Self-funded Units Committee

Kaye Howe (CO), chair
James Hansen (SD), vice chair
Joe Garcia (CO), ex officio
Jane Nichols (NV), ex officio

Position open (AK)
Leah Bornstein (AZ)
Jim Silva (CA)
Committee chair (CO)
Roberta Richards (HI)
Mike Rush (ID)
Mary Sheehy Moe (MT)
Warren Hardy (NV)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Dave Nething (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Committee vice chair (SD)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Ann Daley (WA)
Tom Buchanan (WY)

Presiding: Kaye Howe, chair

Agenda

Action Item Approval of the Self-funded Units Committee meeting minutes of November 2, 2009 8-3

Action Item Approval of the FY 2011 workplan sections pertaining to the self-funded units’ activities 8-5

Information Items – WCET:
Staff:
Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET
Mollie McGill, associate director, WCET

Review of FY 2011 workplan
Highlights of WCET self-audit (ReKnew), including new brand name and closer alignment with WICHE
Overview of WCET's agenda and lines of business 8-9
Staffing, Website redesign, membership drive, and corporate relations
New role: Technical assistance and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation proposal
Information Items – Technology and Innovation:
Staff:
  Louis Fox, vice president, technology and innovation

Review of FY 2011 workplan
Update: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Federal Communications Commission, National Science Foundation
National Internet2 K20 Initiative and United Community Anchor Network (UCAN)
Focus: eScience Institute and Open Content initiative
Other science and technology areas

Information Items – Mental Health Program:
Staff:
  Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health
  Mimi McFaul, associate director, Mental Health Program

Review of FY 2011 workplan
Staff, projects/contracts, budget update
Update on National Institute of Mental Health grant and college mental health research focus
Department of Defense grant
Other areas of potential collaboration

Other business

Adjournment
Commissioner Nething called the meeting to order.

James Hansen moved TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM MAY 18, 2009. Patricia Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Nething opened nominations for a vice chair of the committee and nominated James Hansen; this was seconded by Camille Preus. The committee unanimously supported James Hansen as vice chair.

Dennis Mohatt reported on the Mental Health Program:

- Budget review: Currently in a good financial position and projecting a year-end bottom line of $481,000.
- Alaska and South Dakota are the primary sources of funding. Travel to Alaska is significant and approximated at $272,000 annually.
- Several new contracts are on the horizon.
- One-third of Dennis Mohatt’s FTE is going to University of Nebraska, as he helps with the development of a mental health program.
- Awarded a $1,000,000 National Institute of Mental Health R1 grant, which will help Mental Health build its research portfolio.

In addition, Mimi McFaul talked about recruiting campuses from WICHE states for the second year of the Mental Health First Aid Program.

Russell Poulin reported on WCET. Current projects include:

- Just-completed 21st annual conference in Denver; the event will likely break even.
- New professional development program, Catalyst Camp, devoted to new e-learning professionals with leadership potential.
- Common interest groups focused on key issues to members.
- Transparency By Design, a tool for adult learners to evaluate e-learning programs. Once more than 125 institutions join, the project will become self-funded.
Louis Fox reported on the WICHE Technology and Innovation initiative, which is:

- Focusing on improving access to fiber optic networks for non-research institutions and facilitating broadband connectivity across the Western states.
- Assisting states in securing resources for broadband (currently in the grant approval process).
- Considering working to organize open educational resources.
- Considering creating and delivering e-science instruction for senators, administrators, and other decision makers.

David Longanecker asked the committee for authority to request up to $50,000 to support Louis Fox’s increased time on the Technology and Innovation initiative. The committee approved the request.

The committee adjourned.
# WICHE WORKPLAN 2011

## SELF-FUNDED UNITS (Highlighted)

### EXISTING ACTIVITIES

#### Finance

- Annual Tuition and Fees report (general fund - GF)
- Non-Traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners (Lumina)
- Getting What You Pay For: Understanding Higher Education Appropriations, Tuition, and Financial Aid (Lumina)
- Performance measurement improvement in the Western states public mental health programs (Mental Health)
- Property insurance and risk consortium (self-funding)
- Collaborative purchasing via MHECtech (self-funding)
- Legislative Advisory Committee (GF)
- Evaluation of Colorado’s College Opportunity Fund (Colorado Department of Higher Education, Donnell-Kay Foundation)

