

## Membership Development Committee Minutes 18 March 2015

**Members present:** Traci Thomas-Card, Ericka Hoagland, and Lexey Bartlett (co-chairs); Kevin Brown, Karen Chambless, Hannah Clark, Matthew Drollette, Robert Durburow, Timothy Helwig, Andrea Ivanov-Craig, Stephanie Laszik, Timothy Leonard, Crystal Stone, Diane Steinberg, Katherine Williams, Dave Wendelin, Janine Brooks, Kathy Nixon, and Deb Seyler.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15; the decision had been made prior to the meeting to separate into strands for the first thirty minutes, which was done. Each strand leader met with those members that had volunteered for his or her strand by email in fall 2014.

The committee reconvened as a whole at 10:50, proceeding to discuss each strand's proposals and ideas.

### **Alumni Strand (led by Traci Thomas-Card):**

- Proposed motion to change the Alumni Representative position to an Alumni Advisor position, modeled on the Student Advisor position, which would give the alumni member a vote on the Board.  
Discussion: Ivanov-Craig asks about the history of the position; Williams explains the benefits of the change.  
Thomas-Card moves to vote on the motion; Leonard seconds. The committee votes unanimously to propose the following motion to the board:  
**We move to make AR position into an AA position, more accurately reflecting the duties of the Alumni person and giving them voting power on the board.**  
(Proposed and withdrawn in the Board meeting by Bartlett because Fitzpatrick notes this is a matter requiring a constitutional change.)
- Proposed motion to change the composition of the Alumni Representative selection committee.  
Discussion ensues, mainly explanatory.  
Thomas-Card moves to vote on the motion; Durburow seconds. The committee votes unanimously to propose the following motion to the Board:  
**We move to clarify the composition of [AA] selection committee to be comprised of at least 3 faculty board members, at least 2 student leaders, and the outgoing AR if that person is not applying again. The final composition of this committee should be an odd number in case of a tie.**  
(Proposed to the Board, and passes, with friendly amendments, in this final form:  
**We move to clarify the composition of the Alumni Representative selection committee to be comprised of at least 3 faculty board members--including two executive committee members and at least 1 student leader. The final composition of this committee should be an odd number, not to exceed 5.)**
- Proposed motion to drop the payment of dues for alumni members to be part of the Alumni Epsilon chapter, to be replaced by a requirement to request membership.

Thomas-Card explains that the purpose of the motion is to keep alumni connected to the organization while following the constitution's statement that inducted members have a lifetime membership and allowing a database to be kept of active Alumni Epsilon members. A question is asked about alumni participation in Convention, and the general consensus is that alumni should be tapped for participation in the form of workshops or mentoring sessions.

Thomas-Card moves to vote on the motion; Hoagland seconds. The committee votes unanimously to propose the following motion to the Board:

**We move to eliminate annual dues for AE, granting AE status to any graduating senior or alumni who requests to become a member through the Alumni Representative or the Central Office.**

(Proposed and withdrawn in the Board meeting by Bartlett; some suggestion that this may also be a matter requiring a constitutional change, among other considerations.)

- The final note from the Alumni strand is a report on VineUp as a possible new system that would allow members to network and to participate in different roles, such as marking themselves as being available as mentors, as well as possibly keeping their own records updated.

#### **Diversity Strand (led by Timothy Helwig):**

- Helwig reports on the strand's discussion about efforts to attract more students from underrepresented groups as per the strand's charges regarding HBCU and tribal colleges. They plan to contact particular institutions in these areas as well as other focused institutions, such as women's colleges or colleges like Gallaudet. This suggestion would serve to support efforts to create new chapters or to attract students to participate in Convention.
- Proposed motion to create a Convention Award that would recognize work promoting diversity. Some discussion ensues about how the work would be identified; Bartlett refers to fall motion to create a pedagogy-focused convention award, when the committee was advised that the motion did not need to contain details about the process for identifying the work. Ideas were proposed regarding self-identification by candidates as well as by judges.

