Committee of the Whole
Call to Order/Introductions

Monday, May 21, 2012
8:45 – 9:00 am
Ballroom North
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Committee of the Whole – Call to Order/Introductions

Call to order: Bonnie Jean Beesley, chair

Welcome

Introduction of new commissioners and guests 2-3

Approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 31-November 1, 2011 2-4

Report of the chair

Report of the president

Recess until May 22, 2012, at 8:45 am
New Commissioners

Carol Mon Lee is a lawyer who was an elected member of the Hawai‘i State Board of Education. Hawai‘i is the only state with a single unified K-12 school system. She served for many years as the associate dean at the University of Hawai‘i Richardson School of Law, where she previously taught. Lee was also a senior executive in two financial services companies in Honolulu and practiced law in both Hawai‘i and California. She earned her B.A. from Barnard College, M.A. from Columbia University, and J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of Law.

Vic Redding is the assistant vice chancellor of finance for the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) System Administration Office, where he oversees a variety of initiatives in the areas of fiscal policy, capital budgeting, and audit, as well as the day-to-day operations of the NSHE Risk Management Office and System Facilities Office. Prior to joining the System Administration Office in 2005, Redding was the CFO for the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Redding has a bachelor’s degree in business management with a minor in accounting from Montana State University and an M.B.A. from the University of Nevada, Reno.
Commissioners Present
Joe Garcia (CO), chair
Tom Buchanan (WY), immediate past chair
Susan Anderson (AK)
Diane Barrans (AK)
Tom Anderes (AZ)
Leah Bornstein (AZ)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Dianne Harrison (CA)
Michael Kirst (CA)
D. Rico Munn (CO)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Roy Ogawa (HI)
Robert Richards (HI)
Steven Wheelwright (HI)
M. Duane Nellis (ID)
Mike Rush (ID)
Mack Shirley (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Sheila Stearns (MT)
José Garcia (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Joe Hardy (NV)
Jane Nichols (NV)
Carl Shaff (NV)
Duaine Espegard (ND)
Bill Goetz (ND)
Dave Nething (ND)
Robert Burns (SD)
James Hansen (SD)
Jack Warner (SD)
Ryan Deckert (OR)
Camille Preus (OR)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA)
Karla Leach (WY)

Commissioners Absent
James Johnsen (AK)
Kim Gillan (MT)
Susanna Murphy (NM)
Tim Nesbitt (OR)
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT), vice chair
William Sederburg (UT)
Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (WA)

Guests/ Speakers
Doris Ching, former WICHE commissioner and emeritus vice president for student affairs, University of Hawai‘i System
Reed Dasenbrock, former WICHE commissioner and vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Sharon Hart, president, Northern Marianas College
Francisco Hernandez, former WICHE commissioner and vice chancellor for students, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Michael Hoge, senior science and policy advisor, Annapolis Coalition
Reyna Iwamoto, WICHE certifying officer and student services specialist, University of Hawai‘i System
David Lorenz, former WICHE commissioner and retired vice president of administration and finance, Northern Arizona University
Helene Sokugawa, former WICHE commissioner and former institutional analyst, University of Hawai‘i

Staff Present
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Louis Fox, senior associate, Technology & Innovation
Cheryl Graves, administrative assistant, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president
Mollie McGill, deputy director, WCET
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
Pat Shea, director, WICHE ICE, the Forum, and the Alliance
Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET
Chair Joe Garcia called the meeting to order and asked Steven Wheelwright, president of Brigham Young University-Hawaii, to welcome the commission and give opening remarks.

Chair Garcia introduced newly appointed commissioners.

Chris Bustamante (AZ)  
Dene Thomas (CO)  
Mack Shirley (ID)  
Joseph Hardy (NV)  
Karla Leach (WY)  
Sam Krone (WY)

Chair Garcia also introduced guests attending the meeting and listed commissioners whose terms are expiring after the November 2011 meeting.

**ACTION ITEM**  
Approval of the Minutes of the May 16-17, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting

Chair Garcia asked for a motion to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 16-17, 2011. Commissioner Shaff moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16-17, 2011, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING. Commissioner Nething seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Garcia asked David Longanecker to give the report of the Nominating Committee. Longanecker explained that three nominees were being brought to the commission for consideration: Leah Bornstein (AZ), Tom Anderes (AZ), and Dianne Harrison (CA). Typically, only one candidate is brought for consideration. With three candidates the Executive Committee decided that each candidate and the person who nominated them should say a few words. Each state will need to caucus and give their vote to Commissioner Buchanan.

