



# Center for Western Civilization, Thought & Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

## **Board of Advisors—Executive Committee Joint Meeting Agenda**

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Benson Earth Sciences Building, Room 380

3:00PM-5:00PM

### **In attendance:**

Bruce Benson, Marcy Benson, Kate Brown, Dave Hoover, Robert Pasnau, Ken Bickers, Shilo Brooks, William B. Allen, Bob Charles, Steve Bosley, Earl Wright, Deb Coffin, Cheryl Kisling, Kristen Rasmussen, David Carpenter, Philip DiStefano, Jim White, Theresa Hernandez, Christopher Panetta, Betty Kilsdonk, and Margaret Bryant

### **On the phone:**

Tina Snider and Brian Domitrovic

### **Board members absent:**

David Grohne, Jim Lyons, David Pyle, Jennifer Schubert-Akin, and Ted Trimpa

### **Executive committee members absent:**

Mark Leiderman, Patty Limerick, David Shneer, Carole Newlands, and David Glimp

### **Minutes prepared by:** Margaret Bryant

3:00 PM      Introductions of Board of Advisors, Executive Committee, CTP Search Committee

3:05PM      Welcome by President Benson

- President Benson welcomed the group.

3:20PM      Update on fundraising from Chancellor Philip DiStefano

- Chancellor DiStefano shared that CWCTP is critical to the campus priority of shaping tomorrow's leaders and that the impressive fundraising is attributed in large part to President Benson's leadership.
- Under President Benson, almost \$20 million has been raised towards the Center's endowment.
- The Bruce Benson Legacy Endowment Fund (established this year) is focused on supporting the center. The endowment fund has already received 13.3 million dollars.
- Chancellor DiStefano announced that the Center would be renamed for Bruce Benson.
- The Board thanked President Benson for his dedication and contributions.
- President Benson expressed his appreciation and thanked Marcy as right hand. In addition, he thanked Chancellor DiStefano, Robert Pasnau, and Cheryl Kisling for their ongoing efforts.

3:40PM Update on Center activities from Center Director Robert Pasnau

- Robert Pasnau shared relevant updates from the Center and spoke to the continued and expected growth in the coming year.
- Betty Kilsdonk joined in April 2019. Shortly thereafter, Alex Holmgren left the team. Dr. Pasnau made the case that the Center needs two full time employees.
- The Center is averaging one talk per week. Prominent intellectuals the Center hopes to bring to campus include Jonathan Haidt, Anita Allen, and Senator Tom Cotton.
- The Center is gearing up for their first Summer Institute which will begin June 3.
- The Center is in search for a permanent endowed faculty position. There was a pool of roughly seventy applicants. The Center is working with various departments in Arts and Sciences to narrow down the list. Four finalists for the position will visit during the fall semester. While on campus, they will give scholarly and public lectures, and will meet with the search committee. Dr. Pasnau anticipates that the endowed chair will start in Fall 2020.
- Dr. Pasnau will be in Paris for the coming academic year. The Acting Director is still to be determined as Ken Bickers has been called to take the position of Acting Chair of the Political Science Department.

4:00PM Update on Center financials from Center Program Manager Betty Kilsdonk

- With 75% of the year lapsed, the Center has expended 71% of its \$976,500 annual budget.
- The Center is entirely donor funded. Funding sources are comprised of available balances from endowment distributions, current funds, private foundation grants, existing funds and memorial proceeds. The endowment principal's market value is currently \$10,561,000.
- Named funds include the Benson Legacy Fund, the Grohne Endowment Fund, the Harper Endowment Fund, the Pyle Endowment Fund, the Wehman Fund and the Roubos Fund.

4:15PM Update on branding research from Christopher Panetta, CU Strategic Relations

- Mr. Panetta presented research findings based on student focus groups.
- Board members and Executive Committee members agree they like the language of "fostering intellectual diversity" as a tagline for the center.
- Discussion of the need for metrics to measure program and marketing success.

- Discussion of wording options for renaming the Center in honor of President Benson, such as the Benson Center for Western Thought and Policy and the Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization. Final wording to be approved via an amendment to the bylaws by the Center's executive committee.

4:30PM            Questions and open discussion

5:00 PM           Meeting concludes

Professor Allen remarked that in the last ten months, he had seen the highest quality undergraduate student work that he has seen for his entire career, teaching for more than three decades at universities across the country.