

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

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 110

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 2:00 pm

Via Telephone: Dial 1-253-215-8782, Meeting ID: 931 4367 9251, Passcode: 568665

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING**

Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Notification is hereby provided that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, including moving an item to a different day if the meeting is noticed for more than one day, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time.

Persons wishing to comment upon the agenda of Nevada WICHE Commission may appear at the scheduled commission meeting or may address their comments, data, views or arguments, in written form, to [nvwiche@nevada.edu](mailto:nvwiche@nevada.edu). Written submissions must be received by the Nevada WICHE Commission on or before 1:00 p.m. on October 19, 2023. If no person who is directly affected by the proposed action appears to request time to make an oral presentation, the Nevada WICHE Commission may proceed immediately to act upon any written submissions.

Some agenda items are noted as having accompanying reference material. The agenda and associated reference material may also be accessed on the Internet by visiting the Nevada Office of WICHE website at: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu/>. Copies of reference material and any supporting materials that are submitted to the Nevada WICHE Commission after the posting of this agenda and before or during the meeting will be made available at the NV WICHE Commission Office, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, Nevada 89512. A copy may be requested by contacting Director Patty Porter by email at [nvwiche@nevada.edu](mailto:nvwiche@nevada.edu) or by telephone at 775-784-4901. Copies of any such additional materials will also be available at Nevada WICHE Commission website at: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu/>.

The Commission is pleased to make reasonable accommodations for any member of the public who has a disability and wishes to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify us via email at [nvwiche@nevada.edu](mailto:nvwiche@nevada.edu) or call 775-784-4901 as far in advance as possible.

**BOARD**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Fred Lokken, Executive Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Cathy Dinauer, Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Dale Erquiaga, Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Executive Commissioner may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General’s Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

**2. MINUTES**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Commission will consider approval of the minutes from the August 31, 2023, meeting.

(Ref. 2-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes, August 31, 2023)

*ESTIMATED TIME: 5 minutes*

**3. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

The WICHE Commissioners will provide updates on their activities as commissioners.

*ESTIMATED TIME: 15 minutes*

**4. DIRECTOR UPDATE**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

Director Patty Porter will provide the Commissioners with an update on the Nevada Office of WICHE activities.

*ESTIMATED TIME: 10 minutes*

**5. UPDATE ON CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY TO ENACT SB 342**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Director Patty Porter and Deputy General Counsel Carrie Parker will provide the Commissioners with an update on contract negotiations with Utah State University to comply with SB 342 and seek approval of benchmarks. Possible action may include review and approval of a contract, if finalized prior to the meeting, or further direction to staff regarding negotiations and next steps.

*ESTIMATED TIME: 30 minutes*

## **6. COMMISSION DELEGATION TO DIRECTOR FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

According to NRS 397.030 Sec. 6(b) at a meeting held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS, the commissioners may delegate to an officer or employee of the Nevada Office the authority to undertake any actions authorized or required by the provisions of NRS 397. The commissioners will consider delegating to the Director of Nevada Office of WICHE the authority to negotiate terms regarding loan repayment, interest rates, minimum payment, decrease principal amount owed due to hardship, default and delinquency charges, and attorney's fees.

*ESTIMATED TIME: 5 minutes*

## **7. NEW BUSINESS INFORMATION ONLY**

Items for consideration at future meetings may be suggested. Any discussion of an item under "New Business" is limited to description and clarification of the subject matter of the item, which may include the reasons for the request, and no substantive discussion may occur at this meeting on new business items in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS 241.010 *et seq.*).

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION ONLY**

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Committee Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

This agenda has been posted at the following locations:

- Nevada WICHE's website: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu/>
- Nevada System of Higher Education: 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512
- Nevada System of Higher Education: 4300 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119
- Nevada Public Notice Website: <https://notice.nv.gov>

**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

Thursday, August 31, 2023, 3:00 pm

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

**Others Present:** Ms. Patty Porter, Director, Nevada Office of WICHE  
Ms. Carrie Parker, Deputy General Counsel, NSHE  
Ms. Patricia Charlton, Acting Vice Chancellor, NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs  
Ms. Donna Healy, Executive Assistant, NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs and Community Colleges  
Sheila Bray, Community Partnerships Coordinator for Clark County, University of Nevada, Reno Extension

Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

**1. Information Only – Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**2. Approved – Minutes**

The Nevada WICHE Commission approved the minutes from its July 7, 2023 meeting. (*Ref. 2-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes, July 7, 2023*)

Commissioner Erquiaga moved approval of the July 7, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dinauer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Commissioner Updates**

The WICHE Commissioners provided the following updates on their activities as commissioners:

- Executive Chair Lokken shared information regarding the rotation of [regional meetings](#).
  - The November 9-10, 2023 meeting will be held in Riverside, CA; invitations will be sent soon.

