COWBOY PARENTS COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2010

The Cowboy Parents Council held its summer meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2010, beginning at
2:00 p.m. in Room 506 of Coe Library on the UW campus. Dan Herlihey, Chair, presided. Those
present included Council members – Trish Arthur, Sara Axelson (ex officio), Robert Balzan, Joe
Gulino, Maryalice Gulino, Dan Herlihey, Vickie Herlihey, Patricia Horton, Brad Irion, Pete
Kuhn, Trenda Weisshaar, and Brad Wiesley; Staff – Janicca Lee and John Nutter; and Guests –
Brandon Gellis, Westin Grabow, Cameron Nazminia, Don Richards, and Matt Winninger.

Welcome: Dan convened the meeting and welcomed all members and acknowledged that the
Council has two new members—Julie Balzan and Carlene Irion—who were not able to attend.

Vice President’s Update: Sara complimented the association on its momentum and the leadership
demonstrated by the Herliheys.

She introduced Cameron Nazminia, 2010-11 ASUW President who is a pre-law student majoring
in Finance. He indicated that he and the ASUW Vice President, Liz Brown, will focus on raising
awareness of all that ASUW offers students and increasing the outreach to and involvement of
multicultural students. Cameron, who has not served previously in student government, and Liz,
who was an ASUW Senator, bring a special mix of new ideas and experience to their positions.

Sara distributed copies of the final report of the Veterans Services Task Force. The report
solidifies what UW is doing as a campus to serve veterans. A Veterans Services Center will be
opened prior to the fall semester on the second floor of Knight Hall. It will be staffed part-time
by work/study students paid by the Veterans Administration with help from active service
members from the campus and Laramie community. A website designed for veterans has been
created. She sees the number of veterans returning from deployment as an important group of
individuals seeking additional training and education.

Enrollment for the fall semester is running about 400 individuals ahead of last fall at this time.
Much of the growth is in non-traditional students, which UW is defining for statistical purposes
as individuals aged 25 or older. They represent approximately 20% of UW’s undergraduate
student population.

Non-traditional students are another area of focus for the Division of Student Affairs. Sara
distributed a report developed following a review by Student Affairs directors of current services
for these students. UW is seeking to raise additional scholarship dollars for non-traditional
students and to re-direct 20% of existing scholarship funds to them. A website to centralize
information targeted to non-traditional students is in the process of being created.
Another task force is working on event calendaring. Their goal is to create a University-wide calendaring system which will allow students to easily learn what events and activities are occurring in any part of campus life. A student, Kalib Simpson, is chairing the group.

An electronic social networking opportunity called WyoAlumni is being prepared for UW alumni and friends. It will provide event information and allow alumni to update their biographical information on a real-time basis.

Downey residence hall will be renovated this year to bring its fire and life safety systems in line with other Washakie residence halls. This renovation is funded through bonds authorized by the State Legislature in March to be repaid through student room and board fees.

UW is investigating possible public/private partnerships for the construction of new residential facilities to replace the Summit View apartments which are being razed. White Hall is the next residential hall to be remodeled into suites, to make it competitive with facilities on other campuses. Half Acre Gymnasium expansion planning is progressing, with construction still a few years away.

The Division of Student Affairs will take time this year to develop a vision for the future. Sara invited the Council to look ahead and help guide what the Division should be doing.

Pete asked if UW conducts exit interviews with graduating students. Sara replied that a short survey is administered with the distribution of caps and gowns, but that more could be done. She suggested inviting Center for Advising & Career Services Director Jo Chytka to a future meeting to discuss the successes of UW graduates. Trish expressed an interest in knowing where UW students are from—what states and countries. Sara offered to provide this information to the Council.

Selection of new Council members: Dan noted there were four candidates for Council positions including Adam Boyd who was nominated by ASUW for a student position. Janicca explained two possible interpretations of the current bylaws. One interpretation would strictly limit the total number Council members to twenty. The other interpretation would allow twenty members plus allow the Past Chairs to also serve for the year of their service as Past Chairs.

Dan said he would like to see the Council grow, if Council members find all the candidates acceptable. It was noted that any parent may attend meetings, but only Council members may vote. It was suggested that an email reminder of meetings be sent to all parents who have submitted email addresses. Others cautioned about allowing the Council to become too large to be efficient.

Trish said she was glad to see people interested in joining the Council. Trenda remarked that as interest grows, ways need to be found to involve volunteers more in Association activities.

