

Wyoming Community College Commission



WYOMING
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Commission Meeting Packet

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION

2300 Capitol Avenue, Fifth Floor, Suite B

CHEYENNE, WY 82002

PH. (307) 777-7763

Teleconference Meeting

DIAL-IN NUMBER: **877-278-8686**

AT PROMPT FOR ROOM NUMBER: **809221#**

November 20, 2014

1:30 P.M.

***THE STATUTES OF WYOMING REQUIRE THAT ALL MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES
BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, EXCEPT IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE
WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION FULLY SUPPORTS THAT
MANDATE***

Discussion and action items (action items in **bold**)

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

October 10, 2014

TAB 1

CONSIDERATION OF TUITION ADJUSTMENT

A. Discussion of consequences of the Veteran Access Choice and Accountability Act on
tuition policy

B. Discussion and action regarding tuition for the 2015-16 Academic Year **TAB 2**

CONSIDERATION OF WORK ON SLDS

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

TAB 1

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MINUTES

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION MEETING

October 10, 2014

Laramie Hilton Garden Inn
Laramie, Wyoming

The October 10, 2014 Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Larry Atwell at the Laramie Hilton Garden Inn, Laramie, Wyoming at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners present: Commission Chair Larry Atwell, Commissioners Charlene Bodine, Katherine Dooley, Sherri Lovercheck, Sandra Meyer and Wendy Sweeny. Commissioner Brown was not in attendance.

Commission staff present: Executive Director Jim Rose, Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer Matt Petry, Programs Team Leader Joe McCann, Fiscal Team Manager Larry Buchholtz and Administrative Services Manager Claire Smith.

Commissioner Atwell discussed the executive session stating no action was taken. Commissioner Bodine will finish her term before moving to Montana.

A roll call was taken. A quorum was present. Due notice had been published. Chairman Atwell asked for introductions.

Motion: Commissioner Meyer moved and Commissioner Lovercheck seconded a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Sweeny moved and Commissioner Dooley seconded a motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2014 held in Casper, Wyoming. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ORGANIZATIONS AND ALLIANCES

1. WY Association of Community College Trustees (WACCT): President Ed Mosher thanked everyone who participated in the WACCT 4th annual summit. Over 80 people attended the conference. The trustees support the presidents' perspective in use of metrics and how they will be applied. Executive Director Steve Bahmer discussed the decisions made by the board for their focus this legislative session:

- a. A change in how enrollment growth funding is sought and received based on recalibration,
- b. Additional endowment funds, and
- c. Counteracting the movement to eliminate funding for developmental education for the colleges.

Commissioner Sweeny voiced her gratitude for their effort in having legislators attend the summit. Mr. Bahmer said they will focus on more student involvement next year.

2. Wyoming Department of Education: No one was present for this report.

3. Complete College Wyoming (CCW) – Dr. Jackie Freeze updated the group on CCW the previous day and had no further information to provide. Commissioner Lovercheck asked her to address the marketing plan. Dr. Freeze said it will be called the marketing education plan and will include input from all stakeholders. CCW is the conduit for having conversations and they are trying to showcase this while making sure they are not creating conflict with anything else. They will be doing email blitzes and a postcard mailing reminding everyone they can play an active role in moving CCW forward.

4. President's Council: Dr. Leach spoke on behalf of Dr. Young.

- All colleges are working on important completion innovations.
- The Council is pleased with their work on the first version of the model allocating performance funding and the 6-7 metrics it uses.
- They are watching the activity on the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) closely.
- They know the University is asking for \$25M in endowment matching funds so they will ask for an equal amount to split between the colleges.
- They will 'test the waters' for changing statutory language around enrollment growth funding.
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) President, Dr. Gellman-Danley, will be meeting with the college presidents on November 5 in Gillette. Senator Enzi will also be there to discuss critical issues around the Higher Education Act reauthorization process. Also in attendance will be Dr. Young, Dr. Nolte, UW President Dr. McGinity, Chairman Atwell and WACCT President Mosher. Senator Barrasso, Representative Lummis, Dr. Rose and Steve Bahmer have also been invited. Discussion will focus on the Commission's role in ensuring the quality of institutions.

Dr. Leach introduced Dr. Kim Farley, WWCC's new Chief Academic Officer. She also discussed the "Work Ready Communities" program. This program was previously part of a statewide effort involving WY Workforce Services, the WY Department of Education, the colleges, and the WY Business Council. Workforce Services decided to no longer participate, eliminating the statewide emphasis, but Sweetwater County moved forward with the program anyway. It is valuable in finding qualified workers who match directly with the jobs in the community.

Commissioner Lovercheck asked about the coming accreditation changes, the anticipated timeline and areas being reviewed. Dr. Leach said accrediting agencies are under scrutiny and are being questioned on whether or not they are holding all institutions to the same level and judging them consistently. Dr. Rose said he will participate on a national task force to work on the Higher Education Act reauthorization from the community college perspective but Senator Enzi has made it clear they do not intend to take this up until there is a new congress. Topics likely to be discussed are the meaning of regional accreditation and the reauthorization of Pell. Dr. Rose commended Dr. Leach on her efforts with the Work Force Ready program stating it should be a statewide initiative since it is important to all the colleges.

