Committee of the Whole
Call to Order/Introductions

Monday, May 18, 2009
9.15 - 9.30 am
Estancia G
Monday, May 18, 2009

9.15 - 9.30 am Committee of the Whole – Call to Order
Estancia G

Agenda

Call to order: Jane Nichols, chair
Welcome and introduction of new commissioner and guests  2-3

Action Item
Approval of the Committee of the Whole
meeting minutes of November 10-11, 2008  2-4

Report of the chair
Report of the president

Recess until May 19 at 8.00 am
Leah L. Bornstein is the president of Coconino Community College (CCC) in Flagstaff, AZ, a 15-year-old college with other campuses in Page and Williams. CCC reaches some of the most remote stretches of Arizona with online services, including three online degrees and two certificates. Prior to taking this post, Bornstein was dean and CEO of Colorado Mountain College in Summit County, where she led the campus and community through the development of a new 35,000-square-foot campus. Previously, Bornstein served as chief academic officer of Lamar Community College, a small community college in rural Colorado; dean of instruction at the Higher Colleges of Technology–Center for Education Research and Training in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and vice president for academic affairs at University College, University of Denver. In each of these positions, she has been responsible for working with and facilitating community advisory boards, boards of trustees, and foundation boards, as well as for strategic planning and budgeting. Bornstein’s lifelong commitment to higher education began with her associate and bachelor of arts degrees from Bradford College in Bradford, MA; master’s of education from the University of Vermont; and doctorate from the University of Denver.
ACTION ITEM
Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Session I: Call to Order
Monday, November 10, 2008

Commissioners Present
Roy Ogawa (HI), chair
Jane Nichols (NV), vice chair
Camille Preus (OR), immediate past chair
Diane Barrans (AK)
Patricia Brown Heller (AK)
Marshall Lind (AK)
David Lorenz (AZ)
Joel Sideman (AZ)
Joseph Garcia (CO)
Kaye Howe (CO)
David Skaggs (CO)
Robert Richards (HI)
Helene Sokugawa (HI)
Mike Rush (ID)
Dan Harrington (MT)
Kerra Melvin (MT)
Mary Sheehy Moe (MT)
Pamela Kostelecky (ND)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Robert Burns (SD)
James Hansen (SD)
Tad Perry (SD)
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA)
Thomas Buchanan (WY)
Klaus Hanson (WY)

Guests/Speakers
James Buizer, science policy advisor, Arizona State University
Louise Lynch, certifying officer, Arizona Board of Regents
Lisa Shipley, certifying officer, University of Wyoming

WICHE Staff
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and commission
Louis Fox, executive director, WCET, vice president, Technology and Innovation
David Longanecker, president
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health and director, Mental Health Program
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, Policy Analysis and Research
Terese Rainwater, program director, State Scholars Initiative
Margo Schultz, program coordinator, Student Exchange Program
Pat Shea, program director, WICHE ICE and Northwest Academic Forum

Committee Members Absent
John Haeger (AZ)
Robert Kustra (ID)
Arthur Vailas (ID)
Warren Hardy (NV)
Carl Shaff (NV)
Reed Dasenbrock (NM)
Dede Feldman (NM)
James Sager (OR)
William Sederburg (UT)
Ann Daley (WA)
Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (WA)
Debbie Hammons (WY)

Chair Roy Ogawa called the meeting to order and welcomed the commissioners to the meeting.

He introduced two newly appointed commissioners:

•  Kerra Melvin, student, Montana Tech.
•  William Sederburg, commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education.

Chair Ogawa announced that John Haeger (Arizona) would be leaving the commission. He asked the guests in attendance to stand and introduce themselves.
Action Item
Approval of the Minutes of May 19-20, 2008

COMMISSIONER PERRY MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES FROM MAY 19-20, 2008. COMMISSIONER LORENZ SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Chair
Chair Ogawa recognized WICHE staff for their excellent work under David Longanecker’s leadership. He reported that changing Longanecker’s title to president was an important step for the organization. He also recognized the importance of having established a new standing committee for the self-funded units. Chair Ogawa mentioned the success of the WCET conference, which had featured Justice Sandra Day O’Connor as a speaker. Finally, Chair Ogawa mentioned the recent five-year evaluation of WICHE and its leadership.

