Committee of the Whole, Call to Order

Monday, 9.30 – 9.45 am
Centennial F

Agenda

New Commissioner Biographical Sketches

Committee of the Whole Minutes – May 2002
Monday, November 11, 2002

9.30 - 9.45 am
Centennial F

Agenda

Call To Order, Tad Perry, Chair

Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests

Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 20-21, 2002

Report of the Chair

Report of the Executive Director

Report of the Nominating Committee

Recess until November 12, 2002, at 11.15 am
New Commissioners

**James Hansen**, the newly appointed WICHE commissioner from South Dakota, has served on that state's board of regents since 1995. He was the board's chair in 1998-99 and currently chairs its Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. A former state superintendent of schools and secretary of the Dept. of Education and Cultural Affairs, he is active in numerous community organizations, including the Governor's Citizen's Education Review Panel. He holds a B.S. from Black Hills State University, an M.A. from the University of Northern Colorado, and an Ed.D. from the University of South Dakota.

**Debora Merle** is Washington Gov. Gary Locke's policy advisor for higher education. Prior to this, she spent two years at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Washington, conducting research and coordinating the efforts of a cross-agency team to launch the School Improvement Assistance Program for struggling schools around the state. She has researched a variety of higher education policy topics in New York, California, and Washington, including issues related to student access and equity, readiness and preparation, and guidance and transitions from high school to college and work. Merle received her B.A. in political science and her M.A. in educational psychology from the University of Washington. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in education at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Robert Moore**, WICHE's new commissioner from California, is the interim executive director of the California Postsecondary Education Commission, the state's planning and coordinating agency for higher education. Prior to assuming this post, he was a member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Trained as an attorney, he has served in a number of positions, from deputy district attorney in San Joaquin County to general law practice. He has 25 years of involvement in educational and workforce issues, including serving as the legal adviser to the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, as an adjunct faculty member, and as chair of the Employment Training Panel. He received his B.A. from San Jose State and his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.
ACTION ITEM
WICHE Commission Committee of the Whole Minutes
May 20-21, 2002

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PARTICIPANTS

COMMISSIONERS

A L A S K A
Diane M. Barrans
Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Juneau

A R I Z O N A
Linda Blessing
Executive Director
Arizona Board of Regents
Phoenix

John Haeger
President
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff

C A L I F O R N I A

C O L O R A D O
William F. Byers
Consumer and Public Relations Manager
Grand Valley Power
Fruita

William G. Kuepper, III
Senior Policy Analyst
Colorado Commission on Higher Education
Denver

H A W A I I
Doris Ching
Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawaii
Honolulu

Clyde T. Kodani
President
Kodani & Associates
Lihue
Guest: Helena Kodani

Raymond S. Ono
Senior Vice President
First Hawaiian Bank
Honolulu

I D A H O
Charles Ruch, WICHE Vice Chair
President
Boise State University
Boise
Guest: Sally Ruch

Gary W. Stivers
Executive Director
State Board of Education
Boise

M O N T A N A
Richard Crofts
Commissioner
Montana University System
Helena

Francis J. Kerins
Former President
Carroll College
Helena
Guest: Mary Kerins

Emily Stonington, Immediate Past WICHE Chair
State Senator
Bozeman

N E V A D A
Jane A. Nichols
Chancellor
University and Community College System of Nevada
Reno
Guest: Jim Nichols

Raymond D. Rawson
State Senator
Las Vegas

Carl Shaff
Educational Consultant
Nevada State Dept. of Education
Reno
NEW MEXICO
Everett Frost
Professor/President Emeritus
Eastern New Mexico University
Portales
Guest: Janet Frost

Pauline Gubbels
State Representative
Albuquerque

Bruce D. Hamlett
Executive Director
Commission on Higher Education
Santa Fe

NORTH DAKOTA
Larry Isaak
Chancellor
North Dakota University System
Bismarck

Richard Kunkel
Member
State Board of Higher Education
Devils Lake

David E. Nething
State Senator
Jamestown

OREGON
Ryan P. Deckert
State Senator
Portland

Cam Preus-Braly
Commissioner
Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development
Salem

