

Minutes (prepared by Felicia Steele): Service & Partnerships Committee

Date: September 17, 2021 (Sigma Tau Delta Board Meeting—ZOOM)

Attendance: Tim Helwig & Felicia Steele (co-chairs), Kayla Ashbrooks, Jeremy Bearden, Ami Comeford, Diane Dowdey, Bob Crafton, Elfi Gabriel, Sara Gerend, Jeff Hawes, Morgan Jackson, Matthew Karshna, John Pruitt, Charlotte Speer, Katharine Trostel, Dave Wendelin

1. Chapter Project Grants

Applications will be available Oct 11 - Nov 08, 2021 – winners will be announced by December 6, 2021. Faculty reviewers will help evaluate. Numbers have been down because of the pandemic. Three previous project grant recipients have received extensions through this semester to complete their projects and submit their reports for the second half of their funding.

2. Internship Stipends

We received three submissions for the fall. (We have three award cycles for the internship stipend over the course of the year, so it is not unusual to have light applications. Students might be seeking more paid employment rather than internships, which may be reducing the rates of internship seeking, and the pandemic may be impacting internship availability.) Two of the three submissions were funded in full. Students struggle with the budget, and we need to follow up and provide information for federal reimbursement standards for mileage or per diem. (Mileage: <https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/standard-mileage-rates>; <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>)

In terms of how we might continue to promote the internship stipend: internships are already featured in blogs; we are doing another internships and scholarships webinar in October 2021; and we might do some outreach to internship coordinators at institutions with Sigma Tau Delta chapters, perhaps by encouraging the chapter advisors to help with this task.

3. Penguin Random House Internship

There are no updates from the Penguin Random House Internship coordinator. Corporate issues related to the pandemic are delaying their internship program.

4. NCTE

- Sigma Tau Delta placed a summer intern at NCTE for the second time. This year, the internship wasn't associated with the convention but to communication in general. The intern was then hired on part-time. NCTE has decided to continue the program, which will continue virtually because that is how the organization is structured already.
- Our Sigma Tau Delta panel was accepted for NCTE's virtual convention in November 2021. Registration for our four participants will be covered through the NEHS relationship.
- Discussion about connection between Sigma Tau Delta and institutional affiliates. Students already have a reduced membership fee with NCTE at \$22.50 per year. Student membership has not been a priority for NCTE historically. Elfi has been meeting with the NCTE representative monthly.

- Some Sigma Tau Delta students at convention don't seem to know anything about NCTE as an organization. *Footnotes* will feature announcements and marketing about NCTE. An NCTE “ambassador” may be available to come to our Atlanta convention. (website: <https://village.ncte.org/lead-ambassador/>) The current Southern NCTE Ambassador is Lindsay Schneider (<https://twitter.com/LindsayFrances> and <https://ncte.org/blog/2020/01/empathy-highest-level-critical-thinking/>)

5. Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL)

- Two internships available: Marketing and the Pilot Partnership Project with DPIL local affiliates. Internship applications will be available through AwardSpring this fall and are due November 8.
- Our Student Leadership Committee is putting together videos around topics approved by the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- An affiliate-service pilot project for the spring may fall through as a result of the pandemic and be postponed until next summer. The intern will work to help develop this project.

6. NEHS

- NEHS's next four webinars are all open to Sigma Kappa Delta and Sigma Tau Delta members. October's event will feature Lindsay Ward and Sarah D'Angelantonio—opening the canon. November's event will revolve around the common reader for NEHS—*The Beekeeper of Aleppo*. December's event will be about the work of Charles Dickens and will feature a Dickens scholar. January's event will feature Professor Tonya Perry (University of Alabama at Birmingham) discussing how to use your English skills for the public good.
- Our Professional Development Task force recommends cross linking the membership databases; will exhibit at NCTE.
- Intellectual Freedom Essays are due October 4; evaluators will be needed mid-to-late October into November.

7. SKD

- Students have been asking for ways to reduce obstacles for transferring from Sigma Kappa Delta to Sigma Tau Delta.
- We discussed ways to connect SKD and STD even more, including collaborative work on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library local affiliates project when it begins.

8. Other:

- Developing our relationship with W. W. Norton for a possible internship opportunity in the future: Felicia will check in with Norton representative Elizabeth Pielsor at the beginning of November to see how things have gone with Sigma Tau Delta and their survey.
- We are content with our coverage in the updated Strategic Plan and expect to hear more about the plan at the board meeting.
- We have no motions to put forward to the board as a whole.