Issue Analysis and Research Committee Meeting

Monday, November 5, 2007
3.30-5.00 pm
Pikes Peak
Monday, November 5, 2007

3.30 - 5.00 pm
Pikes Peak

**Issue Analysis and Research Committee**

Jane Nichols (NV), committee chair
Ryan Deckert (OR), committee vice chair
Camille Preus (OR), ex officio
Roy Ogawa (HI), ex officio

Patricia Brown Heller (AK)
David Lorenz (AZ)
Position vacant (CA)
Kaye Howe (CO)
Roberta Richards (HI)
Arthur Vailas (ID)
Mary Sheehy Moe (MT)
Warren Hardy (NV)
Committee chair (NV)
Reed Dasenbrock (NM)
Pamela Kostelecky (ND)
Committee vice chair (OR)
Robert Burns (SD)
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT)
Jeanne Kohl-Wells (WA)
Tex Boggs (WY)

**Agenda**

Presiding: Jane Nichols (NV), chair

Staff: Dolores Mize, director, Policy Analysis and Research
Louis Fox, executive director, WCET
Dennis Mohatt, senior program director, Mental Health Program
Mimi McFaul, associate director, Mental Health Program
Demarée Michelau, policy associate, Policy Analysis and Research
Brian Prescott, research associate, Policy Analysis and Research

Guest: Paul Lingenfelter, president, State Higher Education Executive Officers

![Action Item]

Approval of the Issue Analysis and Research Committee meeting minutes of May 21, 2007 8-3

**Discussion Item:**

Science, Technology, and Innovation Initiative
– Louis Fox

Denver, Colorado 8-1
Information Items:
Instead of print backup, a CD of all Policy Analysis and Research PowerPoint presentations has been made available so you can view the presentations on your computer. You may also use the presentations or individual slides in the context of your work back in your states.

Preparation for College
More Student Success: A Systemic Solution
– Paul Lingenfelter, (PowerPoint on CD)

New Grant
Nontraditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners
– Dolores Mize (PowerPoint on CD)

New Grant
New Frontiers in State Policy Resource Sharing: Expanding SPIDO
– Demarée Michelau (PowerPoint on CD)

Unit Updates:
Policy Analysis and Research – Dolores Mize and Brian Prescott
(PowerPoint on CD)
WCET – Louis Fox
Mental Health – Dennis Mohatt and Mimi McFaul
Vice Chair Ryan Deckert convened the Issue Analysis and Research Committee on May 21, 2007, and a quorum was established.

Deckert introduced Dolores Mize as the new director for the Policy Analysis and Research unit at WICHE. Mize has been an active figure in Oklahoma higher education for the last decade, holding a variety of positions with the Oklahoma State Regents. Access issues have been a major policy interest of hers since her graduate days at Oklahoma State University–Stillwater, where she received her Ph.D. in psychology.

Deckert moved for approval of the minutes of the committee’s meeting of November 13-14, 2006. Patricia Heller noted that on p. 9-5 she is listed as a “guest presenter,” which is incorrect. The presenter was supposed to be Pat Callan, president, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (NCPPE).

COMMISSIONER SHEEHY MOE MOTIONED FOR THE MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AS AMENDED; COMMISSIONER BYERS SECONDED THE MOTION. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

Deckert moved for approval of the FY 2008 Policy Analysis and Research workplan. Mize said that she will be adding a few things to the section titled “On the Horizon.” Mize explained that details about the workplan can be found in the narrative. Longanecker added that these details came from the full agenda from the Committee of the Whole, where committee members can read more about these programs. Mize went over the “existing activities” that the unit is continuing with. She proceeded to talk about the “new directions” that the unit will be taking. She would like to bring a more dynamic agenda to the next meeting for approval.

Deckert asked for an update on current and upcoming activities. Mize passed around a couple of handouts detailing some of the focus areas for the future. She explained that she works for the commission and that she can only be as helpful as the commission asks her to be. Mize also explained her plans and hopes for external funding for the unit. She would like to look at funding for a project on adult degree completion; regional support for large-scale national programs in tandem with D.C.-based organizations; and a Department of Justice grant that would allow the Policy unit to work together with the Mental Health Program.
Jeanne Kohl-Welles asked if WICHE was going to continue to have the Legislative Advisory Committee meetings in conjunction with the National Conference of State Legislatures meetings. Mize said yes, but this year’s meeting will be in conjunction with CSG–West’s meeting, since NCSL is meeting in Boston and not in the West. Longanecker explained that the Legislative Advisory Committee only meets with NCSL when they are in the West. This year the meeting will be with CSG–West in September in Jackson Hole, WY.

Deckert asked Longanecker whether a small organization like WICHE could accomplish such an ambitious workplan and wondered if organizational focus might be lost by taking on so much. Longanecker explained that WICHE often manages projects and hires outside resources to help with the work. WICHE has a certain set of primary activities to work on with our core funding and sometimes goes outside to get the funding and manpower for additional projects. WICHE will continue to use folks like Dennis Jones or Peter Ewell, as well as to partner with organizations like SHEEO and to hire consultants. For example, Art Hauptman’s presentation at the last commission meeting turned into a WICHE paper that got good reviews. Occasionally, this strategy does not work out as planned: Mize is currently redoing a paper from a fairly renowned UCLA person, for instance.

