

Minutes
Casper College Alumni Association
Board of Directors
Saturday, April 19, 2008
Strausner Student Center 217

Members Present: Debbie Werner Simon, Mary Litzel, Nolene Wright, Derrel Carruth, Lu Hinderliter, Mike Stepp, Charlotte Babcock, Gigi Leman, Rob DeStefano, Bill Duncan, Virg Bodyfelt (by phone) Doug Leonard. **Staff members:** Paul Hallock and Linda Nix.

Excused: Nancy Gerlock, David Long, Julie Laib, Denise Blesi

Unexcused: Argeri Layton, Donna Wichers

Guests: Dr. Walter Nolte, Rich Fujita, Susan Anderson, and Mark Robinson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Leonard at 8:30 a.m. Doug then introduced Dr. Nolte. Dr. Nolte updated the board on the accreditation process coming up in March 2009 and told them there will be a great deal of preparation leading up to the actual visit. Dr. Nolte told the board the Agriculture program received a national award for the quality of their program and was successful in the giveaway of a Toyota Tundra. In a similar vein, he reported that the Business program was focusing on global awareness. Dr. Nolte told the board that enrollment was up 6 1/2 % in the fall and discussed the process of replacing Randy Stutheit and Mark Robinson, both of whom will be greatly missed. Commencement is May 16, 2008 and Sen. John Barrasso is the speaker.

Dr. Nolte's legislative update included the following information: Many funding requests were not approved although there was a modest increase in salaries. The legislature appointed task forces to look at Community colleges around the state. There was no allocation for capital construction requests. As a result Casper College has decided not to wait any longer for legislative funding and will move forward with the campus building plan. The college will leverage several sources of funding and an information campaign has begun.

Susan Anderson was introduced and reviewed the campaign effort so far. Susan was questioned on the need to raise awareness with internal community. Susan described the stages of the campaign and distributed more ads. Alumni board members described what Casper College has meant to them. In response to questions, Susan and Dr. Nolte

addressed concerns about other competing fundraising projects coming from the community.

Director's Update

Paul talked about the Roping and Rigging Days Rodeo and mentioned upcoming lectures, the retirement dinner, and the academic excellence dinner. He also reported on the legislative session. Paul thanked the alumni committee members, as well as Linda and Rich, for all their hard work.

Paul introduced Mark Robinson who is retiring after 16 years. Mark reviewed current security initiatives. Mark thinks student use of alcohol continues to be an issue and has talked with Student Senate, challenging them to take that on as a student issue. Mark responded to questions about non-physical threats, i.e. email threats and answered questions about safety training for students and staff. He also discussed mandatory orientation for first year students.

Update from Alumni Coordinator

Linda introduced Rich Fujita. Rich presented the new DVD tour of Casper College and showed the commercials that have been airing. He discussed status of Footprints which is on schedule for June 2, and will have an increased number of pages. The magazine will be redesigned in fall by Lindsay Grant, new publication coordinators. The remainder of Linda's report was reserved for later in the meeting.

Committee Reports

Alumni Banquet Committee: Mike Stepp reviewed the banquet date, Oct 3, which shifts the event to a Friday, followed by the board meeting the next day. Mike said we need new ideas to reach a younger crowd. The committee will meet over the summer.

Scholarship Committee: Gigi Leman addressed the decrease in number of applicants for the Outstanding Student Scholarship and the move to a common earlier deadline. She reviewed the number of applicants for each scholarship and talked about the need to look at all the scholarships at one time.

Membership and Honors Committee: The committee met on April 10 to review nominees for Distinguished Alumni Award and the Commitment to Excellence Award. Derrel Carruth asked individuals committee members to present material on the nominees. Rob DeStefano presented the material on Kevin Burke, S.J. Charlotte reviewed the qualifications of Patty Boyle and Dan Goble. Bill Duncan reviewed the background of Dr. Wayne Hunter. The Board then heard presentations on the nominees for Commitment to Excellence. Debbie Simon reviewed the credentials of Jeanine Jones and Derrel Carruth reviewed the credentials of Dr. Chris Michelson. The Board voted Dr. Wayne Hunter to be the Distinguished Alumni of 2008 for Casper College. Jeanine Jones was selected as the Commitment to Excellence recipient for 2008. Linda is to contact Guy Worthy to let him know that his nomination will be carried over to next year.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Duncan presented the Treasurer's Report. He pointed out the addition of Banquet income and expense information and discussed ways to defray banquet costs, including increasing ticket prices, and finding sponsors. Bill discussed the decline in interest income due to poor returns from the stock market and distributed a report he created that shows where the individual scholarship money goes. The use of the Gronberg funds was clarified. Questions were raised about where the second half of the scholarship money is. Paul Hallock commended Bill Duncan and the committee for redoing the Treasurer's report. Paul explained how the state matching funds work and how long they continue. Gigi discussed attaching affinity reunions with the opportunity to donate and reach matching funds.

ACTION: Research and report back regarding donor intent for the Gronberg funds and where, within the Foundation, the funds reside.

Approval of Minutes

2007 fall meeting minutes were approved as read.

Linda completed her report. She reviewed the budget request to the college and reported on the \$9,282 increase in the budget request, which is a 36.99% increase over the previous year.

President's Report

Doug will welcome the new graduates at commencement this year. He reported that Foundation meetings are going well. Doug will share the Alumni Association financials at the next foundation meeting.

Linda reviewed the calendar and was asked to add Bill Brauer to Membership and Honors Committee.

It was suggested that anyone who asks for a transcript is an alum.

The meeting was adjourned by President Doug Leonard.