



Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2022

Present: Daniel Jacobson, Robert Pasnau, Benjamin Slater Hale, Kenneth Bickers, Shilo Brooks, Michael Huemer, Patricia Limerick, Carole Newlands, Alan Kahan. Scott Savage joined in progress.

Absent: None. **Staff Present:** Betty Kilsdonk, Alexandra Roberts. **Guest:** Taylor Jaworski.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

Chair opening comments: Meeting focus is to say goodbye to members who are leaving and introduce new personnel, provide an academic year program review, present upcoming programming and initiatives, and approve bylaws amendments.

Personnel changes: Shilo Brooks is stepping down as Associate Faculty Director to run Princeton University's James Madison Program. Brooks was lauded for his contributions. Taylor Jaworski will step into the Associate Faculty Director role. Alexandra Roberts is the new Program Manager.

Bylaws amendments: Chair Jacobson clarified the bylaws amendment process. At the Committee's Nov. 10, 2021 meeting, proposed bylaw amendments were voted on. Subsequently, it came to his attention that the Research & Innovation Office (RIO) reviews all academic center amendments before adoption is official. Through RIO there is also opportunity for University Counsel to assess for potential legal liabilities. This expanded process allowed for review by additional stakeholders as well, resulting in revised amendments for Executive Committee consideration at this meeting.

Amendments to Articles II-V clarify the Center's governance and processes. Amendments to Article VI, regarding the Visiting Scholars Search Committee, incorporate feedback from multiple stakeholders. Article VII adds language acknowledging the role of RIO and University Counsel in future bylaws amendments. The addition of Article VIII acknowledges that the Center's discontinuance is governed by University process and procedure.

Motion: Dan Jacobson moved to amend the bylaws previously adopted to read as presented in written form to the Committee on April 18, 2022 and reviewed at this meeting.

Second: Patricia Limerick.

Discussion: None.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously among all present (Scott Savage was absent).

Program review: The Center held 30+ events and meetings this year. Highlights: A successful Workshop in Heterodox Moral and Political Philosophy, the only one of its kind in the country, was held on April 9. On April 14, the Center and CIRES hosted a panel discussion on bipartisan climate change with representatives Joe Neguse (D-CO) and John Curtis (R-UT). About 150 in-person and remote attendees included the Chancellor, three Regents, and university, city and county leaders. Shilo Brooks' *The Free*

Mind Podcast has had more than 4,000 listeners in its first year. The Center sponsored the Matt Burgess-led student/faculty/staff dialogue series to build bridges across ideological differences. Alan Kahan organized a well-received Conservative Thought and Policy (CTP) lecture series on capitalism and ethics. The Center's YouTube channel gained over 1000 subscribers in the past year and Center videos have had more than a million views to date. Center faculty course enrollments exceeded 300 students.

Upcoming programming and initiatives: The fall CTP series will consider the Western tradition and why it's worth studying. Matt Burgess will host *The Free Mind Podcast*. Dan Jacobson is working to get a "Great Ideas of Western Civilization" team-taught course developed and approved, which may include a Continuing Ed. component. Taylor Jaworski plans to engage undergrads with "Late Night Office Hours" student/faculty discussions and may host a summer 2023 workshop focused on student-faculty research.

Outgoing committee members and discussion of proposed members: The director recognized Ken Bickers, a member since 2016, for his service and proposed Matt Burgess to fill his position. He proposed Taylor Jaworski to complete Brooks' term and to renew the terms of Scott Savage and Mike Huemer. The Committee endorsed the proposed appointments.

Other business and discussion: VSCTP Alan Kahan will join the Center for fall semester and Lisa Nelson will serve for AY 2023/24. Speakers and format ideas for a principled conservatism series were discussed.

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.