

**Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
(Nevada WICHE Commission) Minutes**

Nevada System of Higher Education
System Administration Building
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512
Zoom

This meeting was conducted by the use of a remote technology system pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 241.020(11). Members of the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (Nevada WICHE Commission) and/or the public could utilize the remote technology system to attend and participate in the meeting, including to provide public comment.

Monday, February 6, 2023, 12:00 pm

Members Present: Mr. Fred Lokken, Executive Commissioner
Ms. Cathy Dinauer, Commissioner

Members Absent: Mr. Dale Erquiaga, Commissioner

Others Present: Ms. Patty Porter, Director, Nevada Office of WICHE
Ms. Lynda King, Associate General Counsel, NSHE

Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Information Only – Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approved – Minutes

The Nevada WICHE Commission approved the minutes from its January 20, 2023 meeting. (*Ref. 2-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2023*)

Commissioner Dinauer moved approval of the
January 20, 2023 meeting minutes. Executive
Commissioner Lokken seconded. Motion carried.

3. 2023-25 Slot Matrix Budget Revision (*Ref. 3-Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education [WICHE] 2023-25 Biennial Budget Loan & Stipend [Programs] Account #202-2681 PSEP AND HPEP Governor recommended Slot Matrix*)

Patty Porter, Nevada Office of WICHE Director, presented a revision to the 2023-25 Slot Matrix budget.

- Director Porter explained that the revision is due to an oversight when formulating the 2023-25 budget projection for the biennium budget. The projection included only on the base allocation, excluding the projected model repayment revenue. The slots have been revised accordingly.
- The total revenue for 2023-25 is projected to be \$1,307,379 and total expenditures are projected to be \$1,046,379, which includes 39 Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) slots, 29 Health Profession Education Program (HPEP) slots, and \$112,500 for Nevada Department of Public and

Behavioral Health (DPBH) Nevada Psychological Internship program. The difference of \$261,000 is due to a decrease in projected loan revenue. New PSEP slots projections include one slot for Occupational Therapy and two slots for the Physician Assistant program, resulting in a decrease from 43 to 39 total PSEP slots. For HPEP slots there was one additional slot for Master of Social Work, resulting in an increase from 28 to 29 HPEP slots.

- For 2023-2024 total revenue, base and loan repayment revenue is projected at \$1,093,900 and total projected expenditures are \$1,097,904, including 38 PSEP slots and 49 HPEP slots and \$112,500 for the DPBH Nevada Psychological Internship program. The difference of \$4,004 is unexpected revenue due to impact of continuing slots in 2024-2025.
- For 2024-2025 total revenue, base and loan repayment revenue is projected at \$1,097,371 and total projected expenditures projections are \$1,097,904 including 36 PSEP slots and 49 HPEP slots and \$112,500 for DPBH Nevada Psychological Internship program. The difference of \$533 cannot be spent because all support fees must be a minimum of \$5,000.
- For the 2023-2025 biennial budget, the addition of projected loan repayment revenue to our base appropriation amount increased our PSEP and HPEP slots as previously allotted and eliminated the need for special request for additional funding for four Veterinary Medicine slots and additional HPEP funding for 2023-2025 biennial budget.
- Based on the elimination of special request funding for Veterinary Medicine and additional HPEP slots Director Porter met with GFO (Governor's Finance Office) and LCB (Legislative Bureau Counsel) and GFO is in the process of submitting a budget amendment to eliminate the special request budget funding.

Discussion

Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that in terms of selecting the occupations that PSEP will support, they have to be based on data, shortage including critical need and the ability to recruit. We get assistance with recruitment for PSEP from regional WICHE. For in-state it is dependent upon relationship Director Porter builds with stakeholders in the state.

Director Porter noted that the PSEP recruitment is done in partnership with regional WICHE who work with these institutions who have competitive programs; states in the Western Regional Compact are competing for the same slots. Regional WICHE uses a ranking system and works with the states to select participants. What makes it challenging to project slots is the variation in PSEP support fees due to difference in cost for each occupational program. Annually the cost of tuition is surveyed and support fee amounts increase yearly. All PSEP programs must be fully accredited. A good topic for future discussion would be the focus for future funding, possibly including pre-license programs.

Commissioner Dinauer noted that there is a review based on critical need, shortages but also looking at the cost to go through a program such as Veterinary Medicine versus Nursing School or Social Work and having to decide not just based on workforce need but on funding available.

Executive Commissioner Lokken shared that regional WICHE data shows that Nevada PSEP participants have a higher return rate among the western states.

Director Porter said PSEP will only pay for full accredited private institution in state and private/public out of state. Programs currently in Nevada at a public institution that are not fully accredited are not eligible for PSEP but there are some that are close and when that happens regional WICHE will have to make a decision regarding addition to the PSEP program.

Commissioner Dinauer asked why the focus only on RN to BSN Pipeline and not on pre-licensure RN programs. Baccalaureate RN students come to Nevada for degree and then leave.

Director Porter stated that the focus is on baccalaureate RN students who are considering pursuing a future APRN program. That is a good question for a future retreat of where the Commission wants to focus spending stipend funding. Would pre-licensure be a direction the Commission would like to go? This would have impact since it would take longer for pre-licensure students to complete versus a baccalaureate student.

Director Porter shared that she received a legislative request from LCB for information regarding graduation and return rate to Nevada of PSEP and HPEP participants since 2019. Data shows that graduation rate is high but return rate to Nevada after practice requirement (ranges from 2-4 years) fulfilled, drops. Data that regional WICHE reports for states is based on graduation and if they return after graduation within a five-year period.

Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that one overall issue in past budget discussions is we do far better in one region of the state than Clark County, which needs to be addressed.

Director Porter added that she received pre-budgeting hearing questions from LCB for upcoming Budget Hearing and anticipates questions regarding the change in slot matrix slots. Explanation Director Porter will give is only focusing on the base appropriation and not adding in the projected loan revenue repayment funding. One of the pre-budget hearing questions was regarding the \$112,500 funding for DPBH and if we can reallocate what stipend slots that would be? Other pre-budget hearing question is why Nevada WICHE requested additional funding and answer would be due to not adding in projected loan repayment revenue. With updated slot matrix there is no need for additional funding.

Commissioner Dinauer moved approval of the revised 2023-25 Slot Matrix budget revision as presented. Executive Commissioner Lokken seconded. Motion carried.

4. New Business

Executive Commissioner Lokken:

- Shared University of Nevada, Reno new viewbook and on the back it stated that the number of WUE students has grown, in the past it has been limited, so this is a positive development.
- Been selected as the moderator for a summit sponsored by WICHE in March, 2023 and will chair the technology committee.
- Requested the updated regional WICHE handout on Nevada and activities for the legislative session.

- Similar programs like Nevada WICHE are being proposed in the legislature. It would be ideal to have a more coordinated effort with a depth of understanding of the topic.

5. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 12:41 pm

Prepared and submitted by:

Patty A. Porter

Director, Nevada Office of WICHE