

Ross A. Nielsen Fund Board of Directors Meeting  
September 6, 2005  
6:30 p.m.-8:00 CST

I. Roll (x=present)

- X Barbara Lounsberry, President, Alumna, and current UNI Faculty Representative
- X Joan Duea, Past President and Emeritus Representative
- Sue Savereide, Vice President and former PLS Faculty Representative
- X Becky Hawbaker, Secretary, Alumna, Parent, Current PLS Secondary Faculty Representative
- X Nancy Stevenson, Treasurer, Alumni Representative
- Trev Alberts, Alumni Representative
- Leander Brown, former PLS Faculty Representative
- X Norm Granger, PLS Parent Representative
- X Les Hale, Emeritus Representative
- Bob Hellman, Alumni Representative
- X Mackenzie Carlisle, PLS Student Representative (class of 2006)
- Bob Stephens, Alumni Representative
- X Drew Stonewall, PLS Student Representative (class of 2007)
- X Clare Struck, Current PLS Elementary Faculty Representative

Ex Officio Members and Guests:

- X Jeffrey Cornett, Dean of the College of Education, PLS Parent
- X Bill Callahan, Director of PLS and Interim Head of the Department of Teaching
- X Shannon McQuillen, UNI Foundation
- X Dave Smith, NU High Principal and Associate Director of PLS
- X J.D. Cryer, PLS Elementary and Middle School Principal, alumni

II. Introductions and opening remarks by the President

Members introduced themselves and Lounsberry welcomed members and provided a summary of her experiences as a lab school student in the “new building” and as a parent of a student at the lab school, especially the wide range of experiences and opportunities available. She expressed hope that RAN will continue to support PLS as a premier lab school.

III. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with one spelling correction (Callahan, not Calahan)

IV. Approval of the Minutes:\

Duea/Granger moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

V. Treasurer’s Report

Stevenson gave overview of the financial summary, and drew member’s attention to the total amount raised to date. She asked McQuillen how many of the recent pledges were from new pledgers. She also asked how much of the increase was interest and how much was new pledges. McQuillen provided an updated financial summary that addressed both questions. McQuillen reported that the overall rate of return for the endowment was 10.11%. The fund is not currently paying any fees to the Foundation and will not until June 30, 2007. McQuillen noted that the spending account balance is high because when pledgers did not specify whether their pledge should go to the

quasi endowment or the spending account, it was put into the spending account. Stevenson spoke to moving some of these funds into the quasi endowment in order to earn a higher rate of return. Duea asked for a projection for scholarship needs in the immediate future. Cornett and Smith responded that \$8000 would cover needs for this year and possibly into next year. Stevenson suggested that any new money that comes in undesignated should be divided 50/50 between the scholarship fund and the quasi-endowment. Hale asked about possible scholarship needs for relocated hurricane victims, and Callahan reported that he is participating in ongoing meetings on this topic but most families will be relocated to UNI Family Housing and this is not in the lab school zone. Hale asked whether funds moved from the spending account to the quasi endowment fund could be accessed later. McQuillen responded that the transferred money could be used for any purpose except scholarships.

Duea/Hale moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was approved.

Stevenson returned to the concern with what to do with undesignated pledges and how or whether to spend the spending account dollars. Cornett asked if consideration of this question could wait until after the report of new initiatives at the lab school. Members agreed by consensus to wait.

## VI. Ex-Officio Report

A. Dean Cornett reported on the visit by representatives of the Freedom Foundation, who visited PLS to determine if PLS could be named a First Amendment School. At the same time, PLS faculty were asked to vote whether to support on a bid to become a First Amendment School, and the result was a nearly unanimous vote in favor. Several faculty attended a summer conference with other First Amendment Schools. Cornett expressed the belief that PLS could become a regional center and "Iowa's laboratory for democracy," attracting groups of visitors from other schools and agencies. Several prominent citizens including Chet Culver, Joy Corning and the new publisher of the Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier have agreed to assist or serve on a board. He also reported that he is meeting with the UNI Vice President for Administration and Finance to give a building tour and to report the facilities needs for the school. He reported that there is \$60,000 in the Dean's Excellence Fund that is earmarked to support the initiatives of the lab school, including the First Amendment School initiative. He also reported that money has been identified that is not out of the general fund or Foundation accounts to air condition the field house.