Longanecker said it might be good for the committee to reconvene by phone before the next commission meeting. Since Mize is new and has big ideas, perhaps the committee should have a broader discussion to present to the Committee of the Whole at a future meeting.

Deckert said his concern is that with so many projects and directions, WICHE may lose track of its branding and mission. Longanecker explained that everything WICHE does relates to its mission: in fact, WICHE does not do anything without permission from the commission. He compared WICHE to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems: people think both are huge organizations when they look at the work they do. In addition, there is nothing that Mize is talking about that is new to the West. Mize added that everything she has mentioned falls under categories set up by the commission. Also, she is very high energy and not only manages the work but also does some of the work and the writing herself.

Deckert stated that if there were no other questions, the workplan was open for motions.

COMMISSIONER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2008 POLICY ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH WORKPLAN; COMMISSIONER KOHL-WELLES SECONDED THE MOTION. Mary Sheehy Moe asked if the workplan was going to be modified to incorporate the things that have just been discussed. Mize responded that it would be but that a second meeting of the committee was needed for that; she would like the flexibility to add things to the workplan over the course of the next year. The workplan was approved unanimously.

Deckert turned over the discussion to Louis Fox, executive director of WCET. Fox commented that the name “Issue Analysis and Research Committee” does not reflect the technology part of the committee. Previously, WCET worked more independently from the commission, and now Fox would like to bring it back into WICHE and into the commission. Therefore, he would like to seek the direction and ideas of the committee to align WCET with the commission’s priorities through the WICHE Science, Technology and Innovation initiative.

Fox described the Southern University Research Consortium (SURA), a consortium of over 60 universities throughout the Southeast which seeks to foster collaboration among member institutions in science and engineering. SURA, created in 1980, encourages collaborative programs that: meet high standards of scientific excellence; contribute significantly to the advancement of science or technology; function best through an involvement of a consortium; strengthen the scientific stature of participating institutions and benefit the Southeast; and draw on dedicated, effective leadership from academia. Fox would like WICHE’s Science, Technology and Innovation initiative to function in a similar way. WICHE needs to make sure all its institutions are connected to cyberinfrastructure and needs to know what is out there and what can be done with these resources. Fox detailed the SURA Grid, which is an intelligent network that offers members computing resources and data. Once you are connected to the grid, you have access to its resources and data. The SURA Grid has started this on a small scale; we can do a similar thing in this region.

Fox concluded that this is a potential area of interest. WCET has already started doing things in related areas: for example, last summer, the unit started to look at how to connect the minority-serving institutions in the West. Fox suggested using the months between now and the next commission meeting to explore this idea with committee
members and institutions, returning in November with some sense of the feasibility of this project. If it is feasible, he would like to present a modest workplan for the following year.

Robert Burns asked if WICHE were to take on some of these tasks that might otherwise be given to WCET, how is it going to affect the contractual relationship? Longanecker answered that this is not going to be a problem. Fox’s role is defined in two ways: first, as executive director of WCET; and second, as an integral component of WICHE’s leadership team. WICHE is providing resources for Fox and staff to pursue these projects. This is a good direction for WCET and WICHE right now. WCET is not as much of an innovator now as it was 18 years ago. In the past WCET has been very tied to what it has worked on, and it has been hard for it to work beyond that construct. Longanecker sees that there is some anxiety within WCET related to having a Western focus. But this gives us a chance to focus on the many issues that are important specifically to the West.

Patricia Heller asked Fox if he envisioned that any member of WICHE or somebody in a rural area could connect with this cyberinfrastructure. Fox said yes, the focus would be on connecting the region to a certain set of resources. Heller asked for clarification on the bigger picture, wondering if this system would connect all the West’s universities, including its tribal colleges. Fox explained that the infrastructure can be thought about as an education network where tribal colleges can connect to resources that are primarily held at research universities.

Deckert turned the tables back to Dolores Mize to preview upcoming projects. Mize drew attention to the “Benchmarks” document and the commissioned Emerging Policy Triangle paper as products of the Policy unit.

Longanecker added that we see graphs that reflect how the United States has lost ground in terms of the number of associate and baccalaureate degrees earned (along with only one other country, Germany). If you look at the statistics, the loss in United States is driven by 13 states, and 11 of them are WICHE states. Deckert asked why this problem is concentrated in the West. Longanecker explained that part of it is immigration; but the pipeline is also leaking, and high school graduation rates are down. The South has “gotten the message” and has changed its dynamic. But the West has a huge challenge ahead of it: to change the fact that for the first time, older generations are more educated than younger ones. Mize added that the West faces two issues: first, there is not enough money or resources for many people to go on to college; and second, in some of our states, those who do go to college don’t make much more than high school graduates because the available jobs aren’t in high-skill/high-wage occupations. Hanson agreed that there are a lot of places where people can make more money without much education: in Douglas, WY, for example, they had to hire a 20-year-old to be the director of the waterworks after the previous director left because he could make more money elsewhere.

Vice Chair Deckert adjourned the committee meeting.