Commissioner Bornstein told the committee that she has been involved in higher education for 28 years and now served as the president of Coconino Community College in Flagstaff. She indicated that it would be an honor to serve as the chair of WICHE. Commissioner Barrans said that she had nominated Commissioner Bornstein because of her engagement at the meetings and felt like she would be a wonderful chair for the organization.

Commissioner Anderes withdrew from the nomination and said that Commissioner Bornstein would be a good choice. Commissioner Burns, who nominated Commissioner Anderes, said he respected Anderes’s choice to withdraw; he had nominated him because of his current position as president of the Arizona Board of Regents and his extensive background in higher education.

Commissioner Harrison told the commission that she was in her 37th year in higher education, currently serving as president of California State University (CSU), Monterey Bay. She felt that the delegation from California brought a renewed energy to WICHE. Commissioner Harrison also noted that CSU is current on their dues.

Chair Garcia reminded the commission to caucus about their 2012 committee selections and to give those to Erin Barber. He gave the report of the chair and asked Longanecker for the report of the president. Longanecker introduced staff in attendance and also mentioned newly hired staff at WICHE.

The first session of the Committee of the Whole was concluded, and the committee went into recess until Tuesday, November 1.
Session II: Business Session
Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Commissioners Present
Joe Garcia (CO), chair
Tom Buchanan (WY), immediate past chair

Susan Anderson (AK)
Diane Barrans (AK)
Tom Anderes (AZ)
Leah Bornstein (AZ)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Dianne Harrison (CA)
Michael Kirst (CA)
D. Rico Munn (CO)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Roy Ogawa (HI)
Robert Richards (HI)
Steven Wheelwright (HI)
M. Duane Nellis (ID)
Mike Rush (ID)
Mack Shirley (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Sheila Stearns (MT)
José Garcia (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Joe Hardy (NV)
Jane Nichols (NV)
Carl Shaff (NV)
Duaine Espegard (ND)
Bill Goetz (ND)
Dave Nething (ND)
Robert Burns (SD)
James Hansen (SD)
Jack Warner (SD)
Ryan Deckert (OR)
Camille Preus (OR)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA)
Karla Leach (WY)

Guests/Speakers
Doris Ching, former WICHE commissioner and emeritus vice president for student affairs, University of Hawai‘i System
Reed Dasenbrock, former WICHE commissioner and vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Sharon Hart, president, Northern Marianas College
Francisco Hernandez, former WICHE commissioner and vice chancellor for students, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Pearl Iboshi, director, Institutional Research and Analysis Office, University of Hawai‘i System
Reyna Iwamoto, WICHE certifying officer and student services specialist, University of Hawai‘i System
Dennis Jones, president, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
Hae Okimoto, director of academic technologies, University of Hawai‘i System
Jill Tokuda, senator, Hawai‘i State Senate

Staff Present
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Louis Fox, senior associate, Technology & Innovation
Cheryl Graves, administrative assistant, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president
Mollie McGill, deputy director, WCET
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
Pat Shea, director, WICHE ICE, the Forum, and the Alliance
Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET

Commissioners Absent
James Johnsen (AK)
Kim Gillan (MT)
Susanna Murphy (NM)
Tim Nesbitt (OR)
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT), vice chair
William Sederburg (UT)
Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (WA)
Chair Joe Garcia called the meeting to order and reconvened the Committee of the Whole.

