



TEI Governing Board Meeting Notes
June 26, 2017
University of Wyoming • Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Attending: David Palmerlee; John McKinley; Ben Blalock; *Thomas Botts; Craig Dougherty; D. Ray Reutzler; Board Member Bostrom; John MacPherson; *Carol Mead; Mark Northam; *Wava Tully; * Jillian Balow; Laurie Nichols; Board Member True; Amy Pierson.

**Via Videoconference*

Approval of March 14, 2017 Meeting Notes

- Board Member True made a motion to approved the March 14, 2017 meeting notes as presented.
- Board Member Blalock seconded the motion.
- The motion passed on unanimous voice vote.

Approval of May 2017 Financial Reports

- Board Member Bostrom made a motion to approve the May 2017 Financial Report as presented.
- Board Member Dougherty seconded the motion.
- Financial Reports were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Proposed Name Change for Instructional Facilitator Research Work Group to “Educator Professional Growth” Research Work Group to reflect the expanded scope of the Group’s Work

- Board Member Northam made a motion to change the name of the Instructional Facilitator Research Work Group to Educator Professional Growth Work Group to accurately represented the expanded scope of its work.
- Board Member Nichols seconded the motion.
- The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

TEI Proposal 2017-01

- Board Member Bostrom and UW College of Education (UWCOE) faculty member Cindy Brock presented TEI Proposal 2017-01 for the Board’s consideration and action.
- The proposed innovation is to enhance the fieldwork experiences of educator candidates through virtual reality simulations of classrooms and other professional educator engagements, e.g., talking with parents. This experience would enhance but not supplant existing fieldwork experiences in UWCOE. The technology would be accessed via a site license with Mursion Technology.



- Discussion of the proposal:
 - Board Member Northam offered a School of Energy Resources (SER) collaboration to enhance the use of the virtual reality technology with UWCOE and Wyoming school districts. Use of the [Energy Innovation Center Shell 3-D Visualization Center](#) is currently free, however, SER is moving toward a user-fee system that would be modest and would help with ongoing maintenance of current technologies. The SER technology can be flipped so the participant can evaluate her/his own presence, e.g., body language, demeanor, dispositions. This is highly innovative for UW SER.
 - Board Member Botts asked that we vet this proposed innovation with the Daniels Fund to assure a common understanding of innovation.
 - The Board asked that TEI gain assurance that the Mursion license agreement provide UW “ownership” for use with partner school districts. SER will be able to advise on this assurance.
 - Board Member Dougherty would like more information on the algorithms behind the artificial intelligence/virtual reality component. Cindy Brock stated that until experiencing the modules it is difficult to understand how deep the interaction is.
 - Board Member Reutzel asked if the scenarios can be customized or scaled up. Cindy Brock assured that customized simulation can be added. Board Member Bostrom stated that the Coordinating Council will work with the Research Work Group to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation, including the development of metrics and the monitoring of performance on those metrics.
 - Co-Chair McKinley asked about the proposed planning and implementation timeline. Cindy Brock reiterated that the three-year process beginning with first semester of 2017-2018 planning with implementation beginning in Spring 2018. Board Member Reutzel asked if the three-year timeline would be accelerated. Dr. Brock responded that it possible if the early results indicate effectiveness.
- Board Member Reutzel made a motion to approve TEI Proposal 2017-01 for recommendation to the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees for approval for funding and implementation.
- Board Member Dougherty seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved on unanimous voice vote.
- Further discussion of 2017-01 after the vote:
 - Board Member Blalock asked if the UWCOE currently uses video feeds from classrooms to share best practices with candidates. Board Member Reutzel stated that practice is not currently in place related to technology needs and legal implications for viewing minors. However, the Ellbogen Foundation has expressed interest in providing a robust video library of best practices to UWCOE and Wyoming school districts.
 - Board Member Blalock noted the University has existing technology for video technology for 10 sites accommodating up to 48 participants.

