Self-funded Units Committee Meeting

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

Jim Johnsen (AK)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
TBD (CA)
Jude Hofschneider (CNMI)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Francisco Hernandez (HI)
Committee vice chair (ID)
Dick Anderson (MT)
Joe Hardy (NV)
Mark Moores (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Committee chair (SD)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
TBD (WY)

Agenda

Presiding: Jim Hansen, chair

Staff: Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health, Mental Health Program
Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET
Mollie McGill, deputy director for programs, membership, and operations, WCET
Tamie Dehay, associate director, Mental Health Program
Sarah Ross, postdoctoral fellow, Mental Health Program

Action Item

Approval of the Self-funded Units Committee meeting minutes of May 20, 2013 6-3

Approval of the Mental Health support fee and Mental Health Oversight Council (MHOC) representation for U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated States 6-5

Approval of an expanded intergovernmental agreement with the Hawai‘i Department of Education support efforts to develop professional behavioral health capacity 6-6
Information Item – Mental Health Program:
Program update

Information Items – WCET:
Update on membership and budget 6-7
25th annual meeting

WCET’s massive open online course (MOOC), in collaboration with Mozilla, Blackboard, and Sage Road Solutions: “Badges: New Currency for Professional Credentials”

May 2014 Leadership Summit: Competency-based Learning and Alternative Credentials

June 2014 Data Readiness Bootcamp

Predictive Analytics Reporting Framework

Other business

Adjournment
ACTION ITEM
Self-funded Units Committee Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2013

Committee Members Present
Jim Hansen, (SD), chair
Mike Rush, (ID) vice chair
Jim Johnsen (AK)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Jude Hofschneider (CNM)
Francisco Hernandez (HI)
Sheila Stearns (MT)
Dave Nathing (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Tom Buchanan (WY)

Committee Members Absent
Michael Kirst (CA)
Mark Moores (NM)
No one from Nevada appointed

Guests
Xandre Chateaubriand, policy advisor,
Office of Governor Jay Inslee
Jeannine Sherrick, certifying officer,
Nevada System of Higher Education

Staff Present
Mollie McGill, deputy director, WCET
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health,
Mental Health Program

Commissioner Hansen called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Hansen called the meeting to order. A motion TO APPROVE THE SELF-FUNDED UNITS COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2012, was made by Commissioner Stearns and seconded by Commissioner Buchanan. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Mental Health Program Update

Dennis Mohatt provided the following program updates.

The Mental Health Program is engaged in active projects across the WICHE region (Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawai‘i Montana, Nevada, South Dakota, and Guam). Additionally, it is supporting a major effort in Texas to increase the number of psychology internship placements and is in the final stages of a Department of Defense research study on enhancing mental health access for soldiers (this is being done with the Kansas National Guard).

Three emerging activities are particularly interesting. In South Dakota the program is providing transitional leadership staffing for the Division of Behavioral Health, as they do a search for a new administrator. A WICHE consultant is serving as the interim director, and other staff is engaged in supporting activities. Additionally, WICHE is being engaged to lead the executive recruitment effort. Staff is having conversations with Alaska and Arizona about assisting them in key leadership recruitment efforts. In Alaska staff members are engaged in contract discussions with the University of Alaska Anchorage College of Health to collaborate in research. As a first step, a WICHE staff member will serve as the interim director of their Center for Substance Abuse and Addictions Prevention Research. These three areas: interim leadership staffing, leadership recruitment, and collaborative research hold strong prospects for our program.

The Mental Health Program appears poised to enjoy its most active year since the recession. The program has continuing projects in eight states and territories of the WICHE region, plus Texas. Discussions are underway about a number of new projects and activities that would add significant revenue opportunities. Of particular interest is an emerging effort with Nevada State College to develop a health center that would serve both the students and the surrounding community, providing a setting for both clinical care and applied education. If successful, this model could provide a new option for many smaller campuses located in places that are underserved, causing the campus to struggle to ensure services and training opportunities for students.

