

Fall 2023 Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Note: Motions are highlighted in yellow.

Fall Board Meeting (September 22, 2023) Minutes—for REVIEW & APPROVAL

Draft--March 2024

Present: Lexey Bartlett, Ami Comeford, Leigh Dillard, Elle Hardoin, Amy Gates Matt Hlinak, Destiny Jones, Carie King, Autumn Koors Foltz, Kassia Krone, Chris Lockwood, Katie Mudd, Kaitlyn Sass, Shannin Schroeder, Felicia Steele, Diane Steinberg, Kevin Stemmler, Jeannine Szostak, Zoe Talbot, Eunice Tan, Kelly Taylor

Excused: Kaine Ezell, Carrie Fitzpatrick, Rachel Harvey, DeAndra Miller

Meeting called to order 3:33 with a welcome from Shannin Schroeder who read from Beth Ann Fennelly's book *Heating and Cooling*.

Board members gave brief introductions that included their board roles and the books they were currently reading. Responses to *Wuthering Heights* seemed to be a significant dividing line among the board.

Introductions:

Schroeder distributes Roberts Rules of Order; reminds BOD of procedures

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None

Minutes from Spring Board Meeting:

Corrections, additions: Dillard sent a correction to Fitzpatrick (goal is to have meeting minutes by season and year on the Board website): hearing none, minutes are approved (unanimous)

Old Business:

Submitted written reports are old business.

New Business:

Additions to reports and questions:

Hlinak report: Comeford asks about the change from calendar to fiscal years and the consequences of that. Executive Committee has a motion about the change to the calendar. Steinberg asks about program coordinator (the job is posted).

Szostak report: Szostak updates tax situation. Auditor has not responded to updates on the charitable contribution rules. Official start date is May 1, 1924; program coordinator posting is now up. Now to 790 chapters. Have 66 reactivated and new chapters since the 724 in the report.

Comeford adds that the correct chapter number is great to have and asks for information about schools who reject overtures. Schroeder asks how this helps our bragging rights among Collegiate Honor Societies. Schroeder gives a thank you to Jeannine for doing extra work for the board meeting.

Lockwood report: Steinberg asks about "cross-pollination" with Sigma Tau Delta social media posts to encourage Sigma Tau Delta to charter chapters. Immediately possible, but Instagram/Pinterest/YouTube is already from shared accounts. Schroeder asks if we reach out directly to English Education; we do reach out to Classroom Library Grant Winners. Steele asks about NEA outreach. Comeford asks about membership targets and whether Sigma Tau Delta should also set a membership target. Affiliation fees are due on anniversary date (within 90 days) but this causes a difficulty in understanding whether people are actually late. Updates: considering outreach to department of corrections facilities.

Gabriel report: questions will be forwarded to her.

Mudd report: Title change – Director of Communications – Steinberg praises the idea of English Career blogs. These show the greatest traffic. Steinberg suggests that anyone getting an alumni professional development grant can be asked to write a blog or share a video. Updates: started on final copy edits of journals. Instagram posts are getting more traffic on Facebook because they are short and visual.

Lockwood on the ELA Honor Society Proposal: Comeford asks whether the Board will require more hiring and asks for projections on financial impact by Spring board meeting. Lockwood says in the short term this will not create more work for the Central Office. The processes for ELA can be tested and then transferred over to NEHS and Sigma Tau Delta. Schroeder asks when this will be transferrable to Sigma Tau Delta. The ELA system will be ready to be transferred within three years. Steele praises Lockwood. NEHS will be at NCTE.

Byrd Report for Sigma Kappa Delta: Has asked to return to Sigma Tau Delta, but we still have one more year of support for SKD from Calhoun Community College. Sigma Tau Delta is paying for an audit of SKD finances that will be done (likely) before the end of the year. Comeford asks how this changes the financial status of SKD and which model of financial governance we will use. Hlinak says that at this point it would likely work as the NEHS society financial arrangements. Schroeder says we need to consider the financial benefit. Stemmler asks about the financial risks. Steinberg asks for a gloss of QBO: Quick Books Online.

Steinberg Report: No questions. No additions

Schroeder Report: No questions: Only addition is to talk about addition of ELA to the Bylaws.

