EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 18, 2009

Committee Members Present
Jane Nichols (NV), chair
Tom Buchanan (WY), vice chair
Roy Ogawa (HI), immediate past chair
Diane Barrans (AK)
Joel Sideman (AZ)
David Skaggs (CO)
Roberta Richards (HI)
Mike Rush (ID) for Robert Kustra
Mary Sheehy Moe (MT)
Dave Nething (ND)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Carl Shaff (NV)
Camille Preus (OR)
Tad Perry (SD)

Committee Members Absent
Robert Kustra (ID)
William Sederburg (UT)
Ann Daley (WA)

Staff Present
David Longanecker, WICHE president
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president

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 Teleconference Minutes of March 25, 2009

Chair Nichols asked for a motion on the approval of the Executive Committee teleconference minutes of March 25, 2009. Commissioner Skaggs MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE. Commissioner Barrans seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM
May 2009 Meeting Schedule

Chair Nichols asked David Longanecker to walk the committee through the agenda for the May 2009 commission meeting. Longanecker reviewed the meeting agenda with the committee.
OTHER BUSINESS (open session)

Chair Nichols asked the committee to discuss the schedule of upcoming commission meetings, particularly the meeting that is scheduled to take place in Hawaii in November 2010. She asked if there were concerns about perception among the states given the economic climate. Commissioner Barrans asked about the possibility of moving the Hawaii meeting to 2011. Longanecker said that it was important to include Hawaii in the meeting schedule since it is a WICHE state. He suggested that once we have commissioners from California it may make sense to switch the two meetings and have the November 2010 meeting in California and the May 2011 meeting in Hawaii. Commissioner Shaff supported keeping the meeting in Hawaii on the schedule since they are a member state of WICHE. Longanecker suggested that the meeting in Hawaii could possibly be problematic for elected officials. In terms of the Hawaii meeting’s effect on the budget, Longanecker believed airfare in general will be about $200-$300 more per person. He suggested that the committee look into switching the Hawaii and California meetings once California commissioners have been appointed. Commissioner Moe responded that it will be important to hold the meeting in Hawaii since it is on the schedule and is a part of WICHE. Commissioner Rush suggested that there may be significant discount on airfare to Hawaii due to the recession. Chair Nichols suggested that the committee hold off on any further decisions until California commissioners have been appointed.

The committee discussed how WICHE dues are integrated into their states’ budgets and Chair Nichols asked the committee if any of them felt strongly about not increasing WICHE dues for FY 2011 (the 4% increase would be from $125,000 to $130,000). Commissioner Perry asked what the impact on WICHE’s budget would be if the dues were not increased. Longanecker responded that the organization would lose one FTE. He said that he will continue to trim the budget and staff would not be receiving salary increases this spring, but eventually he will need to start cutting staff positions. Commissioner Ogawa asked what the impact has been on PSEP support. Longanecker responded that support typically goes down when there is a recession. Commissioner Nething asked what other membership organizations are doing and suggested that it would be helpful for the committee to know what other organizations are doing. Longanecker told the committee that the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) was not raising their dues. Commissioner Rush said that the state of Idaho was withdrawing their membership to the Education Commission of the States (ECS) and other membership organizations.

Commissioner Perry moved to DEFER THE FY 2011 DUES INCREASE FOR ONE YEAR. Commissioner Moe seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Barrans asked for clarification on what the deferment meant and if there would be a catch-up year. Longanecker thought that WICHE would retain the dues amount of $125,000 for FY 2011 and that the commission would then approve dues amounts for FY 2012 and 2013 at the May 2010 meeting. Commissioner Sideman suggested that Longanecker needs time to work through the budget to try and find other funds.

The committee went into the closed session to conduct its annual review of the performance of the President.