Committee of the Whole
Call to Order

Monday, May 11, 2015
9:30 – 10:00 am
Columbia Ballroom
Monday, May 11, 2015

9:30 - 10:00 am
Columbia Ballroom

Committee of the Whole – Call to Order

Call to order: Mike Rush, WICHE chair

Welcome

Introduction of new commissioners and guests 2-3

Action Item

Approval of the November 10-11, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes 2-4

Report of the chair

Report of the president

Recess until May 12, 2015, at 8:15 am
New Commissioners

Barbara Damron is the cabinet secretary for the New Mexico Higher Education Department. Previously, Damron was an associate professor at the University of New Mexico’s college of nursing and school of medicine since 2009. She developed and was director of the Office of Community Partnerships and Cancer Health Disparities at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center (the only NCI-designated cancer center in NM), and served as a scientific member in the population sciences and cancer control research program. Damron was a 2012-2014 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Institute of Medicine Health Policy Fellow and a 2012-2013 American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. She worked in Washington, D.C., on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP). Her portfolio included the Affordable Care Act, mental health issues, compounding pharmacies, and the health care exchanges/marketplace. Damron holds a B.S. in nursing from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, an M.S. in nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, and a Ph.D. in educational psychology with a concentration in social, development, and personality psychology from the University of Texas in Austin.

Pat Williams was elected to the Montana House of Representatives from Silver Bow County in 1966, winning re-election in 1968. He was elected to represent Montana in Congress for nine terms, from 1979 to 1997 – more consecutive terms in the U.S. House than anyone in Montana’s history. Over the course of his tenure, Williams served on the budget, natural resources, education and labor, and agriculture committees. He chaired the committees on postsecondary education and labor management, driving landmark legislation like The College Middle Income Assistance Act. As a deputy whip of the U.S. House of Representatives, he had legislative process jurisdiction over the many congressional bills affecting workplace legislation, including sponsorship of the first piece of legislation signed into law by President Clinton: The Family and Medical Leave Act. Upon retiring from Congress, Williams returned home to Montana where he continued his career as a faculty member at the University of Montana in Missoula, teaching courses in environmental studies, history, and political science. He lives in Missoula with his wife, former Montana Senate Majority Leader Carol Williams.
ACTION ITEM
Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Session I: Call to Order
Monday, November 12, 2014

Commissioners Present
Dianne Harrison (CA), chair
Mike Rush (ID), vice chair
Leah Bornstein (AZ), immediate past chair
Diane Barrans (AK)
Jim Johnsen (AK)
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Linda Thor (CA)
Joe Garcia (CO)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Sharon Hart (CNMI)
Joshua Sasamoto (CNMI)
Carol Mon Lee (HI)
Steven Wheelwright (HI)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Franke Wilmer (MT)
Vance Farrow (NV)
Vic Redding (NV)
José García (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Kari Reichert (ND)
Larry Skogen (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Hilda Rosselli (OR)
Robert Burns (SD)
James Hansen (SD)
Dave Buhler (UT)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA)
Karla Leach (WY)
Frank Galey (WY)

Commissioners Absent
Susan Anderson (AK)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Jude Hofschneider (CNMI)
Francisco Hernandez (HI)
Tony Fernandez (ID)
Wendy Horman (ID)
Dick Anderson (MT)
Mark Moores (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Ryan Deckert (OR)
Jack Warner (SD)
Dan Campbell (UT)
Larry Seaquist (WA)
Sam Krone (WY)

Guests/Speakers
Emma Beck, finance analyst, Colorado Department of Higher Education
Steve Jordan, president, Metropolitan State University of Denver
Joseph Steiner, dean, College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming

WICHE Staff
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission
Peace Bransberger, senior research analyst, Policy Analysis and Research
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Nathaan Demers, research assistant, WICHE Mental Health Program
Laura Ewing, administrative manager, Policy Analysis and Research
Carl Krueger, project coordinator, Policy Analysis and Research
Patrick Lane, project manager, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president, WICHE
John Lopez, director, W-SARA
Mollie McGill, interim co-executive director, WCET
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Policy Analysis and Research
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer, WICHE
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for Behavioral Health
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, Policy Analysis and Research
Sarah Ross, senior program and research associate, WICHE Mental Health Program
Pat Shea, director, Academic Leadership Initiatives, Programs and Services
Chair Dianne Harrison called the meeting to order and welcomed the commissioners to the meeting. She called on Steve Jordan, president of Metropolitan State University of Denver, who also welcomed the commission to Denver and gave an overview of the hotel and hospitality program and the Auraria Higher Education Center.

