**Hagen-Harvey Scholarship Board Meeting**

April 30, 2013 2:00-3:30 CST in MacKay Conference Room 5, Pierre, SD

**Call to Order:** Jr. Bettelyoun called the meeting to order. See attached agenda and handouts.

He thanked Mark for organizing the meeting and the information.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Attendees: Jr. Bettelyoun, Mark Gageby, Tina Merdanian (via conference call), Marta Neuman (reporter), K.C. Russell, Clint Waara (via conference call), LaRayne Woster. Everyone introduced themselves along with their job titles.

**Approval of Minutes (April 23, 2012):** Mark introduced today’s agenda, and requested approval of minutes from last year’s meeting on April 23, 2012. K.C. made the motion to approve; Clint seconded; all in favor.

**Hagen-Harvey Trust Investment Fund:** (See Hagen-Harvey Scholarship Fund Condition Statement.) The current balance in 2013 is $898,288.93. This fund is earning money. Mark noted that even with awarding more scholarships (adding seven new ones each year), the fund’s principle will not be touched.

**Hagen-Harvey Scholarship Summary:** (See handout.) Jr. noted that this scholarship fund was first set up in 2003, and has grown considerably since that time. Mark noted the overall total now at $299,000 in scholarships. This summary shows the 2009-2010 school year, through the 2015-2016 school year estimates, and a list of student recipients. For the 2013-2014 school year, with current scholarships and adding seven new ones, around $35,000 will be awarded.

Jr. and Clint asked about tracking the Hagen-Harvey recipients who have finished their scholarships and graduated. Mark said he can tell which ones are still in the program; when a new Indian Education Director is hired, he/she could help oversee this, and help gather data on graduation rates, degrees earned, etc.

Mark said he will check with the Board of Regents (Sam Gingerich) and see about getting that information directly from the colleges/technical institutes. Jr. pointed out that some recipients may have later finished college on their own.

Tina suggested a method of tracking student successes: requiring an exit interview and/or a survey (graduation date, degrees earned, career choice, employment, future plans, etc.) to help track where their careers take them. These trends could be analyzed and related to reservation needs. Mark agreed with this idea. Many students choose a different track for a different profession than their original choice. Mark said that each Spring he sends out the forms for proof of eligibility, registrations, contact information, etc. He could add a career choice (and other items) to that form which students must fill out to continue their scholarships. A survey at the end would be more difficult to do. High school guidance counselors (and others) would be interested in followup information on their former students. Matriculation rates and other information, could help with guiding assistance for other middle school/high school students.

Mark asked if/how this scholarship committee should influence these processes. This could give us an idea of how these scholarships benefit the student recipients and their communities. Tina said this information could help guide us, and indicate impacts and trends.

Jr. asked if this should impact our scholarship selection process. Tina replied that she is not trying to affect that, but is interested in the direction the committee is going.

Clint asked about extrapolating information on where students are going, whether they have graduated, and their career choices. This scholarship program opens the door to students and encourages them to attend higher education here in South Dakota. He asked if this sample is too broad, and if the ends would justify the means; graduation rates may be the most important information. Jr. agreed. Jr. also said it would be interesting to see the number of enrolled tribal members attending higher education, and to compare tracks of their success rates from reservation schools and off-reservation schools. What can we do to alleviate any imbalances indicated? Mark said we have the capability to track graduation rates for reservation and for public schools. LaRayne said public, private, tribal schools could be tracked to indicate what is working. Mark said that the new Indian Education Director could help with this.

LaRayne asked if Gates scholars are tracked like we are discussing here (graduation, career choices, etc.)

LaRayne asked about the information released by the Board of Regents; Mark said that in the letter and forms students receive they sign for permission to access their records. Mark will also contact lawyer Bill Shekelton to verify.

**Students-Araya Cournoyer, Courtney Fischer, Lyle Jacobs:**

* **Araya Cournoyer—No response:** Mark noted that Araya had received her scholarship

two years ago; Mark has tried several ways to contact her for updates, but she did not respond. The last letter sent to Araya was to take the scholarship away. Mark said we

do not award an alternate scholarship for a situation two years past.

* **Courtney Fischer—Gates Scholarship; declined Hagen-Harvey** Mark said Courtney declined when she received the Gates Scholarship, and at the time she suggested awarding her Hagen-Harvey Scholarship to someone else.

**--Dysan Lends His Horse—2nd Alternate:** Mark said Dysan then received the scholarship.

* **Lyle Jacobs—Attended college out of State of South Dakota** Mark said Lyle is attending a school on the East coast, so did not qualify for the Hagen-Harvey Scholarship.

**--Eden Clifford—1st Alternate:** Mark said Eden then received the scholarship.

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**Recommendations for Hagen-Harvey Board Member:** Mark stated that LaRayne’s term ends June 30, 2013. Mark had asked her to reenlist but she declined. She would be interested in returning at some point; she is now working on her Master’s Degree.