As a self-funded unit, the Mental Health Program anticipates a positive fund balance, to exceed $150,000 for FY13.
The Mental Health Program assesses a $15,000 support fee from each WICHE member state, which is paid by the state mental health authority. In FY13 four states have chosen not to remit the fee: Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington.

Commissioner Nething moved TO APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM’S 2014 WORKPLAN. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion. The workplan was approved.

**WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies Update**

Mollie McGill provided the WCET report on behalf of Ellen Wagner, WCET executive director, who was unable to travel for health reasons.

Institutional and organizational memberships in WCET are at an all-time high, with 316 members across the country.

Some of the issues WCET and its membership are tracking include: state authorization of distance education; academic integrity and student success in online learning; badges and alternative credentials; and mobile learning.

The State Authorization Network (SAN), now in its third year, is a membership-based service that helps institutions to navigate the complex distance education authorization regulations in the states. Together, the network’s 42 members represent more than 700 colleges and universities throughout the nation.

WCET manages a $2.5 million project funded by the Gates Foundation called the PAR Framework. This is a multi-institutional data-mining project working to identify and remove barriers to student success in online courses. The project is building an aggregated dataset of the online enrollments from 16 institutions and developing benchmarks that institutions will be able to use to identify factors that put students at risk for not completing their programs. Later this year the project will release a taxonomy of effective interventions. Phase two of project is well underway. WCET is currently inviting inquiries of interest for the next follow-up phase.

Commissioners are invited to register and attend WCET’s second leadership summit, which will be about data-driven decision making in higher education. The summit will be held in Salt Lake City in June 2013.

WCET also projects a positive fund balance for FY 2013, due to the strong membership growth, indirect funds from the Gates-funded PAR project, and revenues from other initiatives.

One last highlight to share is the establishment of the new e-Learning Congressional Caucus, chaired by Representative Jared Polis of Colorado and Representative Kristi Noem of South Dakota. The purpose of the caucus is to raise awareness in Congress regarding the value of e-learning and to encourage public policy that supports access to online and distance education.

WCET’s membership has identified a number of important issues for attention in the coming year, such as competency-based online programs, guidelines for working with third party providers, open content, and a boot camp on learning analytics. WCET looks forward to celebrating its 25th annual meeting this year.

Commissioner Bustamante moved to approve WCET’s 2014 workplan. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion. The workplan was approved.

Following some discussion about the unit reports, Chairman Hansen called for any further business and adjourned the meeting.
Overview
The WICHE Commission established a separate support fee of $15,000 annually for the Mental Health Program in 1976. At this time a Mental Health Oversight Council (MHOC) was established to serve as an advisory board for the program. Membership on the committee includes the mental health director from each member state, or the executive branch leader of publicly funded behavioral health-related services, as well as two WICHE commissioners. The addition of the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States necessitates the commission establish an equitable method to assess the support fee and invite behavioral health executive leadership participation on the MHOC.

Staff Recommendation
The equal distribution of state affiliation fees and representation has been a hallmark of the WICHE Commission and MHOC. Therefore, staff recommend the $15,000 mental health support fee be assessed and that the cost be shared equally among those U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states as they ratify the interstate compact and officially join WICHE. At this point only the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) has ratified and joined, and it has been assessed the full $15,000 support fee. It appears that Guam may ratify and join very soon. At that point Guam would be assessed $7,500 (50 percent of the annual support fee), and CNMI’s assessment would be reduced by the same amount.

For representation on the MHOC, staff recommends the representative be the chief executive branch leadership position responsible for public behavioral health services in the jurisdiction. We recommend a rotation of that representation yearly among the Pacific territories and freely associated states that have ratified/joined the WICHE Interstate Compact. Currently, only CNMI has been invited to participate.
ACTION ITEM
Approval of an Expanded Intergovernmental Agreement with the Hawai‘i Department of Education Support Efforts to Develop Professional Behavioral Health Capacity

Overview
The WICHE Mental Health Program (MHP) is working with the State of Hawai‘i to increase the behavioral health workforce. This activity began in 2006, when the MHP completed a behavioral health workforce analysis for the executive branch, which illuminated several areas of professional workforce maldistribution and shortages. In 2010 WICHE submitted a grant proposal on behalf of several state and nonprofit entities in Hawai‘i to explore the establishment of a psychology internship consortium. This proposal was funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. The result was the establishment of the Hawai‘i Psychology Internship Consortium, composed of the state’s Department of Health, Department of Education, and Department of Public Safety. Interns are WICHE employees, and are currently placed in training sites on Oahu and Hawai‘i (the Big Island). Kauai will open a training site in 2014.