Diane Vines
Vice Chancellor for Corporate and Public Affairs
Office of the Chancellor
Oregon University System
Portland

SOUTH DAKOTA
David R. Gienapp
Member
South Dakota Board of Regents
Madison
Guest: Nancy Gienapp

UTAH
Cecelia H. Foxley
Commissioner of Higher Education
Utah System of Higher Education
Salt Lake City

E. George Mantes
Regent
State Board of Regents
Salt Lake City
Guest: Mary Ann Mantes

WASHINGTON
Don Carlson
State Senator
Vancouver
Guest: Jan Carlson

Marcus S. Gaspard
Executive Director
Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board
Olympia

WYOMING
John Barrasso, MD
Casper

Philip L. Dubois
President
University of Wyoming
Laramie

Jenne Lee Twiford
Principal
Douglas Middle School
Douglas
Guest: Jim Twiford
GUESTS

Neal Adams, Speaker
Medical Director for Adult Services
California Dept. of Mental Health
Sacramento, CA

Bridget Barron
Member, Mental Health Oversight Council and
Director of Program Quality for
Mental Health Services
Denver, CO

Ann Brand
Member, Mental Health Oversight Council and
Administrator
Mental Health & Addiction Services Division
Oregon Department of Human Resources
Salem, OR

Karl Brimner
Chair, Mental Health Oversight Council and
Director, Mental Health Division
Wash. Dept. of Social & Health Services
Olympia, WA

Stephanie Butler
Alaska WICHE Certifying Officer and
Director of Operations and Outreach
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Juneau, AK

Louise Cavatta
New Mexico WICHE Certifying Officer and
Director, Financial Aid and Outreach
New Mexico Commission on Higher Education
Santa Fe, NM

Christine Cline
Medical Director
New Mexico Dept. of Health/Behavioral Health Services Division
Santa Fe, NM

Sheila Cooper
Consumer/Survivor Advocate
Alcalde, NM

Allen Daniels, Speaker
Professor of Psychiatry
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH

Bobbie Derlin
Associate Director Planning & Outcomes
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM

U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, Speaker
New Mexico

Philip Eaton, Speaker
Interim Vice President for Health Sciences
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
Albuquerque, NM

Vicki Falsgraf
Oregon WICHE Certifying Officer
Oregon University System
Eugene, OR

Deborah Fickling
Executive Director
Mental Health Association in New Mexico
Espanola, NM

Pablo Hernandez
Member, Mental Health Oversight Council and
Administrator, Wyoming Dept. of Behavioral Health
Cheyenne, WY

Michael Hoge, Speaker
Associate Professor
Yale University of Medicine
New Haven, CT

Gail Hutchings, Speaker
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Rockville, MD

Robert Kelley
Wyoming WICHE Certifying Officer and Dean, College of Health Sciences
University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY

Guest: Marcia Kelley
Walter Majoros  
Member, Mental Health Oversight Council and 
Director, Division of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities  
Alaska Dept. of Mental Health & Social Services  
Juneau, AK

Lenton Malry  
Former WICHE Commissioner (1972-1983)  
Albuquerque, NM

Kim Malsam-Rysdon  
Member, Mental Health Oversight Council and 
Director, Division of Mental Health South Dakota  
Dept. of Human Services  
Pierre, SD

Patricia Moritz, Speaker  
Dean of Nursing  
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
Denver, CO

John Morris, Speaker  
Professor  
Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science  
School of Medicine  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

Karen Perdue  
Associate Vice President for Health  
University of Alaska  
Fairbanks, AK

Lance Perryman  
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine and 
Biomedical Sciences  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO

Mary Schumacher  
Member, Mental Health Oversight Council and 
Director, Behavioral Health Services Division  
New Mexico Dept. of Health  
Santa Fe, NM