- The May 6-7, 2024 meeting will be held in Las Vegas, NV.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken and Commissioner Erquiaga both attended a regional executive committee meeting last week, which including conversations regarding [NC-SARA](#) having more consumer regulations than necessary relative to NC-SARA requirements; a vote was proposed to give each state the ability to impose regulations above the requirement.
  - The majority voted to standardize consistency of requirements.
- NC-SARA is open to conversations about finding middle ground; the representatives in attendance shared consumer concerns.
- Commissioner Dinauer noted that she is part of the [WICHE nursing workforce roundtable group](#).
  - A document has been drafted regarding faculty shortages due to faculty pay and faculty workload.
  - It has been a good group to be part of and deal with these three main issues; the hope is to provide a concise thought process in the finalized document.
  - Commissioner Dinauer shared that legislation is now providing funding for programs which will hopefully make it possible to enroll more students; the finalized document will be shared with NSHE as soon as it is available.
- Director Porter stated that this is timely; in the beginning of 2024, the Commission will begin to strategize needs analysis for funding proposals in the next legislative session.
  - The Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) was originally meant to assist Nevada residents who would not otherwise have had access to these programs, and now they are in-state including physical therapy and occupational therapy at UNLV, and physician assistant at UNR.
  - The remaining programs are veterinary medicine and pharmacy; do you follow that model when discussing how to allocate funds?
    - The PSEP (including nursing) and social work should be considered.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken acknowledged the Commission is in a place, organizationally, that it can begin to formulate a strategic plan.
  - Also, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and relationship and support with NSHE are fantastic.
  - He also noted that Director Porter came to the Director position with a lot of NSHE experience.
  - This has been her year to learn about this job; she has met insane deadlines and grown into the position fabulously well.
    - Executive Commission Lokken also recognized Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, for putting an evaluation process into place.

#### 4. **Director Update**

Director Patty Porter provided the Commissioners with the following updates regarding the Nevada Office of WICHE activities:

- She made an outreach trip to Las Vegas in late June: she met with students, staff, and faculty at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); she also reached out to Nevada State University, but no one was available to meet with her.
  - She was able to answer their program questions and let them know that we are always interested in collaborating.

- As a state agency, along with regional WICHE, Nevada WICHE supports the \$100K stipend to the [Nevada Psychological Internship Consortium](#) (NV-PIC) through the [Department of Public Health and Human Services](#).
  - Director Porter met with some interns and noted that it was great to talk with them in-person and that this program could be considered for expansion.
- Director Porter also had a meeting with the [State of Nevada Debt Collection](#) office; their staff answered many questions.
  - She sent a reminder/practice questionnaire to over 250 students by using an Adobe license provided by NSHE.
  - She also sent out the application for PSEP and Nevada's Health Profession Education Program (HPEP); the response was tremendous and she is still working to align the slots with the applications.
    - The goal is to expend most of the funds by the end of this year.
- The search for the State of Nevada WICHE Account Technician is underway; thus far, only one application has been received.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that the site partnership is modeled after a successful rural mental health program in Arizona.
  - The goal is to get a number of professionals to support mental health in the Nevada rural areas.
  - For years, Nevada WICHE has not been doing outreach; Director Porter's work will pay dividends going forward.
  - There are a number of historical programs, including some for K-12, which have been lost along the way; once we have our strategic planning discussion, we might be able to get back on track with some of those programs.

##### **5. Update on Contract Negotiations with Utah State University to Enact SB342**

Deputy General Counsel Carrie Parker noted that at the July 7, 2023 Nevada WICHE Commission meeting she and Director Porter were delegated the authority to negotiate the contract required by SB342, given direction on nine key points (outlined in that meeting's minutes), and discussed two developments from the negotiations:

- The first issue is that Utah State University (USU) asserts that \$8M will not cover the (out-of-state) portion of tuition for 70 Nevada residents to complete the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program by June 30, 2034.
- The second issue is that the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) is working on a formal legal letter stating that once the funds have been transferred, Utah State University (USU) will not be required to spend the \$8M by September, 2025; Senator Pete Goicoechea has confirmed this.
  - USU can invest the funds while drawing down the amount needed to fund Nevada residents for the stipends.

