Monday, November 12, 2012

11:00 am - noon
Bonneville Conference Room

Self-funded Units Committee Meeting

Jim Hansen (SD), chair
Mike Rush (ID), vice chair

Jim Johnsen (AK)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Michael Kirst (CA)
D. Rico Munn (CO)
Francisco Hernandez (HI)
Committee vice chair (ID)
Sheila Stearns (MT)
Position vacant (NV)
Position vacant (NM)
Dave Nething (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Committee chair (SD)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Tom Buchanan (WY)

Agenda

Presiding: Jim Hansen, chair

Staff:
Mollie McGill, deputy director for programs, membership, and operations, WCET
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health

Action Item
Approval of the Self-funded Units Committee teleconference minutes of September 25, 2012 6-3

Information Items – Mental Health

Budget update

Report on new Health Resources and Services Administration grant and efforts around psychology internship development

Building Campus Behavioral Health initiative with Nevada State College

Selection of commissioners for Mental Health Oversight Committee
Information Items – WCET

WCET update: Annual meeting, leadership summits,
Transparency by Design, PAR Framework

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement: A commissioner’s perspective on the leadership by WICHE and WCET – Chris Bustamante

Other business

Adjournment
Commissioner Hansen called the meeting to order. This was an audioconference meeting and roll call was taken. A motion TO APPROVE THE SELF-FUNDED UNITS COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM MAY 21, 2012, was made by Commissioner Nething and seconded by Commissioner Munn. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Mental Health Program Update
Dennis Mohatt stated that the Mental Health Program ended FY12 with approximately a $200,000 positive fund balance. He added that the total FY13 budget as of the date of the call was projected to be $2,472,220. Current projects or potential projects span seven WICHE states: Alaska, Colorado, Hawai‘i, Nevada, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Mohatt noted that ongoing areas of focus for the Mental Health Program this year include the following:

- Regional psychology internship development.
- Suicide prevention in rural primary care.
- Data and decision support.
- Public mental health systems consultation.
- College mental health.
- Community capacity building for returning service members.
- Mental health first aid (MHFA) training: Spanish and rural pilots.

He also reported on new areas of focus including:

- Wellness and suicide prevention in veterinary medicine programs.
- Medical education: teaching behavioral health in medical school and residency programs.

Mohatt reported that the Mental Health Program staff is fairly stable, with one full-time staff, three part-time staff, and several expert consultants on particular projects.

WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies Update
Ellen Wagner and Mollie McGill provided a general update on some of WCET’s current and planned programs and services.
**Membership Services.** McGill began with a brief overview of WCET’s membership services and described some of the emerging issues in e-learning that WCET and its growing community of colleges and universities are working together and sharing strategies to address. She noted the following.

- WCET’s membership is at an all-time high, with 308 member institutions and organizations nationally.
- The level of engagement within institutions has expanded in recent years, with more active involvement from senior-level academic leaders, as well as other administrative units that support online and hybrid courses and programs.
- WCET’s 24th annual meeting will be held in San Antonio from October 31 to November 3. This annual event always receives positive reviews as one of the most valuable conferences for e-learning professionals.
- WCET helps its members to stay informed on trends and new developments in postsecondary education and educational technologies, such as e-books, mobile apps for learning, massive open online courses (MOOCs), and federal policies. McGill invited commissioners to sign up for WCET’s popular articles digest.
- The State Authorization Network (SAN) is a separate, fee-for-service offer from WCET. SAN is in its second year, with 35 members representing more than 600 institutions. Members value the sharing of information and insights into how others have worked with certain states to obtain approvals.

**Game and Badge Initiative.** Wagner described WCET’s recent game and badge initiative, titled “Who’s Got Class?” This pilot project was designed as a light-hearted look at the emerging world of games and badges in educational settings. The use of badges for educational credentials or statements of competencies will be an important topic in higher education and workforce training over the next two to three years.

**Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework.** Wagner reported that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had awarded a $2.56 million grant to WCET to validate and extend the PAR Framework Project. This will be an 18-month project. The grant will support ongoing research into the use of predictive analytics on a large-scale federated database to support decision making that removes barriers to student success.

The grant also allows the project to expand the number of institutional partners from six to 16; it now includes the following.

- The 10 new partners: Ashford University, Broward College, Capella University, Troy University, Lone Star College System, Penn State World Campus, Sinclair Community College, University of Central Florida, University of Maryland University College, and Western Governors University.

**Leadership Summits.** Last May WCET convened an invitational summit of academic leaders on the topic of digital-learning content and various options and challenges in deploying commercial e-textbooks, open digital content, and faculty/student published content in support of learning. Wagner noted that the summit format was well-received by attendees and is a model that WCET will continue to use for the three leadership summits planned for 2013.

