

Citizen's Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 7:00-8:45 p.m.
University High School Library
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Dr. Dean called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Attendees: Mark Adams, April Davenport, Bob Dean, Ken Fansler, Marijane Galvan, Jan Murphy, Eric Ruud, Bob Piker, Valerie Wilder.

Absent: Clark Brooks, Judi Doubet, John Tuttle, Barbara Jacobsen.

Guest: Cory Culbertson

Additions to the Agenda: None

Introductions and Acknowledgements of Visitors: Engineering Technology faculty member Cory Culbertson was present to provide a technology update to the Committee.

Minutes: Prior regular meeting minutes are approved and posted on the web at <http://www.uhigh.ilstu.edu/cac/index.htm>

Review of Committees:

Legislative Forum – Eric Ruud and Dr. Dean led a discussion on hosting a Legislative Forum in April. Dan Brady's schedule would allow him to attend this event if scheduled on Tuesday, April 19. Eric is still waiting to hear from Bill Brady's office. Dr. Dean and Eric are hoping that this is a date that would work for a large percentage of U-High parents. In April there will be a number of "hot" issues in Springfield so the Forum could generate significant interest and attendance. The fall schedule is slower in Springfield. Valerie Wilder encouraged student involvement and thought that April would probably be a good time for that. Mr. Adams will organize the debate team to participate in the Forum, and other classes will be invited. The Committee decided that if April 19 works for Senator Brady, we will go with that date. (note: following the committee meeting, Senator Brady confirmed that he is available on April 19. So the Forum is being organized for that date).

Technology – Cory Culbertson provided the Committee with an update on the U-Learn initiative. He described the results from the student survey which indicated that the Netbooks are used heavily and that students view their Netbook experience very positively. There has been a little more damage than expected, especially to the screens. This is primarily due to a weakness in the construction of the screens. Slightly less than 20% of U-High parents have been billed for repairs. The Committee asked if more durable cases would offer more protection for the Netbooks. Mr. Culbertson offered to review some alternatives for the new school year.

U-High recently hosted visitors from Unit 5 who were interested in the U-Learn initiative. Mr. Culbertson provided the Committee with an overview of the different ways teachers are using the technology that is now available to them. The Committee asked a few questions about what happens to the Netbooks over the summer. They will all be collected at the end of the school year and examined by

U-High tech staff. Repairs and upgrades will be made as needed so that the Netbooks will be ready for distribution next fall. The discussion then morphed into a conversation about electronic textbooks. Jan Murphy suggested that Ann Harner, Manager of the Barnes and Noble Book Store at the Bone Student Center, would be a good resource as her office has begun to address issues with ebooks.

Report from Administrative Representative

Common Core Standards – Dr. Dean spoke of the new Illinois Learning Standards incorporating the Common Core. These are standards for K-12 education adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education and developed to better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the workforce in a competitive global economy. They are starting with Language Arts and Science this first year. An assessment process for these standards is currently being developed by a multistate consortium and will be effective in 2014-2015. Dr. Dean indicated that the initial influence will be most noticeable at the elementary level. There will likely be an increase in the frequency of state mandated tests at all levels to accommodate the trend toward more formative assessment.

Stroud Reopening – The reopening of Stroud is scheduled for April 8th. There will be a reception for donors who contributed to the Seat Campaign and U-High students will be performing the Phantom of the Opera. Dr. Dean showed the Committee pictures of the finished auditorium. It now meets all accessibility codes, the main stage curtain has been replaced, and the dressing rooms have been updated. The entire auditorium is very open and beautiful and the Elgin marble reliefs have been cleaned and remounted. One issue of note is that our music performances are so well attended that we will most likely continue to hold them in Braden.

U-High Logo/Identity – The high school's current logo is the "Miami U". In order to be compliant with laws governing the use of trademarks, the High School contacted the University of Miami to request permission to continue using the logo. We were denied permission, so we will need to develop a new logo. A committee has been established to guide in the design of a new logo/identity that would belong solely to University High School. The Committee is inviting submissions of ideas for a new logo for the school and has developed a flier which has been distributed requesting these submissions no later than April 29.

Locker Refinishing – Both Metcalf and U-High will have some lockers refinished/refurbished over the summer.

Legislation – Dr. Dean provided the group with a handout about SB2144 which was introduced by the Lab School at the University of Illinois. This bill would allow laboratory schools to gain access to school construction grants. To date, the bill has not made it out of the Education Committee.

Faculty Searches – At U-High, a librarian and a science teacher have been hired. The high school is going to also be hiring faculty in social sciences, mathematics, physical education, foreign languages and science. At Metcalf, we will be searching for an assistant administrator, a 4th grade teacher and a foreign languages teacher. There may be other possible retirements.

CAC Appointments – John Tuttle's term on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) is finished after this meeting. Applications for his replacement are now being accepted.

Meeting Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.