Ron Sparks, II  
Nevada WICHE Certifying Officer  
Reno, NV

Annette Talbott, Speaker  
Governor's Workforce Policy Coordinator  
Salem, OR

**S T A F F**

Cheryl Blanco  
Director  
Policy Analysis and Research

Lynn Bodensteiner  
WICHE Fellow  
Policy Analysis & Research

Sandy Jackson  
Program Coordinator  
Student Exchange Programs  
Programs and Services/Communications

Sally Johnstone  
Director  
Western Cooperative for Educational 
Telecommunications

David Longanecker  
Executive Director  
Guests: Mary Jane/Mindy Longanecker

Chuck McGee  
Project Director  
Mental Health

Jere Mock  
Director  
Programs and Services/Communications  
Guest: Bruce Mock

Dennis Mohatt  
Program Director  
Mental Health

Marv Myers  
Director  
Administrative Services  
Guest: Mary Myers

Marla Williams  
Administrative Assistant to the Executive 
Director and Executive Secretary to the 
Commission  
Guest: David Medrud

Carol Wimert  
Administrative Assistant  
Programs and Services/Communications
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice Chair Chuck Ruch called the meeting to order.

Action Item
Approval of the Minutes


Report of the Chair

Vice Chair Ruch reported that WICHE Chair Tad Perry had to return to South Dakota following the very recent loss of his father. A note of condolences will be sent to him on behalf of the WICHE Commission.

Vice Chair Ruch said Chair Perry would have appointed the nominating committee during this meeting and that the members of the nominating committee would be announced at a later date.

Report of the Executive Director

David Longanecker said he hoped that the commission had an opportunity to read his self-evaluation and report of his recent activities (pages 7-13 of the agenda book), and that he had nothing to report beyond what was reported in the presentation, “What’s Up in the WICHE States?”

Report of the Executive Committee

Emily Stonington, Immediate Past WICHE Chair

Action Item
FY 2003 Salary and Benefits Recommendation and General Fund Budget

COMMISSIONER STONINGTON ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MOVED APPROVAL OF:
• THE FY 2003 SALARY AND BENEFITS RECOMMENDATION.
• THE FY 2003 GENERAL FUND BUDGET.
• THE GOAL ESTABLISHED IN THE CLOSED SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, RAISING, WITHIN THREE YEARS, THE SALARY LEVEL OF WICHE’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO A LEVEL COMPARABLE TO THAT OF OTHER SIMILAR REGIONAL COMPACT ORGANIZATIONS (SREB, MHEC, AND NEBHE).
• THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S SALARY BE INCREASED BY AT LEAST 4.3 PERCENT ON JULY 1, 2002, AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WORK WITH THE OFFICERS TO INCREASE HIS SALARY BY A TOTAL OF 6.4 PERCENT IN THIS FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT IMPACTING THE SALARY INCREASE POOL FOR WICHE STAFF.

Commissioner Rawson asked if the directive to Longanecker to find funds to increase his own salary would place him in an awkward position, and if the other WICHE staff salaries were at a comparable level to those at the other regional organizations. Vice Chair Ruch said the officers would be involved in helping the executive director with decisions about funding his salary increase. Marv Myers said the salary pool is determined by the sum of salaries for all staff eligible for an increase (those beginning employment prior to April 1) and multiplying that figure by the percentage of the increase approved by
the commission. Commissioner Blessing said the Executive Committee determined Longanecker’s peer group is national and other employees are recruited locally. Commissioner Barrans asked if there were other funds that could be used for the additional salary increase. Vice Chair Ruch said the Executive Committee did not discuss this and it would be dealt with by Longanecker and the officers. Commissioner Kuepper asked if it were possible to go beyond the pool for an employee with exceptional performance. Longanecker said the pool is a merit-based allocation so there is a wide range of increase variables within the pool.

The motion passed unanimously.