Report and Recommended Action of the Audit Committee
Chair Garcia called on Commissioner Buchanan for the report of the Audit Committee. Commissioner Buchanan indicated that commissioners were given a copy of the FY 2011 audit report with their meeting materials. The audit was conducted by RubinBrown LLP within standard auditing practices. The report represents the WICHE financial statements fairly, and the auditors issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements. Commissioner Buchanan said that a report to governance was also issued with suggestions for management. He mentioned that the Audit Committee was quite pleased with RubinBrown’s work and recommended approval of the report. Commissioner Buchanan moved TO APPROVE THE FY 2011 AUDIT REPORT. Commissioner Barrans seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report and Recommended Action of the Executive Committee
Chair Garcia reported that the committee heard a presentation from Sharon Hart, president of Northern Marianas College. She reported on her institution, demographics of the population, and funding sources. The Northern Mariana Islands are interested in joining WICHE so they can be included in the Student Exchange Program. The Executive Committee talked about possibilities, including a consortium with other islands who are currently members of the Pacific Post-secondary Education Council. WICHE dues are problematic for small islands with limited funding. WICHE staff will look at other organizations like the National Conference of State Legislatures and Western Governors’ Association to see how they handle their memberships with the islands. The committee also discussed the 2012 nominees for vice chair. The committee met with Longanecker in a closed session to discuss his performance and travel.

Longanecker mentioned that he had a senate resolution from the Northern Mariana Islands that he would email out to the commission and that he’d continue to work on this issue.

Report and Recommended Action of the Programs and Services Committee
Committee Chair Carl Shaff reported that the Programs and Services Committee approved the new method for applying Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) support fees, which was discussed and supported, in principle, at the May 2011 meeting in San Francisco. The new plan (effective in 2013) would allow public institutions to credit the support fee to the student’s full nonresident tuition and have the student pay the balance. Commissioner Shaff moved TO APPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE NEW METHOD OF APPLYING PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM SUPPORT FEES. Commissioner Ogawa seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Shaff reported that the committee had also approved the standardization of PSEP support fees for physician assistant and physical therapy programs. This requires a minor administrative change that would involve paying all participating institutions the support fee at a 12-month rate over 24 months. The change would go into effect in 2013. Commissioner Shaff moved TO APPROVE STANDARDIZING PSEP SUPPORT FEES IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND PHYSICAL THERAPY FIELDS. Commissioner Espegard seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Shaff reported that the committee considered a proposal for a proposed project that would revamp Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) marketing and outreach strategies. WICHE staff submitted a proposal in response to an RFP from Lumina Foundation in September. The foundation plans to award five planning grants to help nonprofits use technologies to assist low-income students enrolling in higher education. The grant would provide funding for staff and help fund development of mobile applications, social media tools, and improvement to the WUE database. Commissioner Shaff moved TO APPROVE WICHE AS THE ADMINISTRATOR AND FISCAL AGENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT, WHICH WOULD ENHANCE WICHE’S MARKETING AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION VIA WUE. Commissioner Nething seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Shaff reported that the Programs and Services Committee approved the proposed project to implement a state authorization reciprocity program. Each committee heard from David Longanecker on the proposed project, which would involve: creating a review and complaint process to assist states in need; creating an interstate database of approvals, complaints, and actions; and adapting, joining, or creating a reciprocal agreement among the regional states. Commissioner Shaff moved TO APPROVE WICHE STAFF SEEKING FUNDING FOR A FOUR-STAGE EFFORT AND
TO CONSTITUTE A STEERING COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY PROGRAM. Commissioner Preus seconded the motion.

Commissioner Ogawa asked Longanecker to give a description of the state authorization problem. Longanecker responded that every institution offering online courses now has to be approved to operate in each state where it has enrolled students. Some online programs may have students in all 50 states. As currently regulated the new state authorization requirements will be a significant burden on institutions and states. Longanecker said that a reciprocity agreement would allow that workload to be reduced. Commissioner Harrison clarified that implementation of the regulations will actually go into effect in 2014 instead of 2013, as noted on p. 4-24 in the agenda book. Longanecker said that implementation is going to take time. Commissioner Harrison also asked what California will need to do in order to participate in the proposed program. Longanecker said that it will likely depend on the program. Currently, in California, an online program is only required to have a business license; the state will need more appropriate regulation before it will be able to partner in the program. Commissioner Harrison asked what existing online programs need to do under current state authorization regulations. Longanecker said they need to seek approval from 50 states. Commissioner Bustamante said that the state authorization issue was very complicated and expressed his support for the proposed reciprocity program. He also noted that having a compact with other states would be less burdensome for institutions, and new standards will look after the students’ interests. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Shaff reported that the Programs and Services Committee heard updates on various programs, including the Interstate Passport Initiative. WICHE was awarded a two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation to support a pilot project with systems and institutions to advance policies and practices supporting “friction-free” transfer for students in the region.

