Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 31, 2011

Committee Members Present  
Joe Garcia (CO), 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)  
Sheila Stearns (MT)  
Dave Nething (ND)  
Patricia Sullivan (NM)  
Carl Shaff (NV)  
Camille Preus (OR)  
Jim Hansen (SD)  
Don Bennett (WA)

Committee Members Absent  
William Sederburg (UT)  
Bonnie Jean Beesley (UT), vice chair

Others Present  
Clayton Christian (MT)  
José Garcia (NM)  
Sharon Hart, president, Northern Marianas College

WICHE Staff Present  
David Longanecker, president  
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president  
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services  
Brian Prescott, director of policy research  
Pat Shea, director, WICHE ICE, the Forum, and the Alliance

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 Teleconference Minutes of August 29, 2011

Chair Garcia asked for a motion to approve the Executive Committee teleconference minutes of August 29, 2011. Commissioner Nething moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 29, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion Item  
Presentation by Dr. Sharon Hart, President of Northern Marianas College

The committee heard a presentation from Dr. Sharon Hart, president of Northern Marianas College. Dr. Hart presented information on her institution and expressed interest in having the Northern Mariana Islands join WICHE in order to ensure access to higher education for their students through the student exchange programs. Northern Marianas College is accredited by WASC and offers associates degrees as well as one baccalaureate degree. The institution is a land-grant university with 1200 FTE and is the only higher education institution on the island. It provides $1 million in scholarships to students going to the US for higher education. They operate on a $102 million budget and receive $4 million from their
government. The committee discussed with Dr. Hart various possibilities, including forming a consortium with other neighboring islands. The biggest hurdle to joining WICHE for the islands is coming up with funding for WICHE dues. Northern Marianas College is part of the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council, along with institutions from Samoa, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Guam, Palau, and Hawaii. A consortium through PPSEC would allow the dues to be shared among several islands. There was interest among the committee members in pursuing further possibilities. Commissioner Nething suggested that WICHE staff explore how other organizations like NCSL and WGA handle membership with the islands to further the discussion.

Commissioner Buchanan, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented 3 candidates nominated for the 2012 vice chair position: Leah Bornstein (AZ), Tom Anderes (AZ), and Dianne Harrison (CA). The committee discussed how to handle the election and agreed that the candidates and those who nominated them should say a few words during the Committee of the Whole, and then states would give their vote to Commissioner Buchanan.

David Longanecker discussed the meeting schedule with the committee. The committee then went into its closed session to do an informal evaluation of David’s performance and 2011 travel.