

Subcommittee on Education and Research
NARUC Summer Policy Summit
San Diego, CA
Saturday, July 15, 2017
Minutes

CLOSED SESSION:

Present: The Honorable John “Butch” Howard (SC), Chair
 The Honorable Dan Hall (MO)
 The Honorable John W. Betkoski, III (CT)
 The Honorable Tom Johnson (OH)
 Greg White, Executive Director, NARUC
 Andre T. Parraway, Chief Financial Officer, NARUC
 Erin Hammel, Staff Liaison, Director of International Programs, NARUC
 Michelle Malloy, Sr. Director of Meetings & Member Services, NARUC
 Kerry Worthington, Program Officer, NARUC
 Patti Lucarelli, Staff Subcommittee Member
 Sharon Colby Camara

- **Welcome**

Chair Butch Howard welcomed subcommittee and staff subcommittee members.

University Partners – Erin Hammel discussed a list of questions and objectives regarding the vetting process and will put a memo together. She stated that the goal of the vetting was to gather more information than what is currently provided in reports. After the memo is complete, she’ll create a short questionnaire to be sent to the universities and will also ask for copies of participant evaluations. Michelle Malloy suggested asking questions such as: would you recommend this course to others. Erin will ask that the questionnaire be responded to so that it can be discussed at the November meeting.

Greg White provided a history of the educational partnerships and noted that there is no shortage of research being done. He stated that times have changed and that programs have to keep up with the change. He updated the Committee on NRRI becoming part of NARUC. Commissioner Hall asked the status of Miles Keough’s gap analysis. Greg responded that it is an ongoing process. Kerry Worthington said that NARUC had just done a siting training with New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners. Erin said this is an opportunity for the subcommittee to come up with new trainings and to decide if some can be done in-house. She noted New Commissioner training as an example of NARUC’s in-house training. She further highlighted the benefits of in-house training, i.e., economics and customization.

Commissioner Howard said that Commissioner Paul Kjellander from Idaho suggested short spots as a public service. Commissioner Betkoski suggested doing something similar

to educate the public on what the Commissions do. Commissioner Howard will follow up with Commissioner Kjellander to gather ideas and report back in November.

Kerry Worthington reported that NARUC had contracted with DOE to do a rate impact analysis. She said she focused on states with a 15% or greater increase in rates. The paper is almost complete. She will report back in November.

Finally, Greg White informed the committee that Miles is resigning.

OPEN SESSION:

In addition to the Closed Session attendees the following guests attended: Raj Barua, NRRI; Cindy Blume, CPU/NMSU; Tommy Oliver, VSCC; Larry Blank NMSU; Jan Beecher, IPU-MSU; Steve Ferris, U. of Miss.; Sarah Gott, FRI-MU; Jessi Kenney, FRI-MU; Ross Hemphill, FRI-MU

- **Welcome**

Chair Butch Howard welcomed all guests.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes was moved, seconded and approved.

- **NRRI Update**

Dr. Rajnith Barua, Executive Director of NRRI, gave a brief update on NRRI and provided a brief description of its reports.

- **Annual Reports**

1. Jan Beecher provided that IPU has a full schedule of programs. She said rate school is very successful, but enrollment at Camp NARUC has declined. She acknowledged that she could do a better job marketing.
2. Cindy Blume described the NMSU programs and stated that they were very well attended. Larry Blank discussed the graduate programs. He stated that four courses opened up to other disciplines for the graduate certificate program which was successful among engineering students and those in the industry.
3. Steve Ferris highlighted what the University of Missouri offered last year noting six webinars and a monthly newsletter.
4. Florida did not have a representative attend but sent a written report, and no one was in attendance from Wisconsin.

- **Certificate of Continuing Regulatory Education (CCRE) Update**

Jan Beecher reported that there was a fair amount of interest in the certificate of continuing education. She said the certificate is for participation, not knowledge. She represented that a few dozen people have earned the certificate.

- **Update on Subcommittee Reports** – Reported by Erin Hammel, Director, International Programs, NARUC
 1. 2017 Summer Internships – 3 were awarded to Alaska, Georgia and Wyoming. New ones will be announced in the fall.
 2. New Commissioner Orientation – The 18th session is scheduled for October 2 to October 3. Of those registered, nine people have confirmed, and five people are on the waitlist.
- **Review of Applications for NARUC Support** – Reported by Erin Hammel, Director, International Programs, NARUC

Two applications were received from New Mexico State University for renewal of three-year MOUs for Current Issues and the Basics. A motion was made to accept the MOUs, seconded and unanimously approved.

- **Scholarship Review and Selections**

The following names were presented for consideration:

1. NAWC - \$1,000 – Jeremy Comeau, IN. Jeremy will attend NARUC Eastern Rate School.
2. NARUC - \$1,000 – Nickolaus Schuster, WI. Nickolaus will attend NARUC Eastern Rate School.
3. EEI - \$1,000 – Andrew Magner, IA. Andrew will attend NARUC Eastern Rate School.
4. CPU/NMSU – registration fee scholarship – Zachary Branum, AZ. Zachary was the only applicant for the CPU/NMSU scholarship and will attend The Basics.
5. WPUI – 2 registration scholarships – Margaret Hogan, RI and Linda George, RI. Margaret and Linda were the only two applicants for the WPUI scholarships.

A motion was made to accept the scholarship awardees, seconded and unanimously approved.

- **ICER**

Commissioner Betkowsi gave an update on ICER. He provided that NARUC is the central office for ICER. The 2018 World Forum is scheduled for March in Cancun Mexico. Five articles were confirmed; two are subject to additional review. The Distinguished Scholar Award was given to two individuals. There are currently three virtual working groups.

- **New Business**

There was no new business.

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

The minutes were taken by Patti Lucarelli

APPROVED November 12, 2017