Maryalice offered and Brad Wiesley seconded a motion to accept the four applicants—Rebecca Adair, Adam Boyd, J.B. Chapman, Kurt Kinderwater—as Council members. The motion was
adopted unanimously. Boyd will fill the one-year student term; the others will serve a two-year term from fall 2010 until fall 2012.

It was suggested that the bylaws be reviewed and revised to be more definitive. It was noted that the Bylaws state that there shall be two students appointed to serve on the Council. Brad Wiesley asked to slightly amend that statement to read that there may be two students appointed to serve on the Council and that in the future more information be provided on the applicants to allow Council members to make a more informed choice if there are more applicants than open positions. It was mentioned that applicants might specify which committees they would want to serve.

A “welcome call” will be made to each new Council member. Janicca will prepare talking points for the calls and distribute them by email. Those making the calls are:

- Rebecca Adair by Dan Herlihey
- Adam Boyd by Pete Kuhn
- J.B. Chapman by Trish Arthur
- Kurt Kinderwater by Trenda Weisshaar

Cowboy Parent Programs:

**Family Weekend:** Janicca distributed a tentative schedule for the weekend and discussed each item. She added the following comments: The Friday night entertainer has not yet been contracted. The Silent Auction will close about 12:30 p.m. The planning committee hopes to have a short video presentation by Coach Christensen. The President’s Brunch location will be either in the Union Ballroom or Crane-Hill Dining Hall, depending in part on the number of reservations made. The charge will be $65/adult, but no charge for Council members. Council members still must register, however. She is still investigating the possibility of a complimentary entrance to Washakie for parents wanting to eat with their students on Saturday evening. The Council will hold its fall meeting on Friday afternoon, September 17.

**Silent Auction:** Trenda and Jolene will chair the event again. Specific tasks will be assigned to Council volunteers, such as set up help, thank you notes, item acquisitions, item presentations, etc. It was noted that the packages for kids were very popular. Council members were asked to sign a sheet indicating their task preferences for this event.

**Welcome Calls:** Welcome letters were sent to parents of all committed new students. Three letters were sent—to Wyoming residents (Trenda), to Colorado residents (Herliheys), and to other out-of-state residents (Karen). Each letter listed a phone number and email address for the sender. Janicca and Noah Buckley suggested limiting the welcome calls to those parents who did not receive a welcome letter or attend Orientation. Council members suggested if enough volunteers are enlisted, then all out-of-state parents could be added to the list of people called. A signup sheet for making calls was circulated. Janicca will provide talking points, Frequently Asked Questions w/answers; and Numbers to Know. She will attach copies of the welcome letters sent previously.
**Summit 2010:** A Cowboy Parents reception will be held Thursday, August 19, in the Washakie lounge area for parents. The Council will have a booth and will allow parents to register for Family Weekend. Cowboy Parents t-shirts will be sold. Council members were invited to suggest menu items or centerpieces for the event.

**Move In 2010:** Council members are invited to participate in Move In day for the residence halls on Thursday, August 19. Janicca will provide information on who to contact in July.

**Homecoming:** Council members were encouraged to participate in the October 16 parade, President’s tailgate party, and the All-Alumni lunch. To date, a theme has not been identified for 2010.

**Institutional Marketing Update & Preview:** Brandon Gellis introduced the new UW brand, which incorporates key factors and the desired long-term image for UW. It attempts to distinguish UW from its competition. Extensive research was conducted to determine what makes UW what it is. Three key concepts emerged—juxtaposition (balanced and diverse), adventure (academic, recreational, and preparation), and holistic (natural, all-encompassing, values). The new look for publications and the website incorporates leather appearance and use of the UW medallion. Large images of people will be used. Web pages will have a branded element at the top. There are four tiers of templates, ranging from worldwide exposure to internal use only.

**Legislative Update:** Don Richards, director of governmental and community relations, noted that UW receives great support from policymakers. Approximately 45% of UW’s budget comes from state funding. UW received nearly one half billion dollars for the coming biennium, and one out of every seven dollars spent from Wyoming’s general fund comes to the university. UW did sustain budget cuts, as did universities in most states. Still no faculty positions were cut and no classroom instruction funds were deleted. In addition, bonding authority was approved to renovate Downey Hall and to build a Visual Arts building. Support for energy-related projects was also significant. UW is now preparing a request for the Supplemental Budget. UW has received nearly $50 million in federal stimulus funding as well, some of which will cover the tuition increase for students in 2010-11.