Report and Recommended Action of the Issue Analysis and Research Committee

Committee Chair Bob Burns reported that Longanecker addressed the committee on the project regarding the proposed state authorization reciprocity program. The committee expressed its interest in WICHE moving forward on this. The committee also discussed with Longanecker interest in pursuing a project to examine funding for remedial education. The committee discussed whether current practices for funding remedial education allow for innovation and new approaches being tested for service to those students. It recommended that any study be fitted within the larger scope of outcomes-based performance funding.

Commissioner Burns reported that the committee approved a project on teacher preparation and professional development related to the Common Core Standards. This project comes out of an interest expressed by Western state higher education executive officers (SHEEOs) to Longanecker during the annual SHEEO meeting this past summer. The proposed project is under development by the Policy unit, which asked to further develop the concept and seek funding. Commissioner Burns moved TO APPROVE A PROJECT ON TEACHER PREPARATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The committee also approved a project on building capacity to support state college completion goals. This project is a continuation of a partnership with the Center for Urban Education (CUE) at the University of Southern California and will be funded via a subaward from CUE out of a grant they are anticipating from the Ford, Carnegie, and Gates foundations. The project will seek out several states to work with intensively, in order to bridge state-level and institutional policies and practices to address gaps in equity by race/ethnicity. Commissioner Burns moved TO APPROVE A PROJECT ON BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT STATE COLLEGE COMPLETION GOALS. Commissioner Nellis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Burns reported that the committee heard updates on staffing changes and current programs. The committee discussed a new way to format the workplan to provide information on how projects are put together and what the priorities are. The new format will be used for the 2012 workplan, which will be presented to the commission at the May meeting.

Report and Recommended Action of the Self-funded Units Committee

Committee Chair Jim Hansen reported that the Self-funded Units Committee heard updates from WCET, Technology & Innovation, and the Mental Health Program. WCET continues to play a national role on state authorization issues. It also continues to manage the Lumina-funded Transparency By Design project, which operates a website for adult learners to help them in making informed decisions about their college choices. One of WCET’s research activities
is a national survey called “Managing Online Education” (MOE). This will be WCET’s third survey, conducted in partnership with the Campus Computing Project. The research data from the MOE survey provides benchmarks on the infrastructure, organization, and growth of online programs of institutions from all higher education sectors. WCET’s annual conference (held in Denver just prior to the commission meeting) was very successful and drew record attendance.

Commissioner Hansen reported that the committee received an update on the proof-of-concept phase of the Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework initiative, which is nearing completion. The project involves federating over 500,000 anonymized student records and over 3 million course records from six institutions to examine factors that affect student loss and momentum. The committee approved WCET submitting a proposal to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to expand the PAR project to a total of 18 institutions. The anticipated budget to expand the PAR project to more WCET institutions is estimated to be approximately $5.6 million for a 20-month project. Commissioner Hansen moved TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO SEEK FUNDING FROM THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPING THE PREDICTIVE Analytics REPORTING FRAMEWORK PROJECT. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Hansen reported that the committee heard updates from Louis Fox on four initiatives: the Global Environment for Network Innovations (better known as GENI), United States Unified Community Anchor Network (U.S. UCAN), USA Ignite, and GigU. Fox also updated the committee on the Federal Communications Commission’s University Services Fund (USF) and Inter-carrier Compensation Reform, which may shift the focus of the $4.8 billion of USF funds from “rural telephony” to “rural broadband,” thereby accelerating access to broadband for many communities in the frontier West.

The committee also heard updates from the Mental Health Program. The program experienced moderate staff turnover the past year, with two staff transitioning out of WICHE employment. The program successfully recruited new staff, focusing on research and technical assistance. The program has been very successful and is looking forward to a number of new projects, including one in Hawai‘i, where it is helping to build a doctoral psychology internship consortium for the rural islands, modeled after the work it has done with Alaska. It finished FY 2011 with a $76,000 positive fund balance and contributed $107,000 to WICHE indirect revenue. The committee also heard a brief presentation by Michael Hoge and John Morris from the Annapolis Coalition on their work with the Center for Integrated Health Solutions. This initiative is bringing over $600,000 to the Mental Health Program and the Annapolis Coalition each year for the next four years.

