

Executive Committee Meeting (Open/Closed)

Monday, May 21, 2007 – 7.30 - 8.30 am
Upper Glacier



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7.30 - 8.30 am [tab 1]
Upper Glacier

Executive Committee Meeting (Open and Closed Sessions)

Executive Committee Members:

Cam Preus-Braly, chair (OR)
Roy Ogawa (HI), vice chair
David Nething, immediate past chair (ND)

Diane Barrans (AK)
Joel Sideman (AZ)
Appointment pending (CA)
David Skaggs (CO)
Helene Sokugawa (HI)
Dwight Johnson (ID)
Ed Jasmin (MT)
Pam Kostelecky (ND)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Carl Shaff (NV)
James Sager (OR)
Tad Perry (SD)
Richard Kendell (UT)
Ann Daley (WA)
Klaus Hanson (WY)

Agenda (Open)



Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes of April 3, 2007

1-3

Report from the Mental Health Program

Discussion Item: May 2007 meeting schedule

Agenda (Closed)



FY 2007 evaluation of the executive director and adoption of performance objectives for FY 2008

1-5

Other*

*Please note: Article III of Bylaws states:

Section 7. Executive Sessions

Executive sessions of the commission may be held at the discretion of the chairman or at the request of any three commissioners present and voting. The executive director shall be present at all executive sessions. The chairman, with the approval of a majority of the commissioners present and voting, may invite other individuals to attend.

Section 8. Special Executive Sessions

Special executive sessions, limited to the members of the commission, shall be held only to consider the appointment, salary, or tenure of the Executive Director.

ACTION ITEM

Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes

April 3, 2007

Committee Members Present

Cam Preus-Braly (OR), chair
Roy Ogawa (HI), vice chair
Diane Barrans (AK)
Joel Sideman (AZ)
David Skaggs (CO)
Dwight Johnson (ID)
Ed Jasmin (MT)
Carl Shaff (NV)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Tad Perry (SD)
Richard Kendell (UT)
Tex Boggs for Klaus Hanson (WY)

Committee Members Absent

Helene Sokugawa (HI)
Pam Kostelecky (ND)
David Nething (ND), immediate past chair
James Sager (OR)
Klaus Hanson (WY)

Other Commissioners Present

Bill Hybl (CO)
Mary Sheehy Moe (MT)

Staff Present

David Longanecker, WICHE executive director
Jere Mock, senior program director, Programs and Services
Dolores Mize, director, Policy Analysis and Research
Sherri Artz Gilbert, administrative/budget coordinator, WCET

Executive Committee Session

Chair Preus-Braly asked Executive Director David Longanecker to conduct the roll call. He declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

ACTION ITEM

Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2007

Commissioner Shaff made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Perry, to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2007, MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The second agenda item for the meeting was review and discussion of the proposed agenda for the May 21-22, 2007, commission meeting in Whitefish, MT. Longanecker stated that the agenda for the May meeting had some time changes, but the activities and participants were the same as those presented at the February meeting. Commissioner Jasmin reported that it is likely Sheila Sterns will make the luncheon presentation on higher education in Montana. He also warned commissioners of construction delays affecting drive times to Whitefish from Bozeman and Missoula. Longanecker added there was a direct flight from Denver to Kalispell. Commissioner Jasmin suggested that flying to Kalispell was probably the best bet for commissioners; it is only a few miles from Whitefish, and there is a shuttle to transport folks to the meeting location.

The third agenda item for the meeting was to review and discuss progress to date on both the FY 2007 budget and the draft FY 2008 budget. Longanecker stated there were two major changes to the two budgets from the version reviewed at the February Executive Committee meeting. First, he moved some funds around so Dolores Mize could get a running start as the new director of Policy Analysis and Research. This is not a new line item, just reallocating funds.

Second, he would like to add a line item for a new WICHE effort, tentatively called *Science, Technology, and Innovation*, to be headed by Louis Fox. Activity within this area would complement Fox's work with WCET but would focus on the Western states. Longanecker requested \$40,000 for the remainder of this fiscal year and, prospectively, \$80,000 for next fiscal year. This is to cover half of Fox's salary and half of another staff member's salary, essentially 1 FTE. Longanecker explained that in the past, the commissioners voted to exclude WCET from the general fund. He is not interested in changing this policy; these funds would be for the *Science, Technology, and Innovation* effort of WICHE, directly focusing on the West. He asked for action now because by May, it would too close the end of the fiscal year to spend the funds.

VICE CHAIR OGAWA MADE A MOTION, WHICH WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIDEMAN. The motion was approved without opposition.

Sideman asked if raises were built into the budget. Longanecker stated that 3.5% was included for merit raises. In the past he has also requested 0.5% for bonuses. Sideman suggested having a recommendation for Longanecker's raise ready for consideration. Chair Preus-Braly indicated that the officers had discussed the compensation for senior officers, including the executive director, at their retreat in February and that they would be prepared to address this issue at the May commission meeting.

Longanecker added that a few years ago, the commission approved a bonus structure for WCET and Mental Health to use non-general fund revenues for bonuses. He would like to extend this to the other units and possibly include administrative service staff.

The fourth agenda item presented a number of possible areas that staff may suggest as additions to or replacements in the workplan, which will be presented for consideration and adoption or amendment at the May commission meeting. These may include a greater focus on each of the following areas:

- Within the accountability theme: Efforts will be made to examine how WICHE can assist states and institutions to develop policies and measures regarding student-learning outcomes and technology.
- Within the finance theme: Although Lumina Foundation did not accept our original proposal, staff believes there are some areas in which we can continue to work with Lumina, especially on issues around the foundation's new efforts to examine ways to increase productivity in higher education. In particular, Lumina is contemplating \$150,000 grants to "willing states" to examine major reform efforts and has indicated there may be a role for regional compacts in assisting with these projects.
- Within the technology and innovation theme: Longanecker will certainly request support for a new effort, called *Science, Technology, and Innovation*, as mentioned previously in the budget discussion. Louis Fox will lead this effort at the staff level.
- Within the workforce development theme: We will likely want to begin discussions with the Ford Foundation about possibly extending our current effort but will also likely seek approval to begin a major focus on connecting higher education and workforce development around health and allied health professions.

Longanecker indicated that the access agenda would remain critically important, even though new efforts have not yet been identified in this area. He indicated that this has been a very significant area of emphasis for Dolores Mize throughout her career, and he expected that she will bring some very creative ideas before the commission.

He also indicated that he may suggest adding an additional theme, related to internationalizing higher education in the West.

Prior to opening this agenda item for discussion, Chair Preus-Braly indicated that she had to leave the meeting for another compelling obligation and transferred the chair to Vice Chair Ogawa. Ogawa opened the agenda item for discussion.

Commissioner Shaff asked for an update on the issue about changing pharmacy from a Group B to a Group A field in the Professional Student Exchange Program. Jere Mock described the discussion about this that had occurred at the November commission meeting and indicated that the staff would recommend action on this at the May meeting, recognizing that not all states, most particularly Nevada, necessarily support this change.

Longanecker mentioned that non-Western states are beginning to actively market PSEP-like contract opportunities in the West. Nebraska is the most active state doing so. He also mentioned that the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) model of providing clinical components to educational exchange programs works well. He indicated that Jere Mock and her staff have been examining whether this would be a good addition to WICHE's programs, though they have discovered it won't work in all locations; for example, Colorado law currently prohibits such actions.

Vice Chair Ogawa asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion for adjournment. Commissioner Shaff moved and Commissioner Barrans seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.