#### Access & Success

- Student Exchange Programs: Professional Student Exchange Program, Western Regional Graduate Program, Western Undergraduate Exchange (state-funded)
- WICHE ICE – Internet Course Exchange (member dues and GF)
- Bridges to the Professoriate (NSF)
- Getting What You Pay For: Understanding Higher Education Appropriations, Tuition, and Financial Aid (Lumina)
- Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates by State and Race/Ethnicity, including a methodology review and expansion (ACT, College Board, and GF)
- Non-Traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners (Lumina)
- Evaluation of Colorado’s College Opportunity Fund (Colorado Department of Higher Education, Donnell-Kay Foundation)
- SPIDO – State Policy Inventory Database Online (GF, Lumina)
- Children’s mental health improvement project in South Dakota (Mental Health)
- College Access Challenge Grant Program Consortium and Network (state subcontracts, U.S. Department of Education)
- Best Practices in Statewide Articulation and Transfer Systems (Lumina)
- Education Equity and Postsecondary Student Success, a CUE and WICHE Partnership for Policy Research and Analysis (Ford)
- Association for the Study of Higher Education Institutes on Equity and Critical Policy Analysis (Ford)
- National Institute of Mental Health challenge grant to improve identification of persons with behavioral health issues on college campuses (NIMH, Mental Health)
- Identifying promising practices in rural behavioral health (Mental Health)

#### Technology & Innovation

- Facilitation of Internet2 connectivity throughout the West (Technology and Innovation, GF)
- Ongoing work on HealthNet, LibraryNet, JusticeNet, and K20Net concepts and proposals (Technology and Innovation, GF)
- Providing technical assistance services for creating/managing data-driven Websites (TBD, Hewlett/EduTools)
- Launching new electronic publication series on innovative practices, technology trends, and policy on developments related to technology-enhanced teaching and learning in higher education (WCET)
• Expanding WCET’s knowledge base and member resources that can help institutions and organizations evaluate their own policies and practices in: student retention in online learning; recruitment and retention of quality adjunct faculty; strategies for learning management systems’ transitions; and management of e-learning consortia (WCET)

• Transitioning EduTools to a new model focused on community contributions and user experiences, initially in the areas of identity authentication technologies and learning management systems (WCET)

• Providing professional development in e-learning for the higher education community through WCET’s signature annual conference event, Catalyst Camp, and invitational summits (WCET)

• Serving as a knowledgeable resource for higher education on promising practices and policies that address academic integrity and student verification in online learning (WCET)

• Webinar series of national education technology debates: retention strategies, authentication, completion strategies (WCET)

• Extend the reach of WICHE’s policy and research work by leveraging WCET’s national network and technical assistance with new media communications (WCET)

• Build out WCET’s capacity as a third-party provider of grants management and oversight for complex technology-related projects among WCET member institutions and other partners (WCET)

• WALf – Western Academic Leadership Forum (member dues and TIAA-CREF grant)

• Webinar series to enhance information exchange in rural behavioral health (Mental Health)

• Providing technical assistance in a pooled group of experts on health information technology (Mental Health)

Workforce & Society

• Development of Student Exchange Program responses to critical workforce shortages, especially in rural and underserved areas (GF)

• Regional Veterinary Medicine Advisory Council (GF)

• Collaboration with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment in its U.S. Department of Labor-funded demonstration project to address pressing education and workforce training needs through online learning (U.S. Department of Labor and CO Department of Labor and Employment)

• Mental health student exchange (Mental Health)

• Building partnerships for competency: public behavioral health workforce development (Mental Health)

• Behavioral health training initiatives to expand the rural workforce capacity (Mental Health)

• Increasing knowledge of the state behavioral/health workforce capacity (Mental Health)

• Suicide prevention toolkit for rural primary care providers (Mental Health)

• Increasing health and behavioral health provider knowledge of returning veterans’ service needs (Mental Health)

Accountability

• Benchmarks: WICHE Region (GF)

• Electronic Regional Fact Book: Policy Indicators for Higher Education (GF)

• Policy Insights on a range of higher education issues (GF)

• Facilitation of the Western States Decision Support Group for Public Mental Health (state-funded)

• Electronic Policy Alerts and Stat Alerts (GF)

• Policy Publications Clearinghouse (GF)

• Launching the next phase of Transparency By Design’s College Choices for Adults Website, to educate adult students to become better-informed consumers of online education (WCET)
NEW DIRECTIONS
(approved by the commission)

Finance
- Technical assistance with state financial aid program design and funding (single-state support, as requested)

Access & Success
- Expanding access to cyberinfrastructure, research and education networks, and applications for geographically remote or underserved institutions, including minority-serving institutions in the West (Technology and Innovation)
- Expanding the opportunities for rural rotations for healthcare students participating in PSEP (GF)
- Creating a new regionwide academic forum for community college administrators (member dues)

