

Service Committee
Fall 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 20, 2024 at 9 a.m. EST

Co-Chairs: Kevin Stemmler and Kelly Taylor

Present: Kevin Stemmler, Kelly Taylor, Zach Brady, Isaiah Russell, Felicia Steele, Tiffany Nolde, Katie Mudd, and Sonia Mae Brown

Absent: Carie King, Chris Lockwood, Emily Palmisano

Minutes:

Kevin starts the meeting.

Book Club Kit

- Kelly talks about how the book club kits will be divided among Student Leadership. Zach and Sophia have already read Jesmyn Ward's book and have volunteered to do the second kit. SLs will prioritize kits for books that have already been suggested by the Service and Convention Committees. Then they begin discussions for kits centered around books of their choice for next year's Banned Books Week.
- Kevin mentions how Zoom book clubs could draw people together.

Prison Book Project

- Following up on Emily's suggestion from our last meeting, Kevin looked into connections to books for prisons. Several partnerships overlap so we can bring an already existent event Convention. White Whale runs a buy a book for prisoners program that they could bring.

Banned Books Project

- There's the potential to sponsor the program that already aligns with the committee's goals. There is support from the committee, so Kevin will move forward with this.

New Partnerships

- LAMBDA needs Sigma Tau Delta volunteers to judge for the Lammy Awards. Supporting service through volunteers donating their honorariums to the Society.

Project Grants

- Felicia suggests that project grants could be used for chapters who are able to translate their book club activities into service projects. This could be something that is paired with LAMBDA funds.
- Katie will be advertising project grants in the Footnotes for October. The announcement will go out October 15th. Kelly will send Katie information on how the book club kits work by October 10th to include in the Footnotes.

Book Club Kits (again)

- Felicia brings up how working on book club kits could be a way for Student Leaders interested in receiving academic credit to assemble a syllabus of books.
- Kits could be created by chapters interested in working on one together.
- Could be a roundtable for Education majors interested in creating book club kits.
- In terms of the Willa Cather book club kits that the foundation already made, they would like us to use their templates as a launch point for creating our own.
- Live Zoom sessions are up to the Student Leaders to decide when they want to do them. Will be working with the Alumni Rep and the Regents. These
 - Kelly suggests that there can be one or two Zoom sessions this year as a trial run to help develop a more consistent model going into next year.
 - There could be a follow up after the Convention with a Zoom book club since most students aren't introduced to the authors/books until they are there.

Jane Austen Society & Potential Service-Based Internships

- Kevin was an officer for the Pittsburgh chapter. Through conversation, the potential for Sigma Tau Delta to restart an internship has come up. It is in the works, but the Jane Austen Society still needs to meet to discuss this. This would be a service-based internship.
- Felicia brings up steering students toward summer program scholarship award and lit grants, which currently don't give students a clear path for what they should do. These awards could be used to fund an internship with the Jane Austen Society.
- Kevin says the lit grants could also be used to go to the Willa Cather Foundation.
- There are lots of archives that students could use lit grants to do research in, many of which are likely connected to one of our partnerships.

City & Guilds Young Leader Award

- Katie explains the program for SLs who may be unfamiliar with this. Service opportunity for students aged 15-25. It is on the NEHS website. The credential offered will bolster student resumes, helping them to reach more professional opportunities. A lot of members are already doing this sort of service in their chapters. This is a way to honor their work. It will be advertised to Sigma Tau Deltans once it is set up for them to apply.

Little Free Library

- Student Leadership can help with promotion. These are a good way for chapters to stay active and alive even as advisors change.
- Could be something to talk about at Convention to help students understand how they can put these up in their own chapter.

Meeting adjourned.