Monday, November 12, 2012

**Committee of the Whole – Call to Order/Introductions**

Call to order: Bonnie Jean Beesley, chair

Welcome

Introduction of new commissioners and guests 2-3

*Action Item*  
Approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 21-22, 2012 2-4

Report of the chair

Report of the president

Report of the Nominating Committee

Reminder to caucus on selection of 2013 committee members

Recess until November 13, 2012, at 8:30 am
New Commissioners

David L. Buhler is Utah’s eighth commissioner of higher education. For nearly 12 years prior to his appointment to the post earlier this year, Commissioner Buhler served as association commissioner for public affairs, with responsibility for government and media relations and for overseeing the system’s strategic priority of participation and outreach. He also served as interim commissioner for eight months in 2008. Commissioner Buhler taught as an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Utah from 1990 to 2006 and was a member of the University of Utah Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2000. A native of Salt Lake City, he received bachelor of science degrees in history and political science from the University of Utah and a master of public administration degree from Brigham Young University. He is currently completing a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Utah.

Francisco Hernandez has been vice chancellor for students at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa since 2006. He reports directly to the chancellor and advises on all student-related issues. Prior to this he served as vice chancellor of student affairs at the University of California, Santa Cruz. During his tenure there, Hernandez led the process by which the Santa Cruz campus developed and implemented a strategic plan for student services. He served as a WICHE commissioner from California and also served on the WCET Executive Committee. Hernandez received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University’s School of Education, where he specialized in the history of education; his dissertation is entitled *Schools for Mexicans: A Case Study of a Chicano School*. He received a B.A. in American history from the University of California, Berkeley, and an associate in arts degree from Sierra Junior College in Rocklin, California.

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.

Ham Shirvani is chancellor of the 11-campus North Dakota University System, with an operating budget of $1.6 billion and student body of over 64,000. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as president of California State University, Stanislaus; provost and executive vice president at Chapman University; vice president for graduate studies and research at Queens College of the City University of New York; dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell; and dean of the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado at Denver. In addition, he has served on the faculties of the State University of New York at Syracuse and Pennsylvania State University. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from Princeton University, an M.L.A. from Harvard University, and a M.S. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
ACTION ITEM
Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Session I: Call to Order
Monday, May 21, 2012

Commissioners Present
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT), chair

Susan Anderson (AK)
Diane Barrans (AK)
Tom Anderes (AZ)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Dianne Harrison (CA)
D. Rico Munn (CO)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Roy Ogawa (HI)
Steven Wheelwright (HI)
Mike Rush (ID)
M. Duane Nellis (ID)
Mack Shirley (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Sheila Stearns (MT)
José Garcia (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Bill Goetz (ND)
Dave Nething (ND)
Joe Hardy (NV)
Vic Redding (NV)
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)
Sam Krone (WY)
Karla Leach (WY)

Commissioners Absent
James Johnsen (AK)
Leah Bornstein (AZ), vice chair
Michael Kirst (CA)
Joe Garcia (CO), immediate past chair
Kim Gillan (MT)
Susanna Murphy (NM)
Carl Shaff (NV)
Duaine Espegard (ND)
Tim Nesbitt (OR)
William Sederburg (UT)
Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (WA)
Tom Buchanan (WY)

Guests/Speakers
Stephanie Butler, director of program operations, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Russell Chan, student services specialist, University of Hawai‘i System
Rhonda Epper, assistant provost, Colorado Community College System
Louise Epper, certifying officer, Arizona Board of Regents
Darren Marshall, manager of audit and financial services, Utah System of Higher Education
Loreen Olney, executive assistant, Utah System of Higher Education
Margot Plotz, certifying officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education
Jim Rawlins, executive director of admissions, Colorado State University
Deborah Santiago, vice president, Excelencia in Education
Jeannine Sherrick, certifying officer, Nevada System of Higher Education
Paul Stacey, director, BCcampus
Joseph Steiner, dean, College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming

