Monday, May 16, 2016

9:30 - 10:00 am
Salon CD

Committee of the Whole – Call to Order

Call to order: Jeanne Kohl-Welles, WICHE chair

Welcome: Laurie Nichols, president, University of Wyoming

Introduction of new commissioners and guests 2-3

Action Item
Approval of the November 2-3, 2015, Committee of the Whole meeting minutes 2-4

Report of the chair

Report of the president

Recess until May 17, 2016, at 8:15 am
New Commissioners

**Gerry Pollet** is vice chair of the Washington State House of Representatives Higher Education Committee, and also serves on the Education and Finance Committees. He is a faculty member in the Community Oriented Public Health Program at the University of Washington’s School of Public Health and is also the executive director of Heart of America Northwest, a 16,000-member citizens group widely known as the Northwest's largest citizens’ watchdog group for the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Pollet also serves as executive director and general counsel for Legal Advocates of Washington, which provides legal advice to nonprofit organizations on open government and hazardous waste issues, and offers numerous graduate, law, and undergraduate internships. Pollet has a J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law, and has twice been named the Legislator of the Year by the Washington Student Association and once by the UW Graduate and Professional Student Senate.

**Colleen Sathre** is vice president emeritus, planning and policy, University of Hawai‘i system, where she served for 27 years. The UH system encompasses all of public higher education in Hawai‘i. She managed multiple strategic planning, mission formulation, and tuition-setting cycles; had oversight responsibility for institutional research; prepared Board of Regents and executive academic policies and analytical studies; developed benchmark/performance indicators linked to planning goals; and initiated the reorganization of the University’s information technology and computing resources, the establishment of neighbor island University Centers, and course/degree articulation across the system. Since retirement she has engaged in volunteer work and, with Kenneth P. Mortimer (president emeritus, University of Hawai‘i), published in 2007 *The Art and Politics of Academic Governance*, The American Council on Higher Education Series (currently published in partnership with Rowman & Littlefield). She holds a B.A. in history from the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Minnesota.
ACTION ITEM
Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Session I: Call to Order
Monday, November 2, 2015

Commissioners Present
Mike Rush (SD), chair
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA), vice chair
Dianne Harrison (CA), immediate past chair

Susan Anderson (AK)
Diane Barrans (AK)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Sharon Hart (CNMI)
David Lassner (HI)
Carol Mon Lee (HI)
Tony Fernandez (ID)
Matt Freeman (ID)
Wendy Hornman (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Pat Williams (MT)
Franke Wilmer (MT)
Vance Farrow (NV)
Fred Lokken (NV)
Vic Redding (NV)
Barbara Damron (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Kari Reichert (ND)
Mark Hagerott (ND)
Ryan Deckert (OR)
Hilda Rosselli (OR)
James Hansen (SD)
Dave Buhler (UT)
Peter Knudson (UT)
Frank Galey (WY)
Karla Leach (WY)

Commissioners Absent
Jim Johnsen (AK)
Jude Hofschneider (CNMI)
Joshua Sasamoto (CNMI)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Mark Moores (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Camille Preus (OR)
Robert Burns (SD)
Patricia Jones (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Gerry Pollet (WA)
Sam Krone (WY)

Guests/Speakers
Tad Perry, WICHE search consultant and former WICHE commissioner

WICHE Staff
Mike Abbiatti, WICHE vice president for educational technologies and WCET executive director
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
Kay Hulstrom, administrative manager, Programs and Services
Patrick Lane, project manager, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president, WICHE
John Lopez, director, W-SARA
Mollie McGill, director of programs and membership, 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
Christina Sedney, project coordinator, Policy Analysis and Research
Pat Shea, director, Academic Leadership Initiatives, Programs and Services
Chair Mike Rush called the meeting to order and welcomed the commissioners, guests, and staff to the meeting. He introduced newly appointed commissioners:

- Matt Freeman, Idaho
- Mark Hagerott, North Dakota
- Patricia Jones, Utah
- David Lassner, Hawai‘i
- Fred Lokken, Nevada
- Gerry Pollett, Washington (not in attendance)

**Action Item**

**Approval of the May 11-12, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Chair Rush asked for discussion and changes to the May 11-12, 2015, Committee of the Whole meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as written.

**Report of the Chair**

Chair Rush gave an overview of the presidential search process. He reported the WICHE Officers began work on the search after the May commission meeting. They selected a search committee and, with guidance from the Executive Committee, put out an RFP to hire an external search consultant to help lead the process. Tad Perry, former executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents and former WICHE commissioner, was hired. The position was advertised in August and numerous applications were received from well-qualified candidates. With Perry’s help, the search committee narrowed the pool down to five semi-finalists who were interviewed on October 13. The semi-finalists were narrowed down to two finalists who were interviewed on November 1 by members of the selection committee and the Executive Committee. Chair Rush thanked members of the WICHE Selection Committee for their time and effort throughout this process. He also thanked Perry for his time, expertise, and effort throughout the selection process.