- Spring 2013: “The New Reality of Technology in Higher Ed: Freeing Innovation from ‘One Size Fits All.’”
- Summer 2013: “Living under the Sword of Data.”
- Fall 2013: “Badges and Alternative Credentialing Systems” (tentative).

Following some discussion about the unit reports, Chair Hansen called for any further business and adjourned the meeting.
INFORMATION ITEM

WCET Update

The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) is a national, nonprofit, membership-based cooperative of colleges and universities, higher education agencies, and companies that share a commitment to improving the quality and the reach of e-learning. WCET coordinates and enables the cooperative exchange of information, resources and services among our members. WCET’s mission is to accelerate the adoption of effective practices and policies, advancing excellence in technology-enhanced teaching and learning in higher education.

Membership Services
Over the past two years, WCET has witnessed strong and consistent growth in membership from postsecondary institutions in all sectors, reaching an all-time high of 310 member institutions and organizations. At the same time that the number of members is on the rise, so too are the number of senior-level academic and administrative leaders who are actively engaged with WCET through the array of services we offer, including webcast productions on timely and important issues, robust email list discussions and sharing of good practices, and invitational summits.

The annual meeting, held October 31-November 3 in San Antonio, brought the WCET community together to learn about existing practices and new models for addressing student success, analytics, emerging technologies, management of e-learning, and policies and regulations. WCET’s membership includes some of the country’s most experienced and innovative e-learning professionals. The WCET Outstanding Work (WOW) award was established to recognize innovative solutions to key problems. At the annual meeting, three member organizations were honored for their exceptional contributions to higher education.

- Monterey Institute of Technology for Developmental Math: An Open Program, a free program designed to increase the number of financially disadvantaged students who pass developmental math as a bridge to a college education.
- New Jersey Research and Education Network for NJVID, a state-of-the-art digital video repository service for streaming and preserving academic and research videos for higher education.
- Tennessee Board of Regents for the TBR Mobile App Education and Workforce Resource Center, a growing, publicly accessible repository of mobile apps for learning that have undergone peer review.

State Authorization Network
In spring 2011 WCET established the State Authorization Network (SAN), an advisement service that helps systems and consortia assist their member institutions in understanding and complying with state regulations. SAN is now in its second year, with 35 members representing more than 600 institutions. Members value the sharing of information and insights into how others have worked with certain states to obtain approvals.

WCET Badge Initiative
Game-based learning, gamification, and badges are gaining momentum as forms of student engagement and alternative credentialing. WCET created a demonstration project on game-based learning and badges, titled “Who’s Got Class,” as a way for the higher education community to get a fun, light-hearted, and hands-on introduction to badges for learning. The project attracted 182 players from 87 institutions; they participated in an authentic experience of badges and game-based learning.

Leadership Summits
New Directions for Digital Learning Content was WCET’s first leadership summit, and more are planned for the coming year. The summit brought together a diverse group of leaders, innovators, and publishers to identify and discuss issues related to the adoption, development, and use of digital-learning content in higher education. With the growth of mobile devices and hybrid courses, along with the high cost of textbooks, more and more campuses are exploring their options for commercial e-textbook arrangements and the adoption of freely available open educational resources. Therefore, WCET is keeping this topic at the forefront. The summit included several case studies of institutions that have successfully converted to a digital text environment.
Future summits will focus on the following topics:

- “Living under the Sword of Data” (summer 2013).

**Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework**

WCET has been awarded a $2,557,920 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to validate and extend the Predictive Analytics Reporting Framework (PAR), a collaborative, multi-institutional data-mining project that brings together two-year and four-year public, proprietary, traditional, and progressive institutions to help identify points of student loss in online U.S. higher education. Current efforts focus on removing barriers to student success in online and blended programs. With 16 member institutions, over a million anonymized student records, and 6 million institutionally deidentified course-level records, PAR has a unique opportunity to benchmark student success across multiple institutions. The PAR Framework includes the six founding partner institutions – American Public University System, Colorado Community College System, Rio Salado College, University of Hawai‘i System, University of Illinois Springfield, and the University of Phoenix – as well as 10 new institutional partners: Ashford University, Broward College, Capella University, Troy University, Lone Star College System, Penn State World Campus, Sinclair Community College, University of Central Florida, University of Maryland University College, and Western Governors University.

**Transparency by Design**

The WCET-managed Transparency by Design, funded by Lumina Foundation from November 2008 through July 2012, has successfully completed its grant period. A data set developed collaboratively with a diverse set of institutions was the largest accomplishment of the project. Gaining consensus on metrics for measuring data such as student satisfaction, engagement, and progress, was a laudable achievement. In July 2012 the Transparency by Design Executive Committee decided, after much consideration, to close its product site, College Choices for Adults, and redirect it to a page on the WCET website, which includes the history and accomplishments of the initiative. This transition will happen at the end of the calendar year.