Monday, November 10, 2003

9.30 - 9.45 am
Centennial

Committee of the Whole

Call to Order, Chuck Ruch, Chair

Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests

Action Item
Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 19-20, 2003

Report of the Chair

Report of the Executive Director

Report of the Nominating Committee

Recess until November 11, 2003, at 11.15 a.m.
New Commissioners

Richard L. Bowen, new commissioner from Idaho, has been president of Idaho State University since 1985; he is also a professor of political science at Idaho State. He was president of three South Dakota institutions before moving to Idaho: the University of South Dakota, the University of South Dakota at Springfield, and Dakota State College. He also served as a Foreign Service officer for the U.S. Department of State, was a research assistant to U.S. Senator Francis Case, legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Karl E. Mundt, and a staff member to the Committee on Government Operations' subcommittee on executive reorganization, chaired by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff and Sen. Jacob Javits. He earned a B.A. from Augustana College in Sioux Falls; and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He and his wife, Connie, are the parents of seven children.

Marshall Lind, new commissioner from Alaska, is chancellor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Previous to this appointment he served as chancellor for the University of Alaska Southeast from 1987-1999 and in various positions for the UA system, from visiting professor of education to dean of the School of Extended and Graduate Studies. Lind was commissioner of the Alaska Department of Education from 1971-1983, and again from 1986-1987, serving under four governors for a combined total of more than 13 years. During his tenure as commissioner he was involved with the creation of the Regional Educational Attendance Areas and the implementation of the Molly Hootch Consent decree. He was the superintendent of schools for the Kodiak Island Borough School District from 1969-1971. In 1961, Lind began a six-year teaching career in Alaska with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, working in Kwigillingok, Goodnews Bay, and Emmonak. Lind received his Ph.D. in educational administration from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., his master's degree in education from the University of Montana in Missoula, and his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He is the recipient of a distinguished alumni award from Northwestern. He has served on various national committees, including a United States presidential appointment to the National Adult Education Council. He has also served as an executive board member of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Sheila Stearns, new commissioner from Montana, was appointed Montana's commissioner of higher education in September 2003, replacing former WICHE Commissioner Richard Crofts and interim commissioner Carol Krause. She served as president of Wayne State College in Nebraska before her return to Montana; she was chancellor at the University of Montana-Western from 1993-1999. Prior to that, Stearns held positions as vice president of university relations and director of alumni affairs at the University of Montana-Missoula. A native of Glendive, Stearns attended the University of Montana-Missoula for her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. She taught for several years in the Missoula public schools.
ACTION ITEM
Committee of the Whole Minutes
May 19-20, 2003
Salt Lake City, Utah

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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
Guest: Bruce Hensley

Lawrence M. Gudis
Senior Regional Vice President
University of Phoenix
Phoenix

John Haeger
President
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff

C A L I F O R N I A
Francisco J. Hernandez
Vice Chancellor
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz

C O L O R A D O
William G. Kuepper, III
Senior Policy Analyst
Colorado Commission on Higher Education
Denver
Guest: Janet Kuepper

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

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

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

M O N T A N A
Carrol Krause
Interim Commissioner of Higher Education
Montana University System
Helena

Francis J. Kerins
Former President
Carroll College
Helena

Cindy Younkin
State Representative
Bozeman

N E V A D A
Carl Shaff
Educational Consultant
Nevada State Department of Education
Reno
Guest: Annette Pressey

N E W M E X I C O
Dede Feldman
State Senator
Albuquerque

Everett Frost
Professor/President Emeritus
Eastern New Mexico University
Portales
Guest: Janet Frost

Patricia Sullivan
Assistant Director
Waste-Management Education and Research Consortium (WERC)
New Mexico State University,
Las Cruces

N O R T H D A K O T A
Larry Isaak
Chancellor
North Dakota University System
Bismarck

November 10-11, 2003  Broomfield, Colorado
NORTH DAKOTA, continued
Richard Kunkel
Member
State Board of Higher Education
Devils Lake