Staff Present
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Patrick Lane, project coordinator, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president
Mollie McGill, deputy director, WCET
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Policy Analysis and Research
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health and director, Mental Health Program
Russell Poulin, deputy director, WCET
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, Policy Analysis and Research
Pat Shea, director, ICE, Alliance, and Forum
Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET
Catherine Weldon, NANSLO project coordinator
Chair Bonnie Jean Beesley called the meeting to order and welcomed the commission. She introduced the newly appointed Nevada commissioner, Vic Redding, and informed the commission about two other new appointees, Francisco Hernandez and Carol Mon Lee, both from Hawai‘i, as well as naming commissioners whose terms would expire after the May meeting. Beesley also introduced the guests attending the meeting.

**ACTION ITEM**

**Approval of the Minutes of the October 31-November 1, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Commissioner Hansen moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2011, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING. Commissioner Preus seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Beesley called on David Longanecker for the report of the president. Longanecker introduced staff in attendance. He also discussed logistics for the tour of the Veterinarian School of Medicine and dinner that evening.

The first session of the Committee of the Whole was concluded, and the committee went into recess until Tuesday, May 22.
Session II: Business Session
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Commissioners Present
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT), chair
Joe Garcia (CO), immediate past chair
Susan Anderson (AK)
Diane Barrans (AK)
Tom Anderes (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Dianne Harrison (CA)
D. Rico Munn (CO)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Roy Ogawa (HI)
Steven Wheelwright (HI)
Mike Rush (ID)
M. Duane Nellis (ID)
Mack Shirley (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Sheila Stearns (MT)
José Garcia (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Bill Goetz (ND)
Dave Nething (ND)
Joe Hardy (NV)
Vic Redding (NV)
Robert Burns (SD)
James Hansen (SD)
Jack Warner (SD)
Camille Preus (OR)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA)
Sam Krone (WY)
Karla Leach (WY)

Commissioners Absent
James Johnsen (AK)
Leah Bornstein (AZ), vice chair
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Michael Kirst (CA)
Kim Gillan (MT)
Susanna Murphy (NM)
Carl Shaff (NV)
Duaine Espegard (ND)
Ryan Deckert (OR)
Tim Nesbitt (OR)
William Sederburg (UT)
Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (WA)
Tom Buchanan (WY)

Guests/Speakers
Stephanie Butler, director of program operations, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Louise Lynch, certifying officer, Arizona Board of Regents
Darren Marshall, manager of audit and financial services, Utah System of Higher Education
Loreen Olney, executive assistant, Utah System of Higher Education
Joseph Steiner, dean, College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming

WICHE Staff
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Patrick Lane, project coordinator, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Policy Analysis and Research
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, ICE, Alliance, and Forum
Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET
Chair Bonnie Jean Beesley called the meeting to order.

Report and Recommended Action of the Executive Committee
Chair Beesley reported that at its May 21 meeting, the Executive Committee approved minutes from its March teleconference. David Longanecker went over the schedule for the commission meeting, including details on the plenary sessions and vet med tour. Staff was dismissed from the meeting, and the Executive Committee went into a closed session to discuss Longanecker’s self-evaluation for FY 2012 and proposed performance objectives for FY 2013.

During its closed session, the Executive Committee discussed President Longanecker’s self-evaluation for the past year, as well as the annual process for assessing his performance. While the Executive Committee expressed satisfaction with President Longanecker for his performance this past year, the committee believes the annual evaluation process needs to be revised somewhat. First, next year at this time, it will be five years since the commission secured the services of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) to conduct an external review of Longanecker’s performance. Consistent with past commission policy, therefore, it would be appropriate to again secure the services of an external party to conduct such a review; the Executive Committee seeks action by the commission to approve the expenditure of funds from available reserves to conduct a review for submission to the commission at the May 2013 commission meeting.