5. Community College Faculty Report: Leah Noonan (LCCC) Faculty Senate President and Vice Chair for the Faculty Alliance said elections resulted in the following new officers: Chair Heidi Edmunds (EWC), Treasurer Pete Van Houten (CC) and Secretary Bob Becker (NWC). Their current focus is CCW and the Alliance would like to be included in CCW conversations in any way possible. They are also focusing on providing and improving concurrent education. She asked if the commissioners have any specific tasks for them and none were identified at this time, but they will give this some thought.

6. UW College of Education: Michael Day, Interim Dean for the College of Education, discussed how the College of Education continues to do good things despite budget cuts. He talked about the relationship the University has had with the community colleges regarding adult education and said they are trying to

strengthen the relationship again. The search committee for a Dean for the College of Education will include a president from the community colleges. He will continue to visit communities around the state.

7. Wyoming PBS: General Manager Ruby Calvert reported they will cover the general election debates and has made note of several topics to possibly include in their questions. Any other questions should be submitted to her by October 13th. Her supplemental budget request for an increase in the endowment fund and funds for a documentary on the capital renovation were not urgent but she may ask for them again next year. She is working on legislation to make the endowment fund permanent and has been advised this request should come from the Joint Appropriations Committee. She also has a concern with interest disbursements for the endowment fund now being issued quarterly instead of annually. This will also be addressed in the proposed legislation, along with possible reporting requirements.

She anticipates a \$15,000 gift from the foundation leaving a balance of only \$73,000 left to raise. She feels she will have this by January, thereby fulfilling her requirement a year early. The endowment interest is paying for all productions and some documentaries. They continue to be challenged with personnel and have 4 positions open. They have received their community service grants from the federal government for FY15 but FY16 grants will be subject to some reduction. The packet includes a list of new grants. They are planning a trip to England related to their work with Downton Abbey. She stated WGBH rules require Wyoming PBS to be involved with any Downton Abbey event.

The Federal Communications Commission will hold their spectrum auction next summer in an attempt to aggregate spectrum for mobile device users, reclaiming it from broadcasters. This could affect 15 translators and will cause them to lose the ability to use their equipment in those communities.

The documentary "100 Years on the Lincoln Highway" has been nominated for 2 Emmy awards. They will hold a screening on their Dick Cheney documentary on February 11 while he is in Cheyenne for the legislative session. It will focus on how Wyoming values created a man who reached one of the top levels in this country.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

1. Financial Report: Matt Petry stated we reverted approximately \$1.3M from the BFY13 budget. He pointed out the following items in the financial report:

- The administration budget payroll shows a projected deficit because funding for July 2014 and 2015 employee pay raises have not yet been received. This budget also shows \$791,000 of carryover money for the purchase of Blackboard Analytics software. As the project came to completion, they found other available options. These funds will be used once a decision is made on which product to purchase. Commissioner Sweeny asked about these funds later in the conversation, asking if they could be moved to SLDS. Mr. Petry said in order to carryover money, we had to obtain permission from ETS so it is restricted in how it can be used.
- State aid of \$163M does not include course completion as it is tracked separately. The first year distribution of course completion will be 15% of variable cost funding and the second year will be 20%. Half of enrollment growth funds were distributed in July and the other half will be distributed next July.
- The projection for health insurance shows it will not be adequate because Employees' Group Insurance has announced a premium increase for next year. He has requested the budget office to include the colleges in their request for funding to cover those increased costs.
- Retirement contributions will probably run out of funds by the end of the biennium. This funding is based on a point in time but is not adjusted for changes in staff or pay raises.

- The college salary budget includes the \$3.3M appropriated for the colleges. We anticipate receiving and distributing half of it soon with the other half distributed next July.
- High school student room and board subsidy was one time funding and has been paid out evenly to each college.
- Rodeo athletic program funding was intended for expenses incurred by the rodeo programs. It was shared between the six colleges with rodeo teams.
- Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program (TSLRP) has had extra money in the past and sunsets June 30, 2016. He is not aware of a push to extend this program so we will probably revert \$1M.
- Wyoming Adjunct Professor Loan Repayment (WAPLR) program is new. Dr. Leach asked if we can move TSLRP funds to the WAPLR program. Dr. Rose said these are school foundation funds and with so many people looking at K-12 funding, we would need to approach this very cautiously. The sponsor for this request should come from the K-12 system since superintendents are pushing the need. Commissioner Atwell said we need to show positive use of the funds.
- Veteran's tuition waiver program demand is finally leveling off.
- The WY Public Television endowment fund of \$110,000 represents expected interest earnings. Interest can no longer be distributed quarterly, but will be distributed annually instead.

