

Partnership Initiatives Committee
Minutes
Spring Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 8:30-9:50 AM
Council Suite, 3rd Floor

Draft: March 28, 2013

Committee Members: B. Lee Miller (Chair), Alexander Daley, Gloria Hochstein, Ericka Hoagland, Kelsey Hixson-Bowles, Jeffrey Jett, Jessica Reyes, Christina Thompson, Katherine Williams, Sarah Dangelantonio, Elfi Gabriel, Christina R. Brown, Wendy Weaver, Annette Coon, Amy Sonheim, Craig Svonkin, Susan Shelangoskie, Heather Braun, Robert Crafton, David Wendelin, Roger Stanley

Present **(Note: I failed to take roll, so please correct me, as needed, here)**: Miller (chair), Daley, Hixson-Bowles, Jett, Reyes, Williams, Gabriel, Crafton, Wendelin

Additional Documents: Fall 2012 Minutes, Spring 2013 Committee Report, Susan Shelangoskie's My Class Cares Report

Committee Charge: To explore possibilities for Society partnerships with organizations, foundations, and businesses; to make recommendations about partnerships to the Board.

Better World Books Internship Update (Elfi)

- *Gabriel provided a report regarding the Better World Books Partnership, the content of which comes from her own report to the Board. Highlights: 42 Chapters in Fall Participation; 5,422 books accepted; a check to Sigma Tau Delta in the amount of \$1,626.60.*

Penguin Internship (Elfi & Lee)

- *Gabriel and Miller Reported that five finalists have been forwarded to Penguin for the Summer Internship Program*
- *Miller wondered whether the judging process might need to be expanded to allow more time for the judges. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that this was the first time for most or all the judges, and for Lee, to coordinate and review the internship applications and that, while some modification may be needed in the future, the experience gained this year should support a more efficient process next year.*

Intellectual Freedom Challenge Essay Contest (Dave)

- *Wendelin reports that while the applications received (ten) were lower than anticipated, the judging process went smoothly. Two essays were selected and the writers will receive a monetary award.*
- *Further, NCTE accepted the two award winning essays to be considered for its files on challenged books (if accepted, these writers will receive another award and their NEHS chapter will receive a monetary award)*

Sponsored Internship (Lee – Priority)

- Fall Board Meeting Review
 - Conclusions

- The Partnership Committee would design and sponsor an internship award.
 - The judging would run through STARS (for student convenience) and, the administration would run through the Scholarship Committee.
 - The Partnership Committee would provide the judges for the program.
 - The hope is that this program could lead to more contacts and more possible partnerships with those providing the internships.
 - Application and Award Process
 - Applicants would submit a 500-word statement of how the duties and responsibilities of the internship align with their own goals and those of Sigma Tau Delta.
 - Award recipients may receive half of the money at the beginning of the internship, upon receipt of confirmation that the internship had begun and half after the committee has received a 500 word report on the internship (which could also be used to promote the program) (this remains to be decided).
 - Letters of recommendation don't seem necessary as this committee does not award the internship and references/recommendations would already have been involved in the process for the internship (Miller's suggestion); further letters of recommendation for other awards would not provide the right kind of perspective for judging this award.
 - The process of application, judging, and awarding should not conflict with the BWB and Penguin Internships.
 - Applicants cannot receive this award if they receive the BWB or Penguin Internship Awards.
- Items to discuss
 - Is the 500-word statement enough for judges to evaluate?
 - Should applicants include a resume?
 - Parameters for acceptable internships (or does statement cover this?)
 - Criteria and process for judging application statement
 - Possible Dates for 2013-2014 application, award, and follow processes
 - Bring proposal to Board at Spring or Fall Board Meeting?
- Likely work to be done before Fall Board Meeting
 - Craft language for application process, criteria for judging
 - Decide on firm dates for 2013
- Minutes from Meeting
 - *Hixson-Bowles asks whether applicants will have to have received the internship beforehand.*
 - *Miller suggests that we will probably a mix of both and that, if we grant an award to someone who does not receive the internship, we can move on to the next person in line.*
 - *Crafton suggests that we have students submit their internship application, as well (including job descriptions, etc.)*
 - *The ensuing discussion concludes that receiving the internship application materials provides us with more material for judging, and that the additional application essay helps smooth out differences between the application processes. Miller further offers that the application essay should allow judges to determine the degree to which the internship aligns with the goals of Sigma Tau Delta (which is precisely what the applicant is asked to do in the essay).*
 - *Miller asks about the length of the application essay. Ensuing discussion compares the length with that of the materials requested for the Study Abroad and Part-Time Student*

awards. The 500 word requirement is comparable, although Miller would like the committee to continue to consider whether it would be worthwhile, given the complexity of the essay requested, to move the word count to the 750 range. The committee also discusses the need for the description of the award and the judging process to be thorough enough to aid the applicant in writing an appropriate essay.

- *Regarding the dates for the internship application, the committee agrees that alignment with the Penguin and BWB dates is best, although Miller suggests we might, in the future, consider two dates so that Fall and Spring internships may be considered.*

Continuing Partnership Opportunities

- **My Class Cares**
 - *Miller asks that the committee review the report from Shelangoskie about this and notes that there are opportunities Shelangoskie outlines that we should consider forwarding to chapters.*
- **Little Free Library (Dave)**
 - *Wendelin has contacted them and notes that the idea is exploding and that they provide kids for those who are interested.*
 - *Like My Class Cares, this is another idea that can be forwarded to chapters as a partnership opportunity*
- **NEHS and Sigma Tau Delta Student Leadership Partnership**
 - *Wendelin reports that NEHS Council will discuss in the coming week, but has not moved forward at this point*
- **Society for Technical Communication (Elfi)**
 - *Gabriel reports that she has contacted STC and that they have agreed to provide two workshops at the Convention and are offering a (membership) discount to Sigma Tau Delta members*
 - *Additional thoughts*
 - *Jett: maybe mention workshops & certifications at regional convention gatherings*
 - *Reyes: notes job bank*
 - *Gabriel: should STC partnership be primarily about how it can benefit our students?*
 - *Hixson-Bowles: other partnerships/internships (Elfi: STC's "mentorships")*
- **Items we did not get to:**
 - *NEHS/SKD partnerships with professional organizations committed to the protection of intellectual freedom and students' First Amendment rights (e.g., NCTE's Standing Committee Against Censorship; ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom; ACLU, etc.)*
 - *NEHS/SKD partnerships with organizations committed to literacy (e.g. Jumpstart Read for the Record, World Book Night)*
 - *National Science and Technology Education Partnership (Study Buddies)*

One final item from my time in the Service Committee

- *Possible opportunities to partner with MLA, NCTE, and CCCC, to provide information and support to chapters (and then partner with NEHS on the same front) to broadcast professional, career, and work opportunities for English/Rhetoric/Communication Majors and Minors, including jobs and value added education for jobs, etc.*