Second, while President Longanecker’s self-evaluation proves to be a useful component of his annual evaluation, the Executive Committee does not believe it is sufficient to meet the commission’s responsibilities in reviewing the performance of its chief executive. The Executive Committee, therefore, has asked Chair Beesley to work with President Longanecker to develop a draft evaluation process for future years, to be presented to the commission for action at the November 2012 meeting.

Third, the Executive Committee believes that the full Committee of the Whole should be engaged in reviewing and adopting the annual objectives for the president. In the future, therefore, the proposed objectives of the president for the coming year will be presented to the full commission for approval at the May meeting. Commissioner Christian noted that Longanecker has done a fine job.

Report and Recommended Action of the Programs and Services Committee
Committee Chair Patricia Sullivan reported that the Programs and Services Committee established the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) support fees for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Commissioner Sullivan moved TO APPROVE A 2.1 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE SUPPORT FEES FOR ALL 10 OF THE PSEP FIELDS FOR THE NEXT BIENNIAL. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Sullivan reported on a proposed agreement with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) that will enable WICHE to partner with MHEC in offering student health insurance to public and private institutions in the WICHE region through a new initiative called MHECare. The agreement will be effective for health plans beginning in fall 2012, and it will offer institutions plan options to provide insurance for medical services, through UnitedHealthcare’s national network of providers.

Commissioner Sullivan moved TO APPROVE WICHE OFFERING THE MHECARE STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO INSTITUTIONS IN THE WICHE REGION. Commissioner Christian seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finally, Commissioner Sullivan introduced a proposed contract supporting the Consortium for Healthcare Education Online: Building 21st Century Learning Models for Healthcare Programs in the West (included in the meeting folders but not in the agenda book). An opportunity recently developed for WICHE to partner with a consortium of eight two-year institutions serving rural communities in five states to compete for a Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant. The states include Alaska, Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The institutions will work collaboratively to develop or transition several allied health courses and programs into hybrid and online formats, particularly those that require lab components. These programs – some of which will be new, while others will be developed from existing face-to-face courses – will offer students the opportunity to acquire stackable certificates, allowing them to make continuous progress in their profession as working adults while pursuing their academic credentials. The project will build on the successful collaborative work of the existing North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO) consortium. If the consortium receives this Department of Labor grant, WICHE’s contract would total approximately $850,000.
Commissioner Sullivan moved TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CONTRACT SUPPORTING THE CONSORTIUM FOR HEALTHCARE EDUCATION ONLINE. Commissioner Barrans seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Sullivan noted that the Programs and Services Committee approved the Programs and Services 2013 workplan during its teleconference on April 9 with no recommended changes.

Report and Recommended Action of the Issue Analysis and Research Committee
Committee Chair Jeanne Kohl-Welles reported that the Issue Analysis and Research Committee approved the FY 2013 workplan for the Policy Analysis and Research unit. The committee discussed ways to better convey workplan information to commissioners. They commended staff for what they perceived to be very helpful improvements to the format and also provided staff with some additional feedback about the revised format.

Commissioner Kohl-Welles reported that the committee received an update on the Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC), which will have multiple vacancies at the end of the year, due to four LAC members running for Congress and five additional members leaving their respective legislatures as a result of retirement or term limits. Staff will contact commissioners for assistance in filling these vacancies. The next annual meeting will be September 11-12, 2012, in Sacramento.

Staff provided the committee with an update on several ongoing and potentially new initiatives related to the use of data in policymaking and research activities. Possible activities include:

- Developing a project to help policymakers at the federal and state level think about proposed changes to the Pell Grant program and state finance and financial aid policies in connection to student success. This discussion is occurring with NCHEMS and the Bill & Melinda Gates and Lumina foundations, as well as with Microsoft.

- Hosting a meeting, perhaps annually, of data and research directors in State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) offices for dialogue, collective problem solving, and professional development.

