Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 9, 2010

Committee Members Present  
Tom Buchanan (WY), chair 
Joe Garcia (CO), vice chair  
Jane Nichols (NV), immediate past chair 
Diane Barrans (AK)  
Leah Bornstein (AZ)  
D. Rico Munn (CO)  
Roy Ogawa (HI)  
Mike Rush (ID)  
Clayton Christian for Sheila Stearns (MT)  
Dave Nething (ND)  
Camille Preus (OR)  
James Hansen (SD)  
Klaus Hanson (WY)  

Committee Members Absent  
Patricia Sullivan (NM)  
Carl Shaff (NV)  
William Sederburg (UT)  
Ann Daley (WA)  

WICHE Staff Members Present  
David Longanecker, president  
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president  
and to the commission  
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer  
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services  

Chair Tom Buchanan 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 17, 2010

Chair Buchanan asked for a motion on the approval of the Executive Committee teleconference minutes of May 17, 2010. Commissioner Nething moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2010 EXECUTIVE MEETING. Commissioners Hansen and Hanson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Action Item  
The Interstate Passport

Longanecker informed the committee that WICHE did not receive funding for the Western Scholars proposal which was presented as an action item at the May meeting. He explained that the Programs and Services unit is pursuing a grant through the Fund for Improving Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to create strategies and an “Interstate Passport” around issues of articulation and transfer. The idea for the project evolved out of the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (WACCAL) and the Western Academic Leadership Forum (WALF). Over the 3-year project period, WICHE will work with 30 institutions (both 2 year and 4 year) and will create an 18-member regional advisory board (Commissioner Viola Florez (NM) has agreed to serve as the WICHE representative). The proposal seeks
approximately $750,000 over 3 years which will support a full-time project director, a portion of salaries and benefits for two current WICHE employees, along with travel and meeting costs and 3 major initiatives per year. The first initiative will map general education core courses of the participating 2-year and 4-year institutions across the region to develop a way for students throughout the WICHE region to easily transfer general education core courses within those institutions. In addition, agreements will be established for students transferring from a 2-year institution into a 4-year institution to make the transition more seamless. Finally, the third initiative will look at the transfer of credit blocks for two program majors (Biology and Elementary Education).

Chair Buchanan asked for a motion and a second. Commissioner Bornstein moved TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD SUPPORT WICHE AS THE ADMINISTRATOR AND FISCAL AGENT FOR THE INTERSTATE PASSPORT INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION ACROSS THE WEST. Commissioner Nathing seconded the motion. Commissioner Hansen mentioned that South Dakota has 4 technical colleges that provide AAS degrees and no community colleges. He asked if they would be able to participate. Longanecker said that the genesis of the project came from the community colleges and specifically looking at the competencies of students coming out of community colleges. Commissioner Hanson asked if the project would expand to eventually include more disciplines besides education and biology. Mock said they hoped to receive further funding to expand the discipline areas. Longanecker said that elementary education was chosen because it is one of the largest fields and biology was chosen because it’s a STEM field. Commissioner Rush asked how institutions will be selected for the project. Mock said that participation would be voluntary and they would use their advisory board and the Western Academic Leadership Forum (WALF) to select the institutions. Commissioner Rush asked if they were looking for specific institutions or geographic locations and Mock said that they were not. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Action Item**

**Proposed Project to Partner in the National Research and Development Center on Postsecondary Education and Employment**

Longanecker gave an update on current projects underway in the Policy Analysis and Research unit. He told the committee that the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange project was officially approved and funded at $1.5 million dollars by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The staff have already begun their work with the 4 pilot states which include Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Longanecker mentioned that the proposal submitted to the Lumina Foundation for the continuation of the Non-traditional No More project has made it through the first round of cuts. If funded, the new project would seek to continue in-depth work with the states that were most successful in the first project and then begin work with a new cohort of states.