Motion: Commissioner Lovercheck moved and Commissioner Meyer seconded a motion to approve the financial report. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Budget Update: Dr. Rose said it is not going unnoticed by the governor that we are not presenting a supplemental request. Our focus in the next legislative session will continue to be the need for a stable budget process.

3. Fall 2013 Enrollment Report (Amended Table 12): Dr. Rose said this is an amendment for table 3 due to updated information from one of the colleges. The Fall 2013 Enrollment Report has previously been accepted.

4. Spring 2014 Enrollment Report and 2013-2014 Annual Enrollment Report: Dr. Rose said there is nothing unusual to note except enrollment is declining or remaining stable. **Motion:** Commissioner Sweeny moved and Commissioner Meyer seconded a motion to accept the Spring 2014 Enrollment Report and the 2013-2014 Annual Enrollment Report as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.** Commissioner Lovercheck asked for the commissioners to be updated going forward on changes in enrollment in the colleges with '16 to Succeed' or similar initiatives.

5. Accreditation Report: Dr. Rose stated this report is part of the commissioners' statutory responsibility in ensuring colleges are regionally accredited so they may receive state aid. Dr. Leach requested a correction to show the next visit for WWCC in 2021-2022. Commissioner Sweeny asked EWC how their recent visit went and Rick Patterson, Interim President, stated it went well but they will need to focus on ensuring enrollment, professional staff and faculty more accurately reflect the racial and ethnic composition of their service area. Commissioner Sweeny requested future reports incorporate any changes in accreditation, particularly if it affects licensures or industry sanctions. Dr. Rose suggested the colleges report this on an annual basis and commission staff will then incorporate it into the report. He also recommended confidential issues be communicated through him so he can keep the commissioners informed. Dr. Leach said WWCC is being considered for accreditation for their nursing faculty and hope to have the process complete by May 2015. **Motion:** Commissioner Sweeny moved and Commissioner Meyer seconded a motion to accept the Accreditation Report as corrected by WWCC. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Partnership Report: Dr. Rose stated it is online due to its length. We have limited the colleges to ten of the partnerships they wish to have included in the report. **Motion:** Commissioner Meyer moved and Commissioner Bodine seconded a motion to accept the Partnership Report. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Program Reports:

- a. 2013-2014 Annual Program Review Report
- b. 2011-2014 New Program Enrollment Report
- c. 2013-2014 Discontinued Program Report

Dr. Rose stated the substance of these reports continues to build to show a picture of the programs the colleges are offering, along with new programs and discontinued programs. Future reports will include information on why programs were discontinued.

8. Amended Performance Indicator Report: Dr. Rose stated the initial report had incorrect data regarding headcount enrollment but it has not yet gone to LSO. The Commission has developed a process for review of all reports by a 3rd party within the agency to assist with validation of data.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Strategic Plan - CCW and EC metrics discussion: Dr. Rose has provided copies of the strategic plan to the Joint Education Interim Committee (JEIC) to discuss at their meeting on October 23. He reported the reception to the plan so far has been extremely positive. Work done by the Executive Council has put this in a framework they can move forward on and they will now start working on the next phase of performance driven funding metrics and those they would like to pilot. He is pleased with where they are in the process and noted everyone is moving in the same direction.

Dr. Rose also feels we are going to be handicapped by the lack of progress on the SLDS. The state Chief Information Officer (CIO) has walked away from the contractor selected to do the development of the SLDS. The SLDS requirement is a mandate for using e-rate funding as part of K-12 funding. Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) has said they are working on it, yet it is the CIO's opinion this is a 4-6 year process and they are just beginning it. Waiting 6 years will stifle the momentum already achieved and we need to proceed anyway. He anticipates without significant progress, we will have serious needs in the 2016 budget session in terms of creation of a system but we will not know the magnitude of the need.

Motion: Commissioner Sweeny moved and Commissioner Lovercheck seconded a motion that the community college commission give the executive director authority to use the appropriate time and resources and staffing in working with the governor's office and any other agency to move forward with a longitudinal data system requested in our January 2010 strategic plan and is clearly in our 2.0 strategic plan so that we can get this in place.

Dr. Rose intends for the next step to be a comprehensive needs assessment by a third party expert who can tell us how to build this and can identify the pitfalls and current capacity. It will require digging in the Department of Education and Workforce Services. At the end of the process we should know what we need to ask for, such as additional staffing or technology. He has a firm in mind to use and will be speaking to them next week. **Motion passed unanimously.**

JEIC: We are on the agenda for the JEIC October meeting to discuss remediation at the colleges. Dr. Rose has data from the colleges to present to them but he has no way of obtaining accurate data from the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). Dr. Freeze is working on an update for the developmental education initiative all colleges have undertaken. He will emphasize what we are doing to correct the remediation problem and will tie it into the strategic plan.