Mark will contact Joe Kafka. Mark asked the committee for name recommendations, which he would take to Melody Schopp and she in turn would check with the Governor’s Office. Mark shared administrative rules on political party affiliations, which states that the scholarship board include no more than three members of the same political party, and include at least two enrolled tribal members. Currently the board consists of two Republicans, two Democrats, and two Independents; all are tribal members—two Oglala, one Lower Brule, one Rosebud, and one Cheyenne River.

Current board members and their terms:

Jr. Bettelyoun—term expires June 30, 2014 (original board member)

K.C. Russell—term expires June 30, 2015

Tina Merdanian—term expires June 30, 2016

Clint Waara—term expires June 30, 2017 (original board member)

LaRayne Woster—term expires June 30, 2013

Suggested names:

* Bruce Renville/Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. He works for the tribe, and lives in Sioux Falls.

(Clint suggested; Bruce will be contacted)

* Natalie Bergquist. She lives in Pierre. (LaRayne suggested; Natalie will be contacted)
* Josh Weston. (Former Chairman at Flandreau/Clint suggested, and will send contact information)

**Legislature:** (See handout.) Mark said we will propose two changes to the Hagen-Harvey administrative rules. This will be on the South Dakota Legislative calendar.

* **Number of credits to maintain eligibility:** Proposing changing the credit requirements from 14 to 12 per semester (12 hours per semester is considered full-time)
* **Number of scholarships:** Proposing changing the number of scholarships from seven per year if enough funding is available. Jr. asked about the possibility of awarding eight (or more) scholarships.

**Approval of Hagen-Harvey Scholarships:** (See handout “Hagen-Harvey Scores 2013-2014 School Year”). This is a scoring list of 34 potential recipients, which Mark compiled. Mark pointed out that all applications go to the Board of Regents first, then to DOE. Jr. suggested awarding scholarships to the top seven students on the list: Tanner Colombe, Dalton Montileaux, Michaela Stroup, Sage Zephier, Ryan Kornely, Chance Knutson, and Laketon

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McLaughlin. Jr. opened the floor for discussion. Clint said he had scored Sage Zephier a bit lower, and questioned why Brooke Pond ranked so low on the list. K.C. and Jr. replied that the ACT scores influenced their decisions. Jr. scored Sage Zephier a bit higher considering his success with the JAG (Jobs for America’s Graduates) program. GPA’s were lower until Sage (and others) became involved with JAG at the middle-school level. Tina noted that she does not personally know some of these students. She looks for well-rounded students exhibiting good skills in many areas: community service; interests outside of school; employment; abilities to balance responsibilities of school, work and extra activities; making critical choices. Jr. noted that Jackie Farlee could be another one, who demonstrates maturity and hard work. Jr. added that self-expression in their writing is also a factor; Clint agreed. Even a student who did not score high on the list, such as Klay O’Daniel, definitely knows what he wants to do with his life. Clint and Tina: is there a way to fund vocational training as well? Clint also noted, interestingly, that some students have lower GPA’s but score very high on ACT’s. Jr. noted that Joseph Mattis of Wagner did not score near the top of the list, but came from a rough background and has successfully mentored Special Education students; he is also in the National Guard. Many of these students on the list are showing tremendous growth and maturity. LaRayne agreed that JAG students find things that motivate them from this program; the JAG teacher at Wagner does post-graduation followups on the JAG students, on a regular basis.

Clint made the motion to award scholarships to the first seven students on the list (see above); K.C. seconded; all in favor. Mark and Jr. then asked for up to three alternates (in case a recipient decides to attend college outside SD, receives a Gates scholarship, etc.). Mark noted that if we do choose candidates who are below the next three on the list, we would need justification—reason(s) for choosing someone lower on the list. Jr. suggested the next two names on the list: Daniel Keller and Charles LaRoche; Clint suggested Justina Bagola as a possible third alternate. Clint made the motion to have these three as alternates, in this order: 1)Daniel Keller; 2)Charles LaRoche; and 3)Justina Bagola. Tina seconded; all in favor.

Mark pointed out that recipients will each receive a letter of notification signed by the Governor of South Dakota. Then another letter from the Education Director will include the form for information on the college of choice, to receive the scholarship money. The college then distributes half for the first semester, then the other half for the second semester if the student maintains eligibility.

K.C. noted that we should try to be open to more than grades/numbers only. Jr. agreed; a student’s GPA, ACT scores, as well as their recommendations and essays all need to be taken into account. Some discussion followed about variations from school to school on grading systems, class ranks, weighted vs. unweighted scores, etc. Mark noted that some students also have AP (Advanced Placement) courses, dual credits, extra credits, and other variations.

**Next Meeting Date:** Mark will try to schedule this meeting about a week or two earlier in 2014. Scholarship grants could then be announced at the students’ local awards nights.

Mark opened the floor to any new business. He asked the committee if the rubric is working as is, or if anyone would suggest additions or changes to the scoring scheme. LaRayne suggested

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having it all on one front page for ease of reference.

**Adjournment:** Jr. again thanked Mark for all his work organizing this information. Mark replied that he enjoys helping students.

Jr. thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. Clint commented that it is a pleasure to be on this committee.

Respectfully submitted by

Marta Neuman