

Minutes of the Fall 2015 Board Meeting of the Communications Committee (“the Committee”)

Ongoing charge: To review and evaluate policies and procedures pertaining to all Society publications in both print and electronic forms; to oversee the website and to explore options for coordinating communications both in hardcopy and online; to review policies and procedures pertaining to *The Sigma Tau Delta Rectangle* and *The Sigma Tau Delta Review* writing awards; to accept applications for and recommend winners of the annual Outstanding Literary Arts Journal awards; to accept applications for and recommend winners of Chapter Blog or Website awards.

Board/Staff Members Present: Chair, Andrea Ivanov-Craig (Far Western Regent); Traci Thomas-Card (Alumni Representative); Tim Leonard (Student Advisor Junior); Robert Durborow (Student Advisor Senior); Amber Jurgenson (Southern SR); Shelley Romero (Midwestern SR); (Far Western SR); Deb Seyler (CO Staff)

Old Business:

1. The Minutes of the Spring 2015 Meeting of the Communications Committee were approved by Electronic Vote after the adjournment of the meeting;

New Business:

1. The Committee discussed one of the central charges of the Committee, how we promote Society events. Tim Leonard remarked that there are still navigational issues with the Society website and our Facebook pages, and that the Website and Facebook pages should ultimately become Mobile-Friendly.
2. Although the Committee agreed that all of our Facebook pages remain useful, Alumni Representative Traci Thomas-Card did ask about the purpose of the main Facebook page for the Society. Some of the posts on the main page do not seem as formal or informative as they should be, especially for new members. She also inquired about the recent closing of the Alumni Facebook page to new members. As discussion ensued, it was understood that an error was made and that we needed to pursue inquiries with Facebook about re-opening these pages and re-instituting its various Administrators. It was also discussed that we need to have clearer communication with the Central Office. We recommend that any changes to be made by the Central Office in the administration of Facebook pages be cleared with current administrators, Regents, SRS, and SAs. It was recognized that there is good will on both parts, and that the closing of the pages was an unfortunate error.
3. The Managing Editor’s Report was read to the Committee. Discussed were Dan Colson’s recommendations for graduate internships with the two journals and the elimination of the Judson Q. Owen Award for the best overall piece submitted to the Sigma Tau Delta Rectangle and the Sigma Tau Delta Review. These recommendations were passed on to the Scholarships and Awards Committee, but it was later learned that the Executive Committee had drafted a motion to propose to the Board concerning these two items. Discussion then moved on to the concern over graduate student submissions to the journal. This concern was articulated by Dan Colson in his report—namely, that is not fair that undergraduates compete with Ph.D. students, and that perhaps measures should be taken to avoid this. Some members brought up the perception that undergraduates

have a lesser chance of getting their work accepted because of this competition. Several recommendations to be made to the Managing Editor were then discussed:

- a. That the acceptance policy be clarified;
 - b. That an acceptance quota of 50% undergraduate and 50% graduate submissions be set as a goal;
 - c. That a graduate student journal be established, or one with a possibility of articles co-authored by faculty and graduate students, especially in the area of pedagogy;
 - d. That we use invited articles by faculty to increase the quality and reputation of the journals, while still keeping the journal primarily for undergraduate work.
 - e. Tim Leonard remarked that the possibility of an entirely online journal format be postponed until we have enough traffic on the Society website and Facebooks pages to warrant such a change.
4. Discussion ensued as we learned more about the new hire in the Central Office. There is now a half-time position for a Strategist for Social Media and Publicity. This position comes in last year's discussion of, and recommendation for, a more comprehensive Communications Philosophy for the Society. The Committee also alluded to a motion that may be coming from the Executive Committee regarding redesigning and reallocating the duties of the current Director of Communications position, as its current holder, Deb Seyler, is retiring.
 5. The Committee agreed to discuss further items on the Agenda, such as #6, the Literary Arts Journal Awards, by email.
 6. The meeting time allotted having expired, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Andrea Ivanov-Craig, Chair of the Communications Committee