He will also discuss the nationwide State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) dealing with the Higher Education Act reauthorization and how it relates to distance education and a student's state of residency. The law reads a state must be authorized to issue credit to a student residing in another state. It will be very expensive to achieve the necessary licensure across all states so SARA was formed. States will pay dues to belong, giving them authorization in all participating states. The WCCC will be the coordinator for Wyoming. Dr. Rose would like the JEIC to request LSO to draft a bill granting us authorization to enter this agreement. Private school licensing will complicate the process because they cannot join SARA if they are not accredited. WCCC would then become the agency handling oversight for all the entities unable to join SARA, a responsibility previously held by WDE.

PRESENTATION BY UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Dr. McGinity, President of the University of Wyoming, said he has met with some of the presidents and has learned each college is different, affecting how UW interacts with each one. He also discovered from a management standpoint, the responsibility within UW for the relationships with the colleges was fragmented but progress is being made in this regard. There are 17 programs currently involved in the articulation agreement process and there is intense interest to see progress continue. Looking forward, focus should be on addressing the problems affecting students such as what higher education looks like in Wyoming 10, 15, 20 years from now and the issue of transfer credits.

Dr. Rose stated the diversity in the colleges will be important as work continues on the articulation agreements and will cause the agreements to look different among the colleges. Some colleges will have limitations in the 2+2 arrangements and therefore may need to be structured as 1+3 or a number of semesters. Alyson Hagy, Interim Associate Provost, will be doing more work on the agreements. They should be able to sign agreements with all 7 colleges for the animal production program shortly.

In response to questions from Jim Roth about Hathaway scholarships, Vice President of Student Affairs Sarah Axelson stated they are revamping the scholarship program to realign the resources for transfer students. Patrice Noel, Director of Transfer Relations, said once the articulation agreements are done for the first 17 high demand programs, additional agreements will follow quickly. They do not want to force something not in the student's best interest or that does not work for a college, therefore requiring them to look at each program individually.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO TUITION POLICY

Dr. Rose presented options in considering adjustments to tuition. Receiving the metrics from WICHE in late November requires a December meeting to determine adjustments. In order to do this earlier, they could use prior year's data in their decision. However, in light of all the discussions about completion agendas, they could consider a tuition contract holding a student at the beginning tuition rate the entire time enrolled as long as the student is enrolled at a certain level. This is strongly supported by CCW and the McClenneys. The enrollment must be substantial enough to be progressing towards completion.

Commissioner Bodine asked who would keep track of rates and Dr. Rose said this may be an issue. Colleges would be responsible but the Commission would have to take some responsibility too. There are technical issues needing to be addressed. Dr. Leach thinks this is something that could be programmed and it is being done in other states. Jim Roth pointed out debt retirement for community college students is becoming a problem. Commissioner Lovercheck asked when they meet in December to deal with tuition, could they be provided with the debt load for Wyoming students. Several attendees said this number can be obtained.

Commissioner Sweeny suggested students could be given this project similar to the tuition cap project Casper College students did a few years ago. The project could include a crosscheck across all seven colleges comparing traditional and nontraditional students and what the debt load is they are carrying. This data could be used later when the commissioners discuss tuition increases. Commissioner Dooley said she would like to see this information and similar scenarios before they make their tuition decision in December. It was decided the project will proceed with the Institutional Research staff, WCCC Information Technology staff, and the Student Services Council looking into the details. Commissioner Bodine reminded everyone tuition for community colleges in Wyoming is low.

CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS

1. Casper College - Lease of fire station no longer in use by the City of Casper
2. Central Wyoming College - Increase in total construction cost for the Lander Center Project
3. Northern WY Community College District - Increase in project cost of new residence halls
4. Western Wyoming Community College - Increase in construction cost for the Student Success Center Renovation Project
5. Western Wyoming Community College - Expansion of women's varsity locker room and construction of Student Engagement Office Complex

Details on each of the projects are included in the commission meeting packet. These projects need commission approval only and do not need to be forwarded to the legislature. **Motion:** Commissioner Bodine moved and Commissioner Meyer seconded a motion to accept the requests for capital construction as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Dr. Rose will send Doodle requests to determine dates for the coming meetings. The January meeting at LCCC will be January 30.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, Commissioner Atwell adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.

Larry Atwell
Commission Chair

Date

Jim Rose
Commission Executive Director

Date

TAB 2



Wyoming Community College Commission 2014 Tuition Review

Tuition Policy

In October 2006, the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) adopted a long-term tuition policy. This policy still guides the WCCC in establishing annual community college tuition rates. The guiding principles of this policy encompass five key areas relevant to cost: *accessibility, affordability, predictability, competitiveness, and cost-sharing.*

It is the intent of the Commission that tuition rates are commensurate with economic conditions in Wyoming and surrounding states. Given this intent, the WCCC authorizes a tuition increase of 5% or less¹ among Wyoming's seven community colleges, provided the following criteria are met:

1. Current average resident tuition for Wyoming colleges is 98% or less than the current average resident tuition in the WICHE² states (excluding California and including Nebraska),
2. The ratio of current average resident tuition to Wyoming's median household income is 98% or less than the average ratio for the WICHE states (excluding California and including Nebraska)

After the two above criteria are met, and in-state tuition rates are established, the tuition policy further stipulates that:

