

Service and Partnerships Committee Minutes Spring 2019 Board Meeting

Date: March 26, 2019

In Attendance: Leigh Dillard, Kaine Ezell, Jessica Heller, Tim Helwig (chair), Kameron King, Katie Mudd, Terry Phelps, Kaitlyn Sass, Dave Wendelin (NEHS), and Sheila Byrd (SKD)

Tim began by thanking the members who reviewed student applications for the committee throughout the year. He will find additional evaluators and expand our list.

Sheila Byrd provided an update that the political situation in Alabama precludes Calhoun Community College from developing a new internship at this time. Sheila will let us know if the situation changes.

Dave Wendelin provided us with an exciting update about a potential new internship partnership with NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English). Dave has been communicating with NCTE's executive director, Emily Kirkpatrick, who would like to establish an internship opportunity exclusively for Sigma Tau Delta. Although the details are still being worked out, the general proposal involves an undergraduate or graduate student member of Sigma Tau Delta: once he or she is selected by early July 2019, they would receive distance training through November in anticipation of attending and writing a "daily digest" about the annual NCTE convention to be held in November 2019 in Baltimore, Maryland. NCTE would cover the intern's travel expenses, hotel room, and a \$500 honorarium for their work. During the meeting, the committee drafted an email to Emily Kirkpatrick for additional information, including what the "daily digest" would consist of and where it would be published. We hope to set up the application process this spring so that we can have an intern in place in July to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. Thank you, Dave!

The committee discussed strategies for promoting the internship stipends, which are under-utilized, through social media, and Leigh Dillard recommended hosting a roundtable on internship stipends at the Las Vegas convention. The committee agreed this is an excellent idea.

Next, the committee discussed the Student Leadership 2019-2020 Service Project. Kaitlynn Sass explained that working with big companies like Benetech may not be the most effective, and that the recent process for selecting a new service project in late spring or early summer put a lot of pressure on the incoming student leaders. Therefore, the committee decided to choose a service partner now, and after discussing various possibilities like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Book Love, the committee selected Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Based on our recent success raising nearly \$7,000 for Parton's book gifting program, the fact we can partner with NEHS and SKD for this service project, and the fact our institutional memory will enable us to set up this service project efficiently, we are hopeful for its success. We intend to continue this partnership for approximately five years, although we will want to assess it at our Spring 2020 board meeting, and we look forward to seeing if a long-term commitment to Parton's program might lead to a new internship opportunity for our students. Now that we have selected the service project, student leadership can begin setting it up this summer.

Lastly, the committee discussed ways to strengthen our students' applications for the Penguin internship. Tim reported that, based on reviewing our finalists this year, the strongest applications were submitted by students who had previous internship experience and could talk about the specific ways that experience prepares them for a position with Penguin. The committee discussed promoting the internship stipend as a "stepping stone" to applying for the highly competitive Penguin internship; to encourage Regents to inform chapter advisors that the Penguin internship is not typically a student's "first" internship; to emphasize that applicants should indicate in their cover letter the three areas at Penguin they are most interested in working; hosting a Penguin internship application workshop at the Las Vegas convention; and recording video segments (Leigh Dillard) with advice for how to write strong cover letters and how to prepare for the phone interview.