

Membership Development Committee Meeting 3.2.16

English Education Strand (Lexey): proposal for the application for the Classroom Library Grant Already approved so does not require a motion. Needs help finalizing application requirements (ie. information about their school) letter of support from a senior colleague, and also a wishlist of books. We also want to make sure that the grant pays for the library up front but we need to find a way to disseminate the results of the grant: scrapbook or some project inspired by the books they read. Timeline: Lexey is sending language to Elfi, essentially this is to support the mission of STD and alumni members of STD. Dates for submission: summer for initial deadline and award distribution before the Fall semester (Need input on from the committee). Dave: will approach the advisory council for NEHS and will consider a parallel grant for NEHS sponsors.

MOTION: We move that the Membership Development Committee continues to fund convention paper awards in English Education and Diversity for the amount of \$3150.

Diversity Strand (Tim): Shelly R acknowledged there were more diversity-related roundtables at the convention: themes in hispanic literature and LGBTQIA + and Veterans, 29 event sessions were related to the Diversity Strand. Tim--great papers for the New Convention Awards in Diversity (3 in creative and critical papers). Communication went out to several HBCUs; we already have 70% with active chapters and the Diversity Strand will continue to work on increasing involvement with those schools who do not have active chapters. Diversity Strand will also be looking into tribal colleges and universities, (Scholarships committee is exploring the potential creation of a scholarship for diversity). Shelly: would like to explore bilingual works more--being inclusive towards work that incorporates multiple languages--potential problems would be evaluation of those papers (do our judges have the expertise)...could students self-identify?...perhaps starting with judges.

Virtual Chapters (Central Office): we see a need to explore a new infrastructure for the virtual/online chapter management

International Chapters (Andrea): International Award/Travel Grant--we don't have that many chapters that would fit the category. Purpose was to encourage participation by international student members. We only have 9 international chapters and only a few chapters are participating. Tim was in contact with a chapter in France. They aren't in school when the convention arises, so funding isn't available if they aren't in session.

We need to do further investigation with our international chapters to find out the reasons/barriers to attending the convention. One person could email the chapter sponsors (Central Office could take this on, Elfi also volunteered). More fact-finding before we proceed with establishing a travel grant. Whoever the person is should work with the student-leadership in conjunction with the Membership Development Committee. Discussion around whether or not a travel grant should be awarded to the same chapter each year (feeling is mixed). Is there a potential for international student-members to apply at convention itself?

Alumni Strand (Traci): Updates from Alumni Report. Since the report was released, we have increased our Facebook membership from 390-394, our LinkedIn membership from 3692 to 3790, and our EnglishMatters membership from 16 to 18. We also recently had our first official alumni meeting virtually and recently purchased scarves for our fundraiser this year. *POINT OF INFORMATION TO ASK BOARD ABOUT FOR CLARIFICATION re. Email Communication from Bil: The Board discussed that alumni could determine the amount of their dues. But I also think that further spending (grants, awards, etc.) for alumni is to be covered by the dues totally. The Board agreed to pay for any excess—this year. But after this year the alumni awards (etc.) were to be paid by alumni through the dues and/or other ways of raising monies.*

MOTION: The Membership Development Committee moves to change the AR position to an AA position by amending the Constitution to allow voting membership on the Board.

- Think of this as an investment into the Society. It requires a long term commitment of resources to build a community that is supposed to last a lifetime, as this does.
- The alumni position mirrors the SA position much more than it does the SR position.

- The application and selection process for the current Alumni Representative is exactly the same as the process for the Student Advisors.
- The alumni person is not elected by the alumni but is responsible for representing the voice and needs of alumni, and to advise the Board in much the same way as the SAs serve to advise the Board (and to vote) on issues relevant to the society.
- The Alumni Rep/Advisor co-chairs the Membership Development Committee and the Alumni Strand and needs to be in a position to make motions from the committee to the Board, and that requires the Alumni Advisor to be a voting member of the Board.
- The Alumni Advisor should be able to vote on matters involving the Society as a whole, such as motions from other committees, i.e. the Strategic Planning Committee, since alumni can be involved for life in the Society.
- IF it is true and the Alumni will be solely responsible for the raising of (and management) of funds, we request a voting position to determine (in consultation with other alumni) how those funds will be spent.

Miscellaneous Discussion:

Motion from Student Leaders: to aid chapters who experience a tragic event; purpose to extend support to chapters in a time of need and exemplifying the Society's mission. (NO MOTION MADE BUT A REQUEST TO THE REGENTS AND CENTRAL OFFICE)

Motion from Student Leaders: require future leadership committees to uphold the society's mission by establishing a philanthropy project (NO MOTION BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT CAN TAKE IT UNDER THEIR CHARGE TO CHANGE DUTIES)

Respectfully Submitted,
Traci Thomas-Card
Membership Development Committee Co-Chair (2014-2016)