

Wyoming P-16 Education Council

November 17, 2010

Casper College

Strausner Student Center Rm 207 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. & conference call
Casper, Wyoming

Casper	Rollin Abernethy, Rob Black, Mike Ceballos, Hank Coe, Bernadine Craft, Mike Massie, Diana Clapp, Jim Lowham, Joe Simpson, Charles Ware, Teri Wigert,
Participating via conference call	Carol Kirkwood, Audrey Kleinsasser, Joe McCann, Bill Sniffin, Kathryn Valido,
Others	Kelley Pelissier, executive director
Absent	Jon Connolly, Karla Leach, Carol Stewart

Casper College President Walter Nolte welcomed the Council to Casper College, thanked members for coming, and discussed some of the building projects that were currently underway at the College, including a new residence hall to be built with modules. He also suggested members visit the Tate Museum., located on the Casper College campus, to view the largest mounted Columbian mammoth in the country.

1. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m. – President Abernethy

- a. Roll call - Attendance recorded above. The connection with the members participating by conference call was not good, resulting in a lot of feedback and echo.

2. Introductions

- a. Diana Clapp – New Council Director appointed by the Wyoming Association of School Administrators. Diana introduced herself, saying that she was Superintendent of Fremont Co. School District 6 and that she had been a superintendent for 8 years. She is happy to represent WASA on the Council and looked forward to working with members. Jim Lowham added that Diana was 2010 Wyoming Superintendent of the Year and also on the Wyoming School-University Partnership Governing Board.

3. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2010 meeting

President Abernethy noted that the minutes of the October 11, 2010 Council meeting had been circulated, and hearing no objection, proclaimed them approved as circulated. He noted that the notes from the Executive Committee meetings on 11/8 and 11/11 were circulated for informational purposes, to keep all members informed of Committee discussions.

4. Old Business - Updates on Council Initiatives and Working Groups

- a. **SEA 52 Project Update** (Council Initiative) –

Kelley Pelissier reported that Rollin, consultants Rae Lynn Job and Sue Riske, and she had earlier in the day reported SEA 52 project progress to the Joint Interim Education Committee and were well received. The final report for the project is due January 1, 2011, but the consultants will be recommending a third meeting of the Consensus Group to occur in the spring of 2011 to work on details of the implementation of the report recommendations. She noted that there is funding left from the initial amount the Council requested from the Commission to hold these meetings, and that she has budgeted that in the proposed budget to be discussed later in the meeting. She is currently working on finalizing the Phase 2-3 SEA 52 Proposal report to the Community College Commission so that the Council can be reimbursed for those expenses, amounting to approximately \$20,000, split between the costs of holding the meetings/participant expenses and her time to coordinate and support the meetings of the Consensus Group and in the communities. She reported that the Council holds primary responsibility for following through on the data reporting aspects of the SEA 52 charges.

Diana Clapp, also SEA 52 Consensus Group member, commented that the consensus reached was strong, that everyone had a chance to be heard, and having the meetings in her area of the state had been positively received. Rollin commented that the MOU, which is the core for integrity of the dual and enrollment programs, will be much stronger and more consistent and still allow appropriate local control as a result of the agreements reached through the consensus process. Joe Simpson added that the WDE has added a listing of assurance in its accreditation process for a Post Secondary Education Options Program so that WDE can monitor that this is in place on a 5-year basis.

Legislative member Bernadine Craft commented that she appreciated the diversity in the regional meetings that had been reported and which she had observed in her community. Mike Massie noted that his understanding is that the work is still in process and that related discussions may lead to a request to reinstate the distance learning incentive. He noted that there was a fair amount of discussion of weighted grades among the JIEC members, and that there is not much understanding of how that is being handled around the state.

Charles Ware commented that with respect to studies on the efficacy of dual and concurrent enrollment programs, he learned from his position on a national evaluation panel for the Perkins 4 Program that here is a study being released in May 2011 focusing on a Philadelphia school district that will show that students involved in these programs were more successful in graduating and in going into CTE programs.

Rollin asked Kelley to send the Consensus Group agreements to Council members.

b. Membership Committee (Working Group) –

Rob Black reviewed the Council's June retreat decision to add 7 new members, bringing the total membership from 16 members ("Directors") to 23. Among those additions, so far, the Wyoming Association of School Administrator appointed position was filled, and still remaining were appointed positions from the Wyoming State School Boards Association (which was currently meeting in Casper), and Council-elected 4-year postsecondary institution faculty member, 2-year postsecondary institution faculty member, and two additional private sector directors. Rob reported that the nomination form had been modified and put on the website, and that a news release had gone out announcing the openings. However, Kelley reported that there had not been much response and that other strategies would need to be developed to attract nominations. Rollin suggested contacting the faculty senate at U.W., and similar organizations at the community colleges.