1. Full-time tuition is capped at 12 credit hours,
2. Tuition for distance education courses will be the same as for on-site courses,
3. Tuition for non-WUE³, out-of-state students will be 300% of in-state tuition, excepting Nebraska students will be 150% of in-state tuition,
4. Tuition for international students will be 300% of in-state tuition,
5. Tuition for students in WUE states will be 150% of in-state tuition

Current Findings

Wyoming Community College Commission staff conducted an analysis of 2013-2014 tuition data from WICHE and 2011-2012 two-year average Median Household Income (MHI)⁴ to determine if the aforementioned tuition policy criteria were, indeed, met. The following analysis concludes that Wyoming community college average tuition, and, tuition-to-income ratios are far below the 98% threshold. Table 1 lists income and tuition data, while Table 2 summarizes the

¹ In the event that a tuition increase greater than five percent is recommended, the WCCC must formally vote to approve the increase.

² Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

³ Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

⁴ US Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey 2-Year Estimates

WY/WICHE tuition ratio. Table 3 reflects the percentage of average MHI needed to fund full-time student tuition for 2 semesters, and Table 4 compares the WY tuition/income ratio to WICHE tuition/income ratio. These data will serve as a foundation for further analysis in accordance with the 2006-2011 Tuition Policy.

Table 1: Median Household Income and Tuition Rates

WICHE State	2-Year MHI '08-'09	2-Year MHI '09-'10	2-Year MHI '10-'11	2-Year MHI '11-'12	Average 2010-11 Tuition	Average 2011-12 Tuition	Average 2012-13 Tuition	Average 2013-14 Tuition
Alaska	\$67,092	\$63,254	\$59,775	\$61,140	\$3,810	\$3,990	\$4,260	\$4,380
Arizona	\$49,496	\$48,971	\$49,511	\$48,340	\$1,938	\$2,104	\$2,149	\$2,291
Colorado	\$62,431	\$61,479	\$61,643	\$58,555	\$2,732	\$2,991	\$3,179	\$3,354
Hawaii	\$62,589	\$61,219	\$61,491	\$58,272	\$2,640	\$2,910	\$3,030	\$3,180
Idaho	\$50,322	\$49,736	\$49,000	\$48,186	\$2,055	\$2,283	\$2,339	\$2,517
Montana	\$44,518	\$43,384	\$42,295	\$43,104	\$2,306	\$2,346	\$2,358	\$2,366
Nebraska	\$53,594	\$54,062	\$56,035	\$54,487	\$1,890	\$1,640	\$1,762	\$1,708
Nevada	\$56,720	\$54,421	\$50,972	\$47,680	\$1,890	\$2,078	\$2,265	\$2,535
New Mexico	\$45,754	\$47,080	\$45,195	\$43,142	\$1,100	\$1,221	\$1,243	\$1,263
North Dakota	\$53,266	\$53,384	\$55,626	\$56,653	\$3,107	\$3,147	\$3,187	\$3,256
Oregon	\$53,860	\$52,886	\$52,946	\$52,189	\$3,339	\$3,663	\$3,867	\$4,012
South Dakota	\$52,041	\$48,279	\$47,985	\$48,812	\$2,835	\$3,029	\$3,177	\$3,276
Utah	\$64,652	\$61,137	\$58,182	\$57,497	\$2,382	\$2,541	\$2,692	\$2,835
Washington	\$62,520	\$61,894	\$58,951	\$60,112	\$3,130	\$3,540	\$3,944	\$3,967
AVERAGES	\$55,633	\$54,370	\$53,543	\$52,726	\$2,511	\$2,677	\$2,818	\$2,924
Wyoming	\$56,523	\$55,473	\$55,310	\$56,580	\$1,632	\$1,704	\$1,800	\$1,896

Table 2: Wyoming/WICHE Tuition Ratios

Year	Ratio
2010-11	64.99%
2011-12	63.65%
2012-13	63.88%
2013-14	64.84%

Table 3: Tuition/MHI Ratios

WY		WICHE	
Year ¹	Ratio	Year ¹	Ratio
2010-11	2.89%	2010-11	4.51%
2011-12	3.07%	2011-12	4.92%
2012-13	3.25%	2012-13	5.26%
2013-14	3.35%	2013-14	5.55%

