

Convention Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

In attendance: Lexey Bartlett (Chair), AmiJo Comeford, Sarah Hovet, Samantha Miller, Elizabeth Upshur, Elfi Gabriel, Katie Mudd, and Felicia Steele

1. Requests from Central Office for Consideration:

- Rebranding the Convention to shorten it from Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Convention. The main suggestion is to call it EnglishCon, with the year number added before or after, e.g. 19EnglishCon or EnglishCon19.

Meeting Notes: Idea is more contemporary brand. Steele is concerned about the connection of Con with ComicCon. Miller comments that English at the beginning will establish it as an academic conference. Comeford notes we do need to keep the full subtitle for the distinction; maybe a survey or testing of our audience since rebranding is serious. Test for perception. Miller