

Regents' Retreat Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Present: Felicia Steele (presiding), Sonia Mae Brown, Amy Gates, Michaelann Nelson, Heidi Williams [Kassia Krone was delayed]

Our first session was spent primarily addressing questions from our new regents about policies, typical practices, the role of the Regent in maintaining the budget, and how the Regents distributed the budget. We discussed individual chapter support for participation in regional conferences as well as support for regional conference awards and keynote speakers.

Significant correction: During our meeting, we mentioned that Regents had a \$2000 budget to distribute to support events in our region and to support Common Reader Awards. At the end of the Board meeting, we determined by examining the budget approved last fall for 2024 that the current budget per Regent is \$1250. The reductions began during the COVID years when fewer chapters were allowing travel, but they have not yet reached their pre-pandemic levels. If one Regent goes over budget, the practice has been to balance that out with transfers from the other Regents' lines. Regents should aim to distribute \$1250 to chapters in their region through awards and subsidizing regional events.

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Present: Felicia Steele and Kassia Krone (presiding), Sonia Mae Brown, Amy Gates, Michaelann Nelson, Heidi Williams

1st item: We discussed at length the question of academic credit for regional student leaders and the appropriate label to support students' making the most of their leadership experience. We concluded that we would include a statement in the Regents' Handbook that said that "where appropriate, Regents would support academic credit for work related to student leadership," but that work would be supervised by faculty members at the student leaders' own institutions. Regents and Central Office staff are unable to provide that supervision or the certification of employment required by many institutions to suggest that we were providing students with an "internship experience."

Action as a result of this discussion: We need to craft the statement for the Regents' Handbook as well as a statement that we can share with our regional student leaders and their faculty advisors. Timeline: We can probably get this done by the end of October. FS has a number of obligations until October 20 that will be taking up a great deal of time.

2nd item: We discussed the Standing Committee responsibilities for Regents, the responsibilities of Chairship for the standing committees, the role of task forces in fulfilling the strategic planning goals of the society. The returning Regents shared their experiences and the challenges that are unique to particular standing committees.

Action as a result of this discussion: After the board meeting, the co-chairs discussed having a follow up meeting in the beginning of October to do a "debriefing" with Regents to discuss the

Board meeting, organizational budgeting, and other issues that they may need time to process fully. Timeline: Kassia and Felicia will collaborate to put together a scheduling tool to send out to Regents to set up a Zoom meeting.

3rd item: The Regents met with members of Central Office Staff (Jeannine Szostak, Jessica McCole, Chris Lockwood, and Namon Kent) to discuss the interface between the two groups. Namon stayed with us to discuss the website redesign. The Regents recommended thinking about a more graphic interface that led users to interact with pictures specific to their audience (students, faculty).

Action as a result of this discussion:

- 1) The chair will share pdfs of the model induction ceremonies collected last year with Namon who will post them on the website. Timeline: Felicia Steele will send these to Namon by Monday, September 30, 2024.
- 2) The Regents will examine each of the pages that deal with chapter life/administration/chartering and write up their own personal observations about what should be retained. Regents should share that information with the chairs by Friday, November 1, 2024. Chairs will compile the info and send it on to the Communications committee or Namon (Kassia will help to make this determination).