Information Item
WICHE Mental Health Program Technical Assistance Center

Commissioner Stonington reported that the WICHE Mental Health Program has submitted a proposal to establish a national technical assistance center for older adult mental health services. An information item about the center was distributed at the Executive Committee meeting.

Action Item
FY 2004 and 2005 Dues

The action item (pages 59-61 of the agenda book) includes a recommended dues increase of 3.88 percent in FY 2004 or dues of $107,000 and 3.74 percent in FY 2005 or dues of $111,000. Vice Chair Ruch reported that the Executive Committee had approved a reduction in the recommended amount of the dues increase for FY 2004 and FY 2005.


Commissioner Carlson reported that the Executive Committee had considerable discussion about the reduction in the recommended level of the dues. Carlson said the reduction was approved because of the fiscal difficulties being experienced in many of the WICHE states and the need for the states to have the perception that WICHE is reducing costs. Carlson said it was recognized that Colorado is not an inexpensive location for WICHE’s headquarters and health insurance costs are increasing. Carlson said that in the fall, the states would have a better understanding of their budgets and that the Executive Committee could consider a modification to the dues increase in November.

Commissioner Crofts reported that four members of the Executive Committee voted against the proposal to reduce the level of the dues. Crofts said because of WICHE’s budget forecast for FY 2004 and 2005, the desire to keep salaries competitive, increased costs of benefits, and the real cost of purchasing an office building, the $4,000 increase originally recommended should be approved. Crofts said the fact book produced by the Policy Analysis and Research unit is worth $4,000, and he supports the original dues increase recommendation.

Commissioner Foxley asked if the dues would be reconsidered in November. Vice Chair Ruch said there is a potential that they would be reconsidered at that time. Foxley said she supports the reduction in dues because the fiscal condition of the states is likely to worsen, and she believes a review of the dues increase should be conducted in November.

Commissioner Rawson said budget documents for Nevada are currently being prepared and an increase in dues in November would not be acceptable. He said it would be prudent to allow for an inflationary increase for the organization and he would continue to vote no on the dues increase reduction. He said the original proposal is not a significant increase.
Commissioner Barrans asked whether the original dues increase would be considered if the motion fails. Vice Chair Ruch said it would.

Commissioner Carlson said if the original dues recommendation were approved, it would be difficult to pass in the states, especially in states having financial difficulty. In Washington, every state agency has been asked to take a 5 percent cut. Carlson said if the commissioners don’t express a willingness to cut dues, some states may make an arbitrary cut in the dues. Since the state dues are required to be equal among the states he questions what this would do to WICHE.

Commissioner Blessing said Arizona is facing budget cuts. The board of regents has had to eliminate two positions, board meetings are being eliminated and held via teleconference to save small sums of money, such as $5,000, and PSEP slots are being cut. Blessing said she values WICHE, supports a modest increase, and supports Commissioner Carlson’s motion.

Commissioner Nething said it is not an easy decision. He said $4,000 is not going to make or break any state. On the other hand, the $60,000 cut for WICHE does have a big impact because it covers a 4.3 percent salary increase for FY 2004 and FY 2005; similar to the salary and benefit package approved for FY 2003. North Dakota is approving 2 and 3 percent salary increases and it is difficult to explain why WICHE commissioners who are legislators would approve a 4.3 percent increase for WICHE staff and so little for the state; it puts legislators in an awkward position. Nething said the other part of the $60,000 increase in dues is a $10,000 increase in rent. He said what is being proposed is to reduce a $60,000 increase to a $30,000 increase. The $10,000 for increased rent will come off the top of this, so instead of having a salary increase pool of $46,000 it will be much less. Given this, is this the right thing to do? WICHE has a terrific staff with great management who are doing a good job for us. He said as a legislator his responsibility is being able to defend WICHE in North Dakota. He said initially he considered proposing a freeze on the dues but has since realized that is not possible because of the built-in increase in costs to WICHE. He said he supports the reduced level of dues.

Commission Rawson said commissioners should remember that WICHE is a regional organization and WICHE salaries are not set according to Nevada, North Dakota, or Idaho; there is a regional pool that must be tied to the market that affects WICHE. He said it will cost WICHE much more to replace employees if it is unable to accommodate the cost of living. Rawson said commissioners should not harm the goals of the regional organization by reducing the dues.

Commissioner Gienapp said South Dakota, like the other states who voted against this motion in the Executive Committee, supports the staff recommendation because it is a small, incremental increase and he would rather support this than a 12 percent increase after the commission realizes it has put the organization into a financial bind.

Commissioner Nichols said many state workers in the member states may not be getting an increase, but many of these workers have built in salary schedules with step increases. The WICHE staff does not have this kind of increase; this is the only increase they receive. Commissioner Nichols said she strongly supports a maintenance level of dues increase and Nevada would be able to support the original proposal. She said Nevada would not be able to support increases of 5-7 percent in the future should the organization need to catch up from the loss of revenue being proposed.

Commissioner Isaak urged the commission to approve the motion to reduce the dues increase. He said he would like to support the original proposal but realities are such that the states may not be able to accept a larger increase. He also discouraged the commission from considering an increase in November because the legislatures will be in session and it will be a tense time for the states. He said this motion does not suggest that salary increases will be less in the future; it may require internal management or reallocation to achieve higher salary increases. North Dakota has 2 percent for salary increases this year and Isaak will try to average 4 percent by reducing in other areas.
Commissioner Barrans said she understands the states that support the reduction in the dues increase, but that in all the years she has been involved with WICHE, the commission has always demanded budget discipline, even during years of surpluses in the states. She said this is a constant message the states have sent this organization and WICHE has been disciplined. She suggested that if the motion passes, the commission keeps this in mind when there is a recovery period in the states and that WICHE should also receive a compensating shift; however, this isn't what she has observed over the past 10 years.

Commissioner Shaff said he respects Commissioner Carlson, and the original proposal is modest. He said legislators are elected to make tough decisions and it is not good to base those decisions on perception. He said $3,000 over a two-year period is not significant and he supports the original proposal.

The vice chair requested a roll call vote for the motion on the floor.

COMMISSIONER CARLSON, ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MOVED TO APPROVE THE DUES AS FOLLOWS: FY 2004, $105,000, AND FY 2005, $108,000. The motion passed with nine yes votes, and five no votes (AK, MT, NV, SD, AND WY), and one state absent (CA).

Report of the Programs and Services Committee
Jere Mock for Phil Dubois, Committee Vice Chair

Jere Mock explained that Diane Barrans, committee chair, had taken ill yesterday and was unable to attend the committee meeting. Mock said that Vice Chair Dubois was slated to conduct the committee meeting but had to leave New Mexico early and that she was reporting on his behalf.

Mock reported the Programs and Services Committee considered action items for the Professional Student Exchange Program Support Fees for FY 2003-2004 and FY 2004-2005 and the FY 2002-2003 WICHE workplan, and discussed the history and the future of the Student Exchange Programs at WICHE.

Action Item
Professional Student Exchange Program Support Fees for FY 2003-2004 and FY 2004-2005

The action item (pages 99-120 of the agenda book) includes a staff recommendation (page 103 of the agenda book) to increase PSEP support fees by 4 percent for support fees in group A fields, 3 percent for group B fields, and $1,000 in the base support fee plus 4 percent for the field of physician assistant. Mock said the staff recommendation was approved unanimously by the Programs and Services Committee. It was also unanimously approved by the WICHE certifying officers during their meeting on Sunday, May 19, with the stipulation that a steering committee of WICHE certifying officers be established to examine pressure points in each of the states and explore strategies for future PSEP support fees. The steering committee would make its recommendation next year for consideration in setting support fees in FY 2005-2006.