Chair Harrison introduced newly appointed commissioners:

- Wendy Horman, Idaho
- Kari Reichert, North Dakota

Chair Harrison announced commissioners whose terms are expiring: Patricia Sullivan (NM) and Peter Knudson (UT).

### Action Item

**Approval of the May 12-13, 2014, Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes and the August 13, 2014, Committee of the Whole teleconference minutes**

Vice Chair Rush moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 12-13, 2014 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES AND THE AUGUST 13, 2014 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TELECONFERENCE MINUTES. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Report of the Nominating Committee

Chair Harrison called on Commissioner Bornstein for the report of the nominating committee. Members of the 2014 nominating committee included Diane Barrans (AK), Christopher Cabaldon (CA), and Leah Bornstein (AZ). The nominating committee considered all of the nominations received for 2015 vice chair. They recommend Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA) as the incoming 2015 vice chair of WICHE. Jeanne was vetted prior to the nomination and indicated she is honored and ready to serve WICHE as vice chair. The nominating committee recommended the following for the 2015 WICHE Officers: Mike Rush (ID), 2015 chair; Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA), 2015 vice chair and 2016 chair-elect; and Dianne Harrison (CA), 2015 immediate past chair.

### Report of the Chair

In her report of the chair, Chair Harrison noted that WICHE had received payment for the $87,000 past due amount from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office in June. In August, the Committee of the Whole was convened via teleconference to approve Montana to join W-SARA. And finally, a nominating committee was formed to solicit nominations for the 2015 WICHE Officers.

### Report of the President

Chair Harrison called on David Longanecker for the report of the president. Longanecker gave updates on staff and introduced Mike Abbiatti, incoming executive director of WCET, and John Lopez, director of W-SARA. He noted that WICHE is over 50 employees now, which has created new reporting requirements. There are many new staff members coming on, including a new half time employee in HR to help with the heavy workload in that department. Longanecker shared new grant funding that has been received since the May meeting, including the expansion of the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange, the Interstate Passport, and additional funding for SARA. He also noted that the Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework is very close to receiving its 501(c)3 designation and would be separating from WICHE at that time. NC-SARA is also working towards its 501(c)3 designation. SARA will become self-supporting in the next fiscal year. Longanecker gave an update on the vendor compliance issue in Hawai’i and thanked the HI commissioners for their work on this issue. Commissioner Cabaldon expressed a need for more conversation around governance when NC-SARA becomes independent. Longanecker said he would invite Marshall Hill, executive director of NC-SARA, to the May meeting to discuss this issue further.

The Committee of the Whole went into recess until Tuesday, November 13, 2014.
ACTION ITEM
Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Session II: Business Session
Tuesday, November 13, 2014

Commissioners Present
Dianne Harrison (CA), chair
Mike Rush (ID), vice chair
Leah Bornstein (AZ), immediate past chair

Diane Barrans (AK)
Jim Johnsen (AK)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Linda Thor (CA)
Joe Garcia (CO)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Sharon Hart (CNMI)
Carol Mon Lee (HI)
Wendy Horman (ID)
Franke Wilmer (MT)
Vance Farrow (NV)
Vic Redding (NV)
José García (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Kari Reichert (ND)
Larry Skogen (ND)
Hilda Rosselli (OR)
Robert Burns (SD)
James Hansen (SD)
Dave Buehler (UT)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA)
Frank Galey (WY)

Mark Moores (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Ryan Deckert (OR)
Camille Preus (OR)
Jack Warner (SD)
Dan Campbell (UT)
Larry Seaquist (WA)
Sam Krone (WY)
Karla Leach (WY)

Guests/Speakers
Emma Beck, finance analyst, Colorado Department of Higher Education
Joseph Steiner, dean, College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming

WICHE Staff Present
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Laura Ewing, administrative manager, Policy Analysis and Research
Carl Krueger, project coordinator, Policy Analysis and Research
Patrick Lane, project manager, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president, WICHE
John Lopez, director, W-SARA
Mollie McGill, interim co-executive director, WCET
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Policy Analysis and Research
Craig Milburn, chief financial officer, WICHE
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services
Dennis Mohatt, vice president for Behavioral Health
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, Policy Analysis and Research
Pat Shea, director, Academic Leadership Initiatives, Programs and Services

Commissioners Absent
Susan Anderson (AK)
Jude Hofschneider (CNMI)
Joshua Sasamoto (CNMI)
Francisco Hernandez (HI)
Steven Wheelwright (HI)
Tony Fernandez (ID)
Dick Anderson (MT)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Chair Dianne Harrison called the meeting to order.

**Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Harrison gave a report of the Executive Committee. She reported that David Longanecker updated the committee on the revised agenda for the meeting. Several of the sessions changed due to lack of speaker availability because of a meeting President Obama called at the White House yesterday. The Executive Committee also reviewed a compensation survey presented by Longanecker. At the May meeting in Santa Fe, the committee asked Longanecker to survey organizations similar to WICHE, such as SHEEO, NCHEMS, ECS, and the other regional compacts, for their compensation information at multiple levels to see how salaries compare to WICHE. The committee heard from Longanecker that it is getting increasingly more difficult to recruit and maintain staff at the vice president level. At the mid-level or director level, WICHE salaries are reasonably comparable to the other organizations surveyed. Longanecker asked for support from the committee to start looking more closely at how to adjust salaries at the vice president level and to also make an adjustment to the executive assistant’s salary. He noted that in 2016, the building will be paid off, which will free up resources and will be a logical time to review salaries at WICHE, including at the presidential level. The committee had an in-depth discussion about WICHE’s current salary structure and pay grades. WICHE faces unique compensation challenges because the organization operates in both the non-profit sector where compensation is modest and within the higher education sector where compensation is much more robust. The committee asked David to do another survey of compensation for the 2015 May meeting that will band jobs together and compare them to the appropriate labor market. For example, grouping positions in HR, Accounting, IT and looking at the local labor market in the Boulder/Denver area for compensation information; and then grouping positions at the vice president and director levels that are more likely to draw from the higher education pool nationwide. The committee agreed that having the information presented formally this way will help them provide Longanecker with a process and authority to make salary adjustments within the appropriate ranges as needed when WICHE is hiring.

**Report of the Programs and Services Committee**

Chair Harrison called on Commissioner Sullivan for the report of the Programs and Services Committee. The committee heard an update on Student Exchange Program developments and issues for the 2014-15 academic year. She reported that student participation in the Professional Student Exchange Program is static and WUE participation for 2014 experienced only a small increase. WRGP is also projected to experience a modest increase in 2014. WICHE staff are seeking nominations from graduate programs in the high-need areas including robotics, bioengineering, big data, disaster/emergency management, biometrics and homeland security, emerging media, and gerontology.

The committee heard an update on phase I and II of the Interstate Passport Initiative. Phase II of the project recently began in October of this year with $2.8 million in grant funds ($1.6 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and $1.2 from Lumina Foundation). Institutions in seven WICHE states will develop the learning outcomes and proficiency criteria for six additional content areas involving the physical and natural sciences, creative arts and humanities, intercultural knowledge (social science and history), information literacy, teamwork and problem solving, and critical thinking. The seven WICHE states involved in the two-year Phase II project include: CA, HI, ND, OR, SD, UT, and WY.

An update was given on three cost savings initiatives that WICHE partners with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact to offer in the West. The Master Property Program is a property insurance and risk management program that MHEC created and that WICHE has offered to higher education institutions since 2004. Eight of the WICHE states have institutions that are members of this consortium, including AZ, CO, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA and WY. MHECare is a student health insurance program. Twenty-one campuses in our region are currently offering MHECare insurance to their students. MHECtech provides cost saving purchasing options for technology products and services offered by several vendors. State, county, and municipal governments, school districts, and education-related nonprofit organizations are eligible to purchase off the MHECtech competitively bid contracts.

Finally, the committee was given a guided tour of the recently redesigned WICHE website.