Mental health services for children and families are a shared responsibility of the Department of Health and Department of Education (DOE). The Department of Education employs behavioral health professionals at the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral level throughout the K-12 system on all islands. Recruitment and retention of qualified staff are especially difficult on all islands except Oahu, and even more rural portions of Oahu experience difficulties. The Department of Education seeks to engage the WICHE Mental Health Program in an extensive project to assist them in meeting the existing demand and developing long-term professional workforce development strategies. This engagement will include a broad range of activities, including:

- Continued expansion of the Psychology Internship program and the potential to develop a DOE-specific internship program accredited by the American Psychological Association.
- The planning and development of a postdoctoral fellowship program in school-based behavioral health/psychology.
- Assistance in rapidly recruiting and employing an interim workforce to meet the unmet demand created with the existing shortages. These professionals would initially be employed by WICHE, and serve as a bridge for meeting needs until DOE employees can be developed, hired, and retained.
- Work with higher education entities in Hawai‘i to develop training/education partnerships to develop a workforce with the competencies to meet this unmet clinical need.

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends the commission authorize the MHP to engage in an intergovernmental agreement with the Hawai‘i DOE to support their efforts to develop professional behavioral health capacity.
INFORMATION ITEM
WCET Update

The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) is a national, nonprofit, membership-driven cooperative of colleges and universities, higher education agencies, and companies that share a commitment to improving the quality and the reach of online, hybrid, and distributed education. WCET tracks emerging postsecondary-learning technology trends and coordinates and enables the 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. WCET is nationally recognized as one of the most informative, reliable, and forward-thinking organizations regarding the role of technology and innovation in higher education.

Membership Services
WCET is still on course with a strong growth trend in institutional memberships from colleges and universities across the country. As a self-supported unit of WICHE, annual membership dues from institutions, nonprofit organizations, and corporate providers of educational technologies are a core component of WCET’s revenue base.

WCET has revised and updated its website to provide easier navigation to WCET’s growing library of short briefing documents, short informative videos, and other resources related to WCET’s four major focus areas: emerging technologies, managing e-learning, policy and regulations, and student success.

Through member-only email discussions, WCET’s popular Frontiers blog, and regular Twitter updates, educators from institutions with large as well as small online and distance education programs can readily tap into WCET’s network of e-learning experts. The number of member subscribers to the email discussion list has hit a record of more than 2,000 subscribers from across the country and in Canada.

WCET will celebrate its 25th annual meeting this year on November 13-15 in Denver. A few highlights for this silver anniversary member meeting include:

- Paul LeBlanc, president of Southern New Hampshire University, will kick off the meeting with his keynote presentation on competency-based education.

- Jane Hart, founder of the Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies, will use evidence from her very popular Top 100 Tools for Learning site to show how the social web is changing the way we are learning and what this means for both higher education and the workplace.

- The WCET Pioneers of the Edtech Frontier panel, which will feature Barbara Beno, Michael Goldstein, Sally Johnstone, David Lassner, and Ellen Wagner. Twenty-five years ago, they were considered visionaries for the use of telecommunications and educational technologies, working to expand access to higher education in the WICHE states through the creation of a regional cooperative, today known as WCET. This panel of WCET pioneers will reflect on what has changed, what remains the same, and what we need to consider in the next 25 years.

- The Academic Leadership Forum provides provosts, deans, and senior academic leaders with a peer-to-peer networking opportunity specifically designed for these institutional decision makers. The 2013 Academic Leadership Forum will host a discussion on institutional data readiness, trends in learning analytics, and preliminary findings on how institutions are maximizing student success with the right data. Karan Powell, provost, American Public University System, and Kara VanDam, provost, Kaplan University, serve as cochairs of the forum.

