

**Wyoming P-16 Education Council
WEN Meeting
March 22, 2010
Laramie, U.W. College of Education, Rm. 3**

Council Members present at U.W. origination site: Rollin Abernethy, Rob Black, Michael Ceballos, Audrey Kleinsasser, and Mike Massie .

Council Members present at Cheyenne, Hathaway 281 site: Joe McCann and Joe Simpson.

Council Member present at Rock Springs, WCCC site: Karla Leach

Members present via telephone connections: Sen. Hank Coe, Cody; Kathryn Valido, Cheyenne; Bill Sniffin, Lander.

Members absent: Carol Kirkwood, Charles Ware, and Rep. Bernadine Craft

Others present: Kelley Pelissier, P-16 Council Exec. Director (Laramie); Tony Mendoza, Dept. of Workforce Services, Rae Lynn Job, and Sue Riske (Cheyenne)

President Rollin Abernethy called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m., and thanked members for their attendance and participation in preparation for this meeting. Roll was called (see above for attendance).

Approval of Minutes from February 22, 2010.

President Abernethy declared the minutes approved by circulation.

Introductions: Mr. Tony Mendoza, Dept. of Workforce Services;

Discussion of proposed schedule of Council meetings in 2010

All WEN P-16 Council meetings will take place 3:00 – 6 p.m. – so members may mark their calendars accordingly.

General discussion on meetings dates: The consensus was not to change any dates, with the understanding that some will miss some meetings.

The next meeting will be a WEN meeting, originating in Cheyenne, WDE Rm. 281 on **April 26, 3:30 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.** [Note: This abridged time was necessary in order to use the WEN from the sites we need on this day.] [Note #2: Kelley will not be present.]

The following meeting, **May 24, 2010**, will be an in-person meeting, to be held at the WEA conference room in Cheyenne, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., with WEA graciously providing lunch. [Note: The WEA is not a WEN site, so a conference call bridge will need to be arranged for those members who cannot attend.]

There was discussion of having the **September 13, 2010** ½ day “in-person” meeting in Casper, and that it might be coordinated with one of the SEA 52 public consensus developing meetings re: dual and concurrent enrollment. The UW extension building was mentioned as a possible meeting site.

P-16 Council Retreat: tentative dates: June 9-10th, in Lander/Riverton

Mike Ceballos led discussion about the Council holding a retreat. He commented that the Council needs to take time to discuss critical opportunities/a larger agenda, and how it focuses on those issues going forward. There was discussion of the need to get the new PK-16 educator member on-board before this retreat, and that teachers are typically not able to be away from the classrooms in the last month of school. Mike said he pictured a schedule where members would drive in on the first day, leaving most of the day for meeting, spend the night/have an evening dinner, and work into the next day, leaving time to drive home on that day as well. An early June date was proposed (June 9-10) and a central location of Lander/Riverton was suggested. The Executive Director will pin down the details from there.

Rob Black suggested that at the retreat, the Council reserve some time to evaluate its lobbying effort on SF 39; what went right and what can be improved in a subsequent effort. He said he would like to see some strategizing on building bridges because the Council had been caught a little off guard with that on SF 39. Joe Simpson added that there needs to be a discussion on setting policy agendas and developing a protocol so that members were on the same page.

Invitation to attend the Wyoming Workforce Council's "Strategic Doing" Retreat, April 7-9th in Thermopolis.

Rob Black followed up on the e-mail invitation that he had extended to the P-16 Council members on 3/17/10.

"The Workforce Development Council would like to invite members of the P-16 Council to participate in the WWDC's Strategic Doing Retreat, April 7-9, 2010 in Thermopolis at the Days Inn. I realize this isn't much time for you to plan, but if you can drop in for all or part of the Retreat, you are most welcome. The WWDC can pick up your meals, and possibly lodging. If any of you are interested, please drop me a line."

He said the Workforce Council is an important Council, focused upon making a difference. Mike Ceballos's talk to the Council during the legislative session had been very well received, prompting the Council to want reach out to other groups interested in the workforce. He noted that College Commission Director Rose and State Superintendent McBride would be attending, representing those partner entities and that in any event, he would report back to the P-16 Council on the retreat.

Membership - Generally

Rollin Abernethy initiated a discussion of the Council membership history, referring to attachment 5, which lists the current members, their affiliations or representations, and terms. He said the group started out small with representation from U.W. central administration, the State Superintendent, the Community College Commission, and the Governor's Office. He added that a SSI (State Scholars Initiative) grant requirement and an obvious need was to have business sector representatives, which Charlie Ware had initially filled. He said there was an effort not to swamp the organization with representation from one organization or another, and that Audrey was involved in the SSI grant development, representing the Wyoming School-University Partnership which was an integral link between the Dean of the U.W. College of Education and the school districts. The need for policymakers prompted the appointment of Rep. Craft and Sen. Coe. At the time of his appointment, Jim Lowham represented both the State Board of Education and the Superintendents. Kathryn Valido commented that the WEA was

invited to be a member. A correction was made to the membership list as presented to indicate the teachers/educators named to the Council represented PK-16, not just K-12.