**Report of the President**

Chair Rush called on David Longanecker for the report of the president. Longanecker gave updates on staff changes that have occurred within the organization since the last commission meeting. He mentioned Brian Prescott, director of policy research, was leaving WICHE to join the staff of the Association for Institutional Research. Longanecker gave an update on major initiatives underway in each of the units, including an update on the First in the World grant for the Interstate Passport. He gave an update on SARA, including NC-SARA’s recent 501(c)(3) status and the completion of a unified SARA agreement that combines the four regional agreements into one document. Longanecker asked if there were any questions or comments regarding his update, and hearing none returned the floor to Chair Rush.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Chair Rush called on Dianne Harrison to give the report of the Nominating Committee for the officer positions within WICHE. This year’s Nominating Committee members included Eileen Klein (AZ), Dianne Harrison (CA), and Dene Thomas (CO). Harrison reported that the committee received many nominations from the commission, and they recommended the following slate of officers for 2016: Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA), chair; Patricia Sullivan (NM), vice chair; and Mike Rush (SD), immediate past chair.

The Committee of the Whole went into recess.


ACTION ITEM
Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Session II: Business Session
Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Commissioners Present
Mike Rush (SD), chair
Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA), vice chair
Dianne Harrison (CA), immediate past chair

Susan Anderson (AK)
Diane Barrans (AK)
Chris Bustamante (AZ)
Eileen Klein (AZ)
Christopher Cabaldon (CA)
Loretta Martinez (CO)
Sharon Hart (CNMI)
David Lassner (HI)
Carol Mon Lee (HI)
Tony Fernandez (ID)
Matt Freeman (ID)
Wendy Hornan (ID)
Clayton Christian (MT)
Pat Williams (MT)
Franke Wilmer (MT)
Vance Farrow (NV)
Fred Lokken (NV)
Vic Redding (NV)
Barbara Damron (NM)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Kari Reichert (ND)
Mark Hagerott (ND)
Hilda Rosselli (OR)
James Hansen (SD)
Dave Buhler (UT)
Frank Galey (WY)
Karla Leach (WY)

Commissioners Absent
Jim Johnsen (AK)
Jude Hofschneider (CNMI)
Joshua Sasamoto (CNMI)
Dene Thomas (CO)
Mark Moores (NM)
Ray Holmberg (ND)
Ryan Deckert (OR)
Camille Preus (OR)
Robert Burns (SD)
Patricia Jones (UT)

Peter Knudson (UT)
Don Bennett (WA)
Gerry Pollet (WA)
Sam Krone (WY)

Guests/Speakers
Tad Perry, WICHE search consultant and former WICHE commissioner

WICHE Staff Present
Mike Abbiatti, WICHE vice president for educational technologies and WCET executive director
Erin Barber, executive assistant to the president and to the commission
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Ken Cole, director of operations, Mental Health Program
Nathaan Demers, behavioral health research and technical assistance associate, Mental Health Program
Laura Ewing, administrative manager, Policy Analysis and Research
Tara Hickey, director of human resources
Kay Hulstrom, administrative manager, Programs and Services
Sarah Leibrandt, project coordinator, Policy Analysis and Research
David Longanecker, president, WICHE
John Lopez, director, W-SARA
Mollie McGill, director of programs and membership, 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
Russ Poulin, director of policy analysis, WCET
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, Policy Analysis and Research
Christina Sedney, project coordinator, Policy Analysis and Research
Pat Shea, director, Academic Leadership Initiatives, Programs and Services
Amanda Strickland, behavioral health research and technical assistance associate, Mental Health Program
Chair Mike Rush called the meeting to order.

Report of the Programs and Services Committee
Chair Rush called on committee chair Patricia Sullivan for the report of the Programs and Services Committee. The committee heard updates on the Student Exchange Programs, an overview of the First in the World Grant, and a presentation on the institutional challenges associated with the Affordable Care Act regulations. The committee discussed a request for approval of the University of Utah School of Dentistry’s early participation in WICHE’s Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) prior to receiving its full accreditation. Commissioner Sullivan moved to APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY’S REQUEST FOR EARLY PARTICIPATION IN PSEP. Commissioner Christian seconded the motion. Commissioner Anderson asked about the liability WICHE assumes if the school does not receive full accreditation. Margo Colalancia responded that there is a teach-out provision, which protects the students and enables them to pass the boards and practice if the school fails to receive accreditation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Audit Committee
Chair Rush called on WICHE Vice Chair Jeanne Kohl-Welles for the report of the Audit Committee. She reported that the committee met via teleconference on October 27 to hear a presentation of the FY 2015 audited financial statement from Cheryl Wallace with Rubin Brown. The auditors spent several weeks on-site at WICHE and their review resulted in an unqualified opinion that the financial statements represent fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of WICHE. They stressed that this is a “clean audit” with no findings or adverse opinion and they had no disagreements with staff. After Wallace’s presentation, the committee met privately with the auditors for discussion and then privately with the staff. The committee recommends that the commission approve the FY 2015 audited financial statement. The committee discussed retaining Rubin Brown for another year. Given the upcoming leadership transition at WICHE, the committee and staff agreed that it would make sense to seek another engagement letter with Rubin Brown.