David E. Nething
State Senator
Jamestown

OREGON
Ryan P. Deckert
State Senator
Portland

Diane Vines
Vice Chancellor for External Relations
and Economic Development
Office of the Chancellor
Oregon University System
Portland

SOUTH DAKOTA
Robert Burns
Distinguished Professor
Political Science Department
South Dakota State University
Brookings

James O. Hansen
Member
South Dakota Board of Regents
Pierre

Robert T. Tad Perry, Immediate Past Chair
Executive Director
South Dakota Board of Regents
Pierre
Guest: Carolyn Perry

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

David L. Gladwell
State Senator
North Ogden
Guest: Ruth Ann Gladwell

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

WASHINGTON
Don Carlson, WICHE Vice Chair
State Senator
Vancouver

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

Debora Merle
Policy Advisory for Higher Education
Governor Locke's Office
Olympia

WYOMING
John Barrasso, M.D.
State Senator
Casper

Philip L. Dubois
President
University of Wyoming
Laramie

Klaus Hanson
Professor of German and Chair, Department of Modern and Classical Languages
University of Wyoming
Laramie

GUESTS
The Honorable Ron Allen
State Senator
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Salt Lake City, UT
Guest: Ann Allen

Pamela J. Atkinson
Vice Chair
State Board of Regents
Salt Lake City, UT

Randall Bachman
Director
Division of Mental Health Services
Utah Department of Human Services
Salt Lake City, UT

Linnea S. Barney
Member
State Board of Regents
Orem, UT
Guest: Ralph Barney
Steven D. Bennion  
President  
Southern Utah University  
Cedar City, UT  
Guest: Marjorie Bennion

Michael T. Benson  
President  
Snow College  
Ephraim, UT  
Guest: Celia Benson

Frank Besnette  
Former WICHE Commissioner from Arizona  
WICHE Consultant for the Evaluation Committee  
Sedona, AZ

Karl Brimner  
Director  
Division of Mental Health Services  
Department of Social and Health Services  
Olympia, WA

David L. Buhler  
Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Guest: Lori Buhler

Don Carpenter  
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Guest: Pat Carpenter

Jannette Cheong  
Head of International Collaboration and Development  
Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE)  
Bristol, England

Joyce Cottrell  
Executive Secretary to the Commissioner and State Board of Regents  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Salt Lake City, UT

The Honorable Brad Dee  
State Representative  
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
Ogden, UT  
Guest: Marsha Dee

Jack Dillenberg  
Dean  
School of Dentistry and Oral Health  
Arizona School of Health Sciences  
Mesa, AZ

Khay Douangdara  
Student Regent  
State Board of Regents  
Sandy, UT  
Guest: Cheryl Hone

Jennifer Fahey  
Adult Services Program Specialist  
Division of Mental Health  
Department of Human Services  
Pierre, SD

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

Linda Fife  
WICHE Certifying Officer for Utah  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Salt Lake City, UT

Greg Fitch  
Former WICHE Commissioner from Idaho  
President  
Utah College of Applied Technology  
Salt Lake City, UT

Lee Fritschler  
Vice President and Director  
Center for Public Policy Education  
The Brookings Institute  
Washington, DC

Arthur Hauptman  
Consultant  
Arlington, VA

Lyle Hillyard  
State Senator and Former WICHE Commissioner  
North Logan, UT  
Guest: Alice Hillyard

Mike Hipkins  
Acting Director of the Higher Education Strategy and Implementation Group  
Department for Education and Skills (DfES)  
London, England
David Iha
Secretary to the Board of Regents
WICHE Certifying Office Coordinator
Honolulu, Hawaii

David Imig
President and CEO
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)
Washington, DC

The Honorable Bradley Johnson
State Representative
Cochair, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Aurora, UT
Guest: Gayle Johnson

