

**Wyoming School-University Partnership  
Governing Board Meeting  
January 28, 2010**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

*Board Members:* Karen Bard, Dave Barker, Bob Bryant, Joel Dvorak, Judy Ellsworth, Paige Fenton-Hughes, Bob Gates, Michelle Hoffman, Mike Klopfenstein, Rick Luchsinger, Kevin Mitchell, Kay Persichitte, and Audrey Shalinsky.

*Partnership Staff:* Audrey Kleinsasser, Brenna Wanous.

*Guests:* John Anderson (University of Nebraska-Kearney), Ann Foster (National Network for Educational Renewal), Joy Mockelmann (Wyoming Department of Education) and Kelley Pelissier (Wyoming P-16 Council).

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Chair Dave Barker called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Dave welcomed all and invited each to introduce him or herself and share their background or experiences with the Partnership.

Two introductions of particular note were of the newest Partnership member Diana Clapp, Superintendent of Fremont Co. School District #6, and Ann Foster, Executive Director of National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER), present to attend the *In Praise of Education* conference, hosted by the Partnership on January 28-29 in Casper.

Dave also announced that board members will be alerted to participate on a conference call prior to the next board meeting to discuss the 2010-2011 Partnership budget; more information to follow in email.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

The first order of business was to review and approve the meeting agenda, along with consent agenda items including the November 18, 2009 meeting minutes and August-January Partnership bills. Mike Klopfenstein moved to approve; Ray Schulte seconded.

**Wyoming P-16 Council Activities:**

Kelley Pelissier introduced herself as Executive Director of the Wyoming P-16 Council as of November 1, 2009. Prior to the Council, she worked in a variety of settings, most recently at the Legislative Service Office in Cheyenne. Her current office is 280 Hathaway Building, Cheyenne.

Kelley provided the group with a two-page summary of Council members and activities, and described the Council's work since November. The primary concerns of the P-16 Council are issues related to dual/concurrent enrollment, particularly relating to

1. Wyoming community colleges providing appropriate difficulty level in courses:
2. Duration of concurrent courses (semester- versus year-long):
  - a. The group discussed the impacts of teaching a college level semester-long course over a year-long period. Doesn't provide students with an accurate picture of the depth and volume of course work in college, yet doesn't treat students as older than they are.
  - b. Related, Kevin Mitchell provided group with copies of a letter from Eastern Wyoming College to Weston County School District requiring they meet semester-long class requirements of the College.
3. Reliable methods for collecting consistent and accurate data relating to quality and access of concurrent courses:
  - a. Recent JEC legislation mandates collection of statewide data on topic. Legislation allocates \$150,000 to hire a group to conduct data collection; the P-16 Council is likely to play a secondary role in project.
  - b. The group agreed that data on the topic are essential for providing a foundation for analysis and to determine patterns, strengths and weaknesses of program.
  - c. The group also agreed that data must be taken and stored at state level so as to eliminate duplication, inconsistencies, and error, and improve the integrity of analyses.

Board members also urged Kelley to address the representation of K-12 groups on the Council. A current position opening for a K-12 teacher representative is a good opportunity for the Council to meet this request. Kelley will determine whether the Governing Board can provide suggestions for candidates at the Council's February 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting.

The next Wyoming P-16 Council meeting is Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hathaway Building, WDE, 10:00-2:00; the public is invited.

Dave invited those interested in continuing the dual/concurrent enrollment discussion with Kelley and other P-16 Council members to convene at 2:15 after the board meeting adjourns.

### **Partnership Constitution Revisions:**

Appointed by and with Dave Barker, Michelle Hoffman, Kevin Mitchell, and Audrey Kleinsasser formed a committee to revise and update the Wyoming School-University Partnership's constitution. The constitution with edits is available in the governing board packet. The last two pages include the committee's reasoning behind modifications, including historical context information.

Dave led the group through the document page by page and invited reactions and suggestions. The constitution revision committee will collate and include responses and disseminate the document to the board prior to the April board meeting, at which point the board will vote on its acceptance. Those unable to attend the April meeting will be asked to email Audrey Kleinsasser their vote. A two-thirds majority will be required to pass.