Commissioner Crofts asked if the institutions were satisfied with the level of the PSEP support fees. Mock said the recommendation for support fees had been circulated to all participating institutions, and one institution with six WICHE students expressed concern that the support fee for optometry did not fully cover its anticipated increase for resident fees. Mock said she believes this institution will continue to participate in PSEP. She said that setting support fees is a delicate balancing act between state and institutional needs.
COMMISSIONER BARRANS, ON BEHALF OF THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE, MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PSEP SUPPORT FEES DETAILED ON PAGE 103 OF THE AGENDA BOOK. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Issue Analysis and Research Committee
Cece Foxley, Committee Chair

Commissioner Foxley reported the Issue Analysis and Research Committee considered an action item for the FY 2002-2003 WICHE workplan, discussed WICHE’s proposed revenue project, “Finding the Will and the Way: Managing Higher Education within Revenue and Expenditure Constraints,” and heard unit updates from WCET and the Policy Analysis and Research unit.

FY 2002-2003 Workplan
Commissioner Foxley said the committee recommended an addition to a future WICHE workplan. The committee believes it would be helpful for WICHE to examine the current trend for community colleges to move toward offering baccalaureate degrees in less populous areas of the region. The committee determined the most pressing needs for training and education in these areas of the region are for teacher preparation and applied technologies. The committee suggested university centers rather than community colleges be used to meet these needs. Foxley expressed concern about losing community colleges should current trends continue. The committee approved the WICHE workplan for FY 2002-2003. David Longanecker said he would add this recommendation to the workplan under the category of “On the Horizon.”

Commissioner Carlson asked if the committee had discussed the conflict between the career-oriented, vocational degree and the four-year degree. He said in Washington the conflict is the need for nursing education and the four-year institutions ability to provide this education. He said because these are technical, applied degrees, the four-year institutions are not interested. Commissioner Foxley said the committee recognizes this issue and if additional funding is obtained, it will be explored.

Revenue Project
Commissioner Foxley reported the committee discussed the revenue project that would examine the challenges of managing higher education in an environment of fiscal constraints. The project has partial funding from the Ford Foundation. The project would compare tax revenue approaches used by states and how states are supporting the funding of higher education as a proportion of state revenue. If additional funding is obtained, an in-depth examination of state tax structures may be possible. States would decide if they wanted to participate in the project.

WCET (Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications)
Commissioner Foxley reported that the committee heard from Sally Johnstone, the director of WCET. Foxley said WCET benefits all of the states and she encouraged commissioners to review material related to WCET’s annual meeting and to insure that their states are represented at that meeting.

Fact Book
Commissioner Foxley reported the committee heard from Cheryl Blanco, the director of the Policy Analysis and Research unit, who reported on the newly released fact book. She said fact books would be mailed to every commissioner.
Action Item
FY 2002-2003 Workplan

David Longanecker said the FY 2002-2003 workplan (pages 163-176 of the agenda book) is ambitious and consistent with the objectives for the executive director approved by the Executive Committee.


Action Item
50th Anniversary Plans for WICHE

Vice Chair Ruch reported that next year will be WICHE’s 50th anniversary and that plans to celebrate this event are presented in an action item (pages 177-179 of the agenda book).

David Longanecker said the action item includes proposed activities that would cost from $83,000 to $118,000. He said the FY 2003 budget contains a placeholder of $100,000, pending commission action on this item. The final amount would be incorporated into the budget after the commission determines the level of celebratory activities appropriate for WICHE’s 50th anniversary. This expense would not affect WICHE’s annual operating budget because it would be a one-time expense from dedicated reserves for FY 2003. He said the proposed activities include functions in each of the WICHE states, a regional symposium in connection with the November 2002 commission meeting, a gala as part of the November symposium, a monograph and film, commemorative materials, and a fund-raising option. He said additional staffing would be required to coordinate these events and an advisory committee would be established to help promote these activities. He said the action item includes an itemization of the costs associated with staffing (.40 to 1.0 FTE) and conducting the proposed activities. He said under this proposal, each state would receive $2,500 for state-level events. In addition, each state would need to devote staff time and money to these state-level activities.