Report and Recommended Action of the Self-funded Units Committee
Committee Chair Jim Hansen reported that Ellen Wagner updated the committee on several WCET initiatives. WCET is currently negotiating with the Gates Foundation on a proposal to expand the number of institutional partners within their Predictive Analytic Reporting (PAR) Framework project. Badges for Learning is a new initiative exploring the use of badges and badge systems as alternative mechanisms for documenting learner participation and engagement and for certifying competence and completion. The recent Summit on Digital Learning Content has helped produce several pilot projects among WCET member institutions and publishers to accelerate new strategies for integrating textbooks and open-learning content. Pilot programs have been scheduled for presentation at the 2012 WCET annual meeting in San Antonio. Finally, the State Authorization Network will continue a second year to help institutions address the state regulations on distance education. Commissioner Hansen reported that the FY 2013 workplan for WCET was approved.

He also reported that the committee heard from Dennis Mohatt on the status of some of the Mental Health Program’s grant applications. One area they are very excited about is extending their successful internship program for postdoctoral psychology students. A related project on the horizon is to expand the work on psychology internships and establish a center to help with all of the administrative requirements for obtaining accreditation of internship programs. Commissioner Hansen reported that the FY 2013 workplan for the Mental Health Program was approved.

ACTION ITEM
Approval of the FY 2013 Annual Operating Budget (General Fund and Non-general Fund Budgets)

Chair Beesley called on Longanecker and Craig Milburn to discuss the WICHE budgets. Longanecker noted that the general fund budget covers core activities and supports the Policy Analysis and Research and Programs and Services units, the President’s Office, the commission budget, and Administrative Services. Revenues are projected to be at $2.3 million at the end of FY 2013, which is slightly above what was projected. The increase in revenue is from greater indirect cost recovery. Current expenses are budgeted at almost $2.2 million. Longanecker said it was likely that the projected surplus of $118,014 would be lower but would still be a substantial contribution to the reserves. The reserves are currently projected to be at $1.5 million by the end of the fiscal year. Longanecker said it was a good year for the budget. Looking ahead to FY 2013, the proposed budget is nearly the same as the FY 2012 budget. The staff will be keeping expenditures the same. Longanecker said it was a reasonable budget. He was hopeful that the
$87,000 owed from the California Community Colleges would start coming in over time through a WUE program fee. Longanecker said the only areas that saw an increase in budgets for FY 2013 were the President’s Office, as a result of Longanecker’s time being charged more to general fund instead of to soft funds, and the commission budget.

Longanecker discussed the non-general fund budgets in each of the program areas. The Mental Health Program is projecting less revenue and will likely come in balanced at the end of the year (but has reserves to cover any difference). WCET experienced a revenue increase because of the PAR project. They are projecting expenditures lower than revenues.

Commissioner Nething asked about the cost of the October 31-November 1, 2011, commission meeting that was held in Hawai‘i. Longanecker said that the meeting was more expensive than usual, but that we didn’t have to use all of the $10,000 that was allocated from the reserves for that meeting. He also explained that the next two commission meetings will be held out of state: the fall 2012 will be at the University of Utah and is projected to be an affordable meeting; the spring 2013 meeting will be more costly if it is held in Seattle.

Commissioner Rush asked Milburn to explain the negative revenue category shown on the budget sheets. Milburn explained that those are a function of the indirect cost recovery sharing. He said the way it appears on the budget is a way to more fully disclose the numbers. Commissioner Anderson asked when the bond will be paid off. Longanecker explained that WICHE has two loans for the building: the Colorado Educational and Cultural Facilities Authority (CECFA) bond will expire in 2015, and a balloon payment on the remainder of the loan from the Ford Foundation will come due in 2016. The balloon payment will be $1,070,345.35, and WICHE’s portion is 57.37 percent, or $614,057.13. WICHE will have the option at that time to refinance or pay off the loan from reserves. Longanecker would like to pay off the CECFA and Ford loans, which will give relief to the budget starting in 2015. Commissioner Anderson asked if there was a plan in place to have these two loans paid off. Longanecker said he’s working closely with the WICHE officers and staff regarding the debts. WICHE currently pays $400,000 annually for mortgage payments, so having these paid off would provide substantial financial relief to the organization.