PK-16 Educator Vacancy

Kelley noted that the attached list of individuals for the vacancy was formed from the names forwarded from the Ellbogen Foundation through Mike Ceballos, combined with the names of the WDE Wyoming Teacher of the Year 2005-2010 taken from the WDE website, and that her understanding was that none of these individuals had been contacted to see if they were interested, or even knew their names were before the Council. Rae Lynn Job clarified that the list submitted by the Ellbogen Foundation had been formed from National Board Certified Teachers that were known to be outstanding in public service and advocacy already.

The consensus was to reach out to all the people on this list – both Nationally Certified Teacher recommendations and Teachers of the Year, inviting them to apply for membership, and make a selection at the next meeting. P-16 will contact them, with information about the Council, and ask for statements of what they feel they could add to the Council. Other venues to solicit member application from the PK-16 educator sector would be the WEA and Partnership website, and a broadly circulated news release. The group discussed that it wanted to recruit a person who is actually in the classroom with students, but that this could include instructional facilitators, school counselors, and community college faculty. The intent would be to be as inclusive as possible in generating nominations for this position, since ultimately the Council makes the choice of who best fills representation needs. Mike Massie noted that the current position expires in 8 months, but that the expectation would be that the person consider serving another 3 ½ year term.

Motion: Rob Black moved that the Communications Committee work with Kelley to formulate consistent language to be sent to WEA, the Partnership, news releases, etc. to generate nominations for the PK-16 educator vacancy, with a goal of having a pool of candidates from which to make a selection at the April 26, 2010 meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other membership slots

Mike Ceballos discussed that if the Council were following the WEPCC model (Wyoming Education Planning and Coordination Council, W.S. 21-16-601 - 602), other members would include the president of the Wyoming community college president's council, chairman of the state board of education, president of the Wyoming school boards association, president of the Wyoming association of school administrators, and others. He added that if the Council is becoming the surrogate workgroup for WEPCC, it should have the discussion about who it should be adding, and that he would like to see more business representation.

Rollin noted that Mike's discussion was leading into the 3-tier membership proposal that has not yet been fully discussed – had only an initial viewing, and that it was perhaps a topic for the retreat, or another meeting.

Visitor Tony Mendoza asked if the Council had representation from pre-schools, if it were truly a P-16 Council.

Further Council actions with respect to SF 39/SEA 52

Karla Leach joined the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m., so the Council took up earlier agenda items relating to the community meetings on dual and concurrent enrollment, and future actions with respect to SF39/SEA 52.

Rollin reviewed the e-mail the Council received from Dr. Jim Rose, Wyoming Community College Commission Director that reads as follows.

P-16 Executive Committee Members-

Thanks to all of you for your contributions to the success of SF 39/SEA 52. I think we all agree that this legislation affords a significant prospect to enhance educational opportunity for Wyoming students. Now the fun begins.

Joe McCann and I met this week with Rae Lynn Job and Sue Riske to discuss their interest and availability in continuing their work on dual and concurrent enrollment in concert with P-16. They are discussing details, but I believe they are willing and interested in teaming up with P-16 and Commission staff to accomplish the mandates and objectives of SEA 52.

I would appreciate it, at your earliest convenience, if you could begin formulating a formal proposal of services for accomplishing the consensus-developing process articulated in the bill (copy attached). As I know you're aware, most of the tasks envisioned for this portion are in Section 2 of the bill. I have requested and received approval from the Governor's office to employ a sole-source contract with P-16; your proposal will be the basis for that contract. Because all contracts must be reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's office as well as state procurement, the sooner we have the language developed and agreement on it, the sooner we can proceed with the actual facilitation of the consensus process. Because the final report for this work is due to the Joint Education Interim Committee by 1 January next year, we have only slightly more than nine months to accomplish a considerable amount of work.

Please let me know if you have questions, suggestions or concerns. I look forward to collaborating in this important endeavor. Thanks. Jim

Joe McCann clarified that Dr. Rose approached the Governor's Office and asked - given the time frame that SEA 52 activities are to be accomplished, that the Governor approve single source agreements to get the work done. Dr. Rose had subsequently contacted Rae Lynn Job and Sue Riske as one contractor, and P-16 Council as another. Joe said that the Council appears to be in a good position to facilitate the meetings and consensus building sessions with the public and the K-12 community, WDE, UW, and the community colleges. He said that it was his understanding that Dr. Rose would like both Rae Lynn Job/Sue Riske and P-16 to put together separate proposals. Joe added that nothing precludes the Council talking continuously with the Commission about the proposals.

Rae Lynn Job reported that she and Sue had met with Dr. Rose, but that they are not yet clear on how this process would work in collaboration with P-16. She indicated a need to talk with Mary Kay Hill of WDE and Dave Nelson of LSO who were instrumental in drafting the legislation to get a better idea of what was intended. At this point, Ms. Job said they knew only what was stated in the legislation.

