**Meeting Minutes**

**Wyoming School-University Partnership**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 30, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., via Wyoming Equality Video Network (WEN)**

Those in attendance included the following board members and staff.

***Governing board members***

*Dave Barker (Platte 2), Boyd Brown (Campbell 1), Diana Clapp (Fremont 6), Dan Coe (Big Horn 2), Tammy Cox (Fremont 24), Paige Fenton Hughes (Partnership Chair), Kathy Hitt (Fremont 1), Shon Hocker (Big Horn 1), Dustin Hunt (Hot Springs 1), Rick Luchsinger (Niobrara 1), Dee Ludwig (Eastern Wyoming College), Tom Sachse (Sheridan 2), Audrey Shalinsky (UW – College of Arts and Sciences), and Allen Trent (UW – College of Education, teacher education)*

***Guests***

*Rollin Abernethy (P-16 Council), Lee Clucas (Big Horn 3), Mike Durfee (Eastern Wyoming College), April Heaney (UW Synergy Director), and Kristi Von Krosigk (Sheridan 2)*

***Partnership staff***

*Audrey Kleinsasser and Beth Wiley*

Paige Fenton Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She thanked those in attendance and asked everyone to introduce themselves. As participating WEN sites were able to join the conversation, those participants introduced themselves.

With introductions concluded, Paige asked Audrey Kleinsasser to present the meeting agenda and supporting materials which included the financial report, the November 8 meeting minutes, and the director’s report. Audrey K. explained that we will be spending significant money on the upcoming Spring 2013 Lost in Transition events. The Partnership also completed a transfer of nearly $70,000 to the NNER for registrations from the 2012 annual conference in Denver. There was no further discussion. Dave Barker moved to approve the agenda and related consent agenda items. Allen Trent seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

April Heaney, the director of UW’s Synergy program, was invited for the NNER/Partnership grounding. About a year ago, April and UW Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Andy Hansen spoke with the governing board about new UW entrance requirements and the Synergy program which supports students’ transition to UW. Since the Partnership’s Lost in Transition initiative seeks to help students transition successfully to higher education, the Synergy program is relevant to Partnership work.

April explained her handouts (included in the board packets). Synergy is designed to provide at risk students with support to help them succeed in their freshman year at the University of Wyoming. Synergy students take a designated set of classes with Synergy instructors that focus on transition skills and critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. Starting Fall, 2013, students will also have access to an advisor to provide information and support for funding, personal issues, and academics.

The data suggest that Synergy is helping students be more successful in adjusting to college. Thus far, participation in Synergy has been voluntary. This fall, participation will be required, roughly doubling the number of students participating from 150 to 300.

April reminded the board that Audrey K. taught one of three piloted Synergy seminar courses during the Fall, 2012 semester. Audrey K. explained that her students experienced typical problems for incoming freshmen. Most were struggling with developing self-knowledge about their strengths and weaknesses. Audrey K. and April both pointed out that helping students cope with these and other common transition issues is a complex and imprecise process.

Paige asked for comments or questions. Several board members commented about the connection of dual/concurrent enrollment to Synergy. The Lost in Transition meetings are important because they provide a space for teachers at secondary and post-secondary levels to see what the others are doing. Several school districts are working with local community colleges to foster meetings among faculty. Audrey K. observed that while initiatives like the Common Core State Standards are very important for the school districts, those in higher education aren’t always aware of K-12 standards. Audrey Shalinsky commented that many university faculty aren’t even aware of the Synergy program and the efforts being made to help students transition successfully into college. Perhaps the Partnership is in a position to find new ways to foster conversations about these issues among secondary, community college, and university faculty.

Paige thanked April for her presentation and moved on to regular Partnership business.

Audrey K. discussed the Partnership updates and reports included in the board packet. The 2012 NNER annual report is available on the Partnership website, [www.uwyo.edu/wsup](http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup). During a phone conference in December, the executive committee decided that now is not a good time for Wyoming to apply as the new host site for the NNER. Executive committee members also decided that Dave Barker, representative to the NNER Governing Council, would be the Partnership’s voting member on decisions about the NNER’s selection of a director and host site. Dave reported the proposed timeline. The NNER is requiring proposals by the middle of February. Voting members will return feedback by March. Three potential host sites will be chosen for visits. In April, the final vote will occur. The NNER hopes to announce the new director and host site by the end of April or the beginning of May.

Audrey K. reported that the Spring 2013 Lost in Transition meetings are scheduled. The dates and locations were included in the board packet. The 2013 NNER Summer Symposium will occur July 22-25 in Seattle. If any board members are interested in attending, let Audrey K. or Beth know. The Partnership will pay the $650 individual registration fees for up to five participants, and supports participants from arts and sciences, teacher preparation education, and K-12 educators representing member organizations.

Audrey K. also pointed out that the University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Community Colleges Commission are planning a research study around dual and concurrent enrollment. Rollin Abernethy briefly spoke to the research study and thanked board members for participating in the study if their school districts were chosen.

Paige requested that if participants wanted to give feedback about today’s meeting, they could send an email to Audrey K. or Beth. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

*No formal evaluations were received. Minutes prepared by Beth Wiley, January 31, 2013.*