

**Regents' Committee Minutes**  
**6 September 2018**

**Members Present: Lexey Bartlett (Chair, High Plains), AmiJo Comeford (Far West), Leigh Dillard (Southern), Kaine Ezell (Southwestern), Tim Helwig (Midwestern), Felicia Steele (Eastern), Jessica Heller (Alumni Representative), and Natasha McPartlin (CO)**

**The agenda for the meeting focused on the Regents' committee charges, noted here in bold.**

**1. Review the online Regents' Handbook for material to add:**

(Link to handbook here: <http://www.english.org/board/index.shtml> . Click the menu item "Regents' Handbook," and a PDF version should automatically download.)

a. The charges suggest adding recommendation for the recruitment, retention, and mentoring of future Regents, and this may be an area where our newest Regents can make suggestions. How were you recruited? What mentoring needs would you identify as you are getting started? Do you see challenges to serving your four-year term? What could we do to ensure retention?

**Discussion:** McPartlin explains how recruiting happens (CO compiles "statistics" on sponsors' participation in convention, student activity, chapter awards, etc.). Bartlett suggests Alumni could also suggest their chapter sponsors who might be good candidates. Steele suggests the CO's list could also be used to recruit volunteers for other participation like sponsor workshops or other committee activities. Dillard notes that personal contact is compelling in recruitment.

b. After numerous email exchanges (including a recent one) about using Regents' funds for conferences and other activities, I suggest that we expand the relevant section of the handbook (which we also need to update since we don't have separate checking accounts anymore, but instead request checks from the CO). Since our regions vary quite a bit in many ways, it might also be useful to capture suggestions that may be relevant to particular regions or for particular activities. For example, I've hosted or helped to host several regional conferences and could write some suggestions for that.

**Discussion:** We agreed that we will work on the handbook as a Word document in Dropbox, noting our changes and questions (as also per item 1c on the agenda).

c. As you review the Handbook, please note any other places where you feel more info would be useful.

**2. Work with the Alumni Representative to identify strategies (and possible regional projects) for alumni involvement at the regional level:**

**Discussion:** Comeford raises Communication Committee topic of getting Alumni communication about current activities and feedback on Society issues. Heller mentions getting Alumni involved by sharing our events with her to share. Heller suggests idea of an "alumni buddy" for a chapter, and maybe activities like webinars. Steele asks about bringing previous alumni award winners to Convention, like P.C. Somerville winners, or helping alumni charter chapters (also SKD or NEHS) or alumni guiding a nearby school to chartering a chapter. Heller notes that 4 such chapters are in the works. Bartlett asks about alumni leading webinars open to all, as a recruiting tool for Alumni Epsilon and also as a way of extending professional development that we can't do within the confines of Convention. Helwig notes this was also an idea for the video library, and maybe with a monetary incentive. Heller explains that

some way is needed to incentivize prioritizing the creation of blogs, etc., with this kind of information (based on prior limited response). Dillard mentions that transition of advisors can be a barrier, if a new sponsor reaches out to alumni who don't know them. Comeford mentions idea of alumni as giving back to the organization, by making alumni feel the organization is worth giving back to, and notes that one way to do this may be through alumni-specific merchandising now that we might be able to have direct sales. Dillard asks how we could identify students about to graduate. One way might to use a Convention app poll to identify and target that population.

### **3. Review process for recruitment of strong candidate for Student Leadership positions in**

**collaboration with Central Office:** Prior to our meeting, the CO suggested a process of requesting recommendations or nomination from Sponsors for SR, ASR, and SA positions. The CO would then send those students invitations to apply. The applications would also be due before the convention, and SAs would not need a separate letter of recommendation if they were nominated by a Sponsor. The aim is to get more prepared and committed Student Leaders, and perhaps to engage Sponsors in keeping them on track.

**Discussion:** Bartlett raises concern of students with not-very-active sponsors being left out. McPartlin notes applications and information would still be broadcast to everyone, but CO will help with email and we can use email function within WriteAway also. The general consensus is that this is a good approach. Some discussion of logistics and deadlines results in selecting a March 1 due date, which would allow further solicitation of applications before convention if none submitted by the deadline. There follows a general discussion of strategies for follow-up with new student leaders, their Sponsors, and Regents to help keep students from getting disconnected and disappearing, maybe through other technology communications as well: MeetUp, Slack, Facebook Chat, etc.

### **4. Work with Convention Chair/Committee to plan workshop for sponsors at convention:**

**Discussion:** Due to short time, discussion is limited, but Steele mentions she's asked Rebecca Lartigue to be one leader for Sponsor Workshops.