



Western Governors University Memorandum of Understanding

Draft Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Western Governors University

We, the undersigned, having agreed that:

The strength and well-being of our states and the nation depend increasingly on a strong higher education system that helps individuals adapt to our rapidly changing economy and society; and

States must look to telecommunications and information technologies to provide greater access and choice to a population that increasingly must have affordable education and training opportunities and the certification of competency throughout their lives; and

Having previously charged the Western Governors Association, in association with other organizations and individuals, to develop a plan for the achievement of these purposes; and

Having found the Implementation Plan that has been developed based on months of staff work and numerous reports, ably assisted and benefiting from advice and counsel offered by our appointees to a Regional Advisory Group and by the members of state advisory groups, to provide the foundation for achieving these purposes;

We hereby adopt said Implementation Plan, with such amendments as we have deemed appropriate, and join together through this Memorandum of Understanding to initiate such steps as may be necessary towards the establishment of an entity, to be known as the Western Governors University (hereafter "WGU"), which will, through the use of appropriate advanced technologies and educational practices, provide expanded access to high-quality postsecondary education and training opportunities and competency assessment and skills certification, while taking advantage of cost- and resource-sharing opportunities throughout the West.

We further agree that the creation of the WGU will require our strong, visible, and effective leadership to assure cooperation among our states and with educational institutions and private industry and to secure a supportive policy environment.

In furtherance thereof, we the undersigned agree as follows to:

1. Serve as a member of a Steering Committee that will oversee the implementation of the WGU; and to have the Western Governors' Association continue to serve as the organizing

entity of the WGU. It is contemplated that at a future time, the WGU's development will be transferred to an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation created for the explicit purpose of conducting the business of the WGU. Until activity is transferred to the new entity, guidance will be provided by the WGA staff under the direction of the WGU Steering Committee formed by governors from the states that are signatories to this memorandum of understanding. In addition, one other person may be appointed by each governor to serve on the WGU Steering Committee. The WGU Steering Committee may expand the number of members upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members. The WGA Chair will, in consultation with the governors serving on the WGU Steering Committee, appoint from among their number, two governors, one from each party, who will serve as Co-Chairs of the WGU Steering Committee. The Co-Chairs of the WGU Steering Committee will name three of the remaining governors on the WGU Steering Committee to serve with them as the WGU Executive Committee, which will be charged with implementing the mandate and instructions of the WGU Steering Committee. The decision to effect the formation of the non-profit, tax-exempt corporation and the transfer of activities will occur when two-thirds of the Steering Committee members vote a resolution to proceed.

2.Name individuals to serve on such advisory committees as may be established to further the implementation of the WGU;

3.Provide an initial sum of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars \$100,000 to support the execution of the Implementation Plan, during the WGA fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1996 and ending on June 30, 1997;

4.Actively participate in the acquisition of the financial resources necessary to build the virtual catalog, student support, assessment, management and other systems necessary to enable the WGU to serve the people of our states and region;

5.Secure the establishment of at least one center within each of our states that will provide local access to the services of the WGU;

6.Take such measures as are appropriate to create a policy environment that supports the goals of the WGU, including identifying and eliminating unnecessary barriers to or burdens upon the delivery of quality educational services via telecommunications and to the recognition of degrees and credentials obtained through such delivery systems, whether intrastate, regional, or national;

7.Participate in the development of partnerships and alliances between WGU and the business community, governmental entities and educational institutions; and

8.Otherwise actively participate in and support the establishment of WGU in accordance with the Implementation Plan, as such Plan may from time to time be amended by our actions.

M. J. [Signature] Dated: _____, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

[Signature] Dated: _____, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

[Signature] Dated: _____, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

Subject to legislative approval
(30)

[Signature] Dated: _____, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

Subject to legislative approval
(20)

[Signature] Dated: 6-24, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

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[Signature] Dated: 6-24, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

!!

[Signature] Dated: 21 June, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

Present by legislative appropriation!

[Signature] Dated: _____, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

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[Signature] Dated: 6-24, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

[Signature] Dated: 6/24, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

[Signature] Dated: 7-8, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

Subject to legislative appropriation

Agreement is contingent on appropriation by the 1997 Hawaii State Legislature of the necessary funds required to comply with the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding, and a determination that participation is within the legal parameters of the State of Hawaii.

[Signature] Dated: 7/17, 1996
Governor of the State of Hawaii

[Signature] Dated: Aug 20, 1996
Governor of the State of _____

Subject to legislative appropriation

[Signature] Dated: 4-1-97, 1997
Governor of the Territory of _____

Subject to legislative appropriation,
Carl Gutierrez

[Signature] Dated: 4/17, 1997
Governor of the State of _____

Long known

[Signature] Dated: 6/27, 1997
Governor of the State of Oklahoma