



***Nevada Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact
Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (Nevada WICHE)***

Commission Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2020
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Fred Lokken: Executive Commissioner, Nevada WICHE
Dr. Gillian Barclay: Nevada WICHE Commissioner
Dr. Thom Reilly: Nevada WICHE Commissioner
David Gardner: Senior Deputy Attorney General
Jennifer Ouellette: Nevada WICHE Director

Guests: None

- 1. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order. This meeting was posted in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 241, Nevada's Open Meeting Law (OML).
- 2. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 3. Discussion, recommendations, and action, regarding the minutes from the October 23, 2019; January 28, 2020; April 21, 2020; and May 6, 2020 Commission meetings.** Director Ouellette explained there is a backlog of meeting minutes; only the minutes from the October 23, 2019, and January 28, 2020, meetings were ready. Commissioner Reilly made a motion to accept the January 28, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barclay. Commissioner Lokken called for the vote. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Barclay then made a motion to accept the October 23, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reilly. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Student Requests.** Director Ouellette introduced Mary Beck and asked that Ms. Beck present her request before the Commission. Ms. Beck explained she received funding from the Nevada office for her optometry studies which she completed in 2000. She was unable to return to Nevada after graduation and her grant was converted to a loan. She indicated she has been paying back the loan over the last 20 years, is now moving back to Nevada and

requested the Commission forgive the remaining balance on her account of approximately \$13,000. Director Ouellette added that Ms. Beck has paid her loan faithfully and has stayed in touch with the Nevada office over the past 20 years. Director Ouellette stated that Ms. Beck's original request was to re-enter the service requirement. Senior Deputy Attorney General David Gardner advised the Commission could not approve a restoration of the service requirement, but they could forgive the loan balance. Commissioner Reilly made a motion to forgive the remaining amount of the loan to Ms. Beck of approximately \$13,000. Commissioner Barclay seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Commissioner Lokken called for the vote. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Update on Health Care Access Program (HCAP) / Health Profession Education Program (HPEP) slots for the 2019-2020 Academic Year.** Director Ouellette explained that Nevada WICHE had a balance forward of student-derived revenue of \$41,000 in FY 2020 which allowed the office to fund seven additional social work students during the 2019-2020 academic year under the HCAP/HPEP. She summarized meetings with the Deans of Social Work at UNLV and UNR and thanked Commissioner Reilly for the introductions. The program received approximately 50 social work applications in the spring, and the quality of the applicant pool was much improved over prior years. Many applicants were already working for non-profit or government organizations. Commissioner Reilly asked if the newly funded students were in private or non-profit work. Director Ouellette stated that all new social work students funded this year were already working in non-profit or governmental organizations and was really pleased with how this particular field was progressing.
- 6. Update on approved budget cuts for FY 2021 due to COVID public health crisis.** Director Ouellette summarized the budget reductions approved during the special session. In the administrative budget, the Accountant Technician position would be held vacant. The program budget was reduced by \$180,000. Funding was eliminated for eight new PSEP students beginning their studies in AY 2020-2021: four veterinary medicine slots, two occupational therapy slots and two pharmacy slots. She reminded the Commission that the program budget is contingent on receiving approximately \$400,000 in student-derived revenues. Director Ouellette suggested the Commission revisit funding new PSEP students in the remaining fields later in the fiscal year when there would be a better assessment of the availability of student-derived revenue.

Commissioner Barclay asked for an update on the Psychology internships and Director Ouellette stated she would have to bring in a representative from the Division of Public Behavioral Health (DPBH) to address this question. Her understanding of the funding is that it comes in to Nevada WICHE and is automatically sent to the DPBH as a pass-through. Commissioner Lokken suggested the November meeting would be a good time for an update. He explained that the psychology internship was modeled after an Arizona program and WICHE partnered with the DPBH to develop a pilot program for rural mental health. A discussion ensued regarding any obligations under the Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU), and legal counsel recommended a review of the MOU. Commissioner Barclay asked if the internships were awarded to Nevada residents or other WICHE states. Director Ouellette indicated she would try to get that information.

- 7. Discussion regarding estimated program revenues, proposed slot matrix and program budget for the 2021-2023 biennium.** Director Ouellette stated the commission has made significant policy and administrative changes to the program over the last year. These changes, along with the budget development process, now require additional feedback from the Commission so that she can present a more developed budget at the August 18, 2020 meeting.

Student-Derived Revenues

Director Ouellette reviewed the recommendations that resulted from the previous strategic planning sessions and noted that student-derived revenues have fluctuated dramatically over the years, making it difficult to project. She was confident student-derived revenue was reasonable for FY 2021, however - as the Commission exits the PSEP program, they will also be exiting out of revenue from the 25% loan component. It was Director Ouellette's recommendation that the program eventually request a flat General Fund appropriation for the program budget and have student-derived revenues revert to the General Fund. Commissioner Lokken provided historical actions taken by the Commission concerning student-derived revenues. Now that the commission was working towards eliminating the loan component, it would make sense to return PSEP revenues to the General Fund. Commissioner Reilly supported giving the PSEP funds back and setting the budget based on General Fund appropriations. Commissioner Lokken indicated that ultimately moving all funded students into the HPEP program would allow the Commission to better examine the essential slots for funding. Perhaps not this fiscal cycle, but perhaps by the next fiscal cycle.

Commissioner Barclay asked if there were any revenue projections for remaining students in the PSEP. Director Ouellette explained the difficulty of projecting student-derived revenue in the program's current state. Much cleanup work has been done on the outstanding portfolio of accounts, however, there are still numerous aged accounts that may or may not be collectible.

HPEP Support Fees

Now that the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant fields were being moved from the PSEP to the HCAP/HPEP, feedback was requested on how to calculate student support fees. Director Ouellette referred to the slot matrix spreadsheet. A discussion ensued regarding the amount of support fees to the colleges and the differences in tuition between public and private universities. The commission preferred to set one flat amount per student irrespective of which institution they attend.

Director Ouellette stated she would develop three different budget scenarios for consideration at the next meeting on August 18, 2020. Commissioner Reilly added the

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summary of changes that the Commission has been working on since October 2019 should be well briefed for the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

8. Regional WICHE Commissions Meeting Updates and Committee Appointments.

Commissioner Lokken stated that Nevada was coming up in the rotation to chair the Regional WICHE meeting. Usually the chair of the Regional WICHE meeting also is the host for the regional meeting. There will be a regional meeting in November.

9. Public Comment. There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment. With no further business, Commissioner Lokken adjourned the meeting.