

Service and Partnerships Committee Minutes: 2018 Fall Board Meeting

In Attendance: Leigh Dillard, Kaine Ezell, Elfi Gabriel, Jessica Heller, Tim Helwig (chair), Kameron King, Terry Phelps, Kaitlyn Sass, Dave Wendelin, and two SKD Representatives

In terms of developing a new internship partner, NEHS is working on one with NCTE for Sigma Tau Delta students (Dave Wendelin).

The committee discussed other internship possibilities, if the NCTE internship does not work out. In terms of Better World Books, we used to have a summer internship with them in Georgia, but it was unorganized. Kids in need is a possibility for an internship partner or a service project partner (Jessica Heller). We also discussed the usefulness of a modest internship opportunity that serves as a kind of “stepping stone” to applying for the prestigious Penguin internship.

Representatives from Sigma Kappa Delta explained that they are thinking about starting an internship program in the Public Relations Department at Calhoun Community College in Huntsville, Alabama. This program is in the initial planning stages.

We need more reviewers for the summer stipend competition.

In the coming months, the committee recommends increasing the number of internship stipends, which have been relatively successful in recent years, and providing students with the encouragement and tools to write stronger applications. To that end, we recommend:

- Recruit a roundtable of internship stipend recipients for the convention to share their experience and application process. Student Leadership is willing to help coordinate this effort.
- Ask internship stipend recipients to continue to write blog entries about their experience for the website. Maybe retile the link to the internship blog (something other than “Careers”).
- We might consult college syllabi involving internships (Terry Phelps) and talk to college internship coordinators (English) about the diversity of internship possibilities, and then find a way to share those ideas with our student members.

The number of Project Grant applications was up last year to 11, and we awarded 6. The deadline this year is November 5th. Leigh Dillard and I will organize a combined convention roundtable with multiple chapters that received a project grant last year (the winners are listed online) and service award recipients.

The Service Award, which received only 3 applications last year (it is due on April 8, 2019) and had three winners, has included \$350 in travel assistance to the convention; however, with the awards not issued until April or May, the travel assistance is provided for travel to the *subsequent* year’s convention and is tied to participating in a workshop/roundtable, creating considerable complications for Central Office. The committee agreed and voted unanimously to end travel assistance for the Service Award, and discussed what we might do with the saved money. Currently, the chapter gets a plaque, and an agency that benefited from the service

receives a \$500 donation. If we are ending travel assistance, perhaps we give \$200 or \$300 to the chapter or give out more awards? After discussion, we offer the following motion to the board:

“To remove travel assistance for Service Award and Project Grants, and award up to \$200 to recipients of the Service Award.”

Last year we had 7 applications for the Student Leadership Award, and 2 students won. Winners receive \$250 and a plaque.

Led by the Student Leadership, we are gearing up for the Benetech service project this year (Kaitlynn Sass). Student Leadership is reaching out to chapters and encouraging them to raise funds to bring to convention. They hope to raise a total of \$300 in the fall and \$300 in the spring. The committee recommends challenging chapters to raise and donate \$1/member, as a more realistic and effective way of encouraging large and small chapters alike. The representatives from Sigma Kappa Delta described how they continue to work with the Dolly Parton literacy project, and recognize chapters (“Ivy Chapter” status) that raise at least \$25.00 for the project. We might find a way to recognize outstanding chapter contributors to Benetech.

We also discussed ideas for a student leadership service project next year, such as “bring a backpack full of school supplies” to teachers in the convention city (Kaitlyn Sass) and/or participate in service work in the local community during convention (Leigh Dillard).