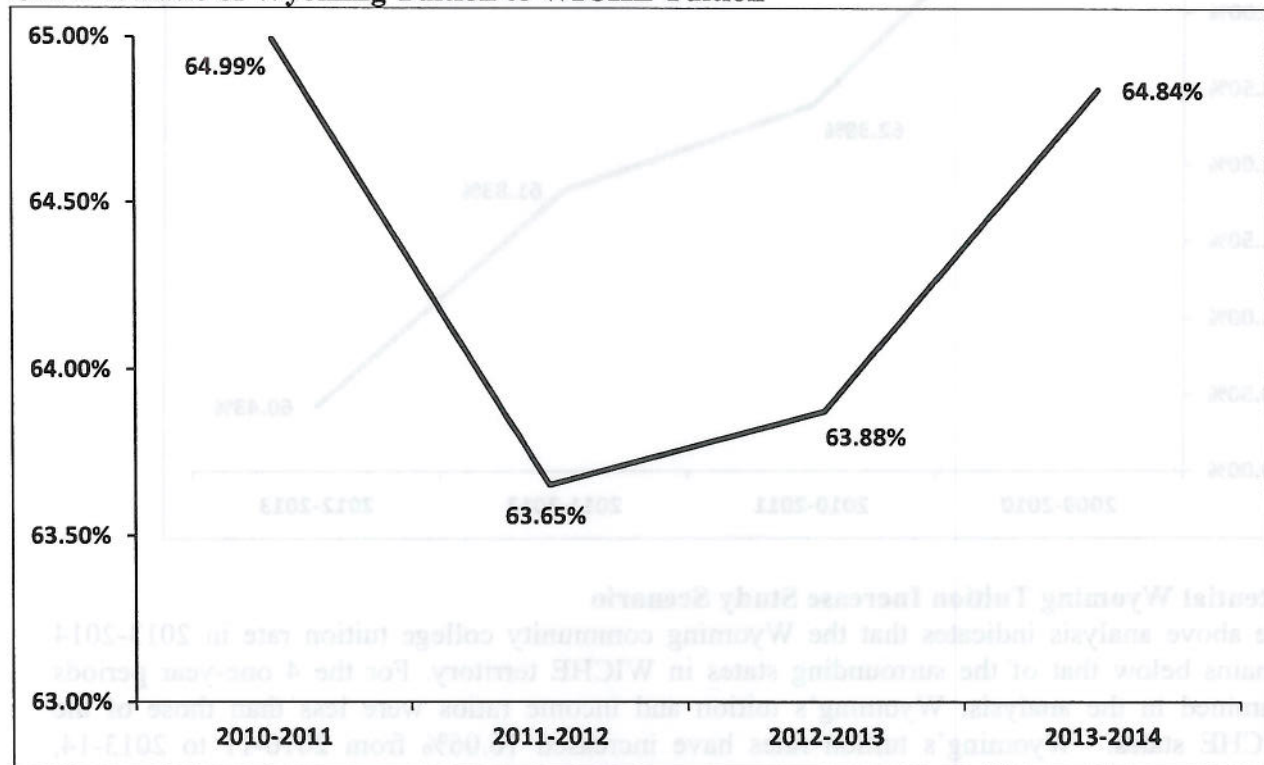
¹ Tuition represents 2010-2014 data, while MHI data lags

Table 4: Affordability Ratios

Year	Tuition/Income Ratio
2010-11	63.97%
2011-12	62.39%
2012-13	61.83%
2013-14	60.43%

Ratio of Wyoming Tuition-to-WICHE Average Tuition

A comparison of average Wyoming tuition to average WICHE tuition (excluding California and including Nebraska), for the 2013-2014 academic year, indicates that Wyoming community college students pay 64.84% of that of average WICHE state community colleges. This ratio has increased slightly for Wyoming from the 2012-2013 ratio of 63.88%. Chart 1 illustrates that the trend of Wyoming to WICHE tuition rates is increasing.

Chart 1: Ratio of Wyoming Tuition to WICHE Tuition

The average tuition for the two-year public WICHE institutions increased by 3.76% from 2012-13 to 2013-14, down from last year's increase of 5.35%. For the same period, the tuition for Wyoming's community colleges increased by 5.33%, which is slightly less than last year's increase of 5.63%.

