Self-funded Units Committee Meeting

Monday, November 10, 2014
10:45 am – Noon
Cellar Management, Room 201
WICHE Commission Meeting

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Cellar Management, room 201

Self-funded Units Committee Meeting

Jim Hansen (SD), chair
Jim Johnsen (AK), vice chair

Committee vice chair (AK)
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Linda Thor (CA)
Jude Hofschneider (CNMI)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Francisco Hernandez (HI)
Mike Rush (ID)
Dick Anderson (MT)
TBD (NV)
Mark Moores (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Committee chair (SD)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Frank Galey (WY)

Agenda

Presiding: Jim Hansen, chair

Staff:
Mike Abbiatti, incoming executive director, WCET
Mollie McGill, interim co-executive director, WCET
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health
Russell Poulin, interim co-executive director, WCET

Action Item
Approval of the May 12, 2014 Self-funded Units Committee meeting minutes 6-3

Information Item – Mental Health Program

Mental Health Program Update:

Budget Update
Program Update

Information Item – WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies

WCET Update: 6-5

WCET’s new incoming executive director and plans for moving forward
Highlights on membership, budget, staff, and member resources

Federal issues potentially impacting online/distance education

Upcoming events: Annual Meeting, November 19-21, 2014, Portland; Leadership Summit, June 3-4, 2015, Santa Fe

Update on SAN

Update on PAR

Other updates

Other business

Adjournment
ACTION ITEM
Self-funded Units Committee Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2014

Committee Members Present
Jim Johnsen, (AK), committee vice chair
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Linda Thor (CA)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Jude Hofschneider (CNMI)
Mike Rush (ID)
Mark Moores (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Don Bennett (WA)

Commissioner Jim Johnsen called the meeting to order.

Committee Members Absent
Jim Hansen (SD), chair
Francisco Hernandez (HI)
Dick Anderson (MT)
Vance Farrow (NV)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Frank Galey (WY)

Staff Present
Mollie McGill, interim co-executive director, WCET
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for behavioral health
Russ Poulin, interim co-executive director, WCET

ACTION ITEM
Approval of the Self-Funded Units Committee Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2013

A motion TO APPROVE THE SELF-FUNDED UNITS COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM November 11, 2013, was made by Commissioner Bennett and seconded by Commissioner Rush. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Mental Health Program Update

Dennis Mohatt provided the following program updates.

The Mental Health Program currently has 8 FTE staff. Chuck McGee will retire in August 2014. Chuck has been with the program leading its assessment and analytical work since 1997.

The Psychology Internship Development initiative continues to be very successful and is growing across the WICHE West. Internships are operational in AK and HI. New programs will begin development in Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon in FY15.

A new research partnership with the Veteran’s Administration Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers (MIRECC) at the Denver VA has been developed. A joint proposal to develop tools to better meet the psychological health needs of Veterans in community clinics has been invited to be submitted by the VA Office of Rural Health. When funded this will provide over $150,000 per/year to WICHE for our activities in the project.

The Mental Health Program will end FY14 with $1.9 million in generated revenue, but likely will book a negative fund balance of $140,000. Revenue projections for FY15 are $2.9 million. The negative fund balance for FY14 is primarily the result of contractual delays created by sequestration in federal funding, and project delays due to leadership changes in states.

Commissioner Moores moved TO APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM’S 2015 WORKPLAN. Commissioner Holmberg seconded the motion. The workplan was approved.

WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) Update

Mollie McGill and Russ Poulin provided the following program updates.
WCET is a tremendous resource for its more than 330 member institutions, non-profits, and companies. WCET’s communications, working groups, resources, and events address a wide range of e-learning challenges that face our colleges and universities. It’s important to note that WCET has members across the U.S. and in Canada. WCET is staffed with 5.5 FTE.

Poulin reported on recent federal IPEDS survey data that indicates that one out of eight postsecondary students is taking all of their courses at a distance. Of those students taking all of their courses online, nearly 50 percent are enrolled in public institutions.

WCET has work underway that addresses at least three timely and important issues on the higher education e-learning landscape:
   a. Competency-based education, credit for prior learning, and alternative credentials such as badges;
   b. Building institutional readiness for data analytics; and
   c. Keeping its members informed of federal policies that may impact e-learning.

The PAR Framework initiative is scheduled to become its own 501(c)(3) non-profit in January 2015.

The WICHE president will initiate soon the recruitment process for a permanent executive director of WCET. Staff look forward to having a full-time executive director.

WCET is projected to conclude this fiscal year with a positive fund balance of $53,000.

Commissioner Thor moved TO APPROVE WCET’s 2015 WORKPLAN. Commissioner Moores seconded the motion. The workplan was approved.

Commissioner Johnsen adjourned the meeting.
The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) is a national, non-profit, membership-driven cooperative of colleges and universities, higher education agencies, and companies that share a commitment to improving the quality and the reach of online and hybrid education. WCET tracks emerging postsecondary learning technology trends and coordinates and enables the exchange of information, resources, and services among our members. WCET’s mission is to accelerate the adoption of effective practices and policies, advancing excellence in technology-enhanced teaching and learning in higher education. WCET is nationally recognized as one of the most informative, reliable, and forward-thinking organizations regarding the role of technology and innovation in higher education.

**Membership Services**

WCET’s membership has been on course with a strong growth trend in institutional memberships from colleges and universities across the country. As a self-supported unit of WICHE, annual membership dues from institutions, non-profit organizations, and corporate providers of educational technologies are a core component of WCET’s revenue base.

