

Minutes
Casper College Alumni Association
Board of Directors
Saturday, April 18, 2009
Thorson Business Institute, Room 307

Members Present: Lu Hinderliter, Debbie Werner Simon, Doug Leonard, Nancy Curtis, Julie Laib, Nolene Wright, Rob DeStefano, Nancy Gerlock, Lea Schoenewald, Denise Blesi, Mike Stepp, Charlotte Babcock, Kevin Bromley, Bill Brauer, Derrel Carruth, Virg Bodyfelt (via Skype), Gigi Leman, David Long. Staff members: Paul Hallock and Linda Nix.

Excused: Bill Duncan, Mary Litzel.

Unexcused: Donna Wichers

Guests: Dr. Walter Nolte, Rich Fujita, Lindsey Grant and Lynn Fletcher.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Leonard at 8:30 a.m. Lindsey Grant, publications coordinator was introduced. Doug then introduced Dr. Nolte. Dr. Nolte updated the board on the accreditation visit during March 2009 and told them the college was accredited for 10 more years, with three improvement areas identified. He told the board about the CRD annual conference where Paul Hallock was honored.

Dr. Nolte reviewed the 2009 Legislative Session and reported that Casper College was the only community college to get capital construction dollars from general funds, and that we also received \$1M matching funds, as well as approval to build new dorms. He cautioned that budget cutbacks of 5 – 10 % on operating funds are underway; however the college is well prepared for the budget cuts, which will be selective, not across the board. Property tax revenue is expected to increase and there still will be salary increases for faculty and staff.

Dr. Nolte presented updates to the master plan. The Gateway Building has been moved and will be between the Wold Physical Science building and the T-bird Gym This area will comprise the community district. The current AD building will be remodeled for health science including a paramedical program. An area has been reserved for student housing and the college is considering using a modular company, which could yield 40% savings, compared to a stick built structure. The third major part of the plan is the commons and UW/CC building which would ladder up the hill and open onto Milliken plaza. A new music building is planned for the lower part of the current Krampert Theater lot, forming the Arts District. In response to a question about parking, this plan adds 200 parking places to the lower part of campus. The plan endeavors to have enough parking proximate to the various campus districts. The center of campus will become green space, not parking. He made a few comments regarding the Heritage Society Economic Forum observing that the presenters were bullish on Wyoming, saying our recession

wouldn't last as long as the rest of the country because the nation continues to be dependent upon our minerals. Dr. Nolte observed that we are fortunate to not experience the significant tuition increases seen in surrounding states.

Update from Executive Director

Paul Hallock complimented Dr. Nolte on his work with the legislature, telling the board that his presence in Cheyenne makes a big difference and makes the campus expansion possible.

The Sharon Nichols Auditorium will be dedicated at 4 p.m., April 21 and board members are invited. Paul said this is a busy time of year and it continues into summer. Marlon Scully is coming with his group of scientists and there is a T-Bird golf tournament on September 1, 2009. Charlotte reminded Paul about the Rosenthal gift of maps to the Western History Center.

Update from the Alumni Coordinator

Linda talked about attending the annual CRD conference in Washington, D.C. She told the board about the meetings she and Paul have had with the T-Bird Boosters, who hope to raise more scholarship money for athletes. She also briefly discussed database issues and reviewed the alumni office's budget request to the college.

She introduced Rich Fujita. Rich told the board about the \$2 discount for a CNFR ticket for alumni. Rich conducted a page by page review of the upcoming Footprints and noted that an unusual number of alumni have contributed articles to this issue. Charlotte recapped her article. He announced that Susan Thomas will be the 2009 commencement speaker.

Approval of Minutes

2008 Fall meeting minutes were approved as read.

President's Report

Doug Leonard reported that letters had been sent to the donors of the named scholarships giving them the opportunity to make a gift to fund a scholarship for one year only, because there is not income from the individually endowed scholarships.

Doug also reported on the current economic indicators.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Brauer presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Bill Duncan. Linda told the board that Bill Duncan was pleased to see that the gap between ticket sales for the banquet and the expenses was only slightly more than \$300. He said this was great progress and that we need to continue in this direction. He observed that the banquet income may never cover the costs, but is still valuable for the college and the association. The Treasurer's report was accepted for audit.

