

A special meeting of the Central Wyoming College Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, by telephone conference call conducted by speakerphone from the Office of the President in Administrative Wing Room #105 on the Central Wyoming College campus.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Deanna Crofts
Scott Phister (by speakerphone)
Jim Matson
Dennis Christensen
Dallas Myers (by speakerphone)

Absent: Joe Megeath Caroline Mills

Administration: Jo Anne McFarland Jay Nielson

Attorney: Frank Watkins (by speakerphone)

Recorder: Linda Bender

Guests: Ruby Calvert Kyle Nicholoff

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Crofts called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. She indicated that the sole purpose of the special meeting was to approve a Wyoming Public Television equipment request to the legislature.

A roll call conducted by the board clerk indicated that Board Chair Crofts, Mr. Matson, Mr. Myers, Mr. Christensen, and Mr. Phister were present and that Dr. Megeath and Ms. Mills were absent. Board Chair Crofts announced that a quorum of the board was present.

SPECIAL
BUSINESS:

Wyoming Public
Television
Equipment
Request to
Legislature

Dr. McFarland indicated that Wyoming Public Television (WPTV) wishes to make a one-time equipment request to purchase high definition production equipment to be included in the 2007 supplemental budget request to the legislature, which must first have CWC Board approval. This request was discussed by the WPTV Advisory Committee on August 18, and the group supported the request. At that time the cost of the high definition production equipment was not known and was roughly estimated at \$500,000. The equipment will allow the statewide public broadcasting station to produce local

and regional content in high definition format for distribution locally, regionally, and nationally.

WPTV has a strong need to replace its old and obsolete analog production equipment with digital production equipment to ensure that the state's investment in converting WPTV's transmission capability from analog to digital (to meet the Federal Communications Commission 2009 deadline) allows Wyoming-produced programs to be of the same high quality as the digital high definition transmission format. Wyoming has already invested over \$5.7 million in the 05-06 biennium to convert WPTV transmission facilities from analog to digital and to expand services and coverage in the state. In addition, it is recognized that high definition production is the future of television.

Public television has always depended upon students to supplement the work they do. Students need to have the opportunity to work in the new digital format which will be the industry standard in the coming years. It is anticipated that programs planned for this current year and the next would need to be done in high definition so they can be distributed nationally in high definition by PBS. This would give WPTV's programs a longer shelf life, and these programs will be of higher quality.

In the discussion with the WPTV advisory committee, the equipment was estimated to cost \$500,000. However, if high definition is to be used for the studio as well as field production, the amount is \$1.3 million.

Ms. Ruby Calvert, Acting General Manager of Wyoming Public Television, indicated that she didn't realize that the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) needed a CWC Board-approved recommendation so that it could be included in the supplemental budget request to be approved by the WCCC on August 23. It is crucial to have high definition production equipment. A grant request to the federal government has been submitted to fund high definition production equipment but it is a very competitive process. In addition to the complete high definition production studio needs in the amount of \$1.3 million, a request for a high definition remote production package was included for \$495,000. The two requests are stand alone. The high definition remote production package is needed to purchase field cameras and equipment.

Dr. McFarland asked if the \$1.3 million request would be sufficient for remote production equipment. Mr. Kyle Nicholoff, WPTV Senior Producer/Production

Manager, explained that it would limit remote field production in the high definition format. Board Chair Crofts asked if \$1.8 million is really what is needed. Mr. Nicholoff replied that the amount could be higher. Dr. McFarland asked what the amount would be if the studio package were to include two more field cameras. Mr. Nicholoff estimated that it would cost approximately \$165,000 per camera package.

Dr. McFarland thought that the board should approve both the high definition studio renovation and the high definition remote production package since the request will eventually be cut at other levels. Ms. Calvert indicated that WPTV really does need to make the transition to high definition in the studio as well as in the field. It was agreed that both requests could be done for \$1.5 million. Mr. Christensen didn't think this amount was out of line. Mr. Matson agreed, saying that WPTV is separate from the colleges. Ms. Calvert asked if the advisory committee needs to approve the new amount. Dr. McFarland said no, because the board has indicated its support of a complete package which includes two additional remote cameras for a total of three cameras and a total amount of \$1.5 million. This would result in a turnkey high definition production operation for the studio and remote production. The lighting option is included in the \$1.5 million, so it does not need to be added to the request. Mr. Nicholoff indicated that the \$1.5 million in production equipment does not replace the production truck.

Dr. McFarland recommended that the board add the two remote camera capabilities and related equipment to the first priority so that high definition remote production equipment is included as well as high definition studio production equipment for a total of \$1.5 million.

Mr. Myers moved to add the two remote camera capabilities and related equipment to the first priority so that high definition remote production equipment is included as well as high definition studio production equipment for a total of \$1.5 million. Mr. Matson seconded the motion.

Dr. McFarland indicated that the budget would need to be redone, and this would need to be transmitted to the WCCC along with a memo which details what the board approved. The remote production equipment alone would be second choice and would only be requested if required for budget reasons.

Board Chair Crofts called for a vote on the motion currently on the floor. A roll call vote indicated that Mr. Matson, Mr. Christensen, Mr. Myers, Mr. Phister, and Board Chair Crofts voted yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:07 p.m., Mr. Christensen moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Matson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary

APPROVAL:

Chair