Proposal for Additional Pathway to Innovations

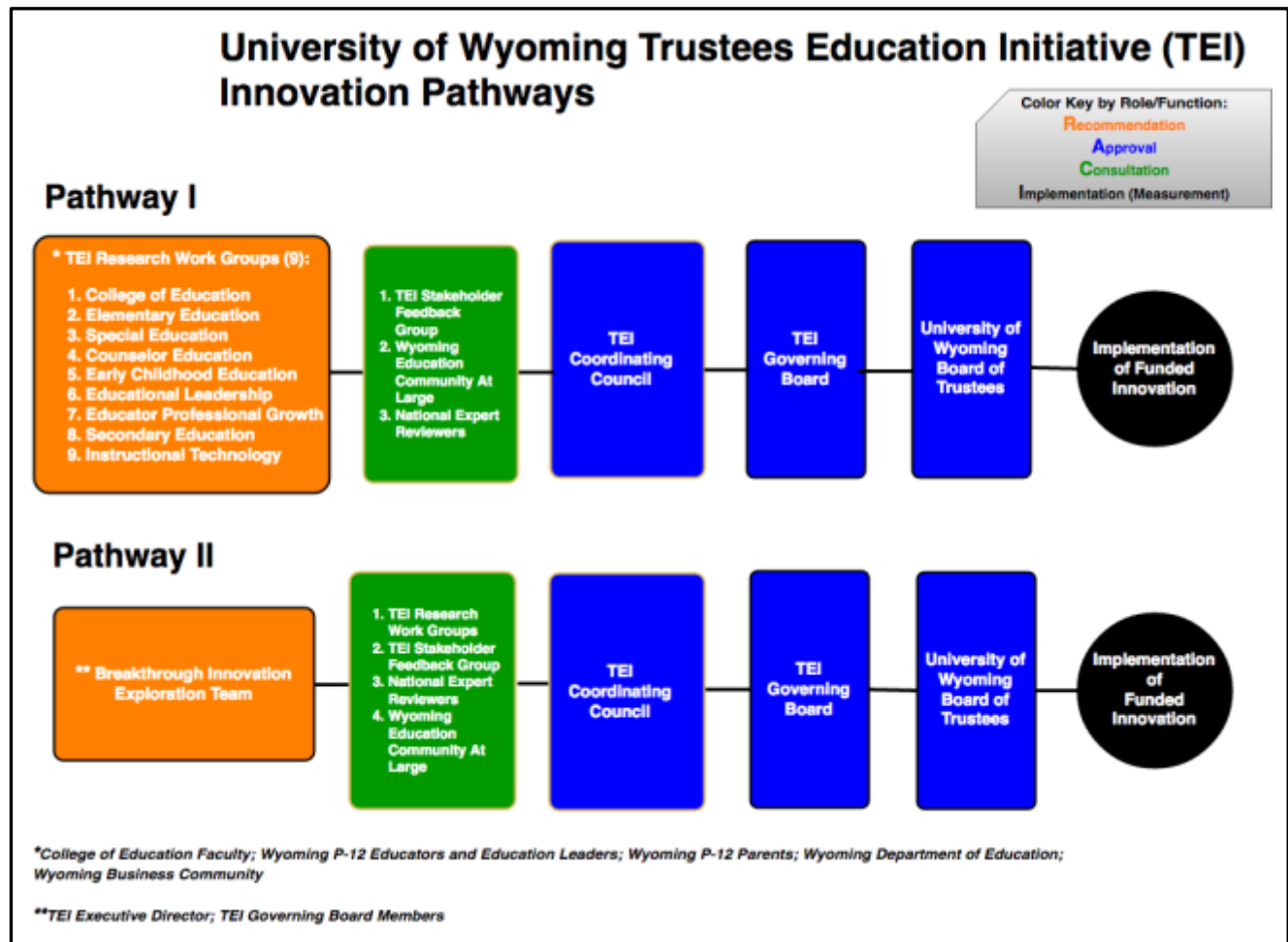
- Reflecting on the existing processes for TEI, Co-Chair Palmerlee described a need to accelerate and expand the process for developing proposals for breakthrough innovations to support the movement of the UWCOE to pre-eminence. Co-Chair Palmerlee has appointed a Breakthrough Innovation Committee of Board Members McKinley, Botts, Northam, Bostrom, and Executive Director Watts
- Co-Chair McKinley spoke to the need to strengthen and expand TEI’s direct connections with prominent innovators in educator preparation to inform and support the process of developing breakthrough innovations for TEI.
- Executive Director Watts presented a schematic diagram (below) of the TEI Innovation Development Process, reflecting an additional proposed pathway (Pathway II).



