

**Wyoming P-16 Education Council**  
**March 28, 2011 - U.W. Outreach Center, 951 Poplar, Casper WY**  
**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Casper: Mike Ceballos, Rob Black, Audrey Kleinsasser, Rollin Abernethy, Teri Wigert, Karla Leach, Joe McCann, Diana Clapp, Hank Coe, Jon Connolly, Brent Ewers, Carol Kirkwood, Carl Manning, Mike Massie, Josh Michelena, Charles Ware,  
Telephone: Jim Lowham, Kathryn Valido  
Absent: Bernadine Craft, Carol Stewart, Bill Sniffin  
Others present: Kelley Pelissier, Executive Director

***Proceedings:***

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Mike Ceballos. Attendance is reflected above.

Introductions: Members briefly introduced themselves to new members Brent Ewers and Josh Michelena.

***-Agenda modification***

President Ceballos asked for members' agreement in changing the agenda to allow for a facilitated discussion of the Council's core priorities. This discussion would take place in the first 2 hours of the meeting, and the agenda items would be condensed and covered in the second half of the meeting. He said the intention is not to spend so much time in meetings on miscellaneous administrative issues, allowing more time to focus upon core values. The Council will have been in existence for five years in the fall, and Ceballos said it was time for the Council to revisit its vision, mission and activities. Today's exercise would be in preparation for the retreat to be held this summer. Members agreed with the change.

***-Board Priority-Setting Exercise***

Member Karla Leach led the group in a facilitated brain-storming exercise. Members responded to a series of questions. What is student success? What are challenges to student success in Wyoming at all levels? What is the compelling, unique reason for P-16 to exist? What is the value-added contribution of P-16? Members individually responded in written form to these questions and answers were sorted and tallied to provide information on Council priorities to use in the next retreat. Members discussed the importance of identifying and communicating the Council's priorities to their constituencies and policy makers. Through a vote, three main priorities emerged for further work at the retreat.

*The Council recessed for a lunch break, 12:00 – 12:30.*

***-Resumption of regular meeting agenda***

President Ceballos called the meeting back to order at 12:30 to address the remaining items on the agenda.

The current meeting agenda-2 and the minutes from the January 24, 2011 meeting were approved.

***-Board Membership***

Rob Black brought forth proposed language to amend the Bylaws to add an at-large member to the Council, which was prompted by the nomination of a person to the Council who did not fit any of the

positions specified in the current bylaws. Audrey Kleinsasser moved that Section 3.51 be amended to add: One at-large seat is available to represent the state as a whole. Karla Leach seconded the motion.

Discussion points included that the current membership would decrease when two members completed their terms because they were no longer associated with the entities that they originally represented. Council bylaws state that members of the Council as of October 11, 2010, will be allowed to serve the remainder of their (3-year) terms. The intent is to have members fulfill 3-year terms. Some members were uncomfortable not having more definition in the motion defining an at-large member. Another concern was that the Council was already too large, and that there was no justification as to how an at large member would help the Council achieve its priorities.

The motion was defeated: 8 – aye, 9 - no.

#### ***-Business Sector member recruitment***

President Ceballos has named a nominating group to recruit nominees for the two existing business sector positions on the Council. To date, the Council has received only two nominees for two positions and needs more to have an election. Members of the group are Joe McCann, Bill Sniffin, Mike Ceballos, and Charlie Ware, chairman. This group will move forward with making contacts for this recruitment and have a roster including the two existing nominees in 60 days.

Audrey clarified that when she made the suggestion, she intended that there be a nominating committee that handled every category of membership, not just the business sector. This will be noted future action on developing a committee structure, to occur later in the meeting.

#### ***-Other membership discussion***

Does the Council have a process to communicate with members who are not attending, if there are those members? Various Bylaw sections address members leaving the Council, by resignation or removal by vote of the Council. However, the Council does not have any criteria for voting to remove members, which was noted as needing consideration.