Nolan E. Karras
Chair
Utah State Board of Regents
Roy, UT
Guest: Lynda Karras

Wm. Rolfe Kerr
Former WICHE Commissioner
Provo, UT
Guest: Janeil Kerr

Linda Langan
WICHE Certifying Officer for Washington
Olympia, WA
Guest: Terry Langan

The Honorable Susan Lawrence
State Representative
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Salt Lake City, UT
Guest: Gary Lawrence

Geoff Layer
Dean of the School of Lifelong Learning Education and Development
University of Bradford
Bradford, West Yorkshire, England

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
State of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT
Guest: Jacyln Leavitt

Paul Lingenfelter
President
State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)
Denver, CO

F. Ann Millner
President
Weber State University
Ogden, UT

Judd D. Morgan
Interim President
Salt Lake Community College
Salt Lake City, UT
Guest: Pauline Morgan

Sir Howard Newby
Chief Executive
Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE)
Bristol, England

John Rushforth
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Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE)
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Nancy Speck
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Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, TX

Mark Spencer
Associate Commissioner
Finance and Facilities
Utah System of Higher Education
Salt Lake City, UT
Guest: Beverly Spencer

Mary Stuart
Pro-Vice Chancellor
University of Sussex
Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE)
Brighton, England

Karl Swan
Former WICHE Commissioner
Tooele, UT

Maria Sweeten
Member
State Board of Regents
Salt Lake City, UT
Guest: Steve Asbury
GUESTS, continued

Ryan L. Thomas  
President  
College of Eastern Utah  
Price, UT  
Guest: Ann Thomas

The Honorable Randolph Townsend  
State Senator  
Reno, NV

Dorothy Watkiss  
Former WICHE Commissioner from Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT

Sheila Watt  
Head of Widening Participation  
Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE)  
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Deanna D. Winn  
Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Salt Lake City, UT

Dale Zabriskie  
Former WICHE Commissioner from Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Guest: Miriam Zabriskie

STAFF

Cheryl Blanco  
Director  
Policy Analysis and Research

Caroline Hilk  
Administrative Assistant  
Policy Analysis and Research

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

Deborah Jang  
Web Design Manager  
Programs and Services/Communications

David Longanecker  
Executive Director

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

Russell Poulin  
Associate Director  
WCET

Marla Williams  
Assistant to the Executive Director
Committee of the Whole

Approval of the November 2002 Meeting Minutes
COMMISSIONERS FROST/CARLSON (M/S) APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 11-12, 2002 COMMISSION MEETING. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Chair
Chuck Ruch, WICHE Chair

The majority of our conversation during this meeting is designed to give commissioners time to craft the continuing agenda of the organization. You will have ample time for input and discussion of the proposed workplan and the report of the evaluation of the organization. Your thoughts, comments, and suggestions are important and welcome. The officers have tried to focus this meeting to be productive and to gain the benefit of your participation in the organization’s future agenda.

Report of the Executive Director
David A. Longanecker, WICHE Executive Director

Budget and finance are a compelling concern and issue for everyone around the table and will demand a considerable amount of thought and energy over the next few years. As we work on issues around budget and finance, we cannot afford to forget other very important issues that face us, such as: access, quality, integrity, and innovation in higher education, issues around developing the workforce for the West’s future and accountability. These issues are included in the workplan, and you have the opportunity to think about how WICHE can contribute to these issues. It is important not to be so captured by current issues of budget and finance that we lose sight of these other issues that will help to shape the future of the West and the future of Western higher education.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned until Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 10:15 a.m.

Committee of the Whole (continued)

Chair Ruch reconvened the Committee of the Whole at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2003.

Report of the Executive Committee

Vice Chair Carlson reported that the Executive Committee approved meeting minutes of Nov. 11, 2002, Jan. 17, 2003, Feb. 25, 2003, and April 9, 2003.