**Report of the Issue Analysis and Research Committee**

Chair Harrison called on Commissioner Jeanne Kohl-Welles for the report of the Issue Analysis and Research (IAR) Committee. Kohl-Welles reported that the committee discussed the upcoming release of three reports: the 2014 Tuition and Fees and Benchmarks reports and a Policy Insight summarizing activity during the 2014 legislative sessions in the West.

The committee heard updates on the expansion of the Multistate Longitudinal Exchange (MLDE) project. The main focus of the expansion is to recruit the additional states (including some from outside of the West), of which ten are needed by
the time the new data sharing process goes live in summer 2016. Staff is working on how to collaborate effectively with the other regional compacts on this project so the long-term governance is helped along right from the beginning.

Kohl-Welles reported that in July, WICHE was granted a $75,000 grant from the Gates Foundation to bring together key leaders from nearly every state in the WICHE region and three Midwestern states representing K-12 and higher education to identify and find solutions to challenges related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and assessments and students moving across state lines to enter postsecondary education. The meeting was held in October and yielded many important insights that are intended to form the basis for a future project to be funded externally. A publication highlighting the themes and insights will be written and disseminated in January.

The committee heard updates on potential partnerships with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) on Prior Learning Assessment and IBM on economic and workforce development strategies. Finally, Kohl-Welles reported that at the May 2014 Committee meeting, the IAR Committee requested that staff conduct a short survey to help determine how to involve and engage the IAR Committee more effectively with the activity in the Policy unit. The IAR committee suggested that staff disseminate a similar survey to the entire commission in cooperation with the president and other staff. Commissioner Rosselli commented it was a well-designed survey and could be a good tool to use with the whole commission.

**Report of the Self-funded Units Committee**

Chair Harrison called on Commissioner Hansen for the report of the Self-funded Units Committee. Hansen reported that Dennis Mohatt and David Longanecker reviewed the Mental Health Program’s financial performance in FY 2014, and explained the steps being taken to address the negative fund balance generated for the fiscal year. The program will repay to WICHE reserves the amount required to balance the FY 2014 budget. Longanecker and Mohatt assured the subcommittee they are providing close monitoring of the unit budget and fiscal performance. The program is looking very fiscally sound for FY 2015. Mohatt provided a program update on the Psychology Internship Initiative and the creation of a 2 + 2 baccalaureate degree in social work between the University of Alaska - Fairbanks and Northern Marianas College.

Hansen reported that Longanecker introduced Mike Abbiatti, the newly appointed executive director for WCET and WICHE vice president for educational technologies. Abbiatti will join WICHE in early January. An update was provided on WCET membership, budget, and programs. Finally, the Predictive Analytics Framework, known as PAR, is scheduled to become its own independent entity at the end of 2014.

**Report of the Legislative Advisory Committee Annual Meeting**

Chair Harrison called on Commissioner Kohl-Welles to give the report on the Legislative Advisory Committee annual meeting. She gave a brief overview of the LAC, its members, and funding. The LAC meets annually, and the 2014 Annual Meeting of the LAC was held September 9-10, 2014, in Phoenix, AZ. This year’s meeting was titled, “Striking the Balance: College Affordability, Cost, and Quality” and featured national experts speaking on a variety of pertinent topics, including legislative trends in the West, state authorization, data and student privacy, common academic standards and assessments, the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, college affordability, community colleges offering four-year degrees, and more. The meeting was well-attended and the evaluations of the meeting were positive. More information on the LAC and the meetings are posted on the WICHE website.