Badges, Competencies, and Alternative Certifications
WCET, Mozilla, Blackboard, and Sage Road Solutions hosted a massive open online course (MOOC) called “Badges: New Currency for Professional Credentials” on September 9-October 14, 2013. This MOOC explored the growing interest in using badge systems to document and certify skills and knowledge for competency-based learning, college completion, workplace development, and employment. Over 1,500 participants enrolled in the course. This MOOC was the first step in what is anticipated to be an ongoing WCET research and analysis priority. With demands for 24 million more high-value degrees and certificates in the postsecondary educational pipeline by 2025, badges are
anticipated to play an increasingly important role in this important conversation. Competency-based learning and alternative credentials will be the focus of WCET’s next leadership summit, scheduled for May 7-8, 2014, in Salt Lake City.

**Predictive Analytics Reporting Framework**

The Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework is a multi-institutional data collaborative that brings together two-year, four-year, public, proprietary, traditional, and progressive institutions to identify points of student loss and find effective interventions and practices to improve student retention in U.S. higher education. Current efforts focus on removing barriers to student success in online and blended programs. With 16 WCET member institutions, over 1.8 million anonymized student records, and more than 13.1 million institutionally de-identified course-level records, the PAR Framework offers educational stakeholders a unique lens for examining the dimensions of student success. PAR’s current funding from the Gates Foundation has been augmented through a project extension that is scheduled into 2015. PAR will announce the addition of new self-funding institutional partners in October 2013. We anticipate ongoing support from the Gates Foundation and are on track to submit new funding requests to the Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation, and the Sally Ride Foundation no later than December 2013.

**State Authorization Network: Year 3**

The State Authorization Network (SAN) is a membership service for those seeking to comply with state authorization regulations related to the provision of online and distance courses and programs. WCET provides training on the state regulations, access to experts, strategies on meeting state requirements, and maintains a community of practitioners among participants to share effective practices and latest developments. The State Authorization Network is based on the premise that expecting each institution to navigate authorization regulations in every state is highly inefficient. Working cooperatively, institutions can share the burden. Participation in SAN is an additional fee-for-service opportunity for WCET member institutions, systems, and consortia.

**WCET Research: Trends and Issues in Managing Online Education**

The Managing Online Education survey obtains data on the instructional, operational, and technology infrastructure of online operations in higher education. Using a series of focused surveys, we seek to learn about trends, issues, opportunities, and barriers to success related to management and operation of online and distance-learning programs in U.S. and Canadian postsecondary education.

**WCET Leadership Summits**

WCET leadership summits are single-issue, deep-dive discussions among higher education administrators who are considering the adoption of an emergent technology-related initiative. The summits are designed to provide these leaders with a checklist of the challenges, opportunities, and options for advancing such initiatives.

The 2013 leadership summit, “Living Under the Sword of Data,” explored the impact that big data is having on a broad range of issues, from online quality to student success, across the higher education ecosystem. In his keynote remarks, WICHE Commissioner Chris Bustamante shared how Rio Salado College uses data to track success, assess the situation, and make changes to improve retention to help more students reach achievement goals. A number of valuable resources, including presummit orientation materials on analytics strategy, capacity building and transformation, are available from WCET’s website.

The 2014 leadership summit will address competency-based learning and alternative credentials, building upon WCET’s collaborative MOOC, conducted in fall 2013 with Mozilla, Blackboard, and Sage Road Solutions. WICHE commissioners are invited to attend the May 7-8 summit to be held in Salt Lake City.

**Connecting Communities of Broadband and Learning Innovation**

Through WCET channels opportunities exist to bridge the expertise of e-learning and distance leaders with the technology innovators of broadband to bring more authentic and resource-rich learning into the physical classroom and the virtual classroom. WCET membership includes many leading universities that are active in the deployment of broadband networks. WCET serves as WICHE’s representative to the Northwest Academic Computing Consortium.