Longanecker explained to the committee that WICHE was invited to be a partner with the Learning Alliance at the University of Pennsylvania, the National Center for Higher Education Managements Systems (NCHEMS), and the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) to compete for the U.S. Department of Education’s proposed National Research and Development Center on Postsecondary
Education and Employment. While the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange project works with 4 pilot states on bringing their databases together, the project with the Learning Alliance and its partners would be more national in scope and would make state databases more national in scope as well. The project would include work with 20 states with the most advanced databases and would include the 4 pilot states. Chair Buchanan asked for a motion and second to approve the project. Commissioner Nething moved TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD SUPPORT WICHE AS THE ADMINISTRATOR AND FISCAL AGENT FOR THE NATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hanson asked if the project will track how students find employment. Longanecker said that it will and that it’s one reason why WICHE is an attractive partner because the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange project also tracks students all the way into the workforce. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Rush asked what the role of the University of Pennsylvania will be since WICHE would be the fiscal agent in the project. Longanecker said that they would be working with the Wharton School who will be doing much of the work as the principal investigators. The University of Pennsylvania has a very high indirect rate so they were more comfortable with WICHE’s rates and experience as a federal grantee.

Discussion Item
Proposed Location for the May 2011 Meeting

Longanecker told the committee that the WICHE Officers had discussed the location of the May 2011 commission meeting and decided to hold the meeting in San Francisco. By holding the meeting in San Francisco, Longanecker said that there may be a possibility to visit the Apollo Group’s Nexus Research and Policy Center.

Discussion Item
Preliminary Agenda for the November 2010 Meeting

Longanecker proposed that the theme for the November 2010 agenda be around student assessment and outcomes. There would be a lunch presentation but no dinner presentation, allowing commissioners and meeting guests to have dinner on their own in Boulder. The meeting would begin with a presentation on Utah’s Tuning Process—Utah is 1 of 3 states in the U.S. that is taking steps from the Bologna Process. This session would also look at the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities’ (NWCCU) new oversight cycle that is focused on quality assurance and student outcomes. Longanecker said that only 4 of the WICHE states are in the NWCCU but said it is an interesting model that they are adopting. The session on What’s Up at WICHE? would look at common core standards and what’s happening around this area in the west. SHEEO would likely be a presenter during this topic. Longanecker said that they were working on a proposed wrap-around event following the commission meeting that would focus on a more detailed conversation around common core standards.
Longanecker said that he would like to get a general idea from the committee about the topics proposed for the remaining sessions. He said that one of the possibilities for the lunch session would be to have a presentation on the Brookings Institute report “Mountain Megas: America’s Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper”. The report looks at the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the mountain states and how the areas will either be a solution or a problem for the country. Other session topics include the AAC&U Standard which is a significant part of the common core standards area; The Alliance which is an accumulation of organizations and institutions that look at what higher education’s approach is to education; accountability schemes such as AASC&U, ALCU, Transparency by Design and how student learning outcomes are built into accountability; looking into how the various assessments have changed and what new tools are being used. Commissioner Rush suggested the sessions be on AAC&U Standards, The Alliance, and assessments. Commissioner Nething said he was particularly interested in accountability as a legislator so he would be interested in a session on standards, followed by one on assessment. Chair Buchanan asked if Longanecker would be inviting speakers for each of the sessions and Longanecker said that he would and their availability might determine which sessions end up on the agenda. Longanecker also said that Carol Twig wasn’t mentioned in the list of session possibilities but she has been doing a lot of work on student outcomes. Longanecker said that he would go ahead and begin inviting speakers and would work to get someone from the Brookings Institute to come out for the lunch presentation.

**Discussion Item**

**Update on Dues Payments**

Longanecker reported that all dues have been paid except from Alaska and New Mexico. He said that it was an exceptional effort for most of the states to have paid by August.

**Other Business**

Longanecker reported that there have been quite a few changes in the commission since the May meeting. Commissioner Silva (CA) resigned in June as did Joel Sideman (AZ) following his retirement. Other new appointments include:

AK – Susan Anderson (replaces Patricia Heller)

- President, CIRI Foundation, Anchorage, AK

AK – James Johnsen (replaces Marshall Lind)

- Senior Vice President of Administration, Doyon, Limited, Fairbanks, AK

ID – M. Duane Nellis (replaces Arthur Vailas)

- President, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

MT – Sheila Stearns (replaces Mary Moe)
The committee was adjourned.