



UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE BULLDOGS

(970) 506-7000

6525 W. 18TH ST. GREELEY, CO 80634

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WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Monday, June 17, 2024
Large Conference Room**

**Members Present: Eric Fitzsimons, Carol Riggs, Justin Nelson, Jake Pierce,
Amanda Widel, Greg Pierson, Scott Williams**
Staff Present: Jennifer Weaver, David Jones

1:00 P.M. Work Session

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

- Call to order at 1:00

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA - ERIC (JAKE P) PASSED

3.0 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Year-end Review/Reflection

- Ryan starts things off by explaining that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss this last school year and opens up the discussion to the members.
- Eric shares that many of our students are now attending Aims and how that has shifted from recent years. He poses the question of what University is doing to best prepare our students for that next step after graduation.

- Carol, as a new member, brings up community dialogue and how the interaction is often awkward. Community members share their thoughts, but there is a limited response from the board. Jennifer mentions that there is a document at every meeting explaining the community dialogue procedures. There were a few suggestions about making that info more accessible.
- Greg brings up the board elections and the board's responsibility for organizing the committee, counting votes and result communication. Jennifer adds that the bi-laws only allow for 2 board members to be involved in the counting committee. Members discuss the balance and pursuit of transparency. Greg's main point was about accountability and transparency during the election process. Jennifer mentions that the main issue was with eligible voters and the confusion around who can vote during the election. She also explains that the committee has a process for counting votes and seeing which voters are ineligible. A list of eligible voters is compiled from Infinite Campus and University's communication platform "Blackboard." There is also an option for candidates to come by the school and go over the results with the committee. That gives candidates an opportunity to see the results personally without sharing the numbers publicly. Scott mentions that the committee should be appointed by the board at the same meeting as the election timeline.
- Members discuss the difference between having a public and available vote count versus publicly announcing the number of votes. Votes are currently available upon request. That information shared publicly may have unintended consequences in a social media space. Discuss shifts to the elected positions within the board (chair, vice-chair etc.).
- Scott brings up the student representative and how the board can empower them to share more during meetings. Jennifer mentions that the bi-laws do not say that the student rep has to be a senior. Members discuss the possibility of bringing on a junior instead. Members also discuss the idea of giving the student rep a designated report during meetings. Amanda talks about onboarding these students and creating a relationship between them and the board chair. Scott also brings up the idea of having a student rep and a student understudy. He talks about making the position a multiple year station and creating a pipeline for future student reps.

- Eric brings up the question of how we get students involved with assisting faculty. Student involvement and participation is still a vital part of their academic career and there should be a surplus of opportunities.
- Ryan brings up parent involvement with organizations like USPTO and the Booster Club. He opens up the discussion regarding board members getting directly involved with the school instead of always delegating projects to the staff members. Jennifer brings up a broader picture by asking about commitment expectations for school community members. She suggests creating some language describing what parents, community members, and board members are expected to do during the school year. Scott mentions “suggested donations or suggested commitments.” That would help define expectations and reduce the confusion among parents.
- Members discuss different solutions for equipping staff. They mention departments like IT and Facilities. They also mention staying up to date on different trainings and board retreats throughout the year. All in the spirit of equipping and training staff, the board sets up a few proactive steps to stay current and effective.

4.0 NEXT REGULAR MEETING – JULY 1, 2024

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 2:30 - CAROL (JUSTIN) PASSED