Closed Meeting—Executive Committee

The WICHE Executive Committee, during its closed meeting on May 9, 2003, dealt with items related to the evaluation of the executive director. It met with Frank Besnette, the evaluation consultant, and the three members of the committee charged with the evaluation of WICHE and its leadership. It also discussed
several ongoing, key issues: 1) the future of the traditional Student Exchange Program, the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) and its evolutionary processes; 2) the future of WICHE as it deals with its dependency on grants and contracts from various sources and its ability to retain staff during the ebb of those funds; 3) the WCET program; and 4) the Mental Health Program.

The committee also discussed the executive director’s performance and objectives for the coming year. After the executive director was asked to leave the room, the committee discussed the consideration of deferred compensation for the executive director and the senior staff. This was considered in order to recognize the extraordinary amount of effort made by the executive director and his staff. The committee recommended that the chair appoint a special committee to look at deferred compensation further and make a recommendation to the executive committee in November.

Open Meeting - Executive Committee
Salary and Benefits for FY 2004

Chair Ruch reported that the recommendation for salary and benefits for FY 2004 located on p. 1-39 of the agenda book was recommended for approval by the executive committee and he called for a motion. COMMISSIONERS VINES/BARRANS (M/S) APPROVAL OF A COST INCREASE TO PROVIDE EXISTING BENEFITS TO STAFF FOR FY 2004 AS SPECIFIED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET ACTION ITEM. The motion passed unanimously.

General Fund Budget for FY 2004

Chair Ruch reported that the recommendation for the FY 2004 budget located on p. 1-40 of the agenda book was approved by the executive committee and he called for a motion. COMMISSIONERS SHAFF/CARLSON (M/S) APPROVAL OF THE FY 2004 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AS SUMMARIZED ON P. 1-41 OF THE AGENDA BOOK. The motion passed unanimously.

Evaluation Report

Chair Ruch reported that the executive committee recommended approval of the evaluation report located on p. 1-3 of the agenda book and he called for a motion. COMMISSIONERS FOXLEY/KUEPPER (M/S) APPROVAL OF THE CONSULTANT’S REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF WICHE AND ITS LEADERSHIP. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Carlson said he’d like to pursue an idea that surfaced in the executive committee meeting about examining the role and responsibilities of the WICHE Commission and its officers. He said he’d like this item to be discussed at a future meeting of the executive committee. Chair Ruch said this item will be placed on the committee’s future agenda.

Commissioner Barrans said she’d like the record to reflect the commission’s expression of general approval and appreciation that the members of the executive committee feel toward the executive director and the staff. She said their work is excellent and getting better every year. Several commissioners expressed their agreement and Chair Ruch said the minutes will reflect this.
ACTION ITEM
Western Consortium for Accelerated Learning Opportunities (WCALO)- Phase 2

Committee Chair Foxley reported that the committee discussed the project “Western Consortium for Accelerated Learning Opportunities (WCALO).” This project aims to increase the number of students who participate and succeed in accelerated-learning environments and especially in Advanced Placement programs. For the past three years, the project has been funded through the Department of Education. This project has been viewed as quite successful from the evaluative reports, and continued project funding will be sought, with commission approval.

COMMISSIONER FOXLEY, ON BEHALF OF THE ISSUE ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE, MOVED APPROVAL TO SEEK, RECEIVE, AND EXPEND FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF THE WESTERN CONSORTIUM FOR ACCELERATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES. The motion passed unanimously.

WITHDRAWN ACTION ITEM
Development of Costing Tools for Distance Education and ICTs for Teacher Education and Support in Sub-Saharan Africa

Foxley reported that Russ Poulin attended the meeting for Sally Johnstone and reported on the project “Development of Costing Tools for Distance Education and ICTs for Teacher Education and Support in Sub-Saharan Africa,” on p. 9-13 of the agenda book. This action item has been withdrawn from consideration by the commission because WCET was recently notified that the project will not be funded. The committee’s discussion focused on the scope of WICHE’s and WCET’s missions, and it was determined that this project was well within the mission and role of WCET. Since this item was withdrawn there was no further action.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Tuition for Military Personnel, Spouses, and Dependents