**Action Item**

**Approval of Three States into the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement**

Longanecker called on John Lopez, director of W-SARA, to present the action item. Lopez reported that the W-SARA Steering Committee met on October 20 to review applications from Arizona, Oregon, and South Dakota. Arizona created a SARA Council to function as the state portal agency. A formal intergovernmental agreement was created between the Arizona Board of Regents, the Maricopa County Community College District, and the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education. Arizona’s final application satisfied all NC-SARA and W-SARA requirements. Oregon’s application to W-SARA brought some complexity because of the structural and staffing changes taking place within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. However, the state’s application benefited from a diligent regulatory structure already in place. The W-SARA steering committee approved Oregon’s application on a conditional basis. The committee felt a need to see more clarity around a plan for student records and teacher policies. Lopez reported that the final draft of Oregon’s application was submitted on November 6 and was SARA compliant. Finally, Lopez reported that South Dakota’s application process was straightforward because they made a statutory change allowing the Board of Regents to act as the portal agency. There were discussions with South Dakota around the timeframe for students to
submit complaints. Lopez said he recommends the three states for the commission’s approval. COMMISSIONER HANSEN MOVED TO APPROVE ARIZONA, OREGON, AND SOUTH DAKOTA INTO THE WICHE STATE AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT. Commissioner Rosselli seconded the motion. Commissioner Bustamante thanked his fellow Arizona commissioners for coming up with a creative process to bring the entities together in the state. He also thanked the staff for their support. Longanecker noted that it has been a privilege to have Lopez on the staff. At the end of the calendar year, 18 states will have joined SARA. Commissioner Skogen commented on Russ Poulin’s work with SARA and appreciated his balanced approach. Longanecker agreed and mentioned the State Authorization Network has been an excellent resource for institutions to stay connected around SARA issues. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Discussion Item**

**Update on WICHE’s Budget**

Chair Harrison called on Longanecker and Craig Milburn for an update on WICHE’s budget. Milburn reported that FY 2014 was projected to end with a $969 surplus. At the close of the fiscal year, the budget actually ended with a surplus of $198,000. There are $1.7 million in reserves at the beginning of the year. A portion of those are dedicated, so at the end of FY 2014 $15,000 was added to the reserves. The FY 2015 budget was presented and Milburn said the new fiscal year is off to a good start and they aren’t seeing any surprises. He noted that the Executive Committee reviews the budget during each of its calls in-between commission meetings and watches it closely. Longanecker commented that he is unsure if the budget is in a position where he can give staff salaries. WICHE has received several grants, but it is unclear if enough indirects from these grants would support salary increases. Commissioner Joe Garcia asked when the building would be paid off. Milburn said one loan would be paid off at the end of FY 2015 and the second loan would be paid off at the end of FY 2016. Commissioner Garcia asked if this will allow for more resources to go to staff salaries. Longanecker said it would but they want to lower the rent amount but not eliminate it entirely. He said they are working with the auditors to determine the best course of action on this. Longanecker said paying off the building will change the budget picture substantially.

**Action Item**

**Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Immediate Past Chair as Officers of the WICHE Commission for 2015**

Chair Harrison asked for a motion to elect the 2015 officers. COMMISSIONER CABALDON MOVED TO APPROVE MIKE RUSH (ID) AS THE 2015 CHAIR, JEANNE KOHL-WELLES AS 2015 VICE CHAIR AND 2016 CHAIR-ELECT, AND DIANNE HARRISON AS 2015 IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR. Commissioner Barrans seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Harrison gave remarks as the outgoing chair. She said she has learned a lot as chair and as a commissioner. She has learned about higher education in greater depth and has appreciated the opportunity to hear about current content and analysis in the west and nationally and has used the information in her work in California. She thanked Longanecker for his expertise and leadership and said she has been well-served by his experience and history.

Vice Chair Rush gave remarks as the incoming chair. He noted that the commission is at a critical juncture in higher education. There is a call to compete in the global marketplace, expand access, improve results, and target critical needs, all with little money. Rush commented that the commission has the opportunity to influence the federal prerogatives, but that will only be done if they can share their expertise and resources with one another. He remarked that he has appreciated his fellow officers and other leaders on the commission.

Longanecker presented Chair Harrison with a small gift of gratitude from the staff. He commented that he has appreciated working with Dianne and the ways that she always made herself available despite a very hectic schedule when Longanecker has needed her advice and counsel.

Chair Harrison reminded commissioners to fill out the online meeting evaluation and to also let Erin Barber know about their 2015 committee assignments. Longanecker reminded the committee that the next meeting would take place at Hotel Alyeska on May 11-12, 2015. Commissioner Lee asked if there was a need to give formal action to the Executive Committee to serve as a governmental advisory group as WICHE looks to define its positions with regard to reauthorization. Longanecker said it wasn’t necessary since the Executive Committee is given authority to act on behalf of the full commission in the bylaws. The meeting was adjourned.