1. *Page 1, Introduction:* Identifies what the Partnership's mission and clarifies connection to NNER.
  - a. Board members suggested moving link to NNER to the Statement of Purpose section.
  - b. Editing suggestion: write out National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER) first time, thereafter referencing it by NNER.
2. *Page 1, Governing Values:* Revised verbiage of "children," which assumes the age range of 0-18, to "students," which includes those in higher education.
  - a. Kay Persichitte suggested adding a phrase regarding to society's reliance on education for intellectual and moral development.
3. *Page 1-2, Statement of Purpose:* Minor changes.
  - a. Kay suggested adding language related to simultaneous renewal.
4. *Page 2, Governing Board:* Eliminated language about designee voting and corrected a title.
  - a. Kay corrected a title in the College of Education.
  - b. Michelle noted that the revision committee thoroughly discussed the issue of designee voting, saying a designee likely lacks the holistic and historical knowledge to make an informed vote, particularly if there is lengthy discussion during the meeting prior to voting.
5. *Page 2, Membership:* At one time, the Partnership had three types of memberships –Full, Associate and Affiliate – to facilitate Partnership expansion and inclusion. The committee eliminated Affiliate Membership. Dave suggested removing Associate Membership as well.
  - a. Agreed to maintain only Full Membership and reflect that in the entire document.
6. *Page 2 and 3, Executive Committee and Governing Board Officers:* Executive Committee and Chair Elect were added, as there was no language about these positions.
7. *Page 3, Office of Partnership:* Added a clause for clarification.
8. *Page 3, Executive Director:* Added clarification phrases.
9. *Page 3, Task Forces:* Added clarification phrases.
10. *Page 3, Budget:* Modified language regarding in-kind contributions.
  - a. Kay suggested adding wording about in-kind contributions for other aspects of Partnership activities.
11. *Page 4, Responsibilities:* Added dues payment, struck requirement for members to attend all meetings, eliminated responsibilities of Affiliate Members.

### **Updates – NNER:**

Two guests, Ann Foster and John Anderson, facilitated the discussion. Ann Foster commended Wyoming participants in the 2009 NNER conference for helping the NNER achieve one of its main goals by conversing in a large-group, national setting and returning home to implement on a local level. Ann distributed the NNER's 2009-2010 Updates booklet, which describes the organization's national and international work.

John Anderson explained two main differences between Wyoming's Partnership and Nebraska's: Nebraska, though containing multiple higher education institutes, only has a Partnership commitment from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Additionally, Wyoming has a broader base of administrative support to advance the Partnership's mission. John strongly urged regional work to better understand Partnership activities in the region, learn from each other, solidify work, and benefit from proximity.

The next NNER Summer Symposium is July 19-22 in Seattle, WA. The Symposium involves intense, interactive work in a small-group setting (approximately 30 participants), including a Democracy Walk, conversations with John Goodlad, in-depth readings, and conversations on implementing democratic practices in schools. The Wyoming School-University Partnership has historically supported four to five Wyoming participants' registration cost (\$750), and plans to do so again. Audrey Kleinsasser requested nominations.

Ann also referenced NNER's *Journal of Education and Democracy*, an online and in-print publication, of which John Anderson is a co-editor. She recommended Wyoming Partnership participants write an article for the journal, interweaving stories that speak to education issues on the ground. The call for proposals is currently out for the next edition.

**Final Announcements, Evaluations, Adjournment:**

Audrey Kleinsasser highlighted the Partnership-sponsored, book-study group on Hugh Hecló's *On Thinking Institutionally*, featured during the January 28-29 *In Praise of Education* conference. She urged board members to take a book and/or participate in the book-study group.

With no further business, Chair Dave Barker asked board members to complete their meeting evaluation forms. The board meeting closed at 1:40pm. Discussion of the dual/concurrent enrollment issues recommenced at 2:15 until 3:45.

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*Notes prepared by Brenna Wanous*