Commissioner Munn asked for clarification on the increase in indirect cost recovery. Longanecker said that it was a result of an increase in revenue from the PAR grant WCET received this year. He said that the Mental Health Program, Programs and Services, and Policy Analysis and Research all did very well in bringing in revenue this year.

Commissioner José Garcia moved TO APPROVE THE FY 2013 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET (GENERAL FUND AND NON-GENERAL FUND BUDGETS). Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM**

Approval of Salary and Benefit Recommendations for FY 2013

Longanecker told the committee that he was proposing a novel approach to salary and benefit increases for FY 2013. He noted that there were no salary increases proposed in the FY 2013 budget. WICHE will be absorbing a significant increase in health benefit costs this year in the budget, but there are no other increases proposed to other benefits, such as retirement or salary. Longanecker said he is proposing that if circumstances improve in the budget, he will ask the Executive Committee for approval for a 3 percent salary increase pool. Longanecker said this might occur sometime during the year if expenditures are lower or revenue increases. One possibility for an increase in revenue would be if a large grant is received that would bring indirect revenue to the organization that would then fund a salary increase for staff. Longanecker noted that there are currently resources available in the grant budgets for salary increases, but the organization does not give increases unless the general fund budget can accommodate them. Commissioner Cabaldon suggested that the language of the action item be changed to include “net revenue increases.” Longanecker said that there are proposals out with the foundations that could make this salary increase possible.

Commissioner Harrison and Commissioner Rush moved TO APPROVE A STAFF SALARY INCREASE POOL OF 3 PERCENT, CONTINGENT UPON IMPROVEMENTS IN PROJECTED NET REVENUES ABOVE AND BEYOND THOSE ANTICIPATED IN THE BUDGET CURRENTLY PROJECTED AND PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COMMISSION. Commissioner Burns seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
**ACTION ITEM**  
Approval of the WICHE Dues for the FY 2014 and FY 2015 Biennium

Longanecker presented a proposed increase for WICHE dues for the coming biennium. He said that dues increases are proposed and approved in advance for the states that have biennium budgets. The proposed increase would be $6,000 per year, for a 4.8 percent increase in 2014 and a 4.4 percent increase in 2015. The dues would go from $125,000 to $131,000 and then from $131,000 to $137,000.

Commissioner Barrans moved TO APPROVE THE WICHE DUES INCREASE FOR THE FY 2014 AND FY 2015 BIENNUM. Commissioners Hansen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM**  
Discussion and Approval of the FY 2013 Workplan

Longanecker said the committees have worked on and approved the unit sections of the workplan. The staff adopted a different approach to the workplan formula this year and has received compliments and feedback to make it a better document. Longanecker said he hoped the new format provides a good sense of what the commission is responsible for, what’s been accomplished over the year, and where the organization is headed in the future. He also noted that the workplan is a dynamic document, so staff will still come to the commissioners for approval on things that weren’t initially included in the document.

Commissioner Cabaldon moved TO APPROVE THE FY 2013 WORKPLAN. Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEM**  
Update on Developing a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

Longanecker told the committee that under the current timeline, he will bring a proposed state authorization reciprocity agreement to the November meeting for discussion and approval. He will then take the proposed agreement to each of the 15 WICHE states for their approval. Longanecker noted that he has been working with an exceptional group of people on the steering committee for this project. They have had a very strong start and will soon be focusing on the logistics for governance. The meeting in September will focus on the financing of the project. They have been working closely with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the Presidents’ Forum, which have received a grant from Lumina Foundation to come up with a national state authorization program. Longanecker said the regional compacts have been working together to move forward and that the conversations have gone well. WICHE has been seen as the lead among the four regional compacts but will be coequal partners with them as the program moves forward.