*Note:* The intent of the Bylaws is that members serve full three-year terms. Bylaws also acknowledge the special status of appointees of elected officials (Governor and State Superintendent) and the Community College Commission Director and University of Wyoming President, who are to remain members until the completion of full terms or until the official making the appointment leaves office, whichever occurs first. Members appointed by the Legislature serve until their legislative terms end.

Kathryn Valido asked Sen. Hank Coe how the legislators were appointed to the Council. Sen. Coe responded that former Governor Freudenthal made the appointments (Rep. Craft and Sen. Coe) when the Council was first created in 2006; it is not currently a legislative leadership appointment. He noted that it is worthwhile to have someone from the Education Committee on the Council. President Ceballos noted that the way by which the Legislature makes these appointments, as called for in the Bylaws, needs to be formalized.

#### ***-Committee Structure***

Rollin Abernethy reviewed the document he had prepared proposing 5 standing committees including: Executive, Communication and Marketing, Sustainability and Funding, Transitions, and Community Engagement (which could also be a project team under Communications). He added that to be effective,

each committee would need a detailed draft of assignments and timelines. A reason to implement such a structure is to have members participating in the work of the Council; determining how best to use the depth and experience of the members and getting members to commit to do Council work, knowing they already have busy schedules. Discussion ensued on the proposed committee and the concept.

Mike Massie suggested activating the Executive and Fundraising committees now and waiting until the retreat so as to set up committees around the initiatives determined there. Jon Connolly agreed with the idea of arranging the committees around the work and making adjustments according to the work.

Rollin expressed the need to have the priorities established sooner than the retreat, and that he is anxious to start putting “meat on the skeleton” of priorities developed in the morning session. Carl Manning suggested having an on-line document that all members can use to discuss and refine the priorities prior to the retreat. Carl and Kelley will work on determining the best venue for this, whether it be Google Docs, or another means of online communication.

Diana Clapp wondered at what point do P-16 communications go out; for example, the Data Dashboard or the Council’s position on the legislation proposing changes to the Hathaway Success Curriculum. There is a need for members to be able to communicate with their constituents regarding the Council’s work and positions. This points out the need for the Communications and Marketing committee, to determine when the Council has information to spread, and how does it do so.

President Ceballos acknowledged the consensus was to follow Massie’s suggestion, and assign members to the Executive Committee and the Sustainability/Funding committee now and wait on the others to validate the work the Council will do.

#### **-SEA 52**

*Original 2010 Senate File 39 – Post secondary options program; legislation requiring agreements between postsecondary institutions and school districts offering dual and concurrent enrollment programs, the development of policy and guidelines on program components, and requiring the establishment and maintenance of a data system compiling student enrollment, completion and outcome information, as well as requiring revenue and expenditure reporting.*

Kelley Pelissier and Joe McCann reported that a third meeting of the SEA 52 Consensus Group would be held in Casper to develop specific tasks related a system to monitor the implementation of the minimum educational standards (or consensus agreements) developed during 2010 and presented in the final report. Sen. Coe sponsored a successful budget amendment that directed \$45,000 of the Wyoming Community College Commission budget for this purpose. The Council consensus is for the Council to stay a full partner in the SEA 52 work, so as to inform policy makers with all parts of the information involved in dual and concurrent enrollment programs.

#### **-Statewide Longitudinal Data System**

*The Wyoming Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Task Force was envisioned by the WY P-16 Education Council and created by the P-16 Council and Governor Freudenthal in July 2010 with representation from K-12 education, postsecondary education and workforce services. The task force charge is to make recommendations for the development of a comprehensive state-wide longitudinal data system in order to better measure, track and improve student success factors. U.W. personnel provide the SLDA Task Force leadership.*

Rollin Abernethy reported that the Task Force has developed 10 recommendations to which its members are now providing feedback. One of the critical issues was the development of a data governance committee. The SLDS intent has been to build on the strengths of the systems in place, but which do not readily exchange data. Bringing together the existing infrastructure has been a central objective for the Task Force. Recommendations under discussion include where to house a central data system, hiring a SLDS project manager, and MOUs among the various data systems. A subset of this is the dual and concurrent data system, and recommendations are in process to be presented to the SEA 52 Consensus Group in April.

