



Center for Western Civilization,
Thought & Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Board of Advisors Meeting Minutes

September 22nd, 2017

12:00-2:00 PM

**Benson 380, Benson Earth Sciences Building
University of Colorado Boulder**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: President Benson, Kate Brown, Dave Hoover, Jennifer Schubert Akin, Ted Trimpa, Brian Domitrovic, David Pyle (PHONE), David Grohne (PHONE)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: James Lyons

NON-BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Pasnau (CWCTP Director), Alex Holmgren (CWCTP Associate Director), Robert Kaufman (CTP Visiting Scholar), Natalie Hagewood (CWCTP Intern), Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano, Vice Chancellor for Advancement Deb Coffin, Assistant Dean for Advancement Kimberly Bowman, Alumnus Cole Bloom ('17), Senior Director of Development in the College of Arts and Sciences Scott Scheifele, Dean of Arts and Sciences James White, Associate Dean for Research Theresa Hernandez, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Advancement Derek Bellin, Laura Murray (CWCTP Undergraduate Fellow)
Minutes Prepared by: Alex Holmgren, Natalie Hagewood

Meeting called to order at 2:00PM

I. President Benson's Remarks

A. Introductions

B. Center should bring academic debate, not sensationalism

C. Helps students learn how to think, not what to think

D. Expectations for the Board

1. Maintain program's mission in the future

2. Eventually replace staff with folks who are as diverse as the current advisory group and similarly committed to mission.

3. While the program in many ways took inspiration from the James Madison Program at Princeton, one major difference is the effort to endow this program in perpetuity.

4. Most immediate goal is to endow a Center Director position, which will be open to any department that wants to participate in a search, on permanent basis, with prestige of endowed chair

II. Chancellor DiStefano's Remarks

A. History

- 1. During writing the MOU, chair was proposed, but donors wanted a pilot. The pilot was originally envisioned as a three year endeavor, now in its fifth year. This speaks to the success of the CWCTP.**
- 2. Composed of two centers (Center for Western Civilization, circa 2006), and CTP Program (piloted 2011, the two programs were merged in 2011).**

B. Three strategic imperatives

- a) Prepare next generation of leaders**
- b) Be a leader of innovation and entrepreneurship**
- c) Impact humanity**

C. Thanks Board members in advance for their participation and advice

III. Robert Pasnau's remarks

A. Director's Mission-is to make difference to students and combat stereotypes about ideologies

B. Center's Presence on Campus

- 1. Combination of CTP and CWC Programs create synergy, nicely complement each other, provides a genuine range of options, and grows enormously. Must uphold these ideals**
 - a) CTP Program: Intellectually diverse**
 - b) CWC Program: Role of western civilization**
- 2. Cultural change important, bringing academic debate, not sensationalism, with a fundamental intellectual grounding**

C. CWCTP Governance

- 1. Executive Committee - made up of CU Boulder Faculty, with sub-committees**
- 2. CTP Selection committee- a mix of faculty and community members, deliberately split 50/50**
- 3. Board of Advisors, purpose is to:**
 - a) Provide legitimacy and maintenance of purpose**
 - b) Bring perspectives on making the CWCTP better and different through wealth of experience in many domains**

D. Questions From Board to Director:

- 1. Is an incoming freshman required to take an introductory survey course?**
 - a) Robert Pasnau's Response: No specific requirement; freshman have broad choices to fulfill core requirements. The faculty as a whole determine the core curriculum. What we can do at the Center is offer survey courses such as CWCV 2000**
- 2. How can we be more student-centric and get students to want to be involved?**
- 3. Add'l comment from Board member: Can we expand student impact footprint, through classes?**

4. **Add'l comment from Board member: Board needs metrics to measure improvement, a framework to compare against.**
 - a) **Robert Pasnau's Response: The Center offers a numbers of ways to get students involved: undergraduate fellows program, six classes this semester, an undergraduate certificate, events, student grants.**

IV. Perspectives on the Center

- A. **Student experiences - Presented by Laura Murray and Cole Bloom**
 1. **Laura Murray's Experience- Current Undergraduate Fellow, CWCTP Student Grant Recipient funded independent study in Spain, wants to see growth in Undergraduate Fellows Program, facilitated meeting people with alternative opinions**
 2. **Cole Bloom's Experience- alumni Undergraduate Fellow**
 - a) **Took classes from previous CTP scholars Brad Birzer, Brian Domitrovic. Center of cultural importance that improved quality of life. Cole stresses importance of campus conversation. Quality of conversations more important than quantity, as interested students usually are leaders campus conversation**
 - b) **Scholars and faculty fellows in residence (Six classes total)**
- B. **CTP Scholar - Presented by Robert Kaufman and Brian Domitrovic**
 1. **Robert Kaufman's Reflection: Focus on scholars with impeccable academic credentials, who can engage in discourse and communicate values of conservative ideals within American culture**
 2. **Brian Domitrovic's Experience: Gave 10 outreach talks in Boulder. Current US high ed mandate not to alienate students pervasive, and it is a privilege to be part of the solution to that problem**

V. Continuation of Discussion with Robert Pasnau

- A. **Certificate of Western Civilization**
 1. **No narrow requirements, broad choices, from which the Center can offer course surveys: CWCV 2000, CWCV 4000**
- B. **Events**
 1. **Collaborate with other faculty and departments to bring in interesting people with a variety of different perspectives, not all conservative.**
 - a) **I.e. Katherine Jefferts-Schori**
 - b) **Increases attendance**
 2. **Attendance at well-known speakers' lectures: 90-100 people, academic Lectures average more like 50-60 people**
- C. **Financial Status - presented by Alex Holmgren**
 1. **Growing at a steady, fast rate, and using primarily endowment proceeds and current funds to support growth**

2. Large growth in amount spent on salaries given the new scholars in residence

VI. Moving Forward - Comments from Board

A. Future events

1. Comment from Board member: CWCTP Should bring in speakers with name recognition and follow with academic discussion
 - a) CWCTP to hold CTP “Reunion” with all five scholars in April 2018
2. Comment from Board member: CWCTP should make effort to record events
 - a) Collaboration with CMCI has allowed us to record some events, we will work on getting as many as possible recorded. Center does maintain a YouTube account with about half the lectures from last year recorded.
3. Comment from Board member: More outside Boulder events
 - a) Center will work on holding more events outside of the Boulder campus
 - b) Follow-up comment from Board member: Steamboat welcomes events, Denver, CU South, and suggestion for more continuing education
4. Comment from Board member: Use a point-counterpoint model to engage in dialogue: teaches people to disagree robustly but agreeably
 - a) Follow up comment: Could result in bigger crowds

B. Branding suggestions

1. Comment from Board member: CWCTP should provide Board Members with elevator pitch
 - a) CWCTP will craft a statement and send to Board Members, Bob Pasnau offers tentative wording: “Role of the center to foster debate on campus by exposing students to broad diverse opinions grounded in the western tradition”
2. Marketing suggestion from Board: “What’s the world like if debate doesn’t happen?” “What if there were no debate?” Instead of taking the positive role, what about the flipside?
3. Comment from Board member: Best method is social media
 - a) Get social media intern
 - b) Have incoming speakers tweet about upcoming talks
 - (1) Center agrees to work on both items

VII. President Benson asks for additional comments. Thanks Board for their attendance and adjourns meeting early at 2:00PM

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM.