Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 7, 2010

Committee Members Present
Joe Garcia (CO), vice chair  
Jane Nichols (NV), immediate past chair  
D. Rico Munn (CO)  
Roy Ogawa (HI)  
Jessica Piper for Mike Rush (ID)  
Sheila Stearns (MT)  
Dave Nething (ND)  
Patricia Sullivan (NM)  
Camille Preus (OR)  
James Hansen (SD)  
David Buhler for William Sederburg (UT)  
Klaus Hanson (WY)

Committee Members Absent
Diane Barrans (AK)  
Leah Bornstein (AZ)  
Carl Shaff (NV)  
Tom Buchanan (WY), chair

WICHE Staff Members Present
David Longanecker, president  
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Policy Analysis and Research  
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer  
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, Policy Analysis and Research  
Margo Schultz, director, Student Exchange Programs  
Pat Shea, director, WICHE ICE and WALF

Acting in the Chair for Tom Buchanan who was on travel and could not participate in the meeting, Vice Chair Joe Garcia 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 August 9, 2010

Vice Chair Garcia asked for a motion on the approval of the Executive Committee teleconference minutes of August 9, 2010. Commissioner Nething moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE. Commissioner Hanson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion Item
Budget Update

Vice Chair Garcia asked Craig Milburn for an update on WICHE’s budget. Milburn explained to the committee that FY 2010 ended with $138,188 surplus and after reserve dedications were made $11,812 from the surplus was added to the undedicated reserves. Milburn said that there was not much data on the FY 2011 budget since it was early on in the fiscal year. Longanecker added that the organization
was still projecting a balanced budget for FY 2011. He also mentioned that the Legislative Advisory Council annual meeting might be funded out of a grant instead of out of the general fund budget. Both Vice Chair Garcia and Commissioner Nichols agreed that it would be good news if the $25,000 for the LAC meeting was funded from a grant instead of the general fund. Commissioner Nething added that considering the present state of the economy in many of the states, WICHE seems to be in an enviable position. Longanecker told the committee that there was growing concern among the staff over the salary freeze and said that so far the organization has only had to lay off one person in the Mental Health unit. He added that putting together the FY 2012 budget will likely be more challenging and might lead to more layoffs. Milburn told the committee that the auditors from Clifton Gunderson were on-site at WICHE for two weeks. So far the auditors have not had any concerns and Milburn expected to receive a draft of the audit report around the third week in September.

Discussion Item
Update on Projects

Longanecker noted that there was not a lot of new information on projects to give the committee since the August teleconference. He said that there were a number of proposals out for consideration. Longanecker also told the committee that WICHE did not receive funding from Lumina for an extension of the Non-traditional No More project. He said that they were in discussions with Lumina about other possibilities. WICHE had not yet received notification on the FIPSE proposal that was submitted last month for the Interstate Passport project. A proposal will be submitted on September 16 with the University of Pennsylvania on data systems that will dovetail with the current Gates grant. Longanecker said that WCET also has proposals out to Gates and Lumina for possible funding.

Discussion Item
Preliminary Agenda for the November 2010 Meeting

Longanecker told the committee that specific sessions were added to the agenda since the last conference call. Commissioner Sederburg will be presenting on work being done in Utah and Paul Lingenfelter will be joining a session to talk about the Common Core Standards. Longanecker said he was working on inviting the rest of the speakers including one for a session on the Collegiate Learning Assessment, along with speakers on accountability systems, and AAC&U’s work on standards and accountability. Longanecker told the committee that staff were still hoping to hold a wrap-around event following the commission meeting to go into more detail and specifics on the common core standards. He said that staff were planning to have a follow-up meeting with SHEEO to determine if it will be possible to hold the wrap-around. Commissioner Nething asked about the schedule of the wrap-around meeting and whether or not staff wanted to have commissioners present. Longanecker said that they would like to have commissioners attend, especially the higher education representatives, SHEEOs, and P-20 representatives. They are hoping to have 45-50 people in attendance. Vice Chair Garcia asked how commissioners will be notified and Longanecker said that it would depend on the logistics with SHEEO. He also mentioned that if any of the commissioners were interested in attending the wrap-around event they should let Longanecker know. Commissioner Nething and Vice Chair Garcia both expressed their
interest in attending the meeting. Commissioner Hanson asked for clarification on what the lunch session at the November meeting would be about. Longanecker said that it would be based on the Brookings Institute report “Mountain Megas: America's Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper” which looks at the growing areas in the mountain west and whether they will have the investments (higher education being one of them) necessary to sustain economic development.

**Discussion Item**

**Update on Dues Payments**

Longanecker reported that New Mexico is the only state outstanding on its dues payment. He said it likely wasn’t a problem but maybe an oversight. Commissioner Sullivan said that she would look into it. Commissioner Hanson asked if California had paid its dues and Longanecker said they were current on their dues except for the community college past due amount that he was presently working on with the California folks.

**Other Business**

Vice Chair Garcia called for other business. Longanecker told the committee that Erin Barber had been to San Francisco for hotel site visits for the May 2011 meeting. Barber reported that the two Marriott properties, likely the Stanford Court Renaissance, were the best possibilities for the location of the meeting. Vice Chair Garcia and Commissioner Nichols agreed that the Stanford Court would be a good location for the May 2011 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.