Deputy General Counsel Parker shared the following background information:

- During the first negotiation with USU in July 2023, discussion focused on the admissions process.
  - It was emphasized that Nevada WICHE would only participate in selecting stipend participants, and not participate in the USU admissions process.
  - Discussion also included what the bill requires, per Nevada WICHE's understanding.
  - Not much progress was made because USU still needed to discuss additional negotiation topics with their financial experts.

- A second negotiation meeting occurred in August, 2023; discussion focused on USU's belief that the \$8M would not cover the out-of-state tuition for 70 Nevada residents.
  - USU asserted that the difference was based on the requirement of three semesters in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of study, for a total of nine semesters to obtain a DVM degree; they projected that this additional semester would result in Nevada being \$1.1M short.
  - While USU would not guarantee future tuition rates because they are subject to change, they asserted (without guaranteeing) that \$8M may cover the out-of-state portion for 60 instead of 70 students. So how did this happen? Our understanding is that representatives of Utah State and Nevada have been discussing a collaboration involving money for Utah Veterinary School in exchange for seats for Nevada residents before the session started. Negotiations ranged from 8-12 million, depending upon the number of seats, length of time and whether out of state tuition would be waived for any certain period of time. Figures were discussed and circulated via email before the bill was introduced. Spreadsheets attached to the email revealed figures based on assumption of a 4 year program with 2 semesters each year.
- Deputy General Counsel Parker stated that she and Director Porter were seeking direction from the Commission regarding minimum commitments needed from USU for further negotiations, and guidance on next steps, which could include reporting to the IFC on what happens if USU will not agree to the Nevada WICHE's minimum commitments and beginning to plan a new legislative strategy for the 2025 session.
  - USU had suggested that we could contract for fewer than 70 students, or if we want to fund 70 students, we not fund them completely, so that the students may have to make-up the difference on their out-of-state portion of tuition.
  - If Nevada WICHE were to agree to fewer students or less than the full out-of-state portion of tuition, there is a risk that the Interim Finance Council (IFC) would not appropriate the money.
  - Deputy General Counsel Parker noted that the IFC is likely to determine that SB 342 does not allow any adjustment regarding the following terms:
    - \$8M, subject to appropriation by the IFC to fund stipends for the costs of the out-of-state portion of tuition for 70 residents of Nevada to earn a DVM degree between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2034.
  - Representatives of LCB have suggested that a claw back provision could be included in the contract to protect the State of Nevada and its \$8M commitment, such that if USU does not follow through with the commitment for funding 70 Nevada residents to earn a Doctorate Degree in Veterinary Medicine, Nevada WICHE could claim a breach of contract.
  - Directions regarding additional support and safeguards for Nevada students were provided to Deputy General Counsel Parker and Director Porter at the July 7, 2023 meeting.
    - Many of these options have not yet been discussed with USU because negotiations have focused on how the money is spent.

## Discussion:

- Commissioner Dinauer noted that since the \$8M will not cover the tuition for 70 students, it sounds like it will not fit; she also asked if there is any opportunity or ability to change the curriculum or make that accommodation?
  - Deputy General Counsel Parker noted that the topic of changing the curriculum had not yet been discussed; suggestions from USU included:
    - Covering fewer students with our stipends until the money runs out.
    - Covering 70 students, but when the money runs out, they would shoulder the burden of the difference.
    - Front-loading the number of students on stipends in the beginning of the 9-year period, which may stretch the \$8M due to tuition being less expensive.
      - Commissioner Dinauer noted that we do not know if front-loading will work. Either take less students or have the students bear the cost of the remainder; however, the intent was to help students with them not having to pay a portion. Commissioner Dinauer is not inclined to support this option.
    - Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that there is also the issue of the anticipated 2% cost increase.
      - Deputy General Counsel noted that when they met with USU in August, an annual 2% tuition increase was included as an assumption in their projections, which arrived at the \$1.1M short figure.
- Deputy General Counsel Parker noted that second bit of information is that LCB will be issuing this letter (regarding when the money must be spent): if everything occurs according to plan prior to the end of FY24-25, we have done our duty then Utah State can manage the money according to our contract. This information may help resolve issue number 1.
  - Because this would allow Utah State to invest the money and grow it. They will not be accepting students until fall 2025. If we can get this approved by you and take to the December IFC meeting, the funds would be disbursed to them by December or January, and they will have approximately 1 ½ years of full principal to invest before they start to draw down the funds. This could help make up the difference of 1.1 M if it were invested as they went along.
- Deputy General Counsel Parker stated that going forward with the negotiations, we need from you the minimum commitments for negotiations with USU (and next steps).
  - Discussions have occurred with representatives from the legislature regarding this issue; their advice is no, IFC does not have wiggle room (that might provide for fewer students or other alternative plans) and that the bill language is explicitly clear that 8 million dollars will be appropriated to fund stipends for 1) cost of out portion of out of state tuition, 2) for 70 residents of Nevada, 3) earn their degree and 4) by June 30, 2034. Legal advice is that we need to try to meet these requirements or risk the IFC not approving the contract if we do not.
  - A representative of LCB has suggested a claw back provision in the contract to protect the State of Nevada 8 million dollar commitment, if USU does not follow through with funding for 70 Nevada residents earning a DVM degree, can claim a breach of contract. We did consider this as one of our pieces of direction from you from July 7 meeting but have not gotten this far in the