Report of the President
Longanecker introduced WICHE staff in attendance and also recognized new staff members.

Report of the Nominating Committee
Commissioner Preus reported that the 2008 Nominating Committee was appointed by Chair Ogawa and included herself as chair of the committee, Tad Perry, and Jeanne Kohl-Welles. After soliciting nominations from the commissioners in October, the Nominating Committee put forward for the commission’s approval the following recommendation: Jane Nichols as 2009 WICHE chair, Tom Buchanan as 2009 vice chair and 2010 chair-elect, and Roy Ogawa as 2009 immediate past chair.

Longanecker reminded the commission to consider their committee appointments and to select their committee members for the Committee of the Whole business session.

The first session of the Committee of the Whole was concluded, and the committee went into recess until Tuesday, November 11, 2008.
Chair Ogawa reconvened the Committee of the Whole.

Discussion Item
Ken Mortimer’s Report on the WICHE Evaluation

Ken Mortimer explained how the evaluation took place and what the evaluation report includes. He highlighted several findings. The report found that the organization is in good shape and has adequate reserves. The organization and its leadership are periodically evaluated, but the WICHE Commission isn’t; that is, the effectiveness of the commission as a governing structure has not been evaluated. Mortimer suggested that the commission should develop a plan in case David Longanecker became incapacitated and was no longer able to serve in his role. He also suggested that a “whistle blower” policy be put into place in case anyone needed to bring something up about WICHE’s president or other matters. Other report highlights focused on:

- Ways to improve engagement of all commissioners.
- How soft money affects the organization, and what a healthy balance between soft money and the general fund might be.
- The impact of senior staff members not living in Boulder: how does it affect the culture of the organization?
The future of WCET.
The technological needs of the organization: are they being addressed?
The implications of phasing out the State Scholars Initiative (SSI).
Future engagement of the Legislative Advisory Committee.
The change in WICHE’s mission over time.

Commissioners discussed these findings and recommendations with Mortimer. Chair Ogawa thanked him for his fine work and indicated that the officers would bring proposed actions in response to the recommendations in the report to the May commission meeting.

Report and Recommended Action of the Audit Committee
Camille Preus, Committee Chair
Commissioner Preus reported that WICHE received a clean audit from Clifton-Gunderson and that there were no reportable issues. Items reported in last year’s audit had been resolved. COMMISSIONER PREUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2008 AUDIT REPORT. COMMISSIONER BUCHANAN SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report and Recommended Action of the Executive Committee
Roy Ogawa, Chair and Committee Chair
Chair Roy Ogawa reported that the Executive Committee discussed engagement and participation of the members of the Legislative Advisory Committee. The committee had also talked with Ken Mortimer about establishing a plan in the event that David Longanecker should become incapacitated. During Longanecker’s review, he received a vote of confidence from the committee; the committee wants Longanecker to remain at WICHE for as long as possible.

Report and Recommended Action of the Programs and Services Committee
Marshall Lind, Committee Vice Chair
Commissioner Lind reported that there were no action items to be voted on for the Programs and Services Committee (except the minutes, which were approved). The committee received updates on the Student Exchange Programs, WICHE ICE, and NWAF. Lind reported that SSI funding has been extended through September 2009 and that staff are actively pursuing additional funding for the program.

