Executive Committee Meeting (Open and Closed Sessions)

Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA), chair
Patricia Sullivan (NM), vice chair
Mike Rush (SD), immediate past chair

Diane Barrans (AK)
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Dianne Harrison (CA)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Sharon Hart (CNMI)
David Lassner (HI)
Tony Fernandez (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Vance Farrow (NV)
Barbara Damron (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
James Hansen (SD)
Dave Buhler (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Karla Leach (WY)

Agenda (Open)

Approval of the March 23, 2016, Executive Committee teleconference minutes

Discussion Items:

May 2016 meeting schedule
Update on leadership transition
Update on IT audit
Proposal to move dates of the 2017 WICHE Commission meetings

Other business

Agenda (Closed)

Discussion Items

Other business
*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 president 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 president.
ACTION ITEM
Executive Committee Teleconference Minutes
Tuesday, March 23, 2016

Committee Members Present
Mike Rush (SD), immediate past chair
Diane Barrans (AK)
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Dianne Harrison (CA)
Sharon Hart (CNMI)
Colleen Sathre on behalf of David Lassner (HI)
Tony Fernandez (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Vance Farrow (NV)
Barbara Damron (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Cam Preus (OR)
Dave Buhler (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)

Committee Members Absent
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Patricia Sullivan (NM), vice chair
Jim Hansen (SD)
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA), chair
Karla Leach (WY)

Others Present
Joe Garcia, Colorado Lieutenant Governor, and executive director, Colorado Department of Higher Education

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

Past Chair Mike Rush called the meeting to order. He asked Erin Barber to call roll. A quorum was confirmed.

ACTION ITEM
Approval of the February 17, 2016, Executive Committee Teleconference Minutes

Commissioner Bennett MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 17, 2016, TELECONFERENCE MINUTES. Commissioner Christian seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM
FY 2016 and FY 2017 Budget Updates

David Longanecker reviewed the FY 2016 budget with the committee. He noted the projected surplus of $218,885. With several months still left in the fiscal year, Longanecker thought the surplus amount would be lower by the end of the fiscal year. The budget for FY 2017 is balanced and includes a proposed 3 percent salary increase and a modest proposed increase in WICHE dues. Longanecker noted that at the end of FY 2016 and after the building is paid off, there will be $2 million in reserves. Most of the reserves are dedicated and include the items approved on the February 17 committee teleconference. The Mental Health Program paid back half of its debt to WICHE in FY 2015. Its budget is projected to pay back the final half of the debt at the end of FY 2016. Commissioner Harrison asked how the Mental Health Program has funded the debt pay-back. Longanecker said the program, which is funded by contracts, has worked to ensure the contracts now cover actual costs of the work plus enough to repay the debt. Commissioner Rush noted the cost of the WICHE Presidential search only totaled $57,668 and thanked those involved in the search.

DISCUSSION ITEM
SARA Update

Longanecker reported that the approval of Hawai‘i into SARA will be on the agenda at the May commission meeting. Utah is working to have its application submitted in time for approval at the May meeting, but may not have enough
time to meet the deadline. If Utah isn’t approved at the May meeting, a special teleconference will be held in the summer to approve it into SARA. Longanecker said there is no movement in California on SARA. He also noted a recent article in the New York Times arguing against New York joining SARA. Longanecker believes there is a misunderstanding of what SARA is, particularly among consumer protection advocates, and a misguided perception that SARA is the answer to all problems, both at the federal and state levels. There has been concern about NC-SARA separating from WICHE and becoming its own entity. Longanecker said each regional compact is still running its own regional SARA and NC-SARA acts as the coordinating organization.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Preliminary Agenda for the May 16-17, 2016, WICHE Commission Meeting

Longanecker noted speakers who have confirmed for the plenary sessions at the May meeting. He also mentioned that the new president of the University of Wyoming, Laurie Nichols, will give welcoming remarks on the first day of the meeting. The meeting will include action items for approval of WICHE dues, PSEP fees, a salary increase for staff, and the workplan. Commissioner Bennett noted an error on U.S. Senator Alan Simpson’s title, and Erin Barber will make the correction for the agenda book.

DISCUSSION ITEM
Draft of the FY 2017 Workplan

The workplan will be considered and discussed during the committee meetings at the May commission meeting. Longanecker noted that there are no major changes to the workplan due to the upcoming leadership transition. Commissioner Rush asked about the IT review. Longanecker said WICHE hired Bross Group and the review is underway. Joe Garcia noted that Bross Group came highly recommended, and the IT review itself is costing less than anticipated, but there will likely be implementation costs associated with their recommendations.

Other Business

Longanecker discussed his recent travels with the committee. He talked about the Consortium of North American Higher Education (CONAHEC) and mentioned that more U.S institutions (notably several in the West) have joined CONAHEC in the last year.

Hearing no other business, Rush called for adjournment of the meeting. It was so moved and accepted and the meeting was adjourned.