Technology & Innovation
- Conducting a national survey of the instructional, operational, and technological infrastructure of distance education through the Managing Online Education survey, in partnership with the Campus Computing Project (WCET)
- Develop action and information agendas to assist higher education institutions with issues of mobility (mobility of learners, mobile technologies, mobile services), digital content ownership and use (copyright, e-textbooks, virtual labs), and e-learning programs and services for adult learners (WCET)
- Working with Internet2 and National Lambda Rail on the Unified Community Anchor Network (UCAN) project (National Telecommunications and Information Administration, pending funding)
- Creation of an “eScience Institute” for WICHE states’ commissioners, higher education leaders, and other public policy leaders (Technology and Innovation)
- Project to broaden the use of open educational resources in teaching, learning, and other areas of higher education (WCET, Technology and Innovation)
- Technology and Innovation and Mental Health partnership to expand research and education networks (state, regional, and national) for health and mental health services and educational outreach (WCET, Technology and Innovation, Mental Health)
- Developing a regional learning center for State Higher Education Policy Center
- Expansion of ICE (member dues)
- Development of a new WALf forum to support academic leaders of two-year institutions, systems, and state agencies (member dues)
- Facilitating Development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange program (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

Workforce & Society
- Surveying Professional Student Exchange Program medical, dental, and veterinary medicine schools’ rural track and pipeline programs to identify best practices (GF)
- Expanding a behavioral health training program for military communities (Department of Defense)
- Expansion of WICHE ICE to develop and support new multi-institution collaborations to exchange online courses and programs in high-need and niche disciplines (member dues)

Accountability
- Launching comparison functionality on Transparency By Design’s College Choices for Adults Website, to allow potential adult learners to compare institutions and programs side by side (WCET)
ON THE HORIZON
(not yet submitted to the commission)

Finance
- Explore data, policies, and issues related to undocumented students
- Research and analysis of outcome-based funding approaches

Access & Success
- Expansion of the State Scholars Initiative with new funding and a focus on rural and inner city students’ college readiness (in partnership with the Colorado GEAR UP program and Gallup, pending funding)
- Improving access and outcomes for people with co-occurring behavioral health disorders (State of Alaska)
- Exploring strategies for improving the delivery of remedial and developmental education
- Identifying the most effective college persistence and success projects and working to bring them to scale
- Expanding the Rocky Mountain Collaborative to Transform the Health Professions Workforce
- Serving Student Soldiers of the West: Policy and Practice Solutions

Technology & Innovation
- Establishing a data-driven decision-support center for proactively deploying student retention, authentication, and management solutions at demonstrated points of need
- Developing more effective Web portals
- Development of WALF toolkit, a Web-based repository of strategic-planning and decision-making tools for academic leaders (membership dues)
- Broaden access to innovative new academic programs on energy research and development in the West through WICHE’s Student Exchange Programs
- Seek funding to convene an energy summit for Western states involving higher education, relevant state agencies, and the private sector

Workforce & Society
- Policy and Mental Health collaboration on recidivism reduction in the prison population
- Assisting states in identifying academic program development needs or collaboration options when existing programs are eliminated
- 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
- Expanding the Rocky Mountain Collaborative to Transform the Health Professions Workforce

Accountability
- Assessing the landscape for state policy on student-learning outcomes
- Research and analysis of outcomes-based funding approaches
- Continued development of Transparency By Design’s College Choices for Adults Website, to improve the institutional and program data offered, recruit more institutions to participate, amplify marketing to attract more users, and expand resources for adult learners
WeTC Activities/Lines of Business

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
for WICHE, Members, Partners

- TBD
- Edutools – expanded and reinvigorated
- Tech advisors for WICHE projects
- Tech partner for new WICHE grants
- New WeTC Grants, Contracts

**INFORM**
Share news/examples of effective adoption and use of learning technologies

- News Digests
- Tech Trends
- Policy Digest
- Policy Watch
- Webinars Series
- Summits and Briefings
- Best practices, use cases, case studies

**CONNECT**
Provide unparalleled access to peers, colleagues, experts and decision-makers

- Conference
- Distributed Communities
- Common Interest Groups, Task Forces
- Panels
- Focus Groups

**ADVANCE**
Practice and policy issues relevant to higher education learning technologies excellence

- Research reports, position papers
- Channel for WICHE policy and research
- Outbound influence and “seat at the table” for policy Dept. of Ed., NCSL
- Surveys, polls, “digital snapshots”

**Audience**
Industry partners from HED, foundations and corporations

Core membership business: target audience Administration, Staff (and Faculty)

Property of WCET/WeTC, Not for Duplication