

**Wyoming School-University Partnership
Governing Board Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2009
10:02-11:32 a.m.**

BY CONFERENCE CALL

(Poor weather statewide caused us to cancel the face-to-face meeting in Casper.)

Present

Dave Barker, Trish Cook, Judy Ellsworth, Paige Fenton-Hughes, Mike Hjetmanek, Mike Klopfenstein, Suzanne Perry, Kay Persichitte, Ray Schulte, and Audrey Shalinsky.

Partnership Staff: Audrey Kleinsasser, Jenni Luckett, Tara Reiter-Marolf.

Introductions

Chair Trish Cook called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., followed by roll call.

Review and Approve

Today's meeting agenda and the November 14, 2008 meeting minutes were approved. Kay Persichitte moved to approve the minutes, Judy Ellsworth seconded.

Check in and NNER grounding, Alfred Lubrano's *Limbo*, pages 1-29; 112-128

Trish asked Audrey Kleinsasser to set the stage for the NNER grounding activity of Alfred Lubrano's *Limbo: Blue-Collar Roots, White-Collar Dreams*. Audrey started by explaining that the book will be featured at a Partnership-sponsored Dinner and a Book event in Casper, February 5, 2009, in conjunction with the yearly Wyoming Mathematics and Statistics meeting. About 18 high school, community college, and university mathematics faculty plan to attend. Lubrano writes about the challenges students face when their educational experiences shock them and their identities change. For many students, being successful at school means rejecting the values of their parents and home communities. Such issues undermine academic success in math and other content areas.

A lively book discussion began with almost all stating that aspects of the book described their own transitions. Mike Hjetmanek shared that he identified with growing up blue-collar and then becoming white-collar. That development changed communication and relationships with friends and family. Suzanne Perry stated that she has shared the book with teachers in Albany County. Again, many identified with a component of the book, finding their own stories in it. Kay Persichitte added that she thought the book provided a great discussion for any group, and that once a person changes classes either direction, going home is very different. Judy Ellsworth pointed out that there are still a large number of first generation college students at UW, and the transition from home to college is addressed, but not the transition back home, once students have been in school.

Ray Schulte observed that he didn't believe anyone in Wyoming, working-class or middle-class, was resentful about their children going to college. Audrey Shalinsky added that she did not see herself in this book at all. She elaborated that the book set up a dichotomy between middle-class and working-class that probably isn't completely accurate. She said that her family fell somewhere in between, and the categories are too extreme for everyone to fit into perfectly. Trish stated that in Wyoming, the Hathaway scholarships are allowing more people to attend college, which means that there will eventually be a more diverse population of working class families at the university.

Mike Klopfenstein said that when he was growing up, he didn't know if he was rich, poor, or in between. Others laughed in agreement. Ethics was a large part of Mike's childhood, and he wasn't sure that ethics are always a central to growing up now. Mike Hjetmanek asked if there is any evidence of the economy affecting the university, and if students are having trouble staying in school. Kay said that there will be a small percentage of students coping with that, but that those with Hathaway scholarships will be less susceptible. Mike Hjetmanek suggested talking to President Buchanan about a crisis line for students who are struggling to afford school. Audrey Kleinsasser said that she would follow up on that question.

Review and approve bill payment

Ray Schulte moved to accept and pay Partnership expenses from November 14, 2008 to January 26, 2009 with a second from Judy Ellsworth. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2009-2010 Budget, to be approved April 17, 2009

Trish Cook asked Audrey Kleinsasser to take board members through the proposed budget, including goals and working assumptions. Audrey explained the draft document and pointed out that one of the main goals of the Partnership is to eventually match the UW College of Education's contribution. There is no recommendation to increase district dues for the coming year. They will stay at \$2,500, due August 15, 2009. One proposal is to increase the WEA dues from \$2,000 to \$4,000. UW Arts and Sciences dues will also increase from \$2,000 to \$2,500. The Wyoming Department of Education dues were at \$4,500, and will increase to \$7,000. Representatives of those three memberships were contacted about the proposed increases. All are confirmed except the WEA. Audrey also stated that the Partnership always wants to maintain current school district memberships and increase district membership by one or two a year. Kay stated that Audrey has done a great job encouraging new memberships. She encouraged board members who are superintendents to find opportunities to promote membership among the school districts.

Trish asked what board members thought about the \$2,500 district dues. Mike Hjetmanek stated that different-sized districts have different budgets. Paige Fenton-Hughes said that it makes sense for different-sized districts to pay different amounts. Smaller districts budgets might be maxed out. At the same time, districts with more students might be able to support a higher, individual membership. Trish concurred with Paige, and also suggested that differentiated membership dues was an idea to consider. Audrey Kleinsasser said that the idea of differentiated dues might be worth revisiting for the 2010-2011 draft budget discussion. Mike Hjetmanek said that raising the dues might cause districts to drop out. Mike Klopfenstein observed that small and large districts have the same constraints.

Audrey Kleinsasser summarized the discussion, stating that based on this conversation, the 2009-2010 draft budget would not be changed for the April 17 meeting, when the budget will come before the governing board for approval.

Scholarship Initiative, NNER 2009 Conference

Trish asked Audrey Kleinsasser to overview the initiative. At the last Governing Board meeting, members approved \$10,000 from this year's budget and \$10,000 from next year's budget to create twenty \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships are for Wyoming educators to present at the NNER 2009 fall conference. The first step in receiving a scholarship is to participate in an information sharing conference call, February 9, 10, or 11. There are four strands to the conference program. Each proposal must address one of them: 1) Pursuing Excellence and Equity for all Learners; 2) Preparing Students for Participation in Democracy; 3) Practicing Nurturing Pedagogies; and 4) Stewarding Public Education.

Those selected to present and earning scholarships will maintain contact for the 6-8 months leading up to the conference and present at a local or in-state venue (i.e., school board, School Improvement Conference). If all of the money is

expended, it is unlikely that the Partnership will have the funds to support participants to the 2009 NNER summer symposium which is scheduled for July, in Seattle.

Updates: Partnership Initiatives and Related Projects

Trish also asked Audrey Kleinsasser to highlight other initiatives and projects. Audrey referred everyone to documents about upcoming events: the Wyoming Mathematics & Statistics Articulation Meeting, February 5-7, Casper; the 4th Annual Statewide Life Sciences Summit, February 20, Casper; and the Teaching Writing in Wyoming Colloquium, April 20, Riverton.

Trish asked how Guernsey High School, the new League of Democratic Schools member, has been doing. Audrey said that Ken Griffith, the principal will be attending the national League meetings in Seattle at the end of January.

Audrey also referred board members to the January 2009 Partnership newsletter which was included in the board packet. Board members complimented Partnership staff for the professional-looking newsletter and high quality contents.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.