Commissioner Harrison asked Longanecker what the difference will be between CSG’s program and WICHE’s program. Longanecker responded that as a regional compact, WICHE believes the states can trust each other and that accreditation plays a key role in the relationship. He said that CSG wants tougher standards because of a belief that some states cannot be trusted and that the accreditation process can’t be trusted. It doesn’t believe that WICHE and the other regional organizations would be tough enough on our member states. Longanecker said that three of the states in the West would not be good partners in this program. He also said that there can be trust between states and still have verification. CSG believes there needs to be a regulatory superstructure. Commissioner Harrison pointed out that Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has given waivers in California. Longanecker said WASC could be accepted as assurance for programs but not for consumer protection. Commissioner Badaloni asked if reciprocity would be with all WICHE states. Longanecker said that would be the case and that when the other regional compacts have their reciprocity worked out among their states, we’d have reciprocity with their regions. He also noted that three states do not belong to any regional compact: New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Commissioner Barrans asked if WICHE would staff this program once it’s approved. Longanecker said his vision for this program is that it would be staffed in a similar way to the current Student Exchange Program (with a director and one to two support staff). The salaries for the staff would come from fee structures imposed on participating institutions. Longanecker is in discussions with Lumina regarding funding for startup expenses and implementation costs. This initiative will only apply to institutions operating between states and doesn’t affect a state’s rights to oversee its institutions. Commissioner Bennett asked about revenue potentials. Longanecker said that once an institution is given authorization, it would pay a minimal annual fee based on enrollment.
INFORMATION ITEM
Update on WICHE Membership for the Pacific Islands

Chair Beesley asked Longanecker for an update on WICHE membership for the Pacific islands. Longanecker said he has been working with the Northern Marianas and other territories in the Pacific island region to bring them in to WICHE. The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and Guam have the most interest in joining WICHE. The other islands don’t think there is a lot of value to having membership with WICHE. Longanecker said the Northern Marianas are very interested in having their students participate in WUE. He believed an action item to approve their membership would be brought before the committee at the November commission meeting. If the Northern Marianas doesn’t join on its own, another possibility is to work out membership through the University of Hawai‘i. The University of Hawai‘i currently acts as the secretariat for the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council (PPEC), and most of the students from the islands would likely come to attend the University of Hawai‘i or Brigham Young University – Hawai‘i. Joining WICHE would be a huge financial commitment, but the Northern Marianas has put dues for WICHE into its federal budget request for the future. Longanecker said he will be working with Commissioner Hernandez (HI) more closely over the coming months. Commissioner Garcia noted that if participation in WUE is worked out through the University of Hawai‘i, WICHE wouldn’t benefit from additional dues revenue. Longanecker said that would be the case and that WICHE would be increasing access at that point but not revenue. Garcia said access and revenue could increase if the islands join WICHE as members. Longanecker agreed and noted that there could potentially be challenges in collecting dues from the islands. Commissioner Cabaldon asked why staff time and energy was being used to pursue this initiative. Longanecker said that he was responding to a request from the Northern Marianas, and the value of doing an agreement through the University of Hawai‘i would be that it wouldn’t take away time and effort from WICHE.

Other Business
Longanecker said the commission established the Commissioners Code of Ethics, which is reviewed annually at the May meetings. The Audit Committee brings proposed changes for the committee to consider, but no changes are being proposed at this time. He noted that the Commissioners Code of Ethics is similar the President’s Code of Ethics and WICHE Staff Code of Ethics.

Chair Beesley reminded the commission that the meeting evaluation would be sent electronically. Commissioner Rush asked a follow-up question on the Pacific islands, specifically if the University of Hawai‘i would have WICHE commissioners appointed. Longanecker said Hawai‘i is an active state and that commissioner appointments would remain the prerogative of the Governor’s Office. Commissioner Anderson thanked the WICHE staff for their work on the meeting.

The business session was adjourned.