HSP Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Raine Dozier (co-chair) Jackie Baker-Sennett, Trula Nicholas (co-chair), Rebekah Snodgrass (staff), Jarid Corbett, Gwen Delp, Jean (Hackel) Nash, Rebecca Johnson, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Susan McPhee, Kathy Ramsey, and Cal Scheidegger, Dane Olsen, Kayla McKendrick

Guests: Mike Henniger, Associate Dean; John Korsmo, Assistant Professor

1. Welcome and Introductions.

During introductions the following transitions were noted:

Jean Hackel is now Jean Nash.

Rebecca Johnson is now with “Community Link Consulting”, based in Spokane, works out of her home in BH, and works with community health centers all over the country, doing federal grant writing and board development.

Dr. Jackie Baker-Sennett noted that her term as department chair is expiring and she will be replaced by Dr. Elizabeth Boland.

2. Review of Committee Charge

3. Scholarships and Fundraising and Capital campaign

Mike Henniger, Associate Woodring Dean, spoke regarding the big picture for WWU and the implication for the human services program.

The Western community has been trying to answer fundamental questions, such as “What is WWU really all about and where should we be heading in the future?” WWU perceives itself as a strong regional institution in the state and wants to become a premier comprehensive university in the region and nation.

In order to move in that direction it has begun branding and capital campaigns.

Branding – President Shepard’s 100 conversations has helped focus those thoughts to “market” ourselves.

Capital – there is a real need to raise money. Not so much a capital campaign, as a comprehensive campaign. The slow process of identifying what our priorities are and a “silent” phase where the university talks to its key donors and others. WWU tries to meet 50% of the
total goal; when that is done the campaign becomes public. The groundwork must be already laid out before becoming a public announcement.

As of late April WWU has identified 3 broad goals for the campaign:

1. To change lives in P-12 (not K-12). College of ED has been a cornerstone. HS is an important link and makes WWU unique.
2. Changing lives in business and “not for profit” sectors. This is a strong connection point to what HS is all about.
3. Changing lives by inspiring a different future. HSP students come to learn, grow and develop as individuals. Students come from different backgrounds, experiences, and with varying needs. We need to help our students be successful in a university environment.

This implies a commitment to diversity. WWU continues to grow more diverse and will be more aggressive in bringing in diverse students. Scholarship efforts are one way to do this significantly. HS connects to this aspect strongly.

While summarizing his message, concluding that the WWU branding and comprehensive campaign mean significant impacts for the HS program. HS has an increasingly key role to play in leadership in the state as it leads the university in its efforts to make the student body more diverse.

Jackie Baker-Sennett commented on achievements thus far, including the HS Partnership Center, located on the waterfront. The center is a community-based facility that allows faculty to support the community and its endeavors. It is not as isolated as on campus, but more fluid. It reflects the idea of the campus being part of the community and the community part of the campus. The location needs resources; the HSP faculty would like to hold conduct classes there, and to meet with field supervisors.

Mike Henniger added that while the waterfront site is unknown now, over the next 3-4 years as the campaign unfolds, the HS Partnership Center is expected to become one of Woodring’s priorities.

Raine Dozier added that going to other agencies with a class would be easier if HS was already community based.

**HSP Scholarships** —faculty are working to increase the number of scholarships available in the HS program.

Suggestions included the following:
- How about a small scholarship for books?
- A “donors choose” program for the internet was mentioned.
- A payroll deduction out of each paycheck was suggested.
- Separate account for BH & EV students so that they don’t get lost.
- Class opportunity for students—how about a fund development each year that they come up with to see how much money it would entice from alumni, a challenge for each year.
5. Program Updates

Jackie Baker-Sennett reported that students By Fall 2010, students will have an on-campus tuition increase of 28% over the next two years, and an off-campus increase of 5%. The long term goal is to equalize the on and off campus tuitions.

The Human Services Bremerton campus has closed. It was characterized as having double the tuition through EESP and few students. Now President Bruce Shepherd is getting feedback from the peninsula over concerns about their student access to WWU’s HS program. As a result the program is starting program delivery via a Distance-Learning program. The program can be delivered effectively with as few as 10 students from many locations statewide. It begins January 2011.

There is a need to identify methods of developing long term partnerships between faculty, students, and alumni so that faculty would remain “in the loop” while still on campus. Keeping faculty engaged within the community with the Partnership Center is a big goal.

August 25, 2010 Systems of Care Conference in Partnership with NW Mental Health in Skagit County, ESD 189, and Children’s Administration. The conference is an example of how WWU can further support students and alumni in addressing systems of care. The particular function was to further assess the mental health needs of children and families.

There continues to be an increasing importance of working with other agencies in the local and regional area.

State budget cut concerns were summarized by the statement “we are no longer a state university, but a university in a state”. The university now receives less than half of its financial resources from the state legislature/taxpayers. Several things have been combined to decrease the impact on the HS program. A hard hit is expected in 2012, as stimulus funds will no longer be available. A possible cutback on field supervision was suggested to help balance costs.

6. Education Practices

With the move to state support from self-sustaining (EESP) in 2007, tuition rates for students had been declining. Currently, tuition rate increases of 14% per year have been put in effect, so we are approaching original tuition levels. This is presenting an increasing hardship on human services students, who a recent WWU study found were more likely to be 1st generation students/students from poverty. Compounding the situation is the fact that graduates are entering an economy that presents lower and lower paying careers. This has a negative impact upon their ability to pay off student loans and further perpetuates a cycle of poverty.

NAACP, a scholarship program for incarcerated people was mentioned as way to touch upon diverse groups that tend to remain unseen by society. Margaret Curtis, Director of Pioneer Human Services, was mentioned as having contacted HS seeking to help build stronger bridges
connecting Pioneer and HSP, particularly on the subject of incarceration. Key factors were in terms of an overall understanding, job placements, and job development.

Another educational concern was that there were plenty of available scholarships left unapplied for. The general feeling was that students didn’t think they would receive the award upon applying for it.

TheWashboard.org, a scholarship website for Washington State students, was mentioned as an online resource.

7. Faculty Research Presentation

John Korsmo, Assistant Professor distributed a handout regarding current research.

Members discussed the ways of assessing student learning. Youth, family, and community work all need to be taken into account and poverty, generational, cyclical, and situational factors studied.

The action research project currently has people who are experiencing poverty, addiction, and/or abuse. Results are exciting to witness, because the achievements can be seen. Northern Heights Elementary School was mentioned on researching the level of education our children deserve.

Currently a grant for people with unaddressed medical needs in Bellingham has been applied for.

The Lifebooks project for kids being adopted, is being co-authored by a student.

Opportunities for student collaborations with faculty continue to be encouraged.

8. Academic Rigor

The following key points from related research was presented:
- Student workload can be mentally exhausting.
- Rigor equates with new learning, creating a balancing act between old and new learning.
- Rigor can’t be compared to other programs because it is about self-growth and development.
- The intensity of rigor differs between students.
- Currently, rigor is further intensified by the growing need to be up on the latest technology.
- The senior exit survey addresses the question of rigor.

9. Student Portfolios

A presentation was made highlighting examples of student projects related to Capstone Portfolio, which is intended to help address the need to understand what students have learned through HSP. Visit ALYMARCZYNSKI.com for more portfolio information.

10. Closing