EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, August 3, 2009

Committee Members Present
Jane Nichols (NV), chair  
Roy Ogawa (HI), immediate past chair  
Marshall Lind (AK)  
Joel Sideman (AZ)  
David Skaggs (CO)  
Robert Kustra (ID)  
Dave Nething (ND)  
Carl Shaff (NV)  
James Hansen (SD)  
William Sederburg (UT)

Committee Members Absent
Diane Barrans (AK)  
Roberta Richards (HI)  
Robert Kustra (ID)  
Mary Sheehy Moe (MT)  
Patricia Sullivan (NM)  
Camille Preus (OR)  
Ann Daley (WA)  
Tom Buchanan (WY), vice chair  
Klaus Hanson (WY)

WICHE Staff Present
David Longanecker, president  
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission  
Demi Michelau, director of policy analysis, Policy Analysis and Research  
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer  
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services

Chair Jane Nichols called the meeting to order and asked Erin Barber to call roll. A quorum was confirmed.

ACTION ITEM  
Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2009

Chair Nichols asked for a motion on the approval of the Executive Committee teleconference minutes of May 18, 2009. Commissioner Nething MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. Commissioner Shaff seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Nichols asked if WICHE had received appointments for California commissioners. Longanecker updated the committee and told them that WICHE had not heard any further news from the Governor’s office in California about WICHE appointments. He was hopeful that appointments would be made by the November 2009 meeting.
Chair Nichols asked David Longanecker to walk the committee through the proposed agenda for the November 2009 commission meeting. Longanecker reviewed the meeting agenda with the committee. Longanecker told the committee that the meeting would focus on how the stabilization funding is impacting the West. There would be an assessment of where the West is and how WICHE can help states with current and/or new activities. Commissioner Shaff asked where in the agenda the committee reports would be given, and Longanecker said they would occur during the Committee of the Whole business session on the second day. Longanecker told the committee that the meeting would be held at the SHEPC offices and that there would be a reception and dinner at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) on Monday evening. Chair Nichols asked if a session on community colleges would fit into the agenda given the increased attention and national interest in this area. Longanecker thought a session on community colleges would be appropriate to add to the agenda. He agreed that it was an important topic given many of the new federal initiatives and since many foundations are placing a particular emphasis on community colleges. Commissioner Sederburg agreed that a session on community colleges would be good to add to the November agenda. Chair Nichols asked if there would be new commissioners attending the meeting. Longanecker responded that there could be up to seven new commissioners in attendance if WICHE receives appointments from California.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Proposed Projects**

Jere Mock gave the committee an overview of a proposed project that would evaluate college access and success programs, bring them to scale, and focus particularly on the most cost-effective models. The funding being requested from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is $2 million to $3 million per year for four years. Mock said some of the deliverables for the project would include a state policy inventory, policy briefs, and a web site. Longanecker said that funding from the Gates Foundation may be likely since the project would build on initiatives the foundation is interested in, particularly with its heavy focus on programs that can be taken to scale and are cost effective. Chair Nichols said the project sounded wonderful and noted that it would help keep staff at WICHE.

Mock also told the committee that a letter of intent had been sent to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation seeking funding to sustain the State Scholars Initiative. The funding being requested from the foundation is $1.3 million over three years. They hope to extend and expand the SSI program with the funding. Longanecker told the committee that there may be some federal money available for the SSI program, but until funding is received current SSI staff have been given their 3-month notice that their employment is ending.

Demi Michelau summarized the Innovative Strategies in Community Colleges for Working Adults and Displaced Workers project being funded through the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The funding being requested is $635,000 over three years. Michelau told the committee that the project would build on the Non-Traditional No More work that the policy unit has been doing and would create a consortium of the Western states while working in-depth with five states. Commissioner Hansen asked if the Department of Labor is involved in this project.
Longanecker explained that it is funded exclusively out of FIPSE. He mentioned that WICHE may collaborate with the Center for Urban Education out of the University of Southern California on a project currently under consideration by the Ford Foundation that would examine the workforce linkage. The committee decided to hold off on seeking action on the FIPSE project until notification of funding is received.

Longanecker gave the committee an update on the database work that he and Brian Prescott have been doing. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is considering extending their original grant in order to conduct a 4-state pilot project with Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Hawaii with the hope of eventually extending the database work to all 15 Western states. The RFP released by the federal government is due November 15 which allows more time to price out products, particularly from the National Student Clearinghouse, and develop more partnerships. Longanecker noted that multistate collaboration has become popular even at the federal level with the current RFP.

**Other Business**

Longanecker told the committee that Accounting was working on closing down fiscal year 2009 and that more budget information would be provided on the September 10 teleconference. Craig Milburn told the committee that auditors would be at WICHE the last two weeks in August. He also noted that dues were coming in early from a majority of the states. Longanecker told the committee that no major issues with the budget had been raised. He told them that many states were not paying their mental health dues, which is common during state budget crises. Commissioner Ogawa asked when the next Audit Committee meeting would be scheduled. Milburn said that it would probably be late September or early October.

Chair Nichols adjourned the meeting.