHE technology and innovation
       Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health and director, WICHE Mental Health Program

Parameters for the Ad Hoc Committee for Self-Funded Units  8-3

Discussion Items:

Review of the FY 2009 Mental Health Program workplan  8-4

Review of the FY 2009 WCET workplan  8-8

“Mental Health on Campus: The Need for Action”
Discussion leader:  Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health

“Making Online Learning Visible: The Transparency By Design Project”
Discussion leader:  Louis Fox, executive director of WCET and vice president, WICHE technology and innovation
Unit Updates:

Mental Health – Dennis Mohatt

WCET and WICHE Science, Technology, and Innovation initiative – Louis Fox
ACTION ITEM

Proposed New Standing Committee for Self-Funded Entities within WICHE

Context
WCET and the Mental Health Program operate quite differently than the other units within WICHE, in that they receive no direct financial support from WICHE’s general fund and each has a separate quasi-governance structure (the WCET Executive Council and Mental Health Oversight Committee). Because of their more independent nature, the commission over the years has reduced the amount of oversight provided to these two areas. WCET has generally been asked to provide a report to the Issue Analysis and Research Committee, but there has been little direct engagement of the commission with its operations or activities. The Mental Health Program has provided a report at the end of each Executive Committee meeting, held in conjunction with the semiannual commission meetings, yet again by tradition, there has been little commission engagement beyond receiving a report. This situation has not been unique to these two units. The Consortium on North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC), which spun off from WICHE in 1999, had a similar relationship, as did the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), which spun off from WICHE in the 1970s and 1980s.

For a couple of reasons, both the commission’s current officers and the executive staff team have come to believe that there should be a more formal and substantial level of commission engagement with these two units.

First and foremost, while these units do indeed operate quite independently, they are nonetheless integral components of WICHE, and the commission is as responsible for them as for any other WICHE activity. The commission has both legal and fiduciary responsibility for these areas, and thus has a responsibility to have full knowledge of their activities. Furthermore, while “independent,” each of these units are also interdependent upon WICHE – and vice versa, WICHE is dependent on them. They both benefit from and contribute to the financial stability and viability of the overall organization. And the quality of their work redounds to the reputation of the organization as a whole.

Second, the current leaders of both entities are significant leaders within WICHE and want to contribute to what they term “one WICHE.” They believe that their units can contribute to WICHE’s overall agenda in significant ways, beyond the usual bounds of their mission-centered activities.

For this reason Chair Ogawa has created on an ad hoc basis a committee to focus on these self-funded but wholly owned subsidiary units of WICHE, with the presumption that this committee will become a standing committee, if accepted by the commission as a whole.

Charge of the Proposed Committee
A proposed charge for the committee is as follows:

This committee shall review the work of the WCET and the Mental Health Program, including a review of the budget and workplans of these units, on a regular basis. The committee will provide suggestions to the staff in charge of these units and will engage with staff in discussions of the vision and activities being conducted and to be conducted by these units. The committee will designate individual commissioners to represent the commission on the WCET Executive Council (an elected position by the WCET membership) and on the Mental Health Oversight Committee (an appointed position). The committee will keep the commission apprised of the most significant activities and issues facing these self-funded portions of the WICHE organization.

Action Requested
Acceptance of creating a standing committee on self-funded units.
WICHE WORKPLAN 2009 – Mental Health

EXISTING ACTIVITIES

Finance

- Annual Tuition and Fees report (GF)
- Non-Traditional No More: the first cohort of states – Arkansas, Colorado, and Nevada – will spend the year creating a comprehensive strategy for identifying “ready adults” and promoting their college success
- Property insurance and risk consortium (self-funding)
- Performance measurement improvement in the Western states public mental health programs
- Making Opportunity Affordable (national partnership led by Jobs for the Future and funded by Lumina)
- Legislative Advisory Committee: revamping the committee, examining the membership, stimulating attendance by members, and convening an annual meeting
- SPIDO: upgrading and updating the comprehensive database of state-level higher education policies (GF, Lumina, Jobs for the Future, Pathways)

Access & Success

- Student Exchange Programs: Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP); Western Regional Exchange Program (WRGP); Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) (state-funded)
- Internet Course Exchange (ICE) (Sloan Foundation and membership dues)
- State Scholars Initiative (OVAE)
- Bridges to the Professoriate (NSF)
- Multiyear policy project on higher ed finance and financial aid – an extension of the Changing Direction initiative (Lumina Foundation, in partnership with NCSL and the Hechinger Institute)
- Knocking at the College Door, publication dissemination (ACT, the College Board, and GF)
- Knocking at the College Door, local, state, regional, and national presentations
- Non-Traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners (Lumina Foundation, matched by first cohort of states: Nevada, Arkansas, and Colorado)
- College access marketing (single-state support as needed; collaboration with Pathways; embedded in the Non-Traditional No More program for adult students)
- Children’s mental health improvement projects in Wyoming and South Dakota
- Education Advisory Board for ACT
- Advisory commissioner for National Community and Education Partnerships
- Colorado ACT Council
- Pathways to College Strategic Communications Subcommittee
- Pathways to College Policy Committee
- U.S. Department of Education Technical Working Group, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Supportive participation in the Access and Success Initiative, National Association of System Heads
- College Access Challenge Grant Program Network (support for Western states applying for and implementing plans for the federal grant program; additional support through Western network)
- Projecting financial aid program funding to increase access for low-income students (single-state support, as requested; existing efforts in Oregon and Arizona, in partnership with National Center for Higher Education Management Systems)
- Annual Tuition and Fees report (GF)
**Technology & Innovation**