- negotiations. We do have your 9 points from July 7 meeting, and we need direction as far as the minimum commitments from you in regard to how far you would like us to go and next steps such as what we will present to IFC as well as a plan for 2025 session.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted the following:
    - We would like to get this to the IFC; we must be influenced by the pragmatism of coming to an agreement or not.
    - We also need to recognize that this is a legacy for Senator Goicoechea.
    - In terms of the math, we are giving them \$114K to get the out-of-state tuition for four years of service; now they are offering an in-state rate.
    - The shortfall of \$1.1M represents that the student will still owe \$15K for the 9<sup>th</sup> semester, which is a marketing nightmare.
    - Our options include the following:
      - We are still in the window of the 2025 legislative session; we could opt to go in and indicate that this was a problem; we could find a sponsor to propose a different bill.
      - There are other western veterinary programs that could split the 70 and we would still be within the USU timeframe of fall, 2025.
      - Institutions that may work include Oregon State, UC Davis, Arizona, etc.
      - We also have the PSEP program; we could propose a national program with a \$115K stipend.
  - Commissioner Erquiaga asked and confirmed that the monies will revert on June 30, 2025, if not distributed by that date.
    - Agree with the Chair it is in our interest to try to work this out with USU; it's clear what the law states that it must include these three things, they could invest the money, make up the other money and they could in good conscience sign the contract and we could in good conscience that they are following the letter of the law, can sign the contract. If the contract does not state these things, then we cannot sign the contract.
    - Clawback provisions could be complicated if the student does not earn the degree what if it is not USU fault. We should try with strict interpretation and plan that it might not go forward. If necessary, a bill could be processed in the 2025 legislative session so that the funds do not revert; they would be calculated in the Governor's forward balance for supplemental appropriations or included in a separate bill.
    - Stand your ground on negotiations and plan for a bill to expend the funds as supplemental before they expire.
  - Commissioner Dinauer asked for confirmation that if USU gets the money by 2025, they will need to figure out how to meet the intent of the bill.
    - Deputy General Counsel Parker noted that the IFC will not release the money until we have a signed contract, which can be finalized and approved (by the IFC) anytime between now and June, 2025.
    - Commissioner Dinauer agreed that with the specific bill language, if the elements of the contract are not met, it will not work.
  - Executive Commission Lokken noted that there are two specific elements/factors that should be included in the clawback:
    - If the program does not get full accreditation.
    - If student drops out of the program (in good standing).