Helwig moves to vote; Thomas-Card seconds. The committee votes unanimously to propose the following motion to the board:

**We move to create a separate \$250 Convention award for critical or creative writing that celebrates diversity, with a \$125 runner-up award.**

(Proposed to the Board, and passes, with friendly amendments, in this final form:

**We move to create a separate \$250 Convention award for critical or creative writing that addresses diversity, with a \$125 runner-up award.)**

(Note: The evaluation of this award will need to be added to the charges for the Diversity strand; the process for identifying work will also need to be determined. In the Board meeting, some proposals were having students add a keyword to their submissions, or checking a box with text notifying them of this award and asking that they indicate they would like to be considered for this award. The same might be done for the pedagogically

focused paper award, with evaluation of it also being added to the charges for the English Education strand.)

### **English Education Strand (led by Lexey Bartlett):**

- Bartlett mentions that a number of roundtables on English Education topics are on the schedule, including one initiated by Steinberg's chapter after fall discussions.
- Bartlett mentions the proposal to create a Facebook group for English Education, as well as possibly other strands, in similar format to the official pages for the regions. There is some discussion about who would administer the groups, and the consensus is that the strand leader would be the initial administrator for the page. There is also discussion whether this is a proposal requiring a formal vote by the board, but to be on the safe side, Bartlett proposes a vote on the motion, seconded by Durborow; passed unanimously. (Note: The Board decided that this did not require a formal vote, but it does require action by the Central Office to create the Facebook page to ensure the settings are uniform with the regional pages. The strand leader should be made the (or an) administrator of the page; in this case, Bartlett should be made an administrator of the English Education group page.)
- Proposed motion to create a joint project grant or award for Sigma Tau Delta and NEHS chapters to encourage collaboration, with funding to be shared by Sigma Tau Delta and NEHS. Wendelin notes NEHS has funds and would like to encourage chapter collaborations. Bartlett moves to vote; Thomas-Card seconds. The committee votes unanimously to propose the following motion to the board:  
**We move to create up to 5 Sigma Tau Delta and NEHS Joint Project Awards of up to \$200 each, with funding to be shared between Sigma Tau Delta and NEHS.**  
(Proposed to the Board, and passes.)  
(Note: This award and its application process and evaluation will need to be developed by the CO and NEHS and posted to the website. The evaluation of these awards may be added to the charges for the English Education strand, or elsewhere if the CO thinks it wise.)

### **International Chapters Strand (led by Ivanov-Craig):**

- Ivanov-Craig notes the difficulty of finding the international chapters because they are not assigned a separate listing on the website like the regional chapters (Seyler notes they are assigned to and listed with different regions). Some discussion about how to make their presence clearer ensues.
- Ivanov-Craig, Nixon, and Stone report on their discussion of promoting the creation of Sigma Tau Delta chapters to specific faculty with whom members have personal connections at international universities through brief but personal email. Discussion ensues, with the conclusion being that the emails should not be sent by CO, but by personal contacts, although it will be supervised by the Membership Development Committee and the CO.

- Proposed motion to create a travel grant for a member from a new international chapter to travel to present work at Convention. Nixon notes that this would encourage the creation of new chapters and encourage participation, but it would not allow well-established chapters to apply for and win the award every year.

Ivanov-Craig moves to vote; Steinberg seconds. The committee passes, with two abstentions, to propose the following motion to the board:

**We move to create, in an amount of not less than \$1,000.00, a scholarship for a member of a new international chapter established within the last three years; such a member must have been accepted to present at the annual Convention.**

(Proposed to the Board, and passes. The discussion in the Board meeting indicates that this award will be administered by the Scholarships Committee.)

#### **Virtual Chapters Strand (led by Kevin Brown):**

- Brown asks Seyler to report on the CO's experience working with the Southern New Hampshire University virtual chapter as a pilot case. Seyler reports that some common functions and activities of chapters required a change of process; for example, the charter requires student signatures, which were acquired by confirmation through personal emails from the signers; the membership certificates had the sponsor signature dropped in electronically and the certificates were sent to the school to mail out; large enrollment required two enrollment periods to be set for batching and for funds to be collected by the school rather than allowing individuals to pay; and an order form for graduate merchandise is being prepared on the school's website to consolidate the order. Some of these concerns are because of the large number of students enrolling (350+!), while others are due to the virtual nature of the chapter. Further experiences with this pilot will be reported in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.