**ACTION ITEM**

Approval of Endorsement of the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability’s Guidelines and Approval of the Proposed WICHE Endorsement Process

Chair Garcia asked Longanecker to update the commission on the proposed endorsement action item. Longanecker said that WICHE is often asked to partner with other organizations or to endorse various initiatives. Longanecker has been making the decisions on who to partner with and what initiatives to endorse, but it has become apparent that this is something that should be brought before the commission for its approval. The current action item came from a request from the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability regarding assessing student-learning outcomes. Longanecker is seeking commission approval for this endorsement. A list of organizations that have already signed on is in the agenda book. It is a credible group and makes a strong case for WICHE to join, as well. Longanecker also hoped to establish a process for bringing future endorsement requests to the commission for approval. Chair Garcia asked if an endorsement of the New Leadership Alliance item means more reporting for institutions. Longanecker said that it is a voluntary activity. Commissioner Cabaldon asked what is different about the New Leadership Alliance’s guidelines, compared to other, similar ones. Longanecker said that there is a shift from process to product, as well as a set of standards for measuring student learning. There is voluntary reporting of results and transparency of results. This new focus on student-learning outcomes, emanating from within the higher education community rather than from outside, could be a step toward both the setting of standards and the collection of data consistent with those standards.

Commissioner Shaff moved TO APPROVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE FOR STUDENT LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY’S GUIDELINES AND THE PROPOSED WICHE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS. Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion.
Commissioner Cabaldon asked if perhaps approval of all endorsements through the Committee of the Whole would be too time-consuming and wondered if approving them through the committees would be better. Longanecker said that the commission could amend the motion so that the endorsement process goes through the committees and that we could use the Executive Committee in the interim between commission meetings if any endorsement requests come through.

Commissioner Shaff moved TO APPROVE THE ABOVE MOTION AS AMENDED SO THAT APPROVAL OF ENDORSEMENTS BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMITTEES. The motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Update on WICHE’s Budget

Longanecker asked Craig Milburn to present an update on WICHE’s budget. Milburn reported that the FY 2011 general fund budget report shows how the year ended. Revenues increased by $58,000, which was more than what was budgeted. WICHE also saw an increase from the Mental Health Program indirects. Milburn reported that expenditures were also less than budgeted for FY 2011. He said the organization did very well in holding down costs and bringing in income. FY 2011 ended $212,688 ahead of projections. Looking into FY 2012, there are no changes to the budget, and expenditures are decreased by $27,000 because the Legislative Advisory Committee meeting wasn’t paid out of the general fund budget. The budget presented shows the organization with a gain of $27,000. Commissioner Munn asked about the commission meeting budget for FY 2012 being higher than FY 2011. Milburn responded that the commission approved carrying forward $10,000 for the commission meetings in FY 2012. Milburn also noted that the auditors removed the California Community Colleges’ past-dues amount from the accounts receivable line. It was expensed and leaves a deficit in FY 2012. Commissioner Harrison told the commission that the Programs and Services Committee had presented a plan for having the community colleges repay the past-dues amount.

Milburn presented how each of the program areas did in FY 2011. Commissioner Bornstein asked for clarification on the WCET deficit. Longanecker said that the deficit was anticipated. He mentioned that WICHE had loaned WCET $100,000 and the remainder came from their reserves. The deficit comes partly from a transition in leadership and some structural deficit from the investment in Salesforce, which is an administrative management system that will enhance WCET’s capacity to serve its membership. Longanecker also noted that WCET projections show them moving forward towards a positive fund balance, especially if the second PAR proposal is funded by the Gates Foundation.

Commissioner Anderson asked Milburn about the suggestion in the report to governance that management come up with a clear way to calculate indirect costs on the federal grants to avoid errors that have occurred in the past. Milburn noted that the FY 2011 audit was clean, and the error from last year had been corrected. This year there was a mathematical error, but it wasn’t enough to be a reportable condition. Commissioner Anderson asked how such errors will be avoided in the future. Milburn assured her that mechanisms are in place to calculate indirects correctly to avoid repeating the errors. He said that the units were also doublechecking for errors.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Update on WICHE Dues

Chair Garcia asked Longanecker to discuss the WICHE dues. Longanecker said that dues for FY 2012 and 2013 were established at the May 2010 meeting in Portland, OR. The FY 2013 dues were to increase from $125,000 to $131,000 only if state budgets showed improvement in FY 2012. According to reports from the Rockefeller Institute for state government, most states increased their revenues, except Wyoming. Longanecker said that the increase in revenues, however, does not actually reflect the whole story for the states, with most of the states still projecting budget deficits for the coming year, despite the increase in tax revenues.