Joe Simpson proposed first/very soon there be a fact-finding meeting with Mary Kay and Dave Nelson; and that next, a group meet to pull the legislation apart and brainstorm the deliverables for the proposal. The intent of this group would be to construct a list of deliverables that match

the legislation. After that discussion, we could move to drafting the two proposals for the Community College Commission/Dr. Rose, referring to the very preliminary draft proposal developed earlier in the year (*2-Yr Action Plan Implementing PSEOP/1-26-09*). He suggested members of this group be those who were involved in brainstorming this initial draft: Joe Simpson, Rollin Abernethy, Mike Ceballos, Joe McCann, and Kelley Pelissier. Added to this group will be Rae Lynn Job, and Sue Riske.

Karla Leach said that community college representation was also needed on this group, because “some things (data) were readily available, and some cannot be delivered.” She also noted that this could be an iterative process. Recommendations for that representative were Ken Fitschen, Karla Leach, and Marlene Tignor – to be included in meetings by teleconference if necessary. Rollin confirmed the importance the data collection component of the SEA 52 work. Sue suggested that the community college academic officers might also meet to identify the deliverables that they see from SEA 52.

Discussion was that the proposals should be developed before the first public meetings were convened so that the Rae Lynn and Sue were absolutely clear on the questions that will be asked in the public meetings, so that there is something coherent to put together for the legislative reports as a result of the meetings.

Mike Massie suggested that delegations should speak individually to the community college presidents to understand better their concerns before the proposals are finalized (see discussion below). He suggested taking a month to have the dialogues with the presidents, develop tentative ideas regarding roles to be assumed by the Council, by Rae Lynn and Sue, and by individual council members, at to get a plan/proposal together by the first of May. There was also discussion about involving the Executive Council in preliminary reviews of the proposal so as to expedite the process, and Mike Ceballos wanted to have the Rae Lynn and Sue and Kelley develop draft proposals to which the larger group could respond.

Meetings with Community College Presidents

Mike Ceballos discussed that he had met with Dr. Hammons, LCCC President already to try to determine what had been his reservations to SF 39, and had found him to be very receptive. A major concern had been that SF 39 was seen as an attempt to centralize the colleges under the Commission.

There was discussion about making a presentation to the Presidents’ Council at its meeting in Rock Springs on April 26 in conjunction with the Executive Council and Community College Commission meetings there on April 26-27. The conclusion was that April 26 was already a busy day, with both P-16 Council and Superintendent’s Advisory Council meetings scheduled.

Thus, the consensus was for individual P-16 members to meet with community college presidents in their areas on an expedited basis, preferably before April 26. Mike Ceballos indicated that he would follow up with Bill Sniffin and Hank Coe to schedule meetings with the presidents at Central Wyoming and Northwest, but that there was a need to have contacts in Casper and Sheridan (and Torrington) to involve in approaching those college presidents. Hank Coe noted that the biggest push-back to SF 39 had been from Sheridan, and that he would be happy to help in this effort.

P-16 Member Expense Payments

Motion: Joe Simpson moved that the P-16 Council offer members reimbursement of expenses to participate in Council meetings at the same rates paid by the State. Joe McCann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion included that having such a policy is especially necessary for recruiting and supporting teacher members and that to ensure all Council members knew they are invited to request reimbursement. Holding a successful retreat would require expense reimbursement because not all members are sponsored by member organizations/partners. If the Council is to make this commitment, however, there needs to be a corresponding effort on the part of the Sustainability Committee to raise funds to cover it, and that the policy should be revisited each year.

The State of Wyoming reimbursement rate: The mileage rates effective Jan. 1, 2010 are .50 when no state vehicle is available and .30 when the use of a personal vehicle is for the convenience of the employee. *12/07/09 Governor's Memorandum* Per diem rates are the same as the maximum federal standard for 2010 Fiscal Year - \$116, (\$70 for lodging and \$46 for Meals & Incidental Expenses (M&IE))- and "to limit non-essential travel whenever possible." *9/28/09 Governor's Memorandum*

Data-Dashboard

Changes proposed and accepted:

- Using the NGA cohort graduation rate of 79.3% rather than the Every Student Count rate (92.3%), resulting in a "yellow light."
- Deleting the first-year college remediation rate statistic in favor of the ACT readiness figures, based upon 11th grade scores, and include the number of 11th grade test takers, because that is a number P-16 wants to grow as well. The ESC 12th grade scores are less reliable – represent re-takes and a smaller number of test takers.
- Including the number of students/percentage who are on academic probation after the first semester at U.W. – source: UW OIA. The community colleges also collect this information.
- Deleting the Graduates in Wyoming – post secondary enrollment category from the ESC Student Outcomes report.

Mike Ceballos said that efforts are being made by the Data Subcommittee to be able to provide links to disaggregated data in these categories.

P-16 Council finances

President Abernethy asked members to take note of the final attachment (#9) which lists expenses and remaining funding. He pointed out that the Council is still almost completely funded by the U.W. and WDE, with a contribution from the Workforce Services Department, and that Sustainability Subcommittee needs to consider future funding.

He also reminded members of the upcoming April 26th meeting, and the interim meetings with the college presidents.

He adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.