To finish the membership adjustments to the bylaws, Rob Black moved that Bylaw 3.51(a) be amended to include the State Board of Education as an organization with an appointment to the Council. Joe Simpson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rob noted that this would mean there would be more appointed members than elected members, and bring the total membership to 24. Mike Massie asked how large the Council would get before it started the discussion of being too large. Rollin commented that this issue had often been debated, but the consensus was that since not all members would likely attend all meetings, meeting discussions would remain manageable. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Wyoming School-University Partnership Transitions meetings –

Audrey Kleinsasser briefly reported that meetings in all 5 of the current Hathaway Success Curricula are being developed for the spring. There will be a Life Sciences transition meeting on Feb. 23, 2011. These meetings involve faculty from high schools, community colleges, and the University and focus upon student work. She noted that the meetings connect to the dual and concurrent project. She was pleased to be able announce that the Qwest Foundation had granted \$10,000 to the Transitions project, which combined with the UW contribution would mean there was \$45,000 dedicated to this work. Mike Ceballos presented the Qwest Foundation check to Rollin, who will hand it over to the Partnership/Audrey.

d. Statewide Longitudinal Data System (Council Initiative) –

Rollin Abernethy reported that the SLDS Task Force had met several times and had begun a set of recommendations. The group has recognized that the state has invested substantially in multiple discreet data systems that currently exist within the school districts, WDE, the community colleges and UW. To complete a robust longitudinal data system that would allow, using appropriate controls, research to be done with student and teacher information, there is a need for more student identification and to get the current discreet systems to be able to communicate with one another. To resolve

these interoperability issues, WDE Task Force members Laurel Ballard and Meredith Bickel had identified three experts at the U.S. Department of Education who could assist this effort, which was a great development. These experts would be able to assist the Task Force with setting up controls that are in compliance with FERPA but still allow access to the information for research purposes, for example. Rollin commented that the Task Force had come a long way in the last weeks.

Joe Simpson said that he commended the group for its insight in bringing in these objective third-party experts, since turf can be a difficult obstacle in such an endeavor.

Joe McCann commented that at the last face-to-face meeting, the Task Force made great progress in addressing issues including student identifiers, and that it is coming to grips with those systems currently in place, including the WDE system which has all of the pieces but just lacks the scope (including the other entities) and the interoperability capacity. He said the group has coalesced and is willing to get things done.

Mike Ceballos questioned where it would be helpful for the Council to weigh in supporting this initiative. Rollin noted that there are areas where the SLDS could possibly need statutory assistance. One of those would be allowing postsecondary institutions to have ability to assign WISER Ids to those students who do not have those Ids from being in the Wyoming K-12 system. Another could be for a Wyoming education data system to be defined in statute in a way that allows research for appropriate studies without violating FERPA. He said that if legislation is developed to provide for those capabilities, it would be helpful for the Council to support such proposed legislation in the manner that it did SF 39 (e.g., by providing testimony and information).

Joe Simpson noted that ultimately, the use of Social Security numbers will need to be grappled with in order to see the long-term value of education. He also said that WDE could create portals now for downloading random WISER ids for the colleges and UW, as have already been requested by pre-schools. He also mentioned the importance of quarterly reviews. He added that it is in horizontal linkages between all of the human services agencies that this effort (SLDS) will be of most value. WDE has been advocating that a SLDS be open to all child care providers to monitor the effect of interventions and services from all kinds of agencies. The state owns the WIND data base, collecting an array of data on families: we need to determine how to integrate this data.

Jim Lowham noted that it seemed that educational records will become digitized like medical records, with the goal of eliminating redundancies in the “therapies” applied. Mike Ceballos added that just as with medical data, looking at it en mass allows for better predictions.

Teri Wigert noted that the U.S. Dept. of Education is supposed to be looking at FERPA, which is used as a strong club but reportedly has never been challenged.

Dual & concurrent subset – As part of the SEA 52 charges, a data system is to be developed to track dual and concurrent participation and completion, as well as to provide outcome information as the basis for program monitoring and evaluation. Rollin reported that the Academic Deans are poised to move forward to defining the questions that such a system should answer, and have made assurance that they are on board with providing the information necessary to determine if students taking concurrent classes do as well as those that took courses directly from the colleges. Kelley reported that she had attended a meeting of WTE data specialists who discussed modifying a data collection form (684) to collect information from the school districts.

e. Community Involvement/Communication (Initiative) – Rollin, Mike Ceballos

The group had a lengthy discussion of possible projects in this area. Rollin discussed the project developed by John Anderson at the University of Nebraska/Kearney, with whom some Council members had met in September, and he planned to meet again this month. This project involved identifying a teacher/high school class interested in working with the community. The class identifies a community initiative that it can undertake to make a difference in the community. Through working with the teacher, the Council would help the teacher and class to implement the project, which engages the students and involves community people with the school, encouraging community buy-in to the success of the school and vice versa. This has been done in Nebraska primarily in small communities.

Mike Ceballos commented that he had found using the Council's Data Dashboard was an effective way to start discussion, representing the focal point of what is at issue in continuous improvement in education. He would like to design a project in which the community was engaged in discussion about excellence in education based around a data dashboard of its own education results. The Council's role would be to develop a systematic, replicable process to get communities involved in discussing education, to help them access the applicable data so that the conversations would be "data rich", and to provide a person to manage the process. This way, the Council could assist --by being a resource, providing information-- communities in addressing the issues that concerned them. He said he envisioned 30-40 communities being involved in this process for 5 years. He mentioned the Ellbogen Foundation program for early childhood education as a model, as well as a grant Rae Lynn Job had received to survey the community on educational excellence. He said he envisioned the project described by Rollin as being a possible element in this community engagement project- an "arrow in the quiver."