B. Bill Callahan expressed the importance of field experience in a quality teacher education program and the importance of the lab school in providing quality field experiences. Because great field experiences at the lab school create better teachers who can impact student learning, the lab school touches student achievement in many places. He reported the priorities he has emphasized to PLS faculty.

## VII. Old Business

### A. Fundraising Report

McQuillen reported that she tries to make visits to lab school alumni whenever she travels. She repeated her plea for the names of good prospects for gifts and pledges.

Lounsberry reported that she and Duea visited with Bill Calhoun, Director of the Foundation and successfully approached him for a pledge. Hawbaker asked if the pledge cards that she puts in the AFPLS newsletter have brought any pledges, and McQuillen replied that it has, but that she does not have specific data about how many.

#### B. NU Webpage

Hawbaker reported that the AFPLS page she manages continues to get between 1000-1200 hits per month and results in 3-4 address corrections per month for the AFPLS database. The nuhighalumni.com site that is managed by Eric Ellis, Jeff Dieken, and Byron Wooten was offline for a few months since the last meeting but is now back up and continues to rebuild and grow and currently has 164 registered users.

#### C. RAN interface with other PLS Support Groups

Hawbaker/Struck moved to add the President of AFPLS as an ExOfficio member of RAN. The motion carried. Stevenson suggested that the AFPLS Board should include a RAN Board Representative.

#### VIII. New Business Planning Session: Board Initiatives for the Year.

Lounsberry reminded Board members of the official purpose of the RAN Fund and asked members to brainstorm both fundraising strategies and funding needs. Lounsberry suggested three ideas she has had: a 'prospects' committee for fundraising, an annual giving appeal, and RAN interface with other committees. Cornett added the construction of a new flagpole with a plaque with RAN's name on it. Stevenson suggested an initiative to support educational research and other uses for the quasi endowment. Cornett reported on how he plans to create a Research Team made up of the best researchers in the College of Education to support research at the lab school. Lounsberry reported a fellow alumni who said she would be willing to give to a foreign language program area fund, and the accounting difficulties that such focused giving creates. Stevenson reported on a specific program, American Physiological Society's LOT program, and will send additional information. Cornett discussed a symbolic gesture that Gary Kroeger suggested: a PLS float in the Sturgis Falls parade.

Granger stated that to raise funds, you have to do two things 1) set a specific fundraising goal, 2) touch people's hearts by reminding them what the organization does well and how it does good in clear and simple terms. Lounsberry suggested creating several committees to address several of the areas raised: Annual Letter, Use of the Quasi Endowment, and a Prospects Committee. Duea asked what we believe is a reasonable goal for annual. Lounsberry suggested raising the total fund to \$150,000. Callahan suggested increasing the fund \$50,000 by the February meeting.

#### Committee Volunteers:

Prospects: Hawbaker, Cryer, Duea, McQuillen, Granger, Lounsberry  
Use of Quasi Endowment: Stevenson, Hawbaker, Callahan, and Carlisle  
Annual Campaign: McQuillen, Struck, Cryer, Hawbaker

Returning to the issue of the spending account:

Duea/Struck moved that \$8000 be taken from the spending account to support needed student scholarships. The motion carried.

Stevenson/Struck moved that \$10,000 of the spending account be moved to the quasi endowment, and leave \$3000 in the spending account. The motion carried.

IX. Next meeting

There are several conflicts with Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Lounsberry suggested Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> as an alternative. No conflicts were noted with a Monday date, so this will be the next meeting.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Hawbaker

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03.