- Development of best practices in online student services, audits of institutions’ online student services via CENTSS (Center for Transforming Student Services), and related consulting services (WCET)
- EduTools: Provides comparisons of electronic-learning software and online course evaluations (WCET)
- Development and production of annual conference, this year celebrating WCET’s 20th anniversary (WCET)
- Northwest Academic Forum (membership dues)
- **Non-Traditional No More** program will involve distance-learning education policies and practices with respect to providing access to e-learning for adult learners (Lumina)
- Policy analysis on the funding of academic collaborations in technology

**Workforce**

- Development of Student Exchange Program responses to critical workforce shortages, especially in rural and underserved areas
- Regional Veterinary Medicine Advisory Council
- Western Consortium for Rural Social Work
- **Escalating Engagement** (Ford) – will propose a next phase of this program to support ongoing state activities following the June 2008 summit on workforce certification systems
- Reformating the *Workforce Briefs*, to be published electronically by the Policy unit and to focus more on workforce education and policy “big picture” issues, employment, and education data (GF)
- State technical assistance associated with the *Legislative Engagement* project (Alaska, Oregon, North Dakota, and Washington)
  - Mental health student exchange
  - Building partnerships for competency: public mental health workforce development
  - Rural mental health training initiatives

**Accountability**

- Regional benchmarks (GF)
- *Electronic Regional Fact Book: Policy Indicators for Higher Education* (GF)
- *Policy Insights* on a range of higher education issues (GF)
- Data quality campaign (national partnership)
- Electronic *Policy Alerts* and *Stat Alerts* (GF)
- Policy Publications Clearinghouse (GF)
- State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)-IPEDS data collaborative (funded by SHEEO)
- SPIDO (GF, Lumina, Jobs for the Future, Pathways)
- Technical and policy assistance for North Dakota’s higher education legislative committee and reauthorization of the North Dakota Roundtable (GF).
- Follow-up initiatives responding to the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education’s report cards and the National Commission on Higher Education’s report
- ACT Education Advisory Board
- *Making Opportunity Affordable* (national partnership funded by Lumina and led by Jobs for the Future)
- Establishing a knowledge base of existing research and best practices about academic integrity and student verification in online learning in anticipation of Congressional reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (WCET)
  - Facilitation of the Western States Decision Support Group for Public Mental Health (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
NEW DIRECTIONS
(proposals approved by the commission)

Finance

- Multiyear policy project on higher ed finance and financial aid: an extension of the Changing Direction initiative (Lumina Foundation for Education, in partnership with National Conference of State Legislatures and the Hechinger Institute)

Access & Success

- Initiatives to expand educational equity for underrepresented ethnic students
- College Access Challenge Grant Program Network
- Expand access to cyber-infrastructure, research and education networks, and applications for geographically remote and/or underserved institutions, including minority-serving institutions in the West (Science, Technology, and Innovation)

Technology & Innovation

- Transition EduTools to a new model focused on community contributions of knowledge (WCET)
- Expand utilization of Web 2.0 social networking and new breed of web-based communications tools, serving as a prototype for other WICHE programs (WCET)
- In partnership with Kansas State University’s Institute for Academic Alliance, create Academic Collaboration policy website for multi-institution e-learning consortia (WCET)
- Facilitate Internet2 connectivity throughout the West (Technology and Innovation)
- Expand the availability and use of research and education networks (state, regional, and national) for health and mental health services and related educational outreach (Science, Technology, and Innovation, and Mental Health)
- Launch of the WCET Academy to provide professional development
- Developing a regional learning center for State Higher Education Policy Center (SHEPC)
- Expansion of ICE (Sloan)

Workforce

- Expanding professional advisory councils (health professions)
- Establishing a rural health care advisory council
- Surveying PSEP medical and dental schools’ rural track and pipeline programs to identify best practices
- Regional social work consortium (in collaboration with the Mental Health Program)
- Development of an R-34 research proposal focused on evidence-based practice in rural mental health with the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
- Assessment of Mental Health Program distance-learning opportunities for California’s small and frontier counties (Mental Health and WCET)

Accountability

- Collaboration with National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and the State Higher Education Executive Officers on three-phase plan to create pre-K–workforce data systems (proposal sent to Gates Foundation)
- Contemporize the Knocking at the College Door publication to include web-based state information and information on major MSAs, income, and gender, as well as to update the data more often (proposal sent to Gates Foundation)
- Transparency By Design: collaboration with The President’s Forum to develop outcome and quality measures for leading online education institutions (WCET)
ON THE HORIZON
(proposals not yet submitted to the commission or past proposals that are being recast)

Finance

Access & Success
- Expanding adult degree completion through online education via ICE
- Expansion of the State Scholars Initiative with private funding
- Student mobility
- Portable financial aid
- Public Policy and Research unit plans to bid for the federal GEAR UP program national evaluation contract (expected announcement in 2009 fiscal year)
- Project with National Council for Community and Education Partnerships and NCSL to examine the impact of college access programs on state policy (project in development)

Technology & Innovation
- Research on strategies and best practices that promote use of open educational resources in higher education (WCET)

Workforce
- Collaboration with Colorado Department of Labor to expand access to online education via WICHE ICE in four-state demonstration project (Sloan Foundation)
- Assisting states in identifying academic program development needs
- Health and allied health workforce development and policy
- Workforce credentialing systems
- Forging collaborations between Western higher education agencies and institutions and state departments of labor and workforce development
- Policy and Mental Health collaboration on recidivism reduction in the prison population

Accountability
- Creation of Research Insights series for education and policy researchers
- Presentations on the new SPIDO features at national meetings (GF, Lumina, Jobs for the Future, Pathways)
- Mine federal databases, databases from the EdTrust, and other national-level databases to create Western state-specific research and policy briefs on timely and relevant topics
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