JOINT MEETING WITH CWU CABINET

The purpose of the special meeting is an opportunity for the City Council and the CWU Cabinet to exchange and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Mayor Elliott called the special meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

CWU President Gaudino welcomed Ellensburg City Councilmembers to the joint meeting and introductions were held.

Shared Beautification Projects (University Way)

The parties discussed steps to improve the entryway into the City, specifically at the West Interchange. A task force group has previously explored landscaping opportunities. The City should hear next week on a 50/45 grant submittal to the State for a project to install a sidewalk on the south side of University Way from the Red Horse Drive-In into town. The University’s piece of the project may be flag pole installation and banners. The parties discussed the need for students without vehicles to be able to travel safely to the Greyhound bus stop. Central stressed the importance of appearance and signage to the University in attracting students. The parties discussed making a bike path part of the sidewalk project.

The University and students are appreciative of the Ellensburg Downtown Association’s (EDA’s) and City’s efforts on the downtown planters, benches and trash receptacles.

Alumni Tree Program

Individuals with knowledge about this program were not present.
Traffic Hot Spots

CWU Vice President of Operations DeSoer discussed CWU traffic concerns. Next summer the University plans to increase parking capacity in the parking lot on the corner of University Way and “D” Street. This intersection is becoming one of CWU’s choke points. The University would like to get more effective use out of the space. A turning problem exists at this location as well. The parties discussed how to roll all of these issues into a master planned concept and have one group work on the issues.

Traffic areas around campus that could use a slow down approach are: Dean Nicholson Boulevard and Alder as well as the McIntire Music Building.

The parties discussed the feasibility of a roundabout at the intersection of “D” Street and University Way. City staff will photoshop what a two lane roundabout would like at this location and provide the diagram to Central.

CWU continues to be interested in participating in the development of an “Encouraged Pedestrian Route, i.e. Town to Gown Trail” for students from campus to the downtown.

CWU Master Planning

CWU is committed to getting rid of carbon emissions and is continuing boiler plant conversion studies. Conversion would be expensive and the deterrent moving forward is the ten year guaranteed supply of materials as well as transportation issues. CWU has also explored burning agricultural waste. CWU encourages City involvement in the waste burn technology. Due to these factors, there is very little possibility of moving forward at this time because of capital outlay versus cost savings.

Science II will be completed in 18 months (September, 2016), and with that completion Linn Hall will be emptied, and ROTC will move into Linn. Peterson will be demolished. The University’s capital budget request calls for planning money for the design phase of the South portion of Old Heat which would become a welcome/student housing center.

North of campus could be the site for a future convocation center. The University owns 50 plus acres south of The Grove which could be used for housing recreational activities.

The University’s Master Plan will debut in Spring, 2015 and will include the potential for public, private partnerships. The parties discussed faculty housing issues. Samuelson is the University’s number one capital project and would become the computer science and technology center. This is a $70 million dollar project that will require a unified show of support from the community to the legislature in order to make the project a reality.

Legislative/Budget Issues
Chief of Staff Schactler reviewed a handout entitled “2015 Legislative Update.” The Governor’s budget comes out in mid-December. Central staff will be contacting council and community members individually to ask for support from the legislature to fulfill CWU’s operating budget request. Central is facing a 6.5 million dollar deficit due to the State’s tuition freeze.

**ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Morgan

Approved

______________________________

Mayor

ATTEST: ___________________________

City Clerk