Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 18, 2011

Committee Members Present
Joe Garcia (CO), chair  
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT), vice chair  
Tom Buchanan (WY), immediate past chair  
Diane Barrans (AK)  
Leah Bornstein (AZ)  
Dianne Harrison (CA)  
D. Rico Munn (CO)  
Roy Ogawa (HI)  
Mike Rush (ID)  
Dave Nething (ND)  
Patricia Sullivan (NM)  
Jane Nichols for Carl Shaff (NV)  
Jim Hansen (SD)

Committee Members Absent
Sheila Stearns (MT)  
Camille Preus (OR)  
Don Bennett (WA)  
William Sederburg (UT)

Others Present
William Goetz (ND)

WICHE Staff Present
David Longanecker, president  
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis  
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer  
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services  
Pat Shea, director, WALF, WACCAL, and WICHE ICE

Chair Joe Garcia called the meeting to and asked Erin Barber to call roll. A quorum was confirmed.

Action Item  
Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2011

Chair Garcia asked for a motion to approve the Executive Committee teleconference minutes of May 16, 2011. Commissioner Nething moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion Item  
Update on WICHE’s Budget

Chair Garcia called on David Longanecker to discuss the WICHE budget. Longanecker reported that they were in the process of closing FY 2011 and no surprises were expected. He also noted that the organization was 18 days into FY 2012 and so far everything was going well with the budget. Longanecker informed the committee that at the time of the call, Alaska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and half of California (University of California) were the only states that had not yet paid their FY 2012 dues. He noted that the organization is further ahead in receiving dues payments compared to prior years.
Action Item
The Interstate Passport Initiative

Longanecker asked Jere Mock to discuss the action item on the Interstate Passport initiative. Mock told the committee that WICHE was presented with an opportunity from the Carnegie Corporation to submit a proposal for the interstate passport project. Programs and Services had submitted a proposal to FIPSE about a year ago for this project but it was not funded. Mock called on Pat Shea to talk about the project. Shea told the committee that the project originated from the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance), specifically from the difficulties their students were having when trying to transfer to 4-year institutions. Five states will be involved in the pilot phase of the project and include California, Hawaii, North Dakota, Oregon, and Utah. The project has three goals: provide data and research into the size and scope of the transfer problem; conduct a pilot project with the five states to establish block transfer agreements that have LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes; and identify institutional and state policy transfer issues that need to be researched in greater depth. Shea said the project will include an advisory board that will provide oversight for the project.

Chair Garcia asked if the staff know how many students are currently transferring in the five project states. Shea responded that it was one of the current research questions for the project to establish how many students are transferring and what kind of difficulties they might be having. She also noted that the five states were chosen because they are using Essential Learning Outcomes and have made progress into integrating their general education core. Mock noted that staff hoped to approach other foundations to be able to include additional states in the project over time. They hope that the project will eventually include all of the WICHE states.

Commissioner Harrison asked who would be representing California in the project. Shea responded that Jeff Spano from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office would be their representative. Harrison said that California State University was working with the community colleges under a legislative mandate to have seamless integration between the 2-year and 4-year institutions. However, she noted that they were receiving some resistance from the academic senate and have learned that the transfer agreements and curriculums need to involve the faculty in some way. She said that it would be helpful to have someone from the academic senate as part of the project. Mock noted that the California schools participating in the project will be CSU – Sacramento and Cosumnes River College.

