

**Wyoming School-University Partnership  
Governing Board Meeting  
Monday, July 16, 2007  
10:00 – 2:10 p.m.  
UW Outreach Center**

**Present**

Dave Barker, Trish Cook, Jenni Dillon, Jean Hayek, Mike Hejtmanek (conference call), Audrey Kleinsasser, Mike Klopfenstein, Jim Lowham, Pat McClurg, Joy Mockelmann, Kay Persichitte (conference call), Ray Schulte, Audrey Shalinsky, Carmen Simone, Dennis Wilson. Guests, Rollin Abernethy, Sheila Martin, and Aaron Merkin.

**State Scholars Initiative and P-16 Council Updates**

Jim Lowham called the meeting to order at 10am and invited Sheila Marin, State Scholars Initiative director to begin.

Dr. Martin provided a brief time line of the national initiative, that now includes 24 states. Currently three Wyoming districts participate (Natrona #1, Niobrara #1, Fremont #14). Data from the districts are being submitted concurrently with Hathaway data. She is planning a Wyoming SSI September 27 kick off in Cheyenne, with Superintendent Jim McBride. The initiative includes a significant business component, thus business will play a big role. Dr. Martin outlined the differences between Hathaway and SSI, complementary, not different. The business component emphasizes a strong work ethic, a concern about students from the business community. The current grant runs through September 2008, the intent is to expand by adding new districts. One objective is to follow the students over time to see if the initiative makes a different

Board members posed several questions, first, was there any consideration of tying the SSI initiative into *21st Century Frameworks* which is based on Gates Foundation studies of reforming school systems. Across the nation, 35 districts are involved. Another asked what initiative leaders expect to learn at the end of project in two-three years and if the data can be collected? Dr. Martin responded that it will really take five years to answer core questions. Dr. Abernethy added that stakeholders will learn how complicated it is to implement a statewide curriculum and how effective it is in the short term. Data acquisition is a big part, but how that we'll have a sense of how we might work in a collaborative, positive way that brings about change. He hopes that the P-16 Council can help university faculty understand better what's happening in the K-12 systems. For example, take the biology summit work to date and extend to other disciplines. Funding from the government and the business community to work on things we all agree to work on.

Then, UW Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rollin Abernethy, explained the P-16 initiative and its connections to other initiatives, including the SSI which complements P-16 Council efforts. Planners saw the Hathaway Scholarship efforts as enhancing the need for such a council and as a way to launch a council. Dr. Abernethy explained that while SSI funding is very constrained, there is a natural link to Hathaway Success Curriculum and then, a P-16 Council. Planners are seeking non-profit status for the council, working with UW legal staff, membership has been identified. What can and should the Council do, beyond fulfill the requirements of the SSI project? One item is the Wyoming Transcript Project that the WDE has purchased and piloted

in several districts, perhaps the current SSI districts. The WDE would also like to forward a common course taxonomy system.

### **NNER Grounding; My Freshman Year**

Chair Lowham then invited those in attendance to examine the excerpt from *My Freshman Year* for the board's regular grounding activity, connecting the reading to the SSI and P-16 Council presentations. The author will be speaking in Laramie October 18-19, with the Partnership co-sponsoring a dinner and a book activity as well as panel discussions around student success. Online registration will be open in early September.

### **Approval of Agenda and Past Minutes**

Mike Klopfenstein moved and Dennis Wilson seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Pat McClurg and Trish Cook moved to accept the April 25, 2007 governing board minutes.

### **Director's 2007 Evaluation and 2007-2008 Goals**

Chair Lowham then invited the board to examine copies of the Director Kleinsasser's 2007 performance evaluation and 2007-2008 goals. Following a discussion about meetings between public school and higher education faculty in the disciplines, Chair Lowham suggested that Rollin Abernethy, Audrey Shalinsky, and Audrey Kleinsasser identify a particular area in the social sciences (e.g., American government via UW Political Science 1000) on which to focus.

### **Partnership Brochure**

Jenni Dillon, Partnership communications consultant was introduced by Chair Lowham and presented a draft brochure for the board's reactions and suggestions. She plans to have the brochure printed this summer and ready for distribution by the early fall.

### **2007-2008 Meeting Schedule**

Following lunch, board members scheduled meetings for the 2007-2008 year.

Thursday, October 18, 2007; 9-12 pm, Laramie, site TBD

Monday, February 25, 2008; 10-2 pm, Cheyenne, WEA office

Thursday, May 1, 2008; 10-2 pm, 2008 Casper, UW Outreach Center

Monday, July 21, 2008; 10-2 pm, Casper, UW Outreach Center

### **Partnership Membership**

Chair Lowham then turned to the 2007-2008 membership list and a conversation about increasing membership. Board members volunteered to contact superintendents in their regions.

### **Update: Partnership Initiatives**

The board turned its attention to updates about various Partnership initiatives. Pat McClurg elaborated on her report about a June Day on the Hill meeting that including Mick Wiest (Converse #1) and Marty Wood (Goshen #1). The board suggested talking about June 2008 meeting participation at the February 2008 meeting, pending Partnership finances.

**Bill Payment**

The bills were presented. Mike Klopfenstein made a motion to accept the invoiced items and Dave Barker seconded the motion.

Chair Lowham concluded the meeting by asking board members to comment on possible next steps for high school to higher education transitions.

Chair Lowham adjourned the meeting at 1:40.

**Executive Committee Meeting**

Following the governing board meeting, the executive committee met to discuss a planning meeting in Laramie, Wednesday, October 17 over a working dinner, beginning at 6pm. The meeting occurs prior to the Pathways for Learning conference, October 18-19, also in Laramie.

Notes prepared by A. Kleinsasser  
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