

Microsoft Teams Meeting (Service & Partnerships Committee): September 24, 2020

Attended: Kayla Ashbrooks, Dana Berkowitz, Sheila Byrd (SKD), Kaine Ezell, Julianna Ford, Elfi Gabriel, Tim Helwig (Chair), Alana King, Katie Mudd, Terry Phelps, Kassia Waggoner, Dave Wendelin

Agenda and Discussion

- 1. S/P Committee's Budget Reduction:** We discussed how we have reduced our overall budget by 49% since 2019.
- 2. Update about Penguin Random House internship cycle during Covid:** We do not believe any of our candidates received one of the fall virtual internships. Penguin Random House will let us know soon if they plan to have spring virtual internships; if they do, we need to be ready to review applications and submit our finalists later this semester.
- 3. Update about Internship Stipends:** Elfi is going to update english.org to indicate that virtual, as well as in person, spring internships can be supported with an internship stipend; we will also advertise such in future mailings to students.
- 4. NCTE:** Our first NCTE intern has begun virtual training; Elfi will inquire about the possibility of having a guaranteed in-house panel of Sigma Tau Delta students at next year's NCTE convention in Louisville; Dave reminds us that the deadline for high school students to submit their Intellectual Freedom Challenge essays, which our committee evaluates, is October 5. Dana kindly offered the assistance of members of Alumni Epsilon to help with evaluation.
- 5. Dolly Parton Imagination Library:** Elfi is working with her contact at DPIL about the possibility of starting an internship partnership, as well as starting a volunteer effort whereby local STD chapters partner with a local DPIL affiliate. In terms of fundraising, we are not sure DPIL will be able to provide us with a holiday gift item this fall for fundraising, although we think this is an excellent idea. Katie and the student leaders in attendance informed us that they have created YouTube videos to promote DPIL again this year.
- 6. Project Grants:** Tim will check with Natasha for an update about the status of last year's project grants.
- 7. Webinar Series:** We will put together a Webinar series in early-to-mid February about applying for internships and internship stipends; Felicia Steele has volunteered to assist.