



# Center for Western Civilization, Thought & Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

## **Board of Advisors Meeting Minutes**

April 9th, 2018

2:00-4:00PM

Benson 380, Benson Earth Sciences Building  
University of Colorado Boulder

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** President Benson, Kate Brown, Dave Hoover (PHONE), Jennifer Schubert Akin, Brian Domitrovic, James Lyons, David Pyle, David Grohne (PHONE), Tina Snider

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ted Trimpa

**NON-BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Robert Pasnau (CWCTP Director), Kathleen Ragland (CWCTP Interim Associate Director), Scott Scheifele (Assistant Dean of Development in the College of Arts and Sciences), Cheryl Kisling (Principal Gift Officer in the President's Office), Margaret Rose Bryant (Development Assistant), Stephen Hayward (Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought & Policy in 2013-4), Alex Vela (CWCTP Undergraduate Fellow), Katiana Hutchinson (CWCTP Undergraduate Fellow)

**Minutes Prepared by:** Margaret Rose Bryant

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### **General Introduction to the State of the University, *President Bruce Benson***

- Bond rating is up to AA1 – refinanced and saved \$50M
- Diversity – 29% (up 11%)
- Tuition- up 3.7%
- Enrollment and the quality and applications are up.
- Fundraising will top \$400M.
- Total budget is \$4.6 B this year
  - Refinanced \$450 million
  - Allocate \$225 million to cover employees and employers
- CU is receiving \$15 million less in state support than in 2008.

### **Update on Center Activities, *Professor Robert Pasnau***

- Breakdown of Scholars and Fellows:
  - 4 Visiting Scholars in residence: Conservative Scholar, Philosophy Scholar, Art History Scholar, and Political Science Scholar.
  - 2 Graduate Fellows
  - 3 Internal Faculty Fellows.
- All 10, including Pasnau, meet every other week for seminars. This will hopefully become an ongoing feature of the program.
- CWCTP is averaging at least one event per week.

- 50 – 100+ at the public events (Charles Murray talk brought in hundreds).
- The result has been a master class on American Politics with a conservative flair.
- CU is the role model for creating an environment for such dialogue and academics are not only taking notice but also flocking to CU.
- Staffing Update:
  - Alex Holmgren is on maternity leave.
  - Kathy Ragland is working half-time in Alex's absence.
  - 3 student interns (hourly). They work 10-15 hours a week each.
  - Social media intern, Graciela, is working on IG, FB and Twitter. There will be more to come regarding social media accounts.
- The undergraduate fellows program has become an inroad to the program since its start last year.
- There are currently twenty undergraduate fellows (the program is only 18 months old).
- The Undergraduate Fellows Program was modeled after programs at Princeton's James Madison Center.
- It is clear that special programming, dinners, and events add value.
- The Center was able to fund 14 students who applied for funds for internships or classes they are taking connected to Western Civ. Most recently CWCTP linked with the CU in DC program.
- Undergraduate Certificate Program (a kind of interdisciplinary minor) does not appear to be a huge market because it is difficult for students to fit it into their schedules unless they plan accordingly in their first year.
- Collaborative efforts with ISI, Turning Point USA, College Republicans and outside organizations such as the Steamboat Institute and the Center for the Study of Government and the Individual.
- Next Year's theme: Truth & Rhetoric.
- 2 Senior Scholars for Conservative Thought will join the program in the Fall.
- There is a need for the Program to look outside of Boulder for activities – vast majority have been inside. Getting to satiation point. There should be more of an emphasis on the Western Slope and south of Denver.
- Alex Holmgren is at full capacity in terms of what she can do. If we want to expand our growth in the above-mentioned way, we need to hire on someone else at least part time.
- The original MOU called for 8 visiting scholars of various kinds, and that remains our goal.
- The group discussed that it is time to endow a permanent or tenured director to run the program and the center. This will require support and assistance from board members and will require substantial endowments.
- David Pyle offered a suggestion about having scholars representing various political perspectives.
- Group discussed the potential for the team to co-teach a class and offer standing meeting with students.
- Dreams about bringing big names for debate to campus (Bill Clinton vs GW Bush and Tucker Carlson vs Begala).
- In terms of events, we want to avoid events that are not intended as thoughtful conversations or are not open to dialogue.
- Bob Pasnau notes that we have been successful in not generating opposition from students and faculty. We have brought in many conservatives but we have also brought in a variety of voices.
- There is presently a statement on the webpage about the kind of speakers we are trying to bring in.
- Group consensus that undergrads should be involved

## **Undergraduate Fellows**

- *Katiana Hutchinson (Class of 2018)* Katiana is a senior studying International Affairs. She shared that she craved a place like CWCTP throughout her college career, but did not find it until her last year of college. She stated that she spent three years bored and with an unsatisfied thirst for diversity of thought and hearing both sides.

*“Before we can be understood, we must seek to understand.” Kaufman’s War & Terrorism class*

- *Alex Vela (Class of 2019)* Alex shared the difficulty he experiences in terms of being accepted into the Boulder community as a conservative young person from rural Colorado. He expressed how crucial CWCTP has been in terms of him finding a community and belonging at the university. He spoke highly of the scholars and the curriculum supported by the center.

## **Report on Fundraising and Endowments, Scott Scheifele**

- Group discussed limited term endowments (3-5 year commitment to a program with some measure of uncertainty of future direction).

## **Intellectual Diversity as a National Phenomenon, Professor Steven Hayward**

## **Discussion**

- Jennifer Schubert-Akin wants to get the two new scholars out in the Western Slope.
- Kate Brown addressed how problematic it is that Katiana has a thirst to hear both sides but spent the first three years of her education bored. Kate presented the question: How can we get our program more marketed/exposed to Freshman?

## **Next Steps**

- Sharing Social Media Accounts

[Facebook:](https://www.facebook.com/CWCTP/) <https://www.facebook.com/CWCTP/>

[Twitter:](https://twitter.com/CWCTP) @CWCTP

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/CWCTP_CUBoulder) @CWCTP\_CUBoulder