

**Executive Committee Meeting**

August 28th, 2019

Fiske Planetarium Meeting Room

3:00PM-4:30PM

**IN ATTENDANCE: Present:** Robert Pasnau, Benjamin Hale, Patty Limerick, Carol Newlands, Shilo Brooks, Colleen Sheehan, Scott Savage, Michael Huemer, David Glimp, David Shneer (via phone), Betty Kilsdonk

**ABSENT:** Ken Bickers

**MINUTES PREPARED BY:** Betty Kilsdonk

Meeting brought to order at 2:00 PM.

1. New board and staff members were introduced: Center Interim Director Hale, 1-year appointment ex-officio; Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought & Policy Sheehan, 1-year appointment, ex-officio; Michael Huemer, 3-year appointment replacing Mark Leiderman; program manager Kilsdonk.
2. Chair Pasnau introduced a bylaw amendment concerning Center name change: That the bylaws of the Center for Western Civilization, Thought & Policy, Article I Section 1 be amended as:

The name of the organization is the Bruce D. Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization (henceforth “the Benson Center”).

Discussion: Outreach efforts should include broad context of Western civilization’s impact including continents other than Europe.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously, with one member absent.

1. Chair Pasnau updated the committee on efforts underway to hire a second staff person, an endowed chair, and visiting scholars for 2020-21, noting that there is room in the budget to increase the number of visiting scholars.

Discussion: Review of efforts at inclusivity for endowed chair selection process and how those might be broadened in the future.

1. Chair Pasnau reviewed upcoming events, reviewed the successful inaugural Summer Institute, and discussed the new team teaching initiative which has been funded by the Charles Koch Foundation. Concept is to match with donor funding from opposite of political spectrum.
2. Discussion of providing contrasting points of view for visiting speakers: Various formats for addressing diversity of views among visiting speakers were reviewed, with a priority on providing a model for students of how to engage in respectful disagreement. Committee is interested in an approach whereby each lecturer has an opportunity to speak, followed by an engaged conversation moderated by a faculty member.
3. Betty Kilsdonk presented the 2019-20 budget and funding update.
4. The committee discussed potential future funding initiatives including additional visiting scholars, graduate scholarships, gathering space for undergraduate fellows, expanding involvement with other disciplines such as the business school, computer science and engineering.
5. Chair Pasnau introduced discussion of 2020-21 theme. A successful theme in general is one which has donor and supporter appeal, but which also stimulates interesting and difficult questions for scholars. It should work among multiple disciplines and be something faculty from various disciplines feel they can participate in. Junior-level Scholars in Residence and Summer Institute participants are selected in part based on their connection to the theme. Discussion of “community” and various companion words such as strife, conflict, disunity, reconciliation, restoration, tolerance, fragmentation, etc. and their implications. Chair Pasnau and Interim Director Hale will finalize the theme in consultation with the Executive Board.
6. Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 PM.