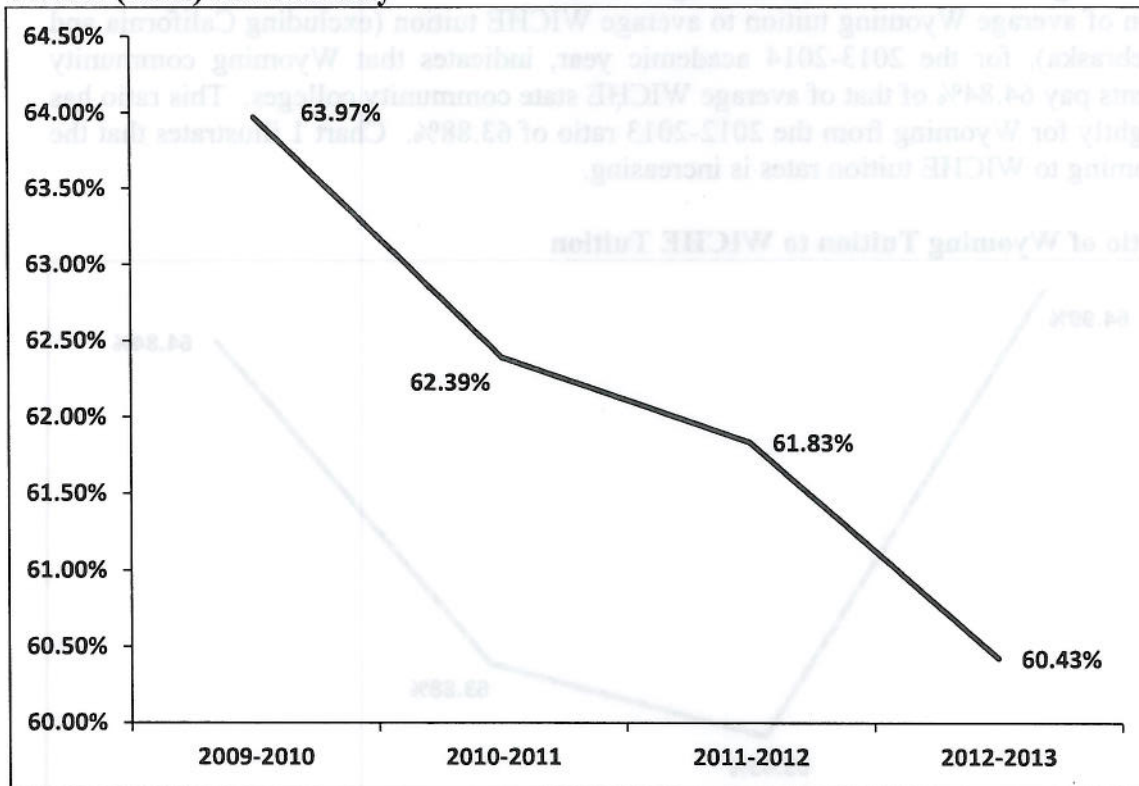
Ratio of Tuition-to-Income Affordability

In comparing the ratios of average tuition rates to median household income (MHI) for Wyoming to that of WICHE states (excluding California and including Nebraska) in 2011-12, the final ratio was 60.43%, a decrease from the 2010-11 ratio of 61.83%. This means that the

Wyoming to WICHE ratio of Tuition-to-Income Affordability gap is moving farther apart for the 2014 Tuition Study.

The average median household income of the WICHE states combined decreased by 1.53% from 2010-11 to 2011-2012. During the same period, median household income in Wyoming increased by 2.30%.

Chart 2: Ratio of Wyoming Tuition-to-Income (MHI) Affordability to WICHE Tuition-to-Income (MHI) Affordability



Potential Wyoming Tuition Increase Study Scenario

The above analysis indicates that the Wyoming community college tuition rate in 2013-2014 remains below that of the surrounding states in WICHE territory. For the 4 one-year periods examined in the analysis, Wyoming's tuition and income ratios were less than those of the WICHE states. Wyoming's tuition rates have increased 16.06% from 2010-11 to 2013-14, whereas WICHE's tuition rates have increased 22.87% for the same period of time. Given this analysis, staff recommends a \$4 or 5.06% increase to current in-state Wyoming tuition, with commensurate tuition increases for WUE and non-resident students.

Table 5: Historical Tuition Rates for Residents, WUE & Non-residents

Residency Classification	2011-2012		2012-13		2013-14	
	Tuition Rate (/credit hour)	Annual Full-time Tuition Rate	Tuition Rate (/credit hour)	Annual Full-time Tuition Rate	Tuition Rate (/credit hour)	Annual Full-time Tuition Rate
Wyoming	\$71	\$1,704	\$75	\$1,800	\$79	\$1,896
WUE and Nebraska	\$107	\$2,568	\$112	\$2,688	\$119	\$2,844
Non-residents	\$213	\$5,112	\$225	\$5,400	\$237	\$5,688

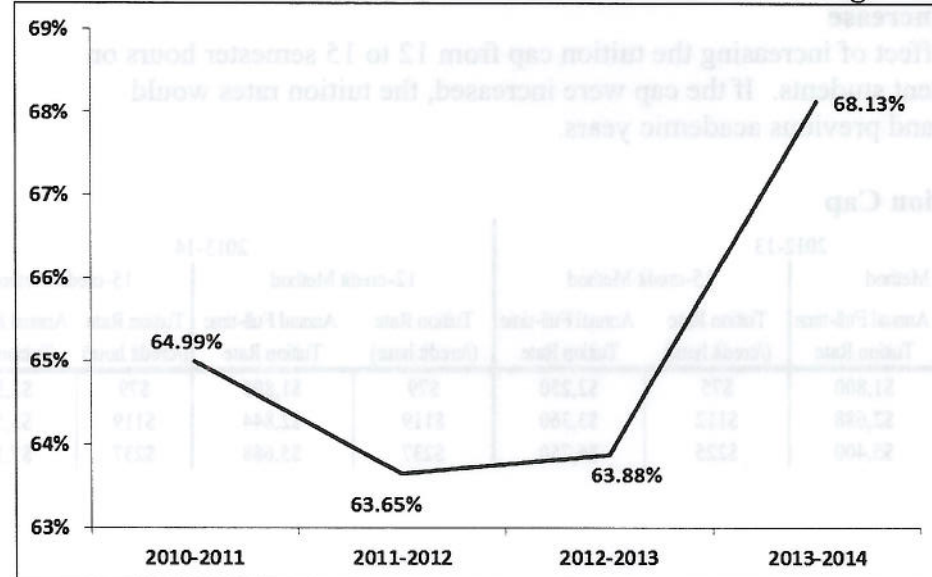
If the Commission were to increase Wyoming Community College tuition by \$4, students would pay an extra 5.06% as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Potential Wyoming Tuition Increase Scenarios

Wyoming Tuition					
	Current	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5
Tuition Rate/Credit Hour	Tuition Rate	Tuition Increase	Tuition Increase	Tuition Increase	Tuition Increase
Tuition Rate/Credit Hour	\$79	\$81	\$82	\$83	\$84
Annual Full-time Tuition Rate	\$1,896	\$1,944	\$1,968	\$1,992	\$2,016
% Increase	-	2.53%	3.80%	5.06%	6.33%

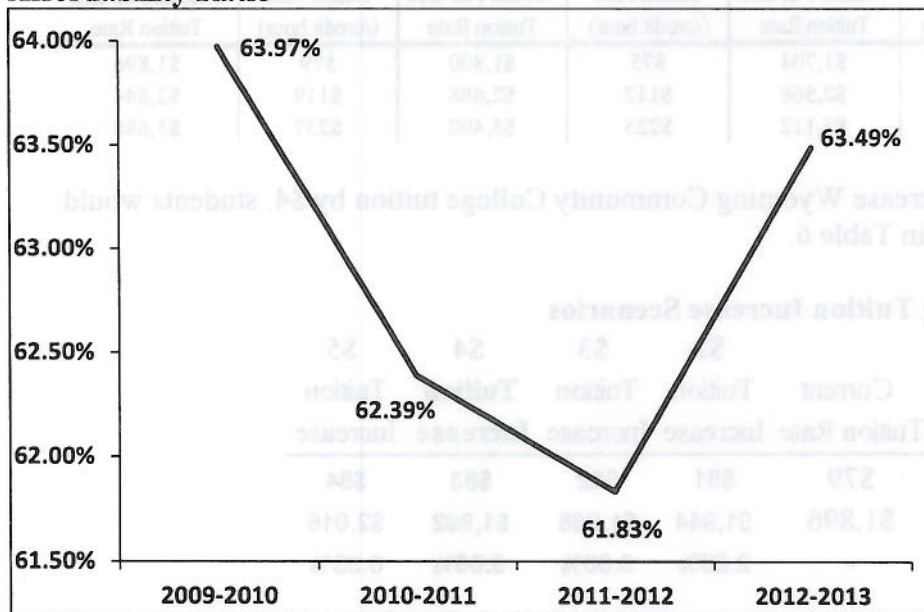
Wyoming's tuition to WICHE tuition ratio has been much less for many years as the graphics above depict. This year the ratio is 64.84%, which is up from the year before, but still a fraction of the tuition of surrounding WICHE colleges. If the Commission approves a 5% tuition increase, the Wyoming to WICHE Tuition ratio would increase to a little over 68% as displayed in chart 3.

Chart 3: Ratio of 5% Increase WY Tuition to WICHE Average Tuition



The \$4 or approximately 5% tuition increase would cause the Tuition-to-Income Affordability of Wyoming to WICHE to trend upwards. This would mean that affordability in Wyoming would be closer to the affordability ratios of surrounding WICHE state's tuition as illustrated in Chart 4.

Chart 4: 5% Increase to Wyoming Tuition-to Income to WICHE Tuition-to-Income Affordability Ratio



If tuition is increased by approximately 5%, Wyoming Community Colleges would have increased revenue of a maximum of \$941,128 which is \$744,799 for residents plus a maximum of \$196,329 for non-residents and international students based on 2012-2013 enrollment data⁵. This is a maximum amount because scholarships offered by the college, as well as other funding sources are not figured into this total dollar increase.

Possible Credit Hour Cap Increase

Below is an example of the effect of increasing the tuition cap from 12 to 15 semester hours on resident, WUE and non-resident students. If the cap were increased, the tuition rates would increase 25% for the current and previous academic years.

Table 6: Changing the Tuition Cap

Residency Classification	2012-13				2013-14			
	12-credit Method		15-credit Method		12-credit Method		15-credit Method	
	Tuition Rate (/credit hour)	Annual Full-time Tuition Rate	Tuition Rate (/credit hour)	Annual Full-time Tuition Rate	Tuition Rate (/credit hour)	Annual Full-time Tuition Rate	Tuition Rate (/credit hour)	Annual Full-time Tuition Rate
Wyoming	\$75	\$1,800	\$75	\$2,250	\$79	\$1,896	\$79	\$2,370
WUE and Nebraska	\$112	\$2,688	\$112	\$3,360	\$119	\$2,844	\$119	\$3,555
Non-residents	\$225	\$5,400	\$225	\$6,750	\$237	\$5,688	\$237	\$7,110

⁵ 2012-2013 Enrollment data is for summer 2012, fall 2012 and spring 2013.