The Cowboy Parents Council held its summer meeting on Friday, June 7, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Student Affairs Conference Room, Old Main at the University of Wyoming Campus. Members present: Kurt Kinderwater, Pat Horton, Kim Conci, Dan and Vicki Herlihey, Brad and Carlene Irion, Kathi Morrison, John Rundel, Karrie Tracy and Riki Haukaas (by Skype); ex officio: Sara Axelson; Staff: Kim Shannon; Guests: Nick Poppelwell, from Athletics.

Prior to the meeting, the Council members toured the Energy Innovation Center led by Pam Henderson.

Kurt Kinderwater called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

**Nick Poppelwell, Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing and Branding.**

Nick came on staff last July from Idaho. Nick spoke about combining efforts of athletics with Cowboy Parents. He can see the need to partner up with our events with Cowboy athletics. Nick would like to see parent’s weekend combined with a football game in the future, however look at blocking motel rooms, discounted tickets, etc. to make it more feasible. This fall it will be a non-football weekend. It is a collaborative effort to deciding on what weekend is chosen for Parent Weekend. It was discussed that in the past there were not always discounted tickets offered for parents, which in not conducive to parent involvement. The President’s schedule really drives the weekend chosen. Having enough housing for parents for family weekend and a football game is often very difficult. Last year, Family weekend was on a non-football weekend and local businesses were appreciative. Nick spoke of dad’s weekend they held in Idaho during a football game. Nick encouraged parents to contact him for any ideas of how athletics can partner with Cowboy Parents.

The council discussed the advantages of hosting the Family Weekend on a non-football weekend and the positive impact it had on the Laramie community. It was also discussed to have a game dedicated for Families/parents, like it is for Military Day, etc.
**Vice President's Update:** Sara Axelson, Student Affairs, told members that Janicca Lee is ill and asked for moral support from the council members that knew her. Sara passed around information on how members can support her. President Sternberg came on board this last week. He starts officially in July. He has a lot of energy and is excited to get going. Sara would like for him to meet the council during our September meeting. He is a prolific writer and has a lot of fresh perspectives. The University is still working on its strategic plan. Individual groups are completing their plans. Chris Boswell is still very interested in partnering with Cowboy Parents for legislative efforts. The push will be for an increase in staff salaries, as there have not been any increases for the past 4 years. Sara reported that orientation sessions are going well. During Frontier Days, July 26th, there will be a picnic in Prexy’s Pasture for future students.

Bison Run is at capacity for this coming fall. Work continues on Half Acre Gym. Council members discussed the off campus apartments being built and the impact that will have on University housing. On-line course work is being offered; currently about 3,000 students are taking advantage of off-campus courses.

**Financial Update:** There was a transfer of funds to fully fund our Cowboy Parents Endowment to over $25,000. There are usually personal referrals to the financial aid office for the Student Emergency Fund. Sara expressed the concern that if there is a true emergency for a student, that we not require re-payment. Members discussed that in the past that students were encouraged to re-pay in the future if they can. The reasoning is to make sure the money is there for future students and their needs. Kim will invite JoAnna from the Financial Aid Office to a future meeting to discuss how funds are awarded. There has not been any use of the fund since our last meeting. Council members asked for an update at each meeting of the use of the emergency fund. Sara clarified that Student Affairs can cover the cost of Skype or another program. Sara indicated that a more clear financial statement needs to be compiled and sent out to council members. We need an income statement and balance sheet. Roxanne will come to the September Meeting to present the financial update and to answer questions council members may have. It was discussed that the endowment needs to be continually funded.

**Orientation update and schedule.** There are 5 freshmen sessions remaining and 1 non-traditional session. Attendance at last night’s parent reception was down last night due to it being on the West side of the Hilton; we receive a discount for UW, however many parents like the opportunity to order a drink that is available on the east side of the Hilton. Different options were discussed. Council members volunteered for helping out as schedules allow.
**Summit (Move-in) Parent Reception:** Looking at changing the term to Cowboy Connect. It will be held, Thursday, August 22nd, on the lower level of Washakie. Family Weekend was really promoted last year during this reception. Kim discussed Words of Encouragement - parents write a note to their student that will be delivered about 2 weeks later to the students. Kim asked that council members consider attending if possible. Rikki volunteered to attend, as she will be here with her daughter.

**Family Weekend:** Since Vickie and Dan are going off the council, we need someone to step in to help with the silent auction. Dan and Vickie are willing to support the transition to someone else. It has been a small committee work in the past and it was suggested that it be more of a council activity. It was discussed that donors can come from throughout the state instead of just locally, however we have limited table space. There is a small window to sell the items donated. It is a money maker, however it is also a "fun" event. In the past, donations have been sought on the Saturday of Jubilee Days, which will be July 13th of this year. Follow-up calls are made after the initial personal contact. Kim is willing to pick-up items. Vickie and Dan are willing to help in July with 2-3 teams of 2 people each. Packaging of items and bid sheets will be handled through Kim and her staff. The structure of the silent auction is solid after having held it the past 4 years. It was discussed to have at least 2 key people in charge of the event. The President has matched what we have made for the last 3 years; last year he matched the $3,150 that was made from the silent auction. It was moved by Karrie and seconded by Vickie to make the silent auction a council initiative with a chair and co-chair. It was suggested to ask Balzan's to chair this year, but we still need 2 more members to volunteer. Members discussed the process overview. It was suggested to ask local parents to get involved with the silent auction due to the long distance most council members have to travel currently and the lack of current members.

Our council has several members going off this fall and several other members that have discontinued their membership. Discussion regarding recruitment of future members. Vickie volunteered to contact the current list of people interested to see if they are a match to serve on the council. It was moved to have Kurt and John co-chair the Cowboy Parents Council until 9-2014; Pat will chair for the 2014-2015 year.

Homecoming will be October 12th; a short discussion ensued.

Kurt adjourned meeting at 7:08.

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