Sen. Coe commented that through HB 127, the school finance recalibration bill, and other legislation passed in the 2011 Session, the Legislature has made an even bigger push for data and that there is a possibility for duplication of effort. There needs to be interaction among all the state education data endeavors. He also commented that this spring, the first class to have fully complied with the Hathaway Success Curriculum will be graduating.

Teri Wigert commented that the statewide system using the WISER identification has moved towards having the system take a snapshot of the data, when before, the data would be kicked back to the districts if it was not updated. Mike Massie commented that because districts have pushed data collection to the teachers, there is a need to understand its costs and cover them up front so that teachers are not being taken away from students. Charles Ware noted that from his participation on a national career readiness board, he received reports that indicate that both dual/concurrent enrollment and longitudinal data are important in helping students succeed, and that Florida is known to have the best systems. Being smaller and simpler, Wyoming could easily overcome them, added Jon Connolly.

***-WEPC (Wyoming Education Planning and Coordinating Council, W.S. 21-16-601 – 602)***

Rob Black briefly reviewed the Council's action with respect to WEPC, which had been to write the Governor and send information about the Council and how its membership overlapped with WEPC. There are just a few entities on WEPC that do not have P-16 representation: UW Trustees, Community College Commissioners, and (currently) the House Education Committee. Through this correspondence, the Council has asked if there is a way P-16 can augment WEPC if it is to be reactivated, or does it take the place of WEPC through either informal or formal action. Rob is working to get meetings schedule with both the Governor and Mrs. Mead, who has indicated an interest in P-16 issues, which he views as quite positive for the Council.

Charles Ware commented that many P-16 or P-20 councils in the United States have started out of Governors' offices, but that Wyoming's had originated through the University of Wyoming, which has allowed the Council to have more autonomy. Rollin Abernethy commented that he is supportive of the Council's communication with the Governor on WEPC but that such a connection brings a risk, faced by councils in other states, of depending totally on the interest of the governor. Therefore, there is a need to maintain operating as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Sen. Coe noted that the Governor is very interested in education, and that now may be an appropriate time for WEPC and P-16 to merge.

Mike Ceballos said that his understanding was that even when WEPC was active, it brought many prominent education officials together, but lacked the staff to do anything. If P-16 were to become the staff, it would drive some of the Council's activity. He asked members to contact him with their thoughts, as he continues to try to schedule a meeting with the Governor on this issue.

***-Community Engagement Initiative***

Drafts of initial efforts under this initiative, adopted at the Council's 2010 retreat, were distributed. Mike Ceballos noted that such an initiative would work only if the communities determined for themselves what they wanted to do; thus Audrey had drafted a request-for-proposals for communities to design their own projects. Mike Massie commented that if the next two years were critical for the Council to perform and obtain funding, this initiative might take too long. Although community engagement did not come up directly in the priority-setting discussion, some members said it was implicit in the many comments about communications and encouraging a culture appreciative of education.

A related need was to develop a script for members to use in representing P-16 to their communities/constituencies to get local involvement, as a first step without committing to community engagement as an initiative, which may be a long-term goal. Audrey Kleinsasser said that the Wyoming School-University Partnership may go forward with the "Promoting Student Success through Community Engagement" proposal if it receives sufficient funding.

***-Council Retreat***

The retreat will last approximately a day and a half, beginning at 10 -11 a.m. on the first day, allowing members to travel in on that day. A summer date is anticipated, and Kelley will survey members to determine when the most could attend.

***-Meeting Adjournment***

President Ceballos adjourned the meeting a 2:00 p.m. and thanked members for attending, including those participating over the telephone.