

Signature PTSA Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2019  
5:30 p.m. Appetizer Reception  
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Meeting  
Browning Room A & B, Central Library

**Welcome and Introduction of Speakers:** College Interview Process

Dr. David Hitchcock, Cornell University & Dr. Jessica Jensen, Brown University.

Dr. Hitchcock is a Spanish Professor at USI and Dr. Jensen is a French Professor at USI.

Dr. Jensen has been conducting interviews for Brown University for 10 years.

- Purpose of the Interview
  - Recruit students to institute through direct contact with alumni
  - Answer questions
  - Provide admissions with perspective on applicant's personality, strengths, weaknesses and reasons for applying (more than just the grades, scores, etc.)
  - Interview is NOT the deciding factor in application process.
- Prepare for the Interview
  - Know the institution – get excited about it
  - Reflect sincerely on why it would be a good choice and how it would contribute to your future
  - Practice answering questions genuinely and in paragraph form.
    - Not “I want Ivy League, East Coast, Big City” – bigger scope; genuine not a canned response
  - Think about your passions and hopes for the future.
  - Think about questions that you will ask the interviewer – Remember the interviewer may not know the university in 2019 – so ask appropriate questions.
- Sample Questions
  - Tell me something you feel very strongly about and why?
  - What current affair / issue is most compelling to you?
  - What does it mean to you to be a leader?
  - Don't tell me where you've applied, but tell me how you picked the schools you applied to and why is this University on the list?
  - What was the coolest assignment you had in high school?
  - If you had to choose 4 courses your first semester, in areas you had NOT previously studied, what would they be?
    - Know the courses offered by that school outside your major
  - (University specific questions.) How will you handle the self-direction that is needed in the open curriculum?
- What Feedback do interviewers give?
  - What is your overall impression of this applicant? How would you describe your interactions with the applicant? Please address your impressions of the student's intellectual curiosity, interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence.
  - What seems to attract the applicant to our university?
  - What particular interests, talents, challenges or experiences seem most significant to the applicant? Where might the student focus their time beyond the classroom at this university?
  - Based on your overall interactions – and not on any prepared materials the applicant may have provided – consider how good a fit this applicant would be for this university. Please indicate below how strongly you feel the admission committee should consider this applicant.

- Tips
  - Always respond to emails requesting interviews IMMEDIATELY and POLITELY.
  - Be understanding that the interviewer is scheduling a lot of interviews and is a professional – be flexible.
  - Arrive on time to the interview.
  - Be respectful to the interviewer – turn off your phone.
  - Be genuine and honest.

Dr. Hitchcock has been conducting interviews for Cornell for 12 years. Considered a part of the Alumni Admission Ambassador Network. He did his Graduate studies at Cornell. Wayne Hart is another local alum, he did his undergraduate work at Cornell.

- Meeting is to allow students to get a holistic approach of the school.
- Gives alumni a chance to see what might be different about this student.
- Meeting is optional; not evaluative interviews.
- More than likely the interview will not impact whether the student is admitted or not; but rather allows the student to get to know the school without traveling to campus.
- Noted that some state institutions do have evaluative interviews that often impact scholarships.
- Held in neutral location – non pressure
- Be on time, make sure your voice mail is not full; respond it a timely matter; be enthusiastic.

Typically, interviews are held for early decision in December; Regular admission in January with all reports due back to the schools by mid-February.

Do your research – know the institution and the purpose (impact) of the interview.

Meeting was called to order by Signature PTSA Presidents Serena Laroia and Kim Wahl.

**Attendance** – A total of 15 members were present.

**Secretary Report** – LeAnn Freeman made a motion to approve the April minutes, Chad Smith seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer Report:**

- April ending balance \$27,429.40 in PTSA account
- April gaming account had no change.

**Slate of Officers for 2019-2020 PTSA Board of Directors:**

The following slate was presented by the nominating committee consisting of Kim Wahl, Amy Wolf and Angela Bethel.

- **Co-Presidents:** Kim Wahl & Serena Laroia
- **Co-Vice Presidents:** LeAnn Freeman & Amy Hoon
- **Treasurer:** Linda Sartore
- **Secretary:** Tracy McEuen

A request was made for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made. The election continued with a voice vote. The New board for the 2019-2020 school year was approved as read.

**Committee Reports:**

- Senior Activities: Sign ups going out to parents to assist with the events
  - Senior Honors Night – Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Linda Sartore and Amy Wolf
    - Small refreshments with dessert and punch
  - Senior Luncheon – Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm; First Presbyterian Church – Karen Cinelli
    - Great committee in place. Plans for Mexican Buffet (Q'doba).
    - We would like to borrow 8-9 Ferns for Senior Activities if possible.
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week: May 20-22<sup>nd</sup> – Sign ups going out to parents to assist
  - Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Potato Bar Luncheon w/Toppings
  - Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Senior Luncheon (Meal Provided)
  - Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Snacks/Desserts
- Class of 2023 Summer Events: Maria Bulkley
  - Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Meet & Greet (11-1:30pm)
  - Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Summer Study Group (11-2pm)

**Presidents Report:** Kim Wahl & Serena Laroia

- Student Appreciation Day-Fri., April 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to LeAnn Freeman & Amy Hoon
- A special thank you to everyone who chaired a project, served on a committee or helped with fundraisers. Your help is greatly appreciated!
- 2019-2020 Committee Volunteer Opportunities Signup Sheet

**Upcoming Events:**

International Dinner, Sat., August 17<sup>th</sup> C K Newsome Community Center  
PTSA Meeting, Wed., Aug. 14 6:00p.m (Central Library, Browning Room)

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Secretary – Beth Hafele