Commissioner Nichols moved TO APPROVE THE ACTION REQUESTED TO SEEK, RECEIVE, AND EXPEND FUNDS TO SUPPORT WICHE AS THE ADMINISTRATOR AND FISCAL AGENT FOR THE INTERSTATE PASSPORT INITIATIVE. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion Item
Preliminary Agenda for the November Commission Meeting

Chair Garcia asked Longanecker to walk the committee through the preliminary agenda for the November meeting. Longanecker said the meeting would try to capitalize on what Hawaii has been actively involved in within higher education and WICHE. He hoped using local experts in Hawaii would reduce the cost of the meeting by limiting the number of outside speakers. Longanecker proposed not holding a new commissioner orientation in November. Currently, there are only three newly appointed commissioners and delaying their orientation would reduce some cost of the meeting in Hawaii. There were also meeting space constraints at Turtle Bay to consider and BYU-Hawaii wouldn’t be able to
accommodate the meeting because they are closed on Sundays. Chair Garcia expressed his support of postponing the orientation until the May 2012 meeting and felt that reducing costs of the Hawaii meeting is important. Vice Chair Beesley also expressed her support of this plan. Commissioner Barrans asked if there was something Longanecker could do to help the newly appointed commissioners get familiar with WICHE prior to attending their first meeting. Longanecker said that he would try to meet with them personally before the meeting. Commissioner Buchanan said that he would also support postponing the orientation and could work with Longanecker to meet with the new Wyoming commissioners before the November meeting. Commissioner Harrison noted that receiving the New Commissioner Handbook prior to her attending a meeting was very helpful.

Longanecker told the committee that transportation would be provided from Turtle Bay to the meeting facilities at BYU-Hawaii. In the proposed draft agenda for the meeting, the first plenary session would focus on major changes in governance that have occurred in California, Washington, and Oregon. The commission would then go to their committee meetings early on the first day of the meeting. For the lunch session, Longanecker proposed inviting Governor Abercrombie and M.R.C. Greenwood, president of the University of Hawaii, to talk about the Hawaii story. The second plenary session would focus on broadband in Hawaii and the Pacific. Longanecker proposed inviting David Lassner to be the speaker for this session since he’s one of the ultimate experts on this issue and Hawaii won the largest of the ARRA broadband grants. Guests would return to the hotel for a break in the afternoon before returning to campus for a luau and evening show at the Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC). The PCC is run almost entirely by students from BYU-H who are from the Polynesian islands. In the proposed agenda, the second day of the meeting would begin with the business session followed by What’s Up at WICHE? Longanecker asked for the committee’s input on choosing the topics for this session. The proposed topics were Mental Health’s work with the Annapolis Coalition on workforce development in the new SAMHSA/HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions, WCET’s Predictive Analytics Reporting Framework project, the Interstate Passport Initiative, and Hawaii’s work with the Multistate Data Exchange project. Commissioner Sullivan said the agenda promised a good meeting and voiced her support for hearing about the Multistate Data Exchange project. Commissioner Harrison offered support for WCET’s PAR Framework project and the Interstate Passport Initiative. Commissioner Nichols said that Longanecker would need to decide on this session. Longanecker noted that the last session of the meeting would focus on finance in higher education with Brian Prescott and Dennis Jones in the speaking roles for this session.

Commissioner Rush asked for clarification on what the importance is of having a session on broadband. Longanecker said that Lassner was the current chair of Educause, a member of WCET’s advisory board, and a board member on the Pacific Northwest Gigapop which is working to see how the regional network fits into the national framework. He is also very active with Internet2 and National Lambda Rail which brought broadband capabilities to the research universities and now is an integral part in connecting to libraries, schools, and health centers within communities. He can speak to what this process is like and how it has come about. Commissioner Rush suggested changing the title of the session to make it more clear and interesting.

Commissioner Barrans asked if there would be transportation back to the hotel after the meeting adjourns for those who are staying in Hawaii longer. Longanecker said that there would be transportation back to the hotel after the meeting adjourned.
Other Business

Chair Garcia asked for other business. Longanecker reported to the committee that WICHE was approved as a MOBIS contractor. One year ago, WICHE was approved as an ED-SAT contractor, which only included contracts from the Department of Education. As a MOBIS contractor, WICHE will be able to bid on contracts provided throughout all federal agencies.

Chair Garcia adjourned the teleconference.