Committee Chair Foxley said the committee had a good discussion about this item and adopted a “best practice” policy statement that they would like states to review as they look at their own tuition policies concerning military personnel and their dependents. She said the committee rewrote the statement:

Tuition eligibility for a military spouse and dependents will be: (1) in-state tuition for soldiers and dependents within the state of legal residence; (2) in-state tuition for soldiers and dependents in the state of assignment; and (3) continuity of in-state tuition, once established and assuming continuous enrollment and that the spouse and dependents will retain their in-state tuition status in the event that the military person is reassigned to another state.
FY 2004 Workplan

Foxley called on Cheryl Blanco to report on the committee’s discussion and suggested changes to the FY 2004 Workplan. Blanco reported the committee reviewed the projects underway in the “Existing Activities” section of the workplan. She said since these projects are underway, they have priority-one status in terms of continuing work on them in FY 2004. She said projects in the section “New Directions” include projects that will require external funding and no change was made in this section. The section “On the Horizon” is where the committee spent most of its time. The areas discussed by the committee were:

1. Finance. The committee discussed what a finance project might entail and where it would fit into the current workplan and the commission’s interests. It was decided that staff would work with a consultant to develop a background paper that would identify some of the state and regional policy issues around changes in tuition, particularly in the area of eliminating the differential between in-state and out-of-state tuition. The committee was interested in learning more about the issues around this, including how changes might impact their states and neighboring states. This work will be folded into work currently being done with the Lumina project and general work on financing issues. Blanco said this would not be a new project; it would simply be an additional activity within the work that is already underway.

2. Access. With the idea of developing an advisory council on K-20, Blanco said there is currently a great deal of work being done in this area under a K-16 umbrella through some of the existing projects. The idea is to retain a focus on this area but it would be retained within the purview of the committee and not through the development of a separate council.

3. Workforce. The committee decided the convening regional and subregional forums should continue under the existing Ford project and to work collaboratively with the Programs and Services Committee because there is also work being done in this area with upcoming workforce reports.

4. Accountability and follow up initiatives responding to the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education’s report cards. There is ongoing work in this area, and there is an initiative through the Ford project to support accountability issues. Blanco said work in this area would continue to be folded into the work that is currently being done.

5. A new item was added in the area of “benchmarks,” based on yesterday’s discussion. The committee is interested in a very short update report on a standard set of performance measures. This would be accomplished by folding it into the work currently being done with the Fact Book. Staff will provide the committee a draft document for review at the November meeting.

Blanco reported that the committee did not add any new areas needing additional funding to the workplan. Instead new activities were added under existing projects.

Foxley reminded Blanco she should let Longanecker know if all of these activities become too much to handle. She said several committee members did volunteer to start work on some of these items. Foxley thanked the committee for its work.

Commissioner Kuepper said he was the commissioner who brought up the issue of tuition for military personnel. He said he wanted to thank Blanco and express his appreciation for this work. He said the
The irony of his remarks of yesterday about not overloading staff was not lost on him. He said he very much appreciates Longanecker’s support for proceeding on this very timely issue.

COMMISSIONERS FOXLEY/GASPARD (M/S) APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF THE ISSUE ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ruch thanked Cece Foxley and the Utah commissioners for being excellent hosts for this meeting in Salt Lake City. He also asked Foxley to thank the governor on the commission’s behalf.

Report of the Programs and Services Committee
Diane Barrans, Committee Chair

DISCUSSION ITEM
Accreditation Status of Professional Programs in the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)

Committee Chair Barrans reported the WICHE Commission was asked to review a request for an exception of its normal requirement of having a PSEP-eligible program having to achieve full accreditation status. The request came from the Arizona School of Health Sciences School of Dentistry and Oral Health, which is beginning its first year in July 2003. An extenuating circumstance is the focus of the mission of the School of Dentistry, which is to cultivate students in dentistry who have an interest in public service. The program’s model has a community based element to the training and this might prove of interest to states that have underserved populations. There was a lot of interest in this request but there were also some gaps in the information presented to the committee. Staff will collect additional information from other schools of dentistry who participate in the PSEP and who were held to the higher standard of having to achieve full accreditation. Staff will also obtain the initial accreditation report to insure that there are no areas of concern. This will be done over the next couple of months and once all of the information is collected the committee will form a recommendation to the executive committee to be discussed during one of its conference call meetings. She said no year-one students could participate, but the program could be implemented in year two.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Reexamining the Professional Student Exchange Program’s Support Fees

Barrans said while this has been an ongoing discussion of the Committee of the Whole, it has become a very important, key concern to the certifying officers and they asked for this review.

