

Ross A. Nielsen Fund Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2006
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
- X 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
- X Leander Brown, former PLS Faculty Representative
- X Norm Granger, PLS Parent Representative
- Les Hale, Emeritus Representative
- X Bob Hellman, Alumni Representative
- X Kaylee Williams, PLS Student Representative (class of 2008)
- X Bob Stephens, Alumni Representative
- X Drew Stonewall, PLS Student Representative (class of 2007)
- X Clare Struck, Current PLS Elementary Faculty Representative
- X Nadene Davidson, UNI Faculty Friend 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 Sherry Kluender, UNI Foundation
- X Dave Smith, Director of PLS
- X Jim Stichter, NU High Principal
- X J.D. Cryer, PLS Elementary and Middle School Principal, alumni
- X Curt Nielsen, Assistant Principal, Activities Director, and Instructor
- X Michelle Swanson, AFPLS President

II. Call to Order, Introductions and opening remarks by the President

The meeting was called to order at 6:30. Lounsberry thanked everyone for all they are doing to serve the RAN Fund. She stated that Les Hale is out of town in Texas, but wanted Lounsberry to announce that the Les Hale Chorale would donate at least \$1000 to the RAN Fund, and it may be used as a challenge. Bob Hellman will call in later from the streets of New York. Lounsberry distributed the current roster and asked members to correct any errors.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Lounsberry added "Scholarship Requests" and "Hellman Challenge" to the agenda. There were no objections.

IV. Approval of the Minutes:

Stevenson/Duea moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

V. Treasurer's Report, Nancy Stevenson

Stevenson thanked everyone who met with her when she was in town this summer and stated that she was impressed with the many positive initiatives she learned about. She presented the Treasurer's Report. She asked Kluender about a \$674.70 payout from the Endowment to the spending account. Kluender replied that this

amount was the interest earned from the Endowment that was transferred to the spending account. Stevenson asked that the Board address whether the interest should be transferred to the spending account or should remain in the Endowment. Stevenson/Hawbaker moved to transfer the \$674.70 back into the Endowment. The motion passed. Duea/Hawbaker moved to put the Treasurer's Report on file for audit.

VI. Ex-Officio Reports

A. Dave Smith, Director of PLS, and other members of the PLS Administrative Team Smith reported that the requests for the Students First Scholarship Support continue to increase and commented on the diversity of the PLS student population.

PLS Student Fee Scholarship Requests and Funds by RAN:

2004-2005: 28 families/49 students/\$4800

2005-2006: 26 families/42 students/\$8000

2006-2007: 37 families/57 students/\$10,000

Stevenson asked whether all of the donors who gave to the spending account gave explicitly to the scholarship fund or whether they meant for their gift for other purposes. Kluender replied that donors' options were to the Students First Scholarship Account or to the Quasi Endowment, and that when donations come in unassigned, they are split 50-50 between the two accounts. Duea/Struck moved to fund \$10,000 as requested by families this year. The motion passed.

Smith reported on several new PLS initiatives and partnerships and the work of faculty and staff. Cryer reported that elementary faculty is working on curriculum mapping; standards and benchmarks; inquiry-based science; NCA improvement areas of Reading, Math, and Climate; the Citizenship program, and the Beginning Reading Conference featuring author Faith Ringgold. Cryer reported that the middle school is focusing on the advisor/advisee program including a pilot of daily advisory for 6th graders as well as Rigor/Relevance reform initiatives, and announced that as a result of student petition and advocacy the middle school dance on Saturday will include the 6th graders. Smith reported that the high school faculty remains very involved with the Iowa Department of Education's initiatives in high school reform. Stichter added that this work includes work on the state Model Core Curriculum. Stichter announced that the high school is exploring the possibility of establishing a policy debate team in partnership with the UNI Forensics and Debate program.