Joe Simpson noted that there is a planning team for at-risk services that is developing factual information to present to communities to challenge them to determine if they see areas of concern that they would decide to work on. He suggested that the Council communicate with this group because of the similarity in the proposed projects. Mike noted that Rural Development also has a similar assessment process, although primarily focused upon economic development.

Charles Ware commented that he did not see how this project fits into the Council's mission. He said that the Council is looking at improving systems, and that he did not see how focusing upon one community for a 5-year period would accomplish that. He felt that bringing the various communities represented on the Council together to improve education was more in line with the mission. Rob Black noted later that he shared these concerns.

Teri asked if the John Anderson model was doing what Mike had described. Rollin noted that it is not quite: it is starting in the school, whereas the other is the community reaching into the school. There could be a difference in how the projects are received, depending upon the communities.

Jim Lowham commented that the approach was similar to that taken by the Lutheran Brotherhood in the 1990s with a series of assessments of the assets children needed to succeed. Joe Simpson said that several Wyoming communities participated in that survey. Community assessments were also done by the Rural Development Council but WDE considered those weak in the education area.

Mike Ceballos commented that there is a huge mass of people/parents who are not engaged in education, and to help make change, the Council must figure out how to create an atmosphere where they will become engaged and be able to make changes at the community level.

Audrey suggested looking at the Building the Wyoming We Want initiative to see how what that group is doing maps onto the Council goals. Charlie said that he would take on the task on reporting on building on the Wyoming initiative: Audrey said that she would forward the website (<http://www.buildingwyoming.org/>)

Rollin interjected to close the "old business" discussions, and mentioned that the Council website is current and could become a better resource for the council to keep up to date and also a way to interact with the public and one another.

5. New Business

a. Director election – Secondary educator

Rob thanked Carol Stewart for re-submitting her nomination materials to meet the bylaws, and noted that for elected members who wished to be re-elected in the future, they should re-submit their materials 30-60 days before their terms end.

Audrey moved to elect Carol Stewart to a three-year term representing secondary educators. Joe Simpson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rollin thanked Carol for continuing on the Council. Kelley will send Carol a letter formally announcing her re-election.

b. Calendar Year 2011 Budget review –Kelley

Kelley explained how she developed the budget with input from the Executive Committee on expected revenues. She noted that each budget item was proposed, and would be subject to Council approval and available funds. She estimated that council meeting expenses would be greater, given the increased membership resulting from recent bylaw changes. Charlie noted that he had some computer equipment that had been in the Laramie storage unit that could possibly alleviate the need for some proposed purchases (e.g., a LCD projector). Jim commented that it was understood that the budget was a plan.

The bulk of the proposed revenues comes from allocations from both the WDE and UW for \$40,000 and \$60,000 in carry-over funds. The funding allocated to SEA 52 represents the expected balance from the initial proposal amount and would be dedicated to finishing that work: another meeting of the Consensus Group is being proposed for the spring. Other sources of revenue that members are working on were the colleges and the Commission, the Dept. of Workforce Services, and WEA. Audrey noted that her organization's contribution was in the form of an in-kind donation of her time, and that those in-kind contributions should be recognized. Rollin noted that the Council needed to generate funding from private sources, as well.

The Council approved the budget as presented.

Operating Expenses	Initiative Budgets	Total Operating & Initiatives	Proposed Revenues
\$103,000	\$101,153	\$204,153	\$204,153

c. Officer Elections - Nominations Sub-Committee – Jim Lowham

With pride and honor, Jim Lowham presented the officer slate proposed by the nominating Committee. He said that these nominees had been contacted and agreed to serve. Charles Ware seconded the nomination slate.

President: Michael Ceballos Vice President: Rob Black Treasurer: Audrey Kleinsasser

Joe McCann moved that the slate of officers be moved and adopted by acclamation. All participating members voted aye.

d. Other new business

Joe Simpson announced that this would be his last meeting and thanked the Council for this experience. He said that the Council's creation with all parties coming to the table had been one of the best endeavors of his 12 years with the state. Teri Wigert will be the WDE representative on the Council during the transition, and the WDE has advised Superintendent-elect Hill that the Council appointment is one of many she will need to make, and that WDE believed the Council appointment would come soon.

Rollin suggested that meeting with Ms. Hill as soon as possible was something the Council should try to accomplish. He said that he had visited with her and indicated the Council's great interest in visiting with her.

Rob Black thanked both Joe and Rollin for their leadership on the Council, saying they were gentlemen mentors from whom he had learned a lot. He added that he took his new leadership charge very seriously.

6. Information: Financial report: P-16 Council balance as of 11/17/10: (Attachment 6).

Rollin called members' attention to the financial report, provided for informational purposes.

7. Adjourn – Jim Lowham moved adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m..