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- Board Member True addressed the radical innovation requirement, stating that innovations are not always new technologies, rather they represent innovative and highly effective new uses of existing technologies. As discussed earlier in the meeting, connecting the [Energy Innovation Center Shell 3-D Visualization Center](#) with virtual reality experiences for UWCOE candidates is an example of how the use of existing technology can be innovative.
 - Board Member Botts stated that the re-designed pathway is an innovation pipeline, yet still includes checks and balances. Pathway II provides a way to get riskier ideas through the pipeline. It is important to separate UWCOE work to align to current best practices from the TEI process. Keep UWCOE work separate from the TEI work and bigger ideas of trying new things.
 - Board Member Bostrom reported that he has found through his service on the TEI Coordinating Council that the existing proposal process has worked. Seeing a proposal move forward to the Trustees should build excitement for the work. Pathway II should be to supplement Pathway I. It is absolutely necessary that the review and shared governance has to be kept in the crosshairs at all times. Without the grassroots support from UWCOE, TEI will not succeed.
 - Board Member Reutzel further delineated the notion of UWCOE work versus TEI work. The TEI Town Hall Meetings revealed feedback that doesn't require innovation, e.g. a Special Education program to produce more Special Education teachers for the state. It is important to pull apart some of the things UWCOE needs to do of its own volition to improve separate from the TEI process.
 - Board Member Nichols stated that there are UWCOE problems that must be solved sooner rather than later. If UWCOE doesn't get ahead of the issues, UW will be in trouble. As an example, some out-of-state universities have invaded the community colleges in a big way by offering distance programs in educator preparation on the community college sites. If UW doesn't effectively leverage its partnerships with community colleges in Wyoming, It's going to be harder and harder to attract students to UWCOE.
 - Board Member Reutzel stated that UWCOE is ready to move quickly on needed improvements. UWCOE would like to scale up a practice of placing more student teachers statewide in the next year.
 - Board Member Dougherty thinks the idea is exceptional and a positive direction. Innovation will offend people. Sheridan District No. 2 goes to school districts outside the state to learn from districts with great student outcomes. When you seek feedback, don't let feedback slow the process of innovation. Innovation is gut-busting, hard work and requires individuals who cast to the wind historic practices. Innovation is light speed. People that get it will accelerate.
 - Co-Chair Palmerlee stated that TEI should never be in a place of slowing innovation. If the processes are slowing things, we need to review and revise those processes.
 - Board Member Northam considers himself a lifelong innovator. Innovation is a process and not all ideas are worth moving forward. One of the hardest things is to convince someone to take a risk that an innovation will work better than historic practices. You need a broker at the end of it to work with the people who are going to implement the practices to address the concerns and work with those reluctant to implement the new ideas.
 - Board Member Tully stated that she agrees with Board Member Botts that we should stay on with best practices from UWCOE while developing TEI innovations. The virtual reality is an enhancement to fieldwork, not a supplement. Any rubrics from that innovation will be generated by the people who use it.
 - Board Member True sought clarity that Pathway II is for multidisciplinary innovations.
 - Co-Chair Palmerlee stated that the key to Pathway II is ideas coming off the wall, e.g., the Breakthrough Innovation group takes 10 days and visit innovative sites and develop a whole different sense of what this is all about. They come back, shift, sort, and argue.
 - Board Member Bostrom made a motion to approve Pathway II in the TEI Process.
 - Board Member True seconded the motion.
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- Executive Director Watts stated that there is an error in the proposed chart. The National Expert Reviewers only provide a consultative role, not an approval and the chart should be corrected to reflect that.
- Co-Chair McKinley introduced a friendly amendment that Pathway II be approved with the needed correction to the role National Reviewers. Unanimous vote. (Corrected chart provided below)
- The amended motion passed on unanimous voice vote.



National Reviewers Update

- Executive Director Watts provided biographical information on the individuals who were recruited to serve as expert reviewers for TEI Proposals.

Matching Funds Update

- Board Member Blalock provided an update regarding the Daniels Fund required matching fund requirements. The required match is in years three, four, and five at \$2 million per year.
- Several UW initiatives have the potential to leverage private gifts, e.g. TEI, Science Initiative, Energy Programs, Engineering. UW needs to leverage the collective strength of the UW initiatives.

Participation Incentives for External Members of Work Groups



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- Executive Director Watts reported that the work to participate in a Research Work Group is extensive, requiring many hours of commitment both in meetings and in reading, research, and proposal development outside the meetings.
 - Individuals employed by UW who participate receive a course release or a stipend to support their work. The individuals who are not employed by UW receive only expense reimbursement, e.g., funding for a substitute when they are out of their classrooms; mileage reimbursement; lodging, and meals when traveling on TEI work.
 - The extent of the work has resulted in some individuals not employed by UW resigning from Research Work Groups. In discussing this concern, some TEI Governing Board members had suggested providing a thank-you gift to non-UW participants in TEI Research Work Groups.
 - Board Member Nichols made a motion to provide non-UW TEI participants with a thank-you gift of \$500.00 per year, either in the form of a stipend, or as a package of incentives, e.g., UW season tickets to sports events, TEI clothing and other items.
 - Board Member True seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed on unanimous voice vote.

Roundtable Discussion

- Executive Director Watts reported on the work of UW Trustee David Fall to support TEI by developing meaningful collaboration between TEI and Wyoming School Trustees throughout the state.
 - Trustee Fall and Executive Director Watts met with Wyoming School Boards Association (WSBA) Executive Director Brian Farmer and developed a multi-faceted approach for engaging Wyoming School Trustees with TEI.
 - The range of activities to be explored include including TEI information in WSBA newsletters, TEI participation in a WSBA Conference and Vendor Fair, TEI participation in WSBA Spring Roundups around the state; TEI/WSBA collaboration on innovation development.

Adjournment

- Co-Chair Palmerlee adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.