

## Partnership Initiatives Committee

### Minutes of Fall Board Meeting, September 13, 2013

#### I. Existing Partnerships

##### A. Better World Books (BWB)

1. Discussion: The BWB national service partnership started four years ago as a way to pursue the literacy mission of Sigma Tau Delta in a far more convenient way than in the past. BWB is in charge of the collection and distribution of books. Chapters sign up to run a BWB Campus Book Drive and receive \$1.00 per accepted book. Sigma Tau Delta Central Office also receives a 30 cent per accepted book incentive. A dedicated internship at BWB offices is open to members of chapters that run book drives. BWB will conduct a webinar with the student leaders to tell them more about this program. A new incentive has been proposed: anyone who signs up by Oct. 15 for a book drive will automatically be put into a drawing for \$50 towards a chapter's philanthropy and a pizza party. The November incentive will be a raffle for chapters submitting books by the December 13 deadline. Starting with the 2013-2014 school year, BWB has pulled the 30 cent per accepted book incentive that goes to their national partners, including Sigma Tau Delta.
2. Dave asked about whether NEHS could be involved with BWB. Currently the answer is "no," at least with respect to making money for the chapter due to the fact that accepted books are text books and other publications that will be resold as classroom materials on the collegiate level. High schools could however consider running a book drive as a service project.

##### B. Penguin Internship

1. The Penguin Summer Internship application deadline is January 20, 2014. This also is the deadline for BWB Summer Internship applications.
2. The current review and evaluation process was briefly discussed and whether any changes are needed. The consensus was that the current system appears to be working for our purposes.

##### C. NEHS

1. **Little Free Libraries:** creating local, personal, free loaning libraries; promote this, put it on our web pages; alternative community effort for the NEHS chapters. Would university chapters be interested in this? How would we create a partnership between NEHS, university chapters, and the organization itself? This could work really well as a small service project. Elfi: might want to establish a grant that would help with the funding of this process for the NEHS chapters interested in doing this.
2. **Cross-Cultural Solutions** is an international volunteering program for individuals interested in expanding their horizons (e.g., in India, Brazil, various countries in Africa). They have a high school program that sends students for one or more weeks. It is not free; students interested in doing this would pay for their travel, but everything else is arranged by the organization. The word "internship" shows up on their website. Kelsey thought this might be a good opportunity for developing the international aspect of Sigma Tau Delta. There was concern that perhaps the organization might be "using" Sigma Tau Delta to get volunteers. The committee agreed more discussion should occur in anticipation of picking up this conversation again in the spring. Dave will provide a report back, and via email we can discuss more about this opportunity between now and the spring meetings.

3. **Intellectual Freedom Challenge @ NEHS:** This program is in its second year. Students think about texts that might be challenged in some way and argue for that text's inclusion / relevance (censorship challenges, in other words). Winning essays are sent to NCTE (student voices are not often represented in the larger conversation about censorship in education). Essays are due in December through EBMS. Finding students in Sigma Tau Delta chapters interested in serving as judges, and possibly online tutoring was discussed.

## II. **Sponsored Internship Award**

### A. **Issues to Consider**

Should we take into consideration the financial aspects of this internship? A student in need would really benefit from this. Do we consider where the internship is? Whether it is paid or not? Whether it is for course credit or not? Whether it is all or partially online? Internships aren't all awarded at the same time of year, which is a part of the difficulty with respect to presenting this award. Kelsey suggested asking for a budget to be submitted, including information about cost of living, etc., in the area where the internship will take place; create a budget form that includes cost of living information that students would upload along with the rest of their application. The committee decided not to consider the cost of tuition as a budget factor. It was suggested to flesh the financial attachment out through an online discussion.

## III. **New and Proposed Partnerships**

- A. **Society for Technical Communications (STC)** has proposed offering a discount for Sigma Tau Delta members (\$50 for a full year membership) that could translate into 15 months if students sign up October 1 when we start the promotion. The committee endorsed this partnership.
- B. **Blizzard Entertainment** hires interns as writers for a 12-week summer internship. Elfi will pursue this contact.

Committee members were encouraged to continue pursuing other dedicated internship possibilities; student members in particular were encouraged to look around and send information to the Central Office about internships they already know about or discover in the course of their research.

## **Foci Discussed and Actions Taken**

- **Continue discussions and finalize decisions about sponsored internships**  
A description and criteria for judging drafted by Lee Miller and discussed at previous meetings was presented and reviewed. The committee added financial need as an additional criteria and proposed adding a "budget form" to the list of required application documents. Because the details of the budget form are to be developed, reviewed, and agreed upon by the committee, it is unlikely the launch of the award will take place before spring 2015.
- **Continue discussions and finalize decision about partnership opportunities with My Class Cares, Little Free Libraries, STC, and NEHS/Sigma Tau Delta Student Leaders**

- The committee has endorsed a partnership with STC that includes an ongoing Sigma Tau Delta membership discount of \$50 per year. Representatives of STC have also been invited to participate in our next convention.
- Dave Wendelin is in ongoing discussions with Little Free Libraries to form a partnership.
- Dave reported on the progress of the NEHS/Sigma Tau Delta Student Leaders partnership. He has secured four NEHS students to participate as NEHS student leaders. He has also discussed with SAs Kelsey and Katherine ways to connect and work together with the NEHS student leaders.
- No new information about My Class Cares was discussed. It continues to be promoted on the NEHS website as a chapter service opportunity.
- **Review and assess the efficacy/efficiency of the procedures for the selection of candidates for the Penguin Internship and revise as needed.**
  - Because the judging of the Penguin Internship applications takes place in late January - early February, we briefly discussed the review process. Only Roger Stanley and Elfi Gabriel had previous experience with the process, and both agreed the current submission and evaluation process utilizing EBMS is satisfactory. Our Penguin contact Sarah Bolding was pleased with Ashleigh Lovelace, their selection from the committee judges five finalists.

### **For Central Office**

1. Elfi will finalize details of the Sigma Tau Delta membership discount of \$50 per year with STC, add information to our website, and promote.
2. Dave will continue talks with Little Free Libraries toward a partnership agreement. Dave will also reach out to his My Class Cares contact, and further investigate the possibility of working with Cross Cultural Solutions.
3. Dave and Elfi will develop information to post online about the structure and purpose of the NEHS/Sigma Tau Delta student leaders partnership.
4. Elfi will work with Carrie Fitzpatrick on the review and selection of the finalists for the 2014 Penguin Summer Internship.
5. Elfi will follow-up on new partnership leads, such as the possibility of working with Blizzard Entertainment on a dedicated internship for Sigma Tau Delta students.