

**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
Room 114

Video or Telephone Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:

Nevada System of Higher Education
System Administration Building
4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Room 105

Friday, August 5, 2022, 10:00 am

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

Others Present: Ms. Patty Porter, Director, Nevada Office of WICHE
Ms. Renee Davis, Interim Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student
Affairs and Community College
Mr. Jose Quiroga, Research Analyst, Academic and Student
Affairs
Ms. Tina Russom, Esq., Deputy General Counsel

Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

1. Information Only-Public Comment - No public comment
2. Approved -Minutes-The commission approved the minutes from April 6, 2022, meeting. (*Ref: A-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes in NV Office of WICHE*)

Commissioner Dinauer moved approval of the minutes from April 6, 2022. Executive Commissioner Lokken seconded. Motion carried.

3. Information Only-Commissioner Update - The WICHE Commissioners will discuss their activities as board members.

Commissioner Dinauer as a member of regional WICHE Research Committee met with regional WICHE staff member and discussed Nursing workforce issues such as faculty shortages, clinical placement, and pipeline. The next step is to set up a meeting with other stakeholders within the Nursing community including NGA and NCSL and Commissioner Dinauer was happy to participate and will provide future updates.

Executive Commissioner Lokken shared that the Director of Nevada Office of WICHE had an informational meeting with State Senator Pete Goicochea, Professor Mike Teglas and Legislative Bureau Counsel staff members in Carson City, to discuss the 2023 legislative process to restore funding slots. Items covered were the history of Veterinary Medicine stipend slots, recent data regarding increase in demand and rationale for request. Discussion and action are needed by the board before slots can be restored.

Executive Commissioner Lokken also mentioned that Nevada is allotted four slots on regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee and currently has two appointed. Two legislators are leaving. Commissioner Lokken has reached out to two state legislators regarding interest in joining regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee. The WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee meets once a year. The purpose of the committee is an effort by regional WICHE to outreach and increase dialogue about higher education among the compact states and membership is bipartisan.

4. Information Only-Director Update - Director Patty Porter will provide the Commissioners with an update on the activities of the Nevada Office of WICHE.

Director Porter shared the following updates:

Attended the May 2022 regional WICHE Certifying Official meetings in North Dakota. Helpful to attend, participate, learn best practices from other certifying officers.

Thanked Research Analyst and former Nevada Office of WICHE Acting Director Jose Quiroga in training Director Porter.

Trained with former acting Director of Nevada Office of WICHE, Research Analyst Academic & Student Affairs Jose Quiroga covering areas such as working with NSHE Accounting breaking down loan revenue payments from ECSI (Educational Computer Systems Inc.), utilizing DocuSign to send and receive PSEP and HPEP contracts.

Review and assessment of agency policies and procedures underway. With the move of NV Office of WICHE to NSHE the policies and processes will have to change to reflect the services the agency receives under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor's Office and NSHE.

Reviewed 2020 State of Nevada Performance Audit findings of Nevada Office of WICHE. Prior to my appointment NSHE had proactively reached out to Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) Auditor to understand LCB Audit expectations regarding follow up. Since my appointment as Director Porter had a meeting with LCB Auditor. Director Porter will be preparing a report on how the office is addressing the 2020 findings and presenting an update to the Nevada Legislative

Audit Subcommittee sometime in December 2022. To address audit findings the office will move away from the use of spreadsheets and developing an Access database to improve efficiency and follow up of students. Also update of agency website is underway which includes the change from third party host site to System Computing Services and customizing the website to improve accessibility and functionality.

The final draft of the Nevada Administrative Code revision to reflect the change in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 397 from last Legislative session has been completed and forwarded to Legal for review. Once it is back from Legal it will be forwarded on to the Legislative Bureau Counsel for review. When that copy is received back a workshop and hearing will be scheduled. WICHE Commissioners will get an opportunity to review the final draft at the Hearing. Director Porter recognized Research Analyst Quiroga and NSHE Academic and Student Affairs for being proactive in drafting the regulations and bringing the Director into the process after start in the position.

Had to quickly assess Nevada WICHE Loan and Stipend budget for FY 22 to project FY 23-25 budget and submit a biennium budget for FY 24-25. Will go into more detail in another agenda item. Highlight that the loan repayment revenue for FY 22 was \$264,188.64. Most of this amount is going back to the state and only carrying forward for FY 23 is \$9,224.22 due to 81st Legislative session SB 459 section 15 that states that we can only carry forward revenue collected after May 15. Why the \$262,188.64 was not spent was due to several factors, move of office from State to NSHE during a pandemic, loss of staff, acting Director and appointment of permanent Director May 2, 2022. Also, Loan repayment revenue comes in over the year which funds part of the stipends and that conflicts with students need to know if they will receive funds prior to start of the academic year. This could be a challenge due to people already starting their programs.

Executive Commissioner Lokken asked for update regarding remaining vacant position in Nevada Office of WICHE. Director Porter stated that the Account Technician position changed from Account Technician to Program Coordinator and currently being search.

Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that this demonstrates the work Director Porter has put in since May 2 and how much work Interim Vice Chancellor Davis and Research Analyst Quiroga have completed.

5. Approved-Change Name of Office - Director Patty Porter requested approval to reinstate the organizational name back to the Nevada Office of Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) from the Health Care Access Program or the Health Care Education Access Program (HPEP) to align with the statutory language provided in NRS 397.003 and to avoid confusion.

Commissioner Dinauer moved approval of change of office name to Nevada Office of WICHE. Executive Commissioner Lokken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Approved-Change in FY 22-23 Slot Matrix and Prioritization of Funding for FY 24-25 -Director Porter will request approval of proposed changes to the FY 2022-23 Governor recommended Slot Matrix as required by Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Meeting Jointly Closing List #8 dated April 26, 2021, and as further detailed in the August 9, 2021, reissued letter of intent that allowed WICHE to administratively adjust the allocation of slots between fields to meet student demand and insufficient payment revenues. Director Porter will also seek approval of the proposed Slot Matrix for the FY 24-25 biennium budget.
(Ref. B-Slot Matrix FY22-25, Ref. C-FY 21-23 Loan Repayment Revenue, and Ref. D-Senate and Assembly Joint Full Closing Packet, Ref. E-Letter of Intent, Ref. F-USDA Veterinary Services Shortage Map, Ref. G-Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance 2022 Workforce Blueprint in Nevada Office of WICHE)

Director Porter referred to the letter of intent, item E, issued on August 9, 2021, by the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means which allows the Nevada Office of WICHE and WICHE Commissioners to adjust slot numbers or stipends based on student demand and insufficient payment revenues.

Director Porter clarified that the term slots as referenced in the letter of intent is another way of stating the number of stipends issued for a specific field.

Director Porter stated that as Commissioners they can adjust the numbers based on student demand and insufficient payment revenues which is the case with this request and to align with the requirement set forth in the letter of intent. After Commissioners review slot changes and decides the Director produces a report summarizing the decision and sends it to the Governor Finance Office who in turn forwards it to the Legislative Bureau Counsel who then notifies the Interim Finance Committee.

Director Porter then started with FY 22 slot changes and stated that due to decrease in student demand for Physician Assistant went from 20 to 13 slots. Due to increase in student demand reallocated the funding, \$133,525 from Physician Assistant slots to Occupational Therapy, 3 to 4, Physical Therapy, 5 to 9 and Pharmacy, 14 to 18 totaling \$124,618 with a remainder of \$8,907. Director Porter referred to page 24 from closing packet regarding Governor Recommend slots. Research Analyst Quiroga added that the selection of the Physician Assistant slots happened when he was acting Director of WICHE and that they only received 13 fully eligible applicants out of the 20 slots available thus it was fully funded as much as possible with eligible applications received. Outreach was conducted to eligible students and across WICHE institutions with assistance from regional WICHE Director of Student Access. Research Analyst Quiroga also stated that part of issue could be that Nevada now has a Physician Assistance Program at the University of Nevada, Reno which could have reduced demand.

Director Porter then moved on to FY 23 slot change and requested that with approval of the FY 22 slot changes, requests approval for FY 23 increase in

PSEP slot for Physical Therapy from 5 to 9 to complete funding of FY 22 Physical Therapy participants. Director Porter also stated that with elimination of loan component in FY 21 legislative session projected loan payment revenue for FY 23 is \$93,407.51. This data was pulled from ECSI Heartland who is the loan servicer for program. Director Porter is in process of reviewing accounts, and it is possible the loan repayment revenue projection could be higher as cleanup of accounts continues but unsure it will be a significant increase in revenue. Based on this projections request approval for FY 23 PSEP slot decreases in Pharmacy from 13 to 10, Physician Assistant from 20 to 14, Occupational Therapy from 7 to 6 and HPEP slots in Master of Social Work from 12 to 5, FNP/APRN/DNP/Psychiatric Nursing slots from 20 to 18 and Geriatric Training from 10 to 5. Based on reduction in loan repayment revenue requesting decreases across the board.

Commissioner Dinauer asked why such a significant decrease in loan repayment revenue as opposed to other fiscal years? Director Porter responded that with last legislative session the loan component for PSEP and HPEP was eliminated and only stipends are awarded. In the future the only loans offered will be for participants who do not or cannot keep their service commitment due to hardship and have their stipends converted to loans which is not really the goal of this program. Goal is to offer stipends to have the service in Nevada and hopefully participants stay in Nevada after the service is over. In the next part of this request for biennium we will discuss additional funding to replace decrease in loan repayment revenue. One other option for FY 23 this year would be having some participants paying off their loans which would help revenue but not sure it would move the needle significantly, but we can be hopeful.

Commissioner Lokken stated that getting the money back that was reverted helped in meeting the expectation of slots. The legislature was aware of this request with that managing loans and repayment have been a challenge for Nevada Office of WICHE. Also, other WICHE states do not require loans which puts Nevada at a disadvantage in recruiting the best students for Nevada Office of WICHE programs. Argument for legislature in the next biennium and future is to increase funding for grants.