Commissioner Foxley said she would like events coordinated around existing meetings. In May 2003, the commission will meet in Salt Lake City. In order to reduce costs, she would like to schedule Utah’s event at that time.

David Longanecker said each state would determine the level of its own participation.

Commissioner Blessing said she supports this activity and the resurrection of the Legislative Advisory Committee, and both of these items are important to Arizona, because the governor has determined that legislators cannot serve as WICHE commissioners. She said this determination leaves a gap in the knowledge and support of WICHE in the legislature, and the 50th anniversary will help increase understanding and support for WICHE in Arizona.

COMMISSIONERS BLESSING/VINES (M/S) APPROVAL TO EXPEND $83,000 TO $117,750, DEPENDING ON THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT, FROM WICHE’S DEDICATED RESERVES TO SUPPORT STATE-LEVEL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES HONORING WICHE’S 50TH YEAR. The motion passed unanimously.

David Longanecker asked if the commission would like to be more specific about the amount dedicated to the 50th anniversary activities. The consensus was to leave that decision up to Longanecker, with the maximum allocation for these activities at $117,750.

Commission Kerins said it is interesting to note that this is a $36,000 range and no one seems concerned after having just spent one and one-half hours debating a $1,500 per state dues increase.
Commissioner Carlson asked for clarification of the dates for the anniversary events. David Longanecker said the events would begin with the November 2002 commission meeting and end with the November 2003 commission meeting. He said with the May meeting in 2003, this would allow for the potential of including celebratory activities in conjunction with three scheduled commission meetings.

Report on the State of WICHE’s Office Facility

Vice Chair Ruch said a committee has been established to work with staff on bringing a recommendation to the full commission concerning WICHE’s future office facilities. The recommendation will be brought to the commission at the November 2002 commission meeting.

Meeting Evaluation

Vice Chair Ruch reminded commissioners to complete the meeting evaluation form located on page 107 of the agenda book.

Other Business

David Longanecker said the senior-level staff at WICHE has been reduced by 1.0 FTE, and the responsibilities of this position have been spread between Cheryl Blanco and Jere Mock. This has dramatically increased their workload. Longanecker said he owes Blanco and Mock a tremendous amount of gratitude. Longanecker said Marla Williams also deserves a public thank you for her work on this meeting. He said his intent is not to offend the other senior-level staff, but this past year has been an exceptionally challenging one for Blanco, Mock, and Williams, and he appreciates their hard work.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Ruch adjourned the meeting.

Special Events Held During This Meeting

- Perspectives on Mental Health Issues: A discussion with U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici.
- Promoting Access, Quality, and Accountability in Behavioral Healthcare: A Federal Perspective, with speaker Gail Hutchings, senior advisor, Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Policy Discussions: Healthcare Workforce Development – A Focus on Mental Health, with moderator Michael Hoge, associate professor of psychology in the Psychiatry Dept. of Yale University School of Medicine. Panelists: Neal Adams, medical director for the California Dept. of Mental Health; Allen Daniels, professor of clinical psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati, chief executive officer for Alliance Behavioral Care and executive director for University Psychiatric Services; and John Morris, professor of clinical neuropsychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.
- Policy Discussion: State Finance and Political Issues: What’s Up in the WICHE States? Speaker: David A. Longanecker, executive director, WICHE.
- Policy Discussion: Healthcare Workforce Development – A Focus on Policy. Moderator: Bruce Hamlett, executive director, New Mexico Commission on Higher Education and a WICHE commissioner. Panelists: R. Philip Eaton, interim vice president for health sciences at the University of New Mexico; Patricia Moritz, dean of nursing, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; and Annette Talbott, workforce policy coordinator, Gov. John A. Kitzhaber’s Office, Salem, OR.
- Tour and presentation: Santa Fe Institute.