Stichter also shared a summary of the NU graduates' intended post-secondary plans, which included graduates from 2002-2006. According to the students' reports (of which about 80% were later confirmed by phone) graduates planned to attend: 19% UNI, 15% Hawkeye Community College, 10% University of Iowa, 8% Iowa State University, 5% Wartburg, 40% other 4-year universities including Harvard, Smith, Grinnell, Bard College, and many other institutions, and 3% planned to work or join the military.

Smith announced that he is now responsible for making teacher education field experience placements for UNI's Level I and III experiences and this experience has

demonstrated to him the importance of the lab school's role in the Level II field experience.

B. Associate Dean Callahan reported on a new project that is a partnership with National Geographic Maps and Homeland Security, initiated by Gavin Maurer, Class of 1971. Callahan reiterated the importance of the secondary math and science initiatives at PLS.

C. Dean Jeffrey Cornett reported on initiatives with the Black Hawk County Bar Association, Law Related Education, and First Amendment, including a \$1000 donation of materials to the PLS library. He shared his enthusiasm for Ben Allen, who has been named as the new President of UNI. President Allen has communicated several priority areas for the university, including teacher education and immigrant services. Allen has visited the lab school several times and was reportedly impressed with the care and excellence in the classrooms.

IV. Fundraising Report, Sherry Kluender

Kluender reported working with Lounsberry on a fundraising letter to be sent out this fall. She has been visiting with a number of alumni across the country, both PLS alumni and UNI alumni with PLS connections. One initiative is to establish a scholarship in honor of Marguerite Strueble, who taught French and Latin at PLS for many years.

V. New Business:

A. Hellman Challenge: Lounsberry announced that Hellman has pledged a \$25,000 Challenge Fund to generate and grow the RAN Fund, and shared a personal communication strategy he has used to successfully raise funds and reconnect and recommit alumni from Stanford and Harvard. Hellman suggested challenge goals related to dollars given, number of donors, or number of attendees at the reunion picnic. Stephens pledged to match Hellman's donation for the Challenge Fund. Lounsberry reported that the Les Hale Chorale is also interested in contributing to the Challenge Fund. Hawbaker, Swanson, and Kluender spoke in favor of Option II, saying that the most critical need for the fund is to expand the number of donors. Kluender suggested involving current students to establish a giving tradition as well. Davidson/Hawbaker moved to pursue Option 2 for the Challenge along with other modifications a committee may recommend. The motion passed. Stephens, Smith, Lounsberry, Kluender, and Swanson will serve on the committee.

VI. Old Business

A. Program Awards Application Form

Lounsberry presented the draft of the application form. Davidson suggested adding an evaluation/outcomes section near the end and above the signature section for added accountability. Stevenson suggested a written report in addition to an oral report from funded projects. Swanson suggested being very clear about how funding decisions will be made, including a scoring

rubric for making funding choices. Stephens stated that he believed that a formal application process is not necessary. After a lengthy discussion, Dueda/Struck moved to turn the program awards process, award amount, and application to the RAN Executive Board after a decision has been made about merging with AFPLS, and sharing their recommendations via email with the entire board for their approval. The motion passed.

B. Report from the RAN Interface with other PLS Support Groups Committee:

Lounsberry shared a proposal to merge RAN and AFPLS. Swanson spoke in favor of merging but cautioned the Board in understanding that AFPLS is not a wealthy organization and that many of its initiatives are labor intensive. Hawbaker shared a concern that the mini grants for teachers initiative be preserved under a merger. Stevenson expressed concern about the differences in missions between the two groups and the need to keep funds separate under a merger. Stephens/Granger moved to merge AFPLS and RAN. The motion passed nine to three. Lounsberry will appoint a committee to create a new model and operating guidelines.

C. Membership Committee:

Dueda has agreed to be the Membership Committee chair for the next meeting to recruit new members and Board officers.

VII. Next meeting

Lounsberry will suggest May 2007 meeting dates by email in the near future.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Hawbaker