Vicky Falsgraff, the certifying officer for Oregon, led a subcommittee of the certifying officers who did a substantial amount of work both in the research and presentation of the history of the support fees, as well as pulling together information about the impact on student participation with the recent increases in support fees. The subcommittee put forth two recommendations for alternative fee structures and staff additionally proposed a third option for consideration. No action is recommended at this time. Staff will proceed by holding meetings with various institutions to further examine the impact and substantially of altering the support fee structure.
ACTION ITEM
FY 2004 Workplan

Barrans said the Programs and Services unit is primarily involved in the areas of “Access” and “Workforce,” with some involvement in the “Innovation & Info-technology” components of the workplan. She said the key programs for access are the Student Exchange Programs. These exchange programs, with the exception of the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), continue to be very robust programs. Unfortunately, participation in the PSEP program has dropped by about 50 percent over the last six years and it is believed this is because of support fee increases. The Western Undergraduate Exchange Program now involves some 17,000 students from WICHE’s member states. Under the “Innovation & Info-technology” areas, the Northwest Academic Forum’s most recent initiative, NEON (The Northwest Educational Outreach Network), continues to expand and promises to be a program that offers some very important services. Barrans said NEON also overlaps with “Workforce” because one area within NEON proposes to increase faculty development through electronically delivered programs, such as the Ph.D. for nurse educators.

The committee had some discussion about new areas but also had the same concern that others have expressed and that is the capacity of existing resources to provide new output. The committee agreed the top priority should be the existing programs and services. After existing programs have adequate resources and to the extent there is more capacity, the committee would support the items identified as “On the Horizon.” The committee is interested in the new areas listed and believes they are potentially well aligned with WICHE’s missions and objectives, but not to the detriment of existing programs and services. She said the committee recommended approval of the FY 2004 workplan.

COMMISSIONERS BARRANS/SHAFF (M/S) APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM
FY 2004 Workplan

Chair Ruch said on p. 8-7 of the agenda book is the recommended workplan for FY 2004. He said the commission has heard from both committees concerning the workplan and now, the full commission would be taking action on the FY 2004 workplan.

Longanecker said there are reports from each of the commission committees concerning their review of the workplan today. The document is a proposed workplan developed by staff, and this plan was developed before the results of the evaluation were known. His sense is the commission is comfortable with the workplan, the five themes, and the projects that have been previously approved by the commission. The FY 2004 workplan also identifies projects that are “On the Horizon” and that external funding would be needed to carry out these projects. His sense of the workplan, following the report on the evaluation of WICHE and its leadership and the reports of the two committees, is that the commission is generally comfortable with the workplan. He expressed a concern about staff overextending itself, and a general consensus that new projects would be initiated only after allowing for adequate staffing of existing programs.

Longanecker said most of the items suggested for the workplan by the commissioners are things that can be incorporated without language changes. He identified two items discussed by the commission that
need to be amended to the workplan: 1) the inclusion of an activity developing benchmarks for performance measures; and 2) a review of commissioner roles and responsibilities.

COMMISSIONERS KERINS/CHING (M/S) APPROVAL OF THE WORKPLAN WITH THE TWO ADDITIONS: THE ADDITION OF BENCHMARKS FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND A REVIEW OF COMMISSIONER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The motion passed unanimously.