Bartlett Report: Comeford congratulates Bartlett on creating and leading a process to ensure Strategic Planning is meaningful for society.

Fitzpatrick Report: direct questions via email to Schroeder.

Stemmler Report: Krone asks about writer events. Pittsburgh has "City of Asylum" for writers from around the world who are endangered because of their art.

Recess until 9/22/2023 at 9 a.m.

Call to order 9/23/2023 at 9 a.m.

Eastern Regent (Steele) Report: Reminder that society membership is course-linked rather than departmentally and major-linked, which is important to consider with collapse of departments. Consolidation of institutions may also have an effect on chapters. Stemmler asks if we need to be proactive to address these issues. Dillard replies that Regents have asked for reports from the

Central Office to identify chapters who need outreach. Schroeder suggests that the Board charge the Regents committee to consider these issues.

Eastern SL (Talbot) Report: Correction that she is serving on Service and Partnerships. Steinberg encourages students to provide information about their chapter service and publications. Talbot is the publicist of her chapter and will be published in the *Rectangle*.

Far West (Comeford): Only update is that Kelly Taylor is now the student representative. Charlotte Beale (Utah Tech University) is the new Associate Student Representative.

Far West SR (Taylor): President of her Chapman University chapter.

High Plains (Krone): Update: clarification on the report. High Plains conference keynote speaker Candice Gilmer; Dates Friday, November 3 & 4. All information on the regional events page. No questions.

High Plains SR: Any questions via email.

Midwestern Regent (Gates) Report: No updates. No questions. Her concerns have been noted and addressed by Stemmler, Schroeder, and Dillard. The Board needs to be cognizant of the number of people with heavy local workloads, and that the board needs to have contingency plans in place for the Officer at Large to step in or for previous committee chairs to assist.

Midwestern SR (Hardoin): Update: trying to brainstorm additional engagement after email communications. Hardoin and ASR have produced podcasts that are available via Crescent.Evansville.edu on the podcasts link.

Southern Regent (Dillard): Revision: date of the student leadership meeting was September 15. The Southern conference is open to anyone, including to Advisors. They are amenable to late submissions and open to social and non-members.

Southern SR (Tan): Tan serves as chapter president and plans the inductions. Planning an event called "Fall into Stories" – creative writing coffeehouse in November. She'll do the social media takeover for that. Eunice's poem has won the James award for the *Rectangle*. Eunice and Destiny will be helping with Research in the Round at the Convention to help get feedback on the mentoring for student presenters. Mudd compliments Tan about the videos that they have posted.

Southwestern Regent (Ezell): Questions can be shared via email or text. Southwestern Regional Conference has extended the deadline to September 25; Schroeder will attend on his behalf. King corrects that the Beta Xi at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls is the physical host.

Southwestern SR (Jones): Update: Created blog draft for Wordy by Nature and will host a social media takeover for Banned Books Week event; screening "Judy Blume Forever" and doing a Banned Books reading. They will also do a "Best Banned Book" Bracket. Steinberg contributes that stickers for Banned Books week are always popular.

Student Advisors Reports:

Senior Student Advisor (Sass): Update: Assisted in updating the land acknowledgement for this year and the agenda for the in-person meeting of the Board.

Junior Student Advisor (Koors Foltz): Update: tripled the size of the chapter and will be bringing her executive board. King suggests that they may have crowdfunding support from members of the board.

Alumni Representative (Miller) Report: email questions. Steinberg asks about the Giving Week for the Centennial and whether we have an official Giving Week. April is the typical "Giving Tuesday" as is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Editor of Society Publications (King) Report: additions—has the best job in the room. All submissions have been reviewed; three more have been proofread. King seeks approval for editorial changes from the authors. Everything goes to October 1 after the graphic artist. Submitters who have requested feedback will receive filtered comments from reviewers and interns. There will be an expanded Centennial edition of the *Rectangle* and *Review*. King will be requesting an additional intern. Schroeder affirms that King has achieved the goal of transparency in processes. This edition has the most diversity in the author pool that she has seen (including international authors). Submissions are increasing.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee Report (Krone): Additions/updates to report: continued discussion about Facebook Regional pages. Consensus was to stick with Twitter (X) as long as it remains free and viable. Transition to Instagram for Regional communication with linkage to the Student Representative addresses with passwords stored in the Central Office. The Style Guide is available through the website. Question from Schroeder about grounds for editing Regents' communication. Dillard suggests working a reference to the style guide into the Regents Handbook.