Through member-only email discussions, WCET’s popular *Frontiers* blog, and regular Twitter updates, educators from institutions with large as well as small online and distance education programs can readily tap into WCET’s network of e-learning experts. WCET has a strong voice in social media channels related to technology in higher education. Below are the number of subscribers and followers to WCET’s news and information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Subscribers/Followers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:wcetnews@wcet.wiche.edu">wcetnews@wcet.wiche.edu</a></td>
<td>2,681 subscribers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:wcetdiscuss@wcet.wiche.edu">wcetdiscuss@wcet.wiche.edu</a></td>
<td>2,386 subscribers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@wcet_info</td>
<td>2,868 Twitter followers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontiers blog</td>
<td>813 subscribers; up to 25,000 views on hot topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>380 “like” WCET</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*WCET’s Common Interest Groups (CIGs)* are collections of members who have like interests and come together to share information and work cooperatively around some unifying issue. WCET is supporting the following CIGs in 2014: Academic Integrity and Student Authentication, e-Learning Consortia, Student Success in Online Learning, and the Academic Leadership Forum.

**Recent Events**

**WCET Leadership Summit: Designing Alternative Pathways to Credentials**, May 7-8, 2014, Salt Lake City. WCET’s Leadership Summits are designed to facilitate deep and thoughtful discussions on a targeted set of issues in higher education. WCET’s third Leadership Summit addressed competency-based education, the renewed growing interest in credit for prior learning, and emerging alternatives for credentialing including digital badges. The program featured leaders from national higher education policy organizations and executives from some of the new and promising competency-based education programs that recently launched. The summit was attended by approximately 150 people and attracted some modest sponsorship support from higher education technology companies. (wcet.wiche.edu/connect/summits)

**WCET Boot Camp: Building Institutional Readiness for Data Analytics**, June 17-20, 2014, Vail, Colorado. WCET’s boot camp was designed for institutions that have some familiarity of the power of data analytics in higher education, but want to build their capacity for analytics. Institutions were encouraged to send small teams representing institutional research, IT, academic affairs, and student success. Consultants and subject matter experts guided the institutional teams to develop a roadmap for a campus-wide analytics initiative upon their return to campus. (wcet.wiche.edu/connect/bootcamp)
**Monthly Webcasts.** WCET staff have developed a highly efficient and effective model for producing informative webcasts. Examples of recent webcast topics include: Law and Disorder: Revision of the Laws Affected by the Internet, Lessons Learned with Institutional Data Analytics, The Upcoming Higher Education Act Reauthorization: Why the e-Learning Community Should Pay Attention; and Big Audacious Conversation About Competency-Based Education. Archives are viewable at WCET’s YouTube channel.

**Upcoming Event**

**26th Annual Meeting.** November 19-21, 2014, Portland, Oregon. WCET’s silver anniversary annual meeting last November was a sold out event. Reviewers gave high ratings of the in-depth sessions on MOOCs, competency-based education, mobile apps, and emerging technologies, as well as the value of the overall discussions and networking. Keynote presenters for the 2014 Annual Meeting include Nancy Zimpher, chancellor of the SUNY System, and Anya Kamenetz, lead education writer for NPR. Indepth sessions will cover analytics, student success, and competency-based education, in addition to a full program of session presentations by members and staff.

**Federal Policy Watch**

Russ Poulin, interim co-executive director of WCET, was appointed by the U.S. Department of Education as the distance education representative for the negotiated rulemaking sessions to review proposed regulations concerning program integrity and improvement issues for Federal Student Aid programs. Marshall Hill, executive director of SARA, is his alternate on the committee.

Also at the federal level, WCET continues to serve as a resource to Congressman Jared Polis (CO) and Congresswoman Kristi Noem (SD) who are the co-chairs of the U.S. Congressional Caucus on eLearning.

**Project Updates**

**State Authorization Network (SAN) Year 4**

SAN kicked off its fourth year of operation in April 2014, with 46 members representing systems, consortia, or individual institutions. SAN is a national membership service for those seeking to comply with state authorization regulations related to the provision of online and distance courses and programs. WCET provides training on the state regulations, access to experts, strategies on meeting state requirements, and maintains a community of practitioners among participants to share effective practices and latest developments. Participation in SAN is an additional fee-for-service opportunity for WCET member institutions, systems, and consortia. (wcet.wiche.edu/advance/state-approval)

**Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework**

The PAR Framework is a collaborative, multi-institutional effort that brings together institutions from all sectors to collaborate on identifying points of student loss. PAR is focused on using predictive analytics to improve student success for all students, with a focus on online and blended programs. Deliverables include flexible predictive models, openly published common data definitions, and a student success matrix that links predictions with interventions and student supports, making predictions actionable. The PAR Framework has been supported by grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. PAR is scheduled to become an independent 501 (c) 3 organization before the end of 2014. The state of North Carolina has approved Articles of Incorporation for PAR Framework, Inc. (wcet.wiche.edu/par)

**Badges, Competencies and Alternative Certifications**

WCET, Mozilla, Blackboard, and Sage Road Solutions hosted a MOOC (massive open online course), Badges: New Currency for Professional Credentials, last fall. This MOOC explored the growing interest in using badge systems to document and certify skills and knowledge for competency based learning, college completion, workplace development and employment. WCET has a collaborative relationship with the new Badge Alliance and, where appropriate, will assist with dissemination. Access to the full library of badge-related video presentations is available from WCET’s YouTube channel.