Office Facility Update

David Longanecker provided an update about WICHE’s future office facilities. Not much has changed since his report in November. WICHE is still seeking external funding and it is still a bit early to be out in the market securing a facility. The idea of building a facility has been eliminated because it is not cost effective in the current market in the Boulder/Denver area. WICHE is actively considering three options: 1) purchasing a facility, 2) leasing a facility, and 3) lease/purchase a facility. Discussions continue with the two organizations who would become partners with WICHE in this venture, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), and the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEOs). Work has continued with two foundations on the financing concept called the program related investment (PRI). Under the PRI, a loan would be given to the partners at a very low interest rate to fund the office facility. The loan would be paid back over a period of time. The Ford Foundation has asked a series of questions that advance the investigation of providing such financial assistance. The Daniels Fund in Denver has never provided such support but is intrigued with the idea. It is believed that, between the two foundations, enough funding could be obtained to secure the financing of the office facility. In addition to this assistance, private funds are being sought to finance the Learning Center portion of this facility. The total square feet for the facility is 30,000 square feet, and of that, the Learning Center would occupy approximately 5,000 square feet. WICHE’s current lease expires in September 2004, which means these activities should be wrapping up in September of 2003. It is possible that action by the full commission about the office facility may be necessary in November 2003. However, what is more likely is a substantial amount of information will be shared at the November meeting and the action may need to be taken to the Executive Committee or to a special meeting of the executive committee.

Agenda Book

Longanecker said the agenda book was changed to a three-ring binder format to save on the cost of binding. He said this format also allows items to be inserted at various points. For the next few meetings, replacement material for the binders will be distributed; that is, the binders will be recycled with information pertaining to future meetings. The agenda book format will be evaluated and modified, as needed.

Compensation Committee

Ruch said the executive committee asked that he appoint a committee to review the compensation issue. He said Phil Dubois, George Mantes, Diane Vines, and Don Carlson (committee chair) will serve on this committee. The compensation committee will report to the executive committee in November.

Nominating Committee

Ruch appointed Tad Perry of South Dakota (committee chair), Jane Nichols of Nevada, and Bill Kuepper of Colorado to serve on the nominating committee to select the vice chair for 2004.
Evaluation of the Meeting

Ruch thanked the Utah commissioners for being terrific hosts for this meeting. He asked all commissioners to evaluate this meeting via e-mail.

Chair Ruch, on behalf of the WICHE commissioners, expressed appreciation and admiration for the high quality of work done by Marla and the entire WICHE staff.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Future scheduled meeting of the commission are:

- November 10-11, 2003 Broomfield, Colorado
- May 17-18, 2004 Boise, Idaho
- November 8-9, 2004 Boulder/Denver, Colorado
- May 9-10, 2005 Anchorage, Alaska
- November 7-8, 2005 Boulder/Denver, Colorado
- May 15-16, 2006 North Dakota

David Longanecker said the meeting currently scheduled for Anchorage, Alaska, on May 9-10, 2005, may be moved to a date in early- to mid-June.

The meeting adjourned.

Special Events Held During This Meeting

- Policy Discussion: Accountability Theme – “WICHE’s Mission: Expanding Educational Access and Excellence for all Citizens of the West. How Will We Know which Direction the West is Headed?” Speakers: David Longanecker and Cheryl Blanco.
- “The Challenges and Opportunities Facing the Utah System of Higher Education,” hosted by the Utah State Board of Regents, and Cecelia H. Foxley, WICHE commissioner and commissioner of higher education at the Utah System of Higher Education. Introduction: E. George Mantes, WICHE commissioner and member, Utah State Board of Regents. Speaker: Nolan E. Karras, chair, Utah State Board of Regents.
- “No Child Left Behind – Implications for Higher Education.” Introduction: Chuck Ruch, WICHE chair and president, Boise State University. Speaker David Imig, president and CEO, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.
- Policy Discussion: Accountability Theme – “WICHE’s Mission: Expanding Educational Access and Excellence for All Citizens of the West. How Will We Know which Direction WICHE Is Headed?”