

CSC MINUTES – DENVER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
March 13, 2012 4:00 P.M.

Present were Jen Castillo, Bill Kohut, Ronni Turner, Sue Gonzales, Dr. Oscar Joseph, Chip Galaty, Deb Rosenbaum, Amanda Brockbank, Mike Johnson, David Posner and Sue Borgos

Minutes from the last two meetings were approved.

In our vision meeting we had talked about the possibility of requiring our students to re-audition between Middle School and High School. However, after looking at the organizational documents, the school was set up to allow a smooth transition from Middle School to High School and we can't make our students re-audition. Bill thinks that really isn't necessary if we do a better job of using the watch program that is already in place. Evaluations need to happen in December. Departments should have a list of competencies that need to be met by eighth grade. Oscar raised question about the standards - what happens if someone starts the program in 7th or 8th grade. They don't have much time to come up to snuff. Deb said that when we accept students who are entering in 7th or 8th grade, implicit in their acceptance is that they do meet the standards for their grade. We should add this to the April agenda and talk about it then.

Student Issues

Amanda presented that she and Nicole have been working on ideas for college prep utilizing NHS Seniors to help the Juniors. They are setting up a system where the students are listed based on what types of schools they have applied to. Nichole and Amanda will continue to flesh this out. To start off, they are thinking of doing a program on the afternoon of the ACT.

The running club starts next week.

Yoga is growing every week. Marcy Donovan is teaching.

There was a discussion at the Student Council meeting today about a lack of student mobilization and why that may exist. One thought was that there are so many announcements that the students don't pay much attention to them. The focus is on the major and external activities no mobilization to do internal after school activities. Student Council is having trouble selling tickets to the Hunger Games screening.

Bill will send out a community announcement about The Hunger Games, the running club and yoga.

PTSO

PTSO is much quieter this year. Sue is looking for volunteers to get things going again. We are still active on mini grants about \$1500 has been awarded so far and \$1200 more is available. These are earmarked for student or staff activities. PTSO is continuing to do some stewardship. They wrote checks for the judges for the speech and debate contest that was here so that they

didn't have to wait 6 months for the checks. We are receiving a Google grant for Stagecraft. Sue would like to focus on parent alumni. She would also like to target Middle School parents to rebuild the PTSO. \$300 is the maximum request amount for mini grants.

Community Meeting

There were about 60 folks in attendance. There was good participation from the folks who were there. Bill thinks having another one this year is probably not going to work because everyone is focusing on the end of the year. Let's plan on having one right off the bat next year. Sue thought that there was good participation in the breakout sessions regarding travel and she thought it would be great to put something out in the Community blast. Jenn says the Travel Committee is still planning on getting the survey out. They'd like to get it out before Spring Break.

Travel Committee

Dave felt that there was some basic consensus among the parents in the breakout sessions. Jenn felt that comments were all across the board. From what she saw the comments went from "why are we here it all works just fine" to "there is too much travel". Some folks felt academic international trips shouldn't be limited - "if my kid can afford it why shouldn't they go?" Dave found the following fundamentals for arts trips - there should be consensus in the department that there should be a trip. The Department as a whole needs to be behind it, even the folks who aren't going. If the Department is in agreement then it should address the issue of funds depletion. There was some concern expressed that there was a lot of time taken away from classes. Some thoughts were expressed about having blackout dates. Amanda indicated that in the group she was in there were thoughts expressed about creating tiers of requirements for different types of trips. Dave heard conversations about balancing fundraising for core funding for the department needs to be met before they can talk about fundraising for trips. Amanda indicated that some smaller trips should be available that everyone gets to do - i.e. Boulder Fringe Festival and that the larger trips should be more voluntary. Deb has concerns about some of the trips that some of the arts do. She understands the competitions and such, but doesn't really understand trips to go to look at colleges. Clearly there are different categories of trips. The trips policy needs to address this. We want to get this policy in place by the end of the school year.

Several departments have already put in requests to organize trips for next year. Bill has been telling them that they can start planning but they cannot move forward with monetary deposits until the travel committee has policies in place and they comply with those policies. However, because there is concern that some need to start planning immediately; perhaps we can provide them with a minimum of criteria in order to move forward. Bill and Mike believe that there are certain basics that have been agreed upon - like taking a survey of the parents of the students in the department and proving that the department can meet its departmental needs. Oscar highly recommends that everyone have a clear understanding of the academic value of every trip. Mike wants to vote that at minimum for major trips there has to be 1) clear academic/arts purpose 2) a survey with at least a 60% response rate and a majority of that 60% agreeing to the trip and 3) have to demonstrate that the department has met the funding needs. There was some

discussion about this last category. What it means in essence is that you set the goal and you agree that you will meet that and not cannibalize from that fund.

Sue brought up that at some point we do need to discuss equity in this. This could be a very lengthy discussion.

Jenn would like this to be approved by the travel committee.

There is one trip waiting for approval. Jenn says they should be able to wait.

Mike says this group is in consensus on these three requirements, subject to approval by the travel committee. If the travel committee doesn't object within a week then these will apply at a minimum. Because these are all principles that were generated by the travel committee and the CSC the CSC is approving these three things we are going to communicate this as a bare minimum standard for those who are trying to plan trips now. Bill says perhaps we should just say no trip can go forward until the policy is approved.

After some additional discuss, the CSC decided that some groups need to be able to start moving forward so a motion was made, seconded and carried that pending Travel Committee review and concurrence with the three principles outlined above, no DSA class trip can go forward before they align their trip with those principles. The motion was carried unanimously.

NEXT STEPS:

- Jennifer will help expedite Travel Committee's review and discussion of the principles and facilitate an email discussion with Committee and CSC members
- Bill will brief Department heads

Report from CSC Diversity Committee

Committee members: Deronn (Ronni) Turner, Mike Johnson, Greg Diggs, Oscar Joseph.

Ronnie, Mike and Greg held a first meeting to outline an action plan. As a first step, the Committee will conduct a Diversity Environmental Scan to collect information from current DSA students about the school's climate. The Committee will use a Zoomerang Survey to learn more about whether students perceive diversity-related problems, how they describe the situation and what ideas they might have to address associated issues.

NEXT STEPS:

- Greg and Oscar will work on survey questions for the Committee and the CSC to review and approve.
- Amanda will check in with the Student Council to see if they will agree to help with related student outreach
- CSC members are welcome to email Mike Johnson if they want to join the committee or share ideas for questions/survey themes

Deferred Discussions

The CSC deferred discussions about the budget and the Innovation Status option.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:40