Convention Committee Report (Brewster, Comeford, King): Summary of meetings: the theme is "In Flux" to suggest the nature of levels of change in the discipline as well as in our lives. Carl Philips is the keynote speaker and *Then the War* is the Common Reader and we got him before he raised his rates after the Pulitzer Prize. Co-author (Westfield State) of *Letting Go of Literary Whiteness*—present two workshops on Thursday. Lots of possibilities for Wednesday evening events, including Donika Kelly, as well as Kris Kleindienst from Left Bank Books about "Literary St. Louis." Steele will circulate draft of book list to the convention chairs. Stemmler encourages others to send names of Sigma Tau Delta alumni to Steele (steele@tcnj.edu). Any suggestions about convention programming and scheduling (such as workshops) should go to Glen Brewster (gbrewster@westfield.ma.edu). Convention chairs have received a lot of feedback about larger rooms for events. Working with collaboration on the MLA and ADE. Reviewed the registration fees and settled on \$80 for early student for presenters and attendees. Luncheon price will rise from \$20 to \$25; actual cost is closer to \$80—this is heavily subsidized by the organization. Bartlett asks that the "processing fee" be part of the advertised price so that it is easier to deal with institutional reimbursement. Stemmler asks that complimentary registration be clarified. Szostak will clarify the processing fee structure. Stemmler asks if we can forego specifying dress code in the description of the gala luncheon so that we eliminate that class overtones of it. Discussion ensues. Submissions are open and requests for evaluators have gone out. Convention submission webinar will be Wednesday, October 4. King and Comeford will also help. Rehearsal is this coming Wednesday. The Centennial Convention and Centennial year and task force is the calendar year of 2024 rather than academic year 2023-2024. Schroeder reminds members that submissions are Monday, October 23, earlier than usual.

Break at 10:35 a.m.

Meeting resumes 10:50 a.m.

Executive Committee Report: Updates and Additions, Questions

Regents have the right and obligation to have direct contact with their regions. The description "English Honors Societies" may change over time as departments are reorganized around the country. The Exec Committee talked about recruitment to the board, including the chapter advisor breakfast at the Convention; New Advisor materials; Board Manual. Executive Committee may need to rebuild the board manual and the other materials. In the fall, there needs to be an anniversary list to go out that may be shared with administrators. The letters provide advisors with an opportunity to reassert their importance on campus. Renaming the executive committee came up, but they are leaving the current structure alone. NEHS described as "a program" of Sigma Tau Delta; ELA will also be a "program"; so would Sigma Kappa Delta if it joins us.

Talked about board contracts. Szostak will be sending an electronic version of the contract to all members. Schroeder asks that you return it to Szostak over the lunch hour. The contract communication also includes the code of conduct as well. This will now be part of the onboarding of the new board members.

Talked about board positions: five motions coming from the Executive Committee. Board can revise Bylaws while the Constitution can only be revised by vote of all the chapters of the society.

Proposal that "Treasurer" will be removed from the Title "Secretary/Treasurer" will be going into the Constitution.

MOTION 1: By end of year 2025, the Sigma Tau Delta budget will align with the academic year rather than the calendar year.

Rationale provided by Hlinak: we have an affiliation with Northern Illinois University who operates on the fiscal year model rather than a calendar year model; all other organizations we work with are also on the calendar year.

Presented to the board for discussion: hearing no questions, all in favor, unanimous vote. Motion carries.

MOTION 2: The Officer at Large, as a liaison between members of the Board and the Executive Committee, shall help Board members and affiliates understand their responsibilities as described by the Constitution and Bylaws. The OAL shall also serve as parliamentarian at Board meetings and may be assigned special projects by the Board President.

Discussion: Stemmler is concerned that the Secretary is typically the person who is the parliamentarian. Schroeder responds that the OAL doesn't have a consistent duty in the Board meetings. Comeford suggests that there are two issues: one whether all members the Executive Committee have discussed it.

Motion Withdrawn

MOTION 2: To include language about the English Language Arts Honor Society (ELA) in Bylaw 17.