UW likes to use existing connections—such as students, donors, faculty, alumni, and parents—to make contacts with policymakers on issues of direct impact to them, like student housing, transportation, etc. The connections will be requested only when needed. UW interacts primarily with the Education, Minerals, and Joint Appropriations committees in the Wyoming Legislature.

Don indicated that Cowboy Parent Council members may be approached for help through email messages sent well in advance, through the Student Affairs office. They will be for issues of relevance to students and parents. Members may be asked to contact legislators in their home areas. They may be asked to send email messages to specific legislators, but not to send blast emails. Out-of-state Council members and parents can be helpful in contacting Congressional delegations.
**New Parent Orientation:** Janicca distributed copies of the schedule for the two-day orientation sessions. She is seeking four volunteers for each session. Volunteers will assist with the Resource Fair, mingle with parents during lunch, and attend the Cowboy Parents presentation. Reactions to the first session included (1) the Cowboy Parents session seems rushed—there is not enough time allotted for the presentation, (2) presenters should not make reference to lunch, as it redirects folks’ attention to eating, (3) parent names tags w/hometowns would be very helpful, (4) handing out signup cards at tables (vs. in line) at lunch is good.

Janicca then previewed the Cowboy Parents slide show. Comments included (1) raise the contact information on the last slide, or better yet, put it on an additional slide, (2) add small photos to the text slides, (3) leave the Website URL up throughout the presentation, (4) make the text size consistent and perhaps the Cowboy Parents logo smaller, and (5) shortening the exposure time for some text slides.

**Budget update:** Janicca reported that expendable funds now total $21,038.65. A total of $16,367 has been raised this year from various projects. The Division of Student Affairs hopes to be able to supplement the budget in the future when economic times improve.

**Student Emergency Fund:** Cowboy Parents have added $1,500 to the fund in each semester. Nine students received assistance of $300-$350 each, some repayable, others not. Some students have been turned away for lack of funds, but it is not known how many. A balance of $60 now exists. A new donation to the fund will be made in August.

**Family Emergency Fund:** This ASUW fund has a balance of approximately $2,700. It was created by an endowment of $10,000, which generates about $470 per year.

The Student Emergency Fund has been a priority focus for fundraising by Cowboy Parents. Brad Wiesley urged that we emphasize donations to the student fund. Brad Irion suggested starting an endowment for the student fund. Joe suggested collecting data on how many students are turned away and what their needs were. Janicca will pursue this.

**Brad Wiesley offered and Maryalice seconded a motion to transfer $2,500 from the Cowboy Parents account to the Student Emergency Fund for the 2010 fall semester, and to ask that the Student Financial Aid office keep records of all student requests for assistance from the fund. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Brad Irion offered and Patricia seconded a motion to set aside $2,500 from the Cowboy Parents account to initiate an endowment to generate funds for the Student Emergency Fund. Fund raising literature should note a goal of raising $25,000 to create the endowment. Following further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

**SafeRide:** Janicca noted that ASUW has asked that a parent serve on its SafeRide Advisory Committee. The group meets three times a semester on the first Thursday of the month. Maryalice expressed interest if the timing is convenient.
Bylaws: Dan noted that a recent email vote has allowed spouses of current Council members to join the Council without having to go through the application process. Also Council members had voted electronically to change the length of the student term on the Council from two years to one year. Joe offered and Maryalice seconded a motion to ratify these electronic votes. The motion carried without opposition.

Dan asked that all Council members review the bylaws before the fall Council meeting. It was suggested that sections be sent by email to Council members to review and comment on, thereby encouraging the review and analysis.

Concluding Comments:

Robert Balzan suggested that Cowboy Parents negotiate with the university to acquire a suite or club seats at War Memorial Stadium and then rent the seats as a fundraiser.

Janicca noted that the Student Affairs fundraising mailer will include a box to check if a donor wants to contribute to the Student Emergency Fund.

Dan offered a reminder of important upcoming dates:
• July – the welcome calls will begin
• August 19 – Summit 2010 Parents Reception and Move-In Day
• September 17 – Fall meeting of the Cowboy Parents Council
• September 17-19 – Family Weekend

Joe shared a draft proposal to be given to the UW Foundation that suggests determining where our students have found positions with major companies and then target those companies for fundraising by the university.

Adjournment: With no further business to conduct, the meeting concluded at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nutter