- Deputy General Counsel stated that language was requested in the contract that would allow the remaining student stipend funds to roll to another students.
- Commissioner Dinauer asked if the USU program clinical program would need to be regulated or approved by a Nevada agency.
  - Deputy General Counsel Parker stated that USU has indicated that they are using a distributive model and would focus on Nevada for the 4<sup>th</sup> year clinical rotation. Confirmation has been received that for licensure, the students would be accepted in Nevada with the provisionally accredited USU program, but we need to follow up regarding questions regarding clinical rotation oversight.
  - Director Porter said this might be the first time and would need to follow up with the [Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners](#).
- Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that he anticipated that the students would finish the DVM program through USU in Utah; now we are suggesting that they will do their 4<sup>th</sup> year clinical in Nevada.
  - This must be clearly delineated because it has not been the case with PSEP students.
- Director Porter noted that she is under the impression that the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester is the distributive clinical model but part of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester; they would need to complete that semester as a USU Veterinary Medicine student. It would not be after they graduated and a part of their service requirement.
  - Director Porter will ask USU in their next meeting and follow up with the Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that he wonders if that 4<sup>th</sup> year (of clinical service) could be counted, making the program more attractive; if so, that would need to be included in the MOU.
- Director Porter noted that hospitals require experience for pharmacy students; in the current programs they are asking for a deferment for their internship/residencies (outside of their programs), which is usually approved. This has also been the case with veterinary medicine participants.
- If a student drops out of the program, their promissory note converts to loans with interest (payable to the state of Nevada); petitions for hardship are also possible.
- General Deputy Counsel Parker summarized the discussion with the following points:
  - The Commission does not want to take any of the options that USU suggested, including having less students, not fully covering all students, or trying to front load the funding, etc.
  - The Commission does want a firm commitment for the SB342, which is very specific: 70 NV residents earning a DVM for \$8M for 10 years (2024 – 2034) subject to some claw back provisions.

**Discussion:**

- Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that he is concerned about the figures and that USU has not taken any ownership of the issues; if they are willing to move on their position, he is in favor of the motion.
- The assumption was that 70% of students would complete the degree program, as required for accreditation; the wording of the motion is concerning because we will not get 70% of the 70 students to completion.
- Commissioner Erquiaga noted that if the target of 70% is not achieved, it will show up as an audit exception (that we did not meet the letter of the grant language) in ten years.

- Deputy General Counsel noted that when Senator Goicoechea presented the bill to the legislature, he said “we are using this to buy seats.”
  - From his perspective, the fact that they admitted 70 residents would be fulfilling USU’s obligations.
- Director Porter asked if we could look at the next legislative session to amend the bill; could unused funds be held in reserve for student hardship situations?
  - Executive Director Lokken stated that the only clawback provision should be if the student does not receive their degree.
- Deputy General Counsel Parker asked for direction from the Commission in the case that the negotiations fail.
  - Commissioner Erquiaga stated that staff should not be directed regarding the possibility of failure to come to a negotiated agreement; at that point, another Nevada WICHE Commission meeting should occur to discuss next steps.
- Director Porter noted the following:
  - The next scheduled meeting will be an NAC workshop on September 15 at 3:00 p.m.; Commissioner Erquiaga will not be able to attend.
  - The next Nevada WICHE Commission meeting will be held on October 19 at 3:00 p.m.; it will be preceded by a Nevada WICHE NAC Regulation Hearing on October 19 at 1:00 p.m.
  - Director Porter stated that the next update will be on October 19 and wanted it to be noted that this will push any possible submission of a contract to the IFC for February 2024. Director Porter also noted that it is understood from the commission meeting today that we have until 2025 to negotiate for this contract.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that he wants to keep the Senator in the loop regarding contract negotiations as bill sponsor. He stated that there is always the option of a 5-10 minute telephone conference, staying within Open Meeting Law rules. Director Porter responded that they intend to update Senator Goicoechea.

Commissioner Dinauer moved approval of the following components to be included in the program negotiations with USU; \$8M to cover the out-of-state portion of tuition for 70 Nevada residents who will be earning a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree over the next ten years (2024-2034); Commissioner Erquiaga seconded.

Commissioner Dinauer offered a friendly amendment to the previous motion to also include the following points in the negotiations; if students do not complete the program, provisions will be made for other Nevada students to use the remaining funds; any uncommitted funds available due to students dropping the program shall be made available to other Nevada students; income from investments made by USU shall be directed to Nevada students in the program (as stated in an MOU); if USU does not achieve full accreditation, that shall be considered a breach of contract and the unused funding shall be reverted back to Nevada. Commissioner Erquiaga accepted the friendly

amendment and seconded. Motion and friendly amendment carried unanimously.

**6. Appointment to Regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee**

The Commission discussed taking action to appoint Nevada State Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop to the regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee.

- Director Porter noted that she has been previously appointed and wants to remain on the committee.

**Discussion**

- Executive Commissioner Lokken shared that there are four total appointments for 2-year terms.
- Meeting expenses are covered by WICHE and the last few years have been well attended by legislators from across the western states.
- These people are positive about higher education and we appreciate their guidance.

Commissioner Dinauer moved to appoint Nevada State Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop to the regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee. Commissioner Erquiaga seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. New Business**

- There was no new business.

**8. Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm

Prepared and submitted by:

Patty A. Porter

Director, Nevada Office of WICHE