BYLAW XVII: NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS HONOR SOCIETY

Section I. National English Honor Society (NEHS) shall be a program of, and under the supervision and sponsorship of, Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society, and shall be governed by the NEHS Constitution and its specifics outlined in the program handbook. The English Language Arts Honor Society (ELA) shall be a subsidiary of NEHS.

Section IIA. The mission and purposes of NEHS shall be literary and educational. NEHS strives to

- A. Confer distinction upon secondary high school students for high achievement in English language and literature;
- B. Provide, through its local chapters, cultural stimulation in secondary high school environments;
- C. Encourage interest in the English language arts;
- D. Promote exemplary character and good fellowship
- E. Serve society by fostering literacy.

Section IIB. The mission and purposes of ELA shall be literary and educational. ELA strives to

- A. Confer distinction upon middle school students for high achievement in English language arts and literature;
- B. Provide, through its local chapters, cultural stimulation in middle school environments;
- C. Encourage interest in the English language arts;
- D. Promote exemplary character and good fellowship
- E. Serve society by fostering literacy.

Section III. Governance. The control of NEHS and ELA shall be vested in the Sigma Tau Delta Board of Directors.

- A. Oversight shall include monitoring the yearly progress of the growth and activities of NEHS through the receipt of semi-annual reports and via the work of the NEHS Director who will serve as liaison to the Sigma Tau Delta.
- B. The Sigma Tau Delta Constitution and the authority of the Sigma Tau Delta Board of Directors will guide any and all legal matters which may arise in conjunction with the

NEHS oversight responsibilities vested in Sigma Tau Delta.

- C. The Sigma Tau Delta Board shall maintain financial oversight of NEHS, including yearly budget approval, and will review the management of financial investments made by the Sigma Tau Delta Executive Director on behalf of NEHS. The Sigma Tau Delta Executive Director, in consultation with the NEHS Director, shall prepare yearly budget reports, including expenditures and projected income.
- D. The NEHS budget shall be maintained as a separate, but integral, part of the Sigma Tau Delta budget.
- E. The Executive Director of Sigma Tau Delta shall be authorized to enter into any contractual agreements (for speakers, conferences, etc.) on behalf of NEHS.
- F. The Sigma Tau Delta Board of Directors will maintain authority for major constitutional, financial, and contractual changes and/or decisions concerning NEHS. Such decisions will be only after consultation with the Sigma Tau Delta Executive Director and the Director of NEHS, and after reviewing recommendations from the Advisory Council of NEHS.
- G. The day-to-day operation of NEHS, including strategic planning, shall be under the direction of the NEHS Director, in consultation with the Executive Director of Sigma Tau Delta.

Section IV. Leadership. NEHS and ELA shall be led by a national director who shall be hired by, evaluated by, and report to the Executive Director of Sigma Tau Delta.

- A. The Director of NEHS shall be an employee of Sigma Tau Delta.
- B. The Director shall be a non-voting member of the Sigma Tau Delta Board of Directors, shall serve on committees of the Board as assigned, and act as the liaison between Sigma Tau Delta and NEHS.
- C. The Director shall be advised by an Advisory Council, comprised of NEHS or ELA chapter advisors who shall be in lead Advisory Council positions to represent regions paralleling those of Sigma Tau Delta. Each region will also have up to two associate Advisory Council representative positions. All members of the Advisory Council shall be voting members of the Council.
- D. The NEHS Director shall have responsibility, with the support of Central Office staff, for promoting and expanding NEHS.

Vote on changes; motion carries unanimously

MOTION 3: To add language to Bylaw 2 Officers, section V, section B.2 "The Vice President/President Elect shall chair the Strategic Planning Committee.

Motion withdrawn. Motion resubmitted to read that Bylaw 2, section V, section B.2 will read, "The Vice President/President Elect shall be responsible for Strategic Planning for the Board of Directors of the Society."

Vote on motion: motion carries unanimously.

MOTION 4: To add the sentence to Bylaw 2, section v, B. 3 "The Immediate Past President shall periodically review the Constitution and By Laws and propose any needed changes."

Friendly amendment from Dillard: remove "periodically" and add "upon assuming office" to the end of the sentence.