Committee Reports

Membership and Honors Committee: Derrel Carruth reported on the recent work of the Membership and Honors Committee. The committee met in late March to review nominees for Distinguished Alumni and Commitment to Excellence Awards.

The committee recommended the criteria for the Distinguished Alumni award be changed to require a degree or certificate. Lynn Fletcher, institutional researcher for Casper College, talked about what constitutes a certificate or degree at CC. There is an advantage to having a CC degree upon transfer to UW. It counts as fulfillment of the general education requirement. Many students who plan to transfer do not take a degree. The group discussed how to balance a required number of hours with a requirement for an earned degree as the criteria. It was pointed out that we don't seem to receive many applications from the people who have accomplished a great deal in the less traditional areas of recognition.

Derrel recapped the choices:

1. Current requirement of 24 credits
2. Minimum of 40 credits/certificate
3. Minimum of 60 credits/certificate
4. Degree and/or certificate

The board discussed the various options, including leaving the committee with the discretion to determine the criteria on a year by year basis. The board concluded that the committee should continue to have the discretion to grapple with balancing the interests.

Derrel reported that he also attended the community listening session for the college's accreditation visit in March.

Alumni Banquet Committee: Mike Stepp and Gigi Leman agreed to co-chair the Banquet Committee this year. It was suggested that each department of the college could be asked to create and donate a center piece for auction. The committee will discuss that possibility. It was requested that the Casper College Men's Chorus again be asked to provide entertainment. The committee will meet in June to begin planning for the October 2 event.

Scholarship Committee Gigi Leman gave the Scholarship Committee report. There has been no response from the individually named scholarship donors regarding one-time awards. Charlotte still plans to give her scholarship. Gigi explained the Outstanding Student scholarship will be awarded to two non-traditional students, not eligible for the Hathaway, for \$2,000 each. The application deadline was extended to April 17 and a total of 21 applications were received. The committee will meet in May to determine who will receive this year's scholarships.

Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee Lea Schoenewald reported on the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee's activities. She reviewed various fundraising possibilities discussed by the committee.

1. Bricks

2. Jewelry – ceramic necklace, rhinestone UW pin, bracelets.
3. Tree of Knowledge in Thermopolis – buy leaves according to level of gift. Elko, NV has a mountain range with various levels. Thunderbird with feathers based on different gift levels.
4. Work with Chris Navarro for an engraved rock with Spirit of the Thunderbird image. LazerTech and 71 Construction are companies that could produce the rocks. Linda was directed to see if Steve Loftin is an alumnus.

It was suggested that Footprints and/or the CC bookstore could be used to advertise and sell any products chosen as fundraising devices. Order forms at the banquet were suggested. Doug Leonard asked the fundraising committee to meet and come forward with a plan, including costs, for presentation at the next board meeting.

An award for businesses that help the college in unusual ways was suggested.

Old Business

Linda updated the board on the Alumni Association webpage and Facebook community. She told the group that the board minutes are now on-line as well. She also reported that the Chili Feed was a great success and that the 50/50 raffle raised over \$300.

New Business

Distinguished Alumni Award Selection of the Distinguished Alumni was the next order of business. Nolene presented information about Diana Ohman. Rob DeStefano made the presentation about Guy Worthy. Board members commented on the two nominees. It was acknowledged that both nominees are excellent. Diana Ohman was chosen as the 2009 Distinguished Alumna.

Commitment to Excellence Award The board then considered the nominees for the Commitment to Excellence award. Bill Brauer talked about Jack Romanek and his background. Derrel presented Chris Michelson and his contributions to Casper College. Board members shared their experiences with the nominees. Jack Romanek was selected to receive the 2009 Commitment to Excellence Award.

Upcoming Events The board discussed the August 1, 2009 regional alumni event in Thermopolis. Lea Schoenewald requested a list of CC alums residing in Thermopolis. It was agreed to advertise the event throughout the entire basin area.

Donut Day will be Monday, August 24, the first day of classes for the Fall semester. Paul reminded people to come to the Sharon Nichols dedication on Tuesday, April 21.

Linda thanked to Rick LaMotte for his hard work setting up the link to Virg Bodyfelt in Montenegro.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. by President Doug Leonard.