Kohl-Welles reported that David Longanecker introduced a discussion of how best to reflect accounts receivable in the budget material presented to the commission. In the past, accounts receivable have essentially been invisible to the commission, having been floated within reserves and future obligated funds on hand. As the amount being carried increases, however, Longanecker believes that the commission should be more aware of the amount of accounts receivable being carried by the organization and that it should be reflected in the budget provided to the commission. He will be recommending in the future that a portion of reserves be dedicated to assure sufficient coverage of this float. The committee members indicated agreement with this plan.

Kohl-Welles moved TO APPROVE THE FY 2015 AUDIT REPORT. Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Issue Analysis and Research Committee
Committee chair Christopher Cabaldon reported that the committee heard an update on the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange (MLDE). The committee had a rich discussion on data exchange and the surrounding policy issues and challenges. Cabaldon reported that funding is coming in for the next edition of Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates. Finally, he reported the release of several publications including Benchmarks: WICHE Region 2015, Policy Insights: Targeted Recovery: Recapping 2015 Higher Education Legislative Activity in the West, and Tuition and Fees.

Report of the Self-funded Units Committee
Committee chair Jim Hansen reported that the committee heard updates from WCET and a proposal for the creation of a commission committee that would be focused solely on technology. WCET staff is working on an emergency preparedness project with SREB. The committee received a budget briefing on WCET finances. Finally, WCET reviewed upcoming meetings and activities. The committee also heard an update on the Mental Health Program. Hansen reported the budget ended with a surplus of $250,000 and is projected to end the current fiscal year with another surplus. The Mental Health Oversight Council recently met in Boulder. Commissioner Hansen moved TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER VANCE FARROW (NV) AND EILEEN KLEIN (AZ) TO SERVE AS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OVERSIGHT COUNCIL. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Legislative Advisory Committee Annual Meeting
WICHE vice chair Jeanne Kohl-Welles gave a summary of the purpose and history of the Legislative Advisory Committee. The LAC’s annual meeting was held in September in Portland, OR. There was strong attendance and participation at the meeting. Kohl-Welles noted the agenda and presentations are posted on the WICHE website.
Discussion Item
Update on WICHE's Budget

Chair Rush called on David Longanecker for an update on WICHE’s budget. Longanecker reported the FY 2015 general fund budget ended with a surplus of approximately $400,000 due to an increase in revenues from grants and contracts. The FY 2016 budget projects a $25,000 surplus, but Longanecker said recent salary adjustments given to staff in September (approved by the Executive Committee) have depleted that surplus. He noted reserves are strong but will be reduced at the end of FY 2016 when the final payment is made on the loan for the building. Longanecker discussed the plan to begin showing a portion of the reserves dedicated to the float of accounts receivables as discussed during the recent Audit Committee meeting. The business model for the Mental Health Program operates under contracts and bill-for-service resulting in an increase in accounts receivables that are not reflected on the current budget worksheets presented to the commission, but they will be going forward. Craig Milburn also noted that the FY 2015 audit report showed $1.4 million in accounts receivable at the end of the year, which was an increase of $800,000 over last year, and agreed it was necessary to dedicate a portion of the reserves for the float of accounts receivables. Longanecker noted the Mental Health Program is well on its way to paying back the deficit owed to WICHE. WCET is projected to run a surplus in FY 2016. Both self-funded units are building up their reserve requirements and will hopefully meet those by the end of the fiscal year.

Action Item

Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Immediate Past Chair as Officers of the WICHE Commission for 2016

Commissioner Harrison moved TO APPROVE JEANNE KOHL-WELLES (WA) AS 2016 CHAIR, PATRICIA SULLIVAN (NM) AS 2016 VICE CHAIR AND 2017 CHAIR-ELECT, AND MIKE RUSH (SD) AS 2016 IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR. Commissioner Klein seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action Item

Approval of the Finalist for the Position of WICHE President

Chair Rush gave a report on the presidential search process and presented the details of the appointment letter for WICHE’s new president. Commissioner Harrison moved TO APPOINT JOE GARCIA AS PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION TO FINALIZE THE APPOINTMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS IN THE APPOINTMENT LETTER. Commissioner Damron seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rush gave remarks as the outgoing WICHE chair. He noted that members of the commission are agents to make improvements in the lives of others and encouraged them to take the time and have the courage to make a difference in the lives of students. Commissioner Cabaldon saluted Rush’s leadership over the past year and thanked him for his integrity, warmth, sense of humor, and the tremendous amount of work he has done as chair.

Incoming WICHE Chair Jeanne Kohl-Welles agreed with Cabaldon’s remarks on Rush’s leadership and also expressed her thanks. She noted that she is excited to be assuming the role of chair during the year when Joe Garcia will be taking over as president of WICHE.

Other Business

Commissioners were reminded to send their 2016 committee selections to Erin Barber. Commissioner Galey said the Wyoming commissioners were looking forward to hosting the May 2016 meeting in Laramie, WY. David Longanecker thanked Chair Rush for his leadership and service to the commission.

The Committee of the Whole was adjourned.