"The Immediate Past President shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board and shall assume duties at he request of the President. The Immediate Past President shall review the Constitution and By Laws and propose any needed questions upon assuming office."

Vote on amended motion: motion carries unanimously.

MOTION 5: The Executive Committee moves that the organization adopt the distributed DEI statement as the official DEI statement of the Society.

Proposed DEI statement:

Throughout the nearly 100 years since Sigma Tau Delta was formed, our organization has taken pride in our currency with trends in language, literature, and society. We recognize that language—with its capacity to communicate the experiences of others, its power to inform and create empathy—has changed and will continue to change the world. But language must be reinforced by action, and our efforts as a Society must embrace and benefit an increasingly diverse population of learners and educators where everyone is valued and included.

Our mission statement promises to support opportunities for leadership, scholarship, and fellowship among our members, through a variety of programs and initiatives. Through our annual convention and its Common Reader and speakers, we have celebrated scholars and texts at the forefront of social justice movements and challenges to the canon and that address difficult and sensitive topics of equity and inclusion. Panels at Regional and national events have focused in on issues of race and racism, LGBTQIA+ identity, gender, and inclusivity. We have tailored awards, scholarships, and merchandise toward serving marginalized populations.

While we have embraced diversity among our membership at the student, faculty, and administrative levels, we must be more direct concerning our initiatives. Our Strategic Plan reflects Sigma Tau Delta's commitment to increasing diversity in our disciplines, to fostering equity among our members and our society, and to creating a culture of inclusivity that moves beyond our organization and into the broader world. We continually seek new ways to ensure that our members and their needs feel both represented and addressed. As a Society, we are committed to improving access to diverse authors and scholars and their works through local, Regional, and national events, including at conventions and in webinars. Our continued outreach to colleges and universities should increase the ways in which underrepresented populations participate within the organization. And our administration should better represent the diverse populations we seek to enroll and engage.

As we enter our second century, Sigma Tau Delta recognizes that the path forward relies once every voice joining in our efforts to transform the world with words.

Discussion: Mudd asks about whether this would have impact on style or on the Stemmler/Dennis LGBT& award. It would not affect that award. The past presidents and Deltans have been charged to explore opportunities for additional awards or scholarships that celebrate diversity. The charge is extended to the board as a whole.

Vote on statement: motion carries unanimously

Regents Committee:

MOTION to amend the schedule to allow student leadership to give their report first to allow students to leave if they choose from Dillard. Barlett seconded. Discussion about whether this is appropriate.

Vote on statement: 9 in favor; 1 abstention

Student Leadership:

Updates from Sass: new associate student representative; SLC has discussed convention and Mudd thanks all student leaders for their completing their work (blogs, videos, meet the Deltans). Time is now open for convention programming. Repeating workshop and Trivia Night for 2024 convention. For the workshop, they want to ensure smooth transitions. Trying to encourage people to have multi-chapter teams via incentives. Working to finalize activities with student social salon so that students have places to go if they are alone or tired. Students are helping with Research in the Round. Left Bank Books is willing to contribute prizes.

Updates from Koors Foltz: Move to regional Instagram posts to encourage engagement. Instagram accounts will be held through Wordy by Nature email accounts so that there will ease to pass through generations of student leaders. Action on these things by October.

Regents Committee:

Regents committee wants to invite "Chapter Spotlights" for chapter share or chapter displays.

MOTION 1: The Regents Committee moves to change the timeline for the Outstanding Chapter Award. The deadline for award application would be April 30, and the application would be contingent on completion of the Chapter Annual Report by the deadline of the Chapter Annual Report. We additionally recommend that the window for submission of the Chapter Annual Report be tightened from two months to one month. The Central Office would distribute a spreadsheet of all Chapter Annual Reports to the chair of the Regents' Committee within one week of the deadline. The Regents will share recommendations for revision and addition of questions for the Chapter Annual Report to Jeannine.

Amended to remove "by email submission to the chair of the Regents Committee"

Vote 8 yes; 1 no

Discussed shared governance issues with Matt and Shannin.

MOTION 2: The Regents Committee moves that the process for election for Regents change to pre-Convention online election. Applications for Regents would be due by December 1; the candidates posted by December 15; online elections completed by February 7. Lead chapter advisors would submit the vote in consultation with officers and members of their chapters. Newly-elected regents would be notified immediately and be invited to attend the convention.