Director Porter then stated for FY 24-25 biennium budget keeping in mind the loan repayment projected revenue decrease the following is recommended for PSEP, target 4 slots for Occupational Therapy, note Occupation Therapy is a 2 year program with sizable jump in stipend for second year due to being a longer program, 8 slots for Physical Therapy for FY 24 to complete 2nd year participants from FY 23 then 4 for FY 25, 5 slots for Physician Assistant, 10 slots for Pharmacy and for special consideration reinstatement of 4 slots for Veterinary Medicine. For HPEP the recommendation is 5 slots for Master of Social Work and create one category called Advanced Practice Nursing with a total of 21 slots that would target, but not require, participants from MSN 2 Year, RN to APRN, FNP/APRN/DNP/Psychiatric and Geriatric Training programs. After talking with graduate nursing faculty who oversee graduate programs at UNR and UNLV state that even though they have a sizable class

this fall it is challenging to recruit students for HPEP since they are not all in the same place in their program. The next recommendation would be to create a RN to BSN Pipeline to Advanced Practice Nursing and target 12 slots for institutions that have not been able to participate in receiving funding from Nevada Office of WICHE. These institutions are College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Nevada State College, and Truckee Meadows Community College for a total of \$28,800 or \$2,400 stipend. If Commissioners do not approve this recommendation, the \$28,800 could fund other stipends.

Director Porter then addressed the items for Special Consideration for FY 24-25 which is the reinstatement to the base of 4 slots for Veterinary medicine for total of \$280,200 and with elimination of loan component request for additional funding of \$215,000 for base to replace reduction in loan repayment revenue and fund FY 24-25 HPEP slots.

Commissioner Dinauer asked for assistance in making the motion. Director Porter asked Deputy General Counsel Russom for assistance in appropriate wording for the motion. Deputy General Counsel Russom said that Commissioner can state the motion to approve the recommendations as set by Director Patty Porter.

Executive Commissioner Lokken stated we do have issues. We did not get the recommendation by the Governor, but legislature did and will be reaching out to the Governor's Office Chief of Staff responsible for this agency to quell any concerns and explain the reasons why the loan component was eliminated in the last legislature. Commissioner Dinauer thanked Director Porter for the explanation since terminology is new and appreciated explanation for the recommendation and supporting documentation

Commissioner Dinauer made a motion to approve recommendations set forth by Director Patty Porter regarding recommendations to FY 22-23 Governors Slot Matrix as required by Senate and Assembly Ways and Means and stated may need to make friendly amendments. Interim Chancellor of Academic Student Affairs and Community College Davis made a friendly suggestion that in addition to FY 22-23 motion to add FY 24-25 biennium if getting specific. Commissioner Dinauer said continuing the motion to approve recommendations set

forth by Director Porter for
Slot Matrix FY 24-25
Biennium Budget. Executive
Commissioner Lokken second
the motion. Motion carried.

7. Approved-Appointment Regional WICHE Veterinary Medicine Advisory Board – Director Porter requested approval to appoint Nevada State Senator Pete Goicochea and University of Nevada, Reno Associate Professor Michael Teglas to the regional WICHE Veterinary Medicine Advisory Board for a two-year term.

Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that both nominees have served on the board before and this is a reappointment. This appointment fits in with request to reinstate Veterinary Medicine slots and recent discussion with Nevada State Senator Goicochea and Professor Teglas regarding setting up a meeting with WICHE states Arizona, New Mexico and/or Colorado to learn what incentives they provide to keep Veterinarians in their states.

Deputy General Counsel Russom stated that they have confirmed in writing with Director Porter that both Nevada State Senator Goicochea and Professor Teglas have signed Nevada Open Meeting law waivers regarding discussion of their nomination to the regional WICHE Veterinary Medicine Advisory Board as well as Director Porter having received a signed Nevada Open Meeting law waiver from Nevada Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui for agenda item 8 per NRS 241.033.

Executive Commissioner Lokken made the motion to approve the two appointments. Commissioner Dinauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Approved-Appointment Regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Board – Director Porter requested action that the Commission approved action to appoint Nevada Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui to the regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Board.

Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that we have had northern legislators represented on the regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Board and wanted a legislator from the south. This Assemblywoman has interest in higher education issues which is important for the selection process and gives the legislator an opportunity to participate in dialogue with other states. The cost to participate on this board is paid for by regional WICHE. Currently working on the second appointment and after election other two current members will term out and then will need to appointment two more in the spring to bring it up to allotted four members for this board. It is helpful to have Nevada legislators participate on the regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Board when Director Porter testifies before the legislature.

Deputy General Counsel Russom stated that Director Porter has a signed Nevada Open Meeting law waiver for Nevada Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui.

Executive Commissioner Lokken made the motion to approve the appointment. Commissioner Dinauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Information Only-New Business

Commissioner Dinauer requested an update on replacement of third open WICHE Commission spot.

10. Information Only-Public Comment – No Public Comment

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am

Prepared and submitted by:

Patty A. Porter
Director, Nevada Office of WICHE