Report and Recommended Action of the Issue Analysis and Research Committee
Jane Nichols, Vice Chair and Committee Chair
Commissioner Nichols reported on the updates in the Issue Analysis and Research Committee, including new hires that have recently joined the Policy unit, Gates’ funding that has been received, and the extension of the Non-traditional No More grant, funded by Lumina. The committee also heard about an upcoming proposed project with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Nichols asked that the commission approve three action items from the Issue Analysis and Research Committee: COMMISSIONER BURNS MOVED APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS TO HOST A MEETING ON EXPANDING THE PIPELINE OF STUDENTS OF COLOR IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS. COMMISSIONER HELLER SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONER NETHING MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE FY 2009 POLICY ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH WORKPLAN. COMMISSIONER PREUS SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONER LORENZ MOVED TO APPROVE A PROJECT WITH THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION’S INSTITUTE ON EQUITY AND CRITICAL POLICY ANALYSIS, TO FOCUS GREATER ATTENTION ON RACE AND EQUITY IN THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION. COMMISSIONER LIND SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report and Recommended Action of the Ad Hoc Committee for Self-funded Units
Roy Ogawa, Chair and Committee Chair
Chair Ogawa reported on the updates in the Ad Hoc Committee for Self-funded Units from WCET, the WICHE Technology and Innovation initiative, and the Mental Health Program. The committee heard updates on Transparency By Design and Internet2. They also heard updates from the Mental Health program on its work and its budget.
Discussion Item

Update on WICHE’s Budget

Craig Milburn gave a report on WICHE’s budget. At the end of FY 2008, there was a $155,000 surplus in the general fund. The Programs and Service unit broke even at the end of the fiscal year. The Policy unit carried a $17,000 deficit before transition funding was added to their budget. The Mental Health Program had a deficit and spent their reserves and a small portion of WICHE’s reserves to recover the balance. WCET spent $80,000 out of their reserves to cover their budget. Milburn also reported a $91,000 loss, mostly due to WICHE (along with its partners, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and the State Higher Education Executive Officers) making capital contributions to the State Higher Education Policy Center (SHEPC). For FY 2009 no actual budget figures were presented to the commission because the fiscal year began October 1, 2008, and thus there were no monthly figures yet available. Milburn reported that the reserves’ balance entering FY 2009 was $1.164 million; it is funded from excess revenues of all prior years.

Longanecker updated the commission on the California community college’s past due balance and the state’s commissioner appointments. He also reported that he expected WICHE’s interest income to be even less than what was originally anticipated. The budget is otherwise secure. PSEP fees would depend a lot on the economy in the upcoming year. Commissioner Rush asked Milburn if it would be possible to change the wording on the budget reports from “better” or “worse” to “lower” and “higher.” Milburn was happy to make the changes.

Commissioner Preus shared with the commission that the Executive Committee had discussed the possibility of delaying the dues increase. Commissioner Nichols thought that Longanecker and Milburn should bring budget recommendations to the Executive Committee before the May 2009 meeting for more consideration about changing the dues increase.

Action Item

Election of 2009 Officers of the WICHE Commission

COMMISSIONER BEESLEY MOVED TO APPROVE JANE NICHOLS AS 2009 WICHE CHAIR, TOM BUCHANAN AS 2009 VICE CHAIR AND 2010 CHAIR-ELECT, AND ROY OGAWA AS 2009 IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR. COMMISSIONER LIND SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Nichols thanked the commission for their vote and said it would be a privilege to serve as chair in the upcoming year. She looked forward to working with WICHE staff.

Chair Ogawa said it had been a privilege to serve as WICHE chair and thanked WICHE staffers for their work and service.
Discussion Item
Selection of 2009 Committee Members

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Other Business

Longanecker reminded the commission about the May 2009 meeting being held in Las Vegas at the Green Valley Ranch Resort. He hoped the commission would be able to visit the new Nevada State College campus during the meeting. Longanecker also thanked Commissioner Sideman and his staff for their assistance with the November meeting and for the generous gifts they provided. Longanecker thanked Chair Ogawa for his service as WICHE chair.

Chair Ogawa reminded the committee that the meeting evaluation would be taking place online and that they would receive the link from Erin Barber.

The meeting was adjourned.