The Convention budget would need to be increased and there would be Bylaw questions as well. Szostak ask how that would affect the wording for the convention reimbursement.

Friendly amendment to change vote date to February 7. The Executive committee may need to reconsider voting processes with other board processes.

Vote; motion carries unanimously.

Regents also discussed possibilities for changes to the ASR role if students are not uniformly strong.

MOTION 3: The Regents move that the language in Bylaw 5.B change to allow ASRs to serve at-large in support of the student leader and regent of a particular regent.

Motion withdrawn

Recess for lunch and return at 2:15 pm

Call to order at 2:15 PM

Regents Committee:

MOTION 3: The Regents Committee moves to change the language of Bylaw V, sections 3 and 4, to allow for at-large student leaders to fill vacant ASR positions.

Here are the proposed adjustments to Bylaw V

Section III. Selection. After the international convention of the Society has begun, the Central Office will call for nominations for potential Student Leaders from each Region. Students may self nominate or be nominated by a Faculty Member. Nominations shall remain open for at least two weeks after the international convention has ended. Each Regent shall select their own Student Representative and Associate Student Representative from among the nominated, eligible candidates from that Region. Regents without enough candidates may consult with other Board Members and Chapter Advisors to solicit student nominations, **and ASR nominations from outside the region may be considered.** Regents should select their own chapter members as Student Leaders only after consulting with other Board Members.

Section IV. Eligibility. Any student who is currently a student member of an active chapter and who will continue to be a member of an active chapter within the Region they seek to represent until the following convention may apply for Student Representative or Associate Student Representative for the Region to which their chapter belongs. Students wishing to apply for Student Representative or Associate Student Representative must declare candidacy by applying in advance by the date determined by the Board of Directors, which will be communicated through the website and other Society communications. **In an effort to provide a full complement of student leaders, Associate Student Representatives may be selected from across regional boundaries if no candidates exist within the Region.**

Discussion: Koors Foltz ... question about how this change would be effected. Would the strongest application be the advantage or geographical proximity? Sass expresses concern that one region may wind up being dominant in student leadership. The Regents Committee values and affirms regional affinity.

Vote: motion carries unanimously.

Motions to revise the Bylaw regarding regent election.

MOTION Bylaw III, sections 3 and 6: The Regents committee moves to change the following Bylaws related to the Regents' election process:

Bylaw III, section 3

BYLAW CHANGES:

ORIGINAL:

Section III. Election. At the international convention of the Society, each Region shall elect its own Regent when the post becomes vacant. Only student members of the Region shall participate in the election, and each chapter present shall have one vote.

REVISED:

Section III. Election. Each Region shall elect its own Regent in early spring of the semester the post will become vacant or if an unexpected vacancy has occurred in the prior year. Ballots will be distributed electronically to the Lead Advisor who, in consultation with their chapter, will submit a single vote.

Discussion: Schroeder expresses concern that this change shifts voting away from students. Dillard explains that advisor is most likely the name to be accurate. Steinberg says that the ballot can include a question that affirms consultation.

MOTION: The Regents Committee moves to change Section III of the bylaws as follows:

ORIGINAL:

Section VI. B. 7. "serving on standing committees"

REVISED:

"serving on and chairing committees and/or task forces"

Friendly amendment to delete "standing and ad hoc" and to add "task force."

Vote: motions carry unanimously

Chapter Annual Report: Regents wish to use the data more proactively. The Regents also recommend minor revisions to questions: Add "Have you updated your Write Away records? If not, do so before proceeding." Regents request the data within one week and recommend a shorter deadline.

Last recommendation: we request a member recruitment and member engagement webinar in January. Regents want to be as present for members as possible. Regents committee revised the questions on the Regents form.

Scholarship & Academic Awards Committee:

Updates: Confirmed the Outstanding Advisor award is the Student Leadership Committee's purview.

MOTION 1: The Scholarship & Academic Awards committee moves to create a new scholarship for first year graduate students enrolling full-time in the first year after their baccalaureate degree. The language for the scholarship description will be modeled on the graduate scholarship and refined later. In turn, the senior scholarship language would be revised to remove "or graduate" from the description. The current graduate scholarship will be revised to indicate that it is for current enrolled graduate scholarships who will be continuing in their graduate programs. We would request an additional \$4000 for the scholarship committee.