Currently, the WICHE dues are set to increase to $131,000 without further action from the commission. Longanecker noted that dues have stayed the same for the past three years. There have been no salary increases for WICHE staff, which has taken some toll on staff morale. Commissioner Nichols spoke in favor of the dues increase and agreed that some states are in distress, but that the dues increase of $6,000 was a modest amount. She said that the services of WICHE have become more important to states now and felt it would be short-sighted not to endorse the increase. Commissioner Warner also spoke in favor of the dues increase and said that South Dakota has dealt with frozen salaries and is losing key staff because of this. Commissioner Kohl-Welles supported the increase but noted that some
states are doing worse than others. Washington is experiencing furloughs, pay cuts, increasing healthcare costs, and a $2 billion deficit. She hoped that there would be acknowledgement that some states are in dire straits but will try to do what they can to pay the dues. Commissioner Munn said he generally supported the increase but found it difficult to make the decision while at a meeting in Hawai‘i and wondered if there was a better time and place for the discussion. Commissioner Hardy expressed a similar view to Commissioner Kohl-Welles and noted that Nevada is a shortfall state, employees are taking pay cuts, and healthcare costs are increasing. He felt there should be a discussion of what would be done with the revenue from a dues increase. Commissioner Ogawa noted that Hawai‘i is also experiencing staff cuts, pay cuts, increased healthcare costs, and a liability for unfunded retirement. Longanecker responded that staff understand and appreciate the difficulties the states face.

Commissioner Barrans noted that it was important for the commission to think strategically about the increase, so that in the future they don’t need to pay a larger dues increase than states can afford. The commission needs to fund WICHE at the level it needs, in order to get results from staff. Commissioner Cabaldon spoke in favor of freezing the dues at the current level. He said it is important to show what the “value added” would be to WICHE, instead of holding the view that an incremental increase is necessary just because one hasn’t been given in awhile. Commissioner Wheelwright said that things may have looked more hopeful when the decision was made in May 2010 to increase the dues than they are now for many states; he was in favor of freezing the dues. Commissioner Bornstein thought the commission might need more information before a decision on increasing dues could be made. She also said that her institution has found ways to keep employees from losing ground on their salaries without doing pay cuts and wondered if WICHE could look into similar measures. Commissioner Bornstein said such measures would value employees while respecting the financial issues. Commissioner Deckert moved TO POSTPONE THE DUES INCREASE FROM $125,000 TO $131,000 AND HAVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH WICHE STAFF TO CONSIDER WHAT VALUE WOULD BE ADDED TO WICHE FROM INCREASING DUES, AND PRESENT THIS TO THE FULL COMMISSION AT THE MAY 2012 MEETING. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. Longanecker said that WICHE will move forward with the dues remaining at $125,000. Commissioner Kohl-Welles supported the motion and felt that Washington might have pulled the dues out of the budget entirely instead of just declining to pay the increase. Commissioner Hardy responded that it would not be in WICHE’s favor to have a dues increase come before a legislature. Commissioners Anderes and Bennett abstained from the vote. The motion was approved.

Chair Garcia asked Commissioner Nething for a report on the Legislative Advisory Committee meeting. Commissioner Kohl-Welles noted that it had been an outstanding meeting and suggested that WICHE invite other legislators and higher education leaders from the state in which a meeting is held.

Chair Garcia asked Commissioner Buchanan for an update on the nominations for the 2012 WICHE officers. Commissioner Buchanan moved TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF LEAH BORNSTEIN FOR VICE CHAIR, BONNIE JEAN BEESLEY FOR CHAIR, AND JOE GARCIA FOR IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR AS THE WICHE OFFICERS FOR 2012. Commissioner Munn seconded the motion. Commissioner Cabaldon abstained. The motion was approved.

Chair Garcia thanked WICHE staff for their work and Commissioner Munn for his assistance. Longanecker thanked Chair Garcia for his service over the past year as chair.

The business session was adjourned.