Clarification of how this would affect eligibility from Taylor, Schroeder, Steele.

Vote: Motion carries unanimously

Last year the Board passed a short-term study abroad scholarship, but it was not added to the budget. Gates asks for that correction. The website also needs to be revised as well as the AwardSpring application.

Service & Partnerships Committee:

The S & P Committee will rewrite the description of the Service Award to decouple the chapter award of \$200 from the charitable donation, so that chapters may apply for the Service Award without having the endorsement of a charitable organization. Talbot is coordinating a "100 for 100" program to put together examples of chapter service.

Lockwood has already contacted Milkweed Press to leverage the Ada Limón connection to develop a new internship program. Steinberg comments on the strength of the Norton internship. Stemmler comments that great ideas can take root. Steele clarified MLA's expectations about financial equity. Schroeder recorded a charge to Executive Committee.

Strategic Planning Committee:

At this meeting SPC focused on scholarship fundraising and to address issues related to Book Banning, so Classroom Library grants or other ways of getting books into kids' hands. Bartlett added the access issues to the list. SPC also added publicity planning into the yearly cycle having to do with scholarship and with the Centennial. Goal target of some sort (numbers of unique donors and financial amounts). Bartlett will circulate committee minutes to circulate ideas. Goal to raise profile of scholarships by linking to outcomes of different sorts. Goal to deal with naming opportunities (for example, talk with corporate partners) and follow up about making sure that donations go to where they were allocated. Discussion of the website and donation interface ensues.

Past Presidents Advisory Council: Steinberg

Steinberg has little to report, except that she and Kevin met and decided that there will be a luncheon for past presidents and Delta Award winners to meet with one another and Central Office staff, particularly Chris, Matt, and Jeannine.

MOTION 1: Past Presidents Advisory Council moves that a line be added to the budget for the Past Presidents' Advisory Council for \$400 to support the luncheon for the past presidents, Delta award winners, and the Central Office staff.

Dillard seconds.

No discussion.

Vote: motion carries unanimously

Professional Development Task Force: Comeford

Term of this task force has ended. Janine Utell will hold an advisors' workshop about articulating the value of an English degree. Followed up on the partnership with the National Humanities Alliance. NHA is willing to do a webinar; Scott Muir has a podcast on "Why the Humanities Matter?" Also dealt with giving but to specific stories: connection to the stories of students who have benefitted from the funding provided. Suggestion to change "Donate" to "Give/Giving"—“Give” is standard in the non-profit world. Emphasize the importance of recurring donation. Also discussed how to leverage the Discord channel and the alumni network for giving and encouraged board members to donate while serving and approach past presidents and Deltans for donation.

Steinberg reminds the board to recommend Alumni to apply for alumni grants for the Convention.

Break

Centennial Task Force: (Schroeder)

Updates: still working on logo update, asking for Centennial branding of materials (especially stoles), medallions, and other materials that help them stand out as graduates. Website update: major questions arose about hiring someone outside NIU as a website consult. President will appoint a sub-committee in charge of reimagining the website. Looking for the brand #Deltan100for100. 1924 Authors have been identified on the convention website. Merchandise linked to the 100th anniversary: for example, stickers—sticker templates or sold, or as a premium. Sticker swap at convention a la Disney pin swap. Schroeder charges Koors Foltz to examine old logos for stickers. How can Centennial Task force connect to other entities?

Budget

Corrections of Past President Advisory Council (\$400), new 1st year graduate scholarship (\$4000), short term study abroad scholarship (\$6000).

Move to accept (Stemmler); seconded by Krone

Budget passed unanimously.

Kudos to Bartlett, Krone, and King for publications. Advisors with NEH grants. MLA Retention Grant application deadline October 10, 2023.

Schroeder reminds that committee minutes should be sent to the Central Office and cc'd to the President by Monday, October 16, 2023. Contact Central Office and President for any corrections to the website. Travel forms should be submitted by Friday, September 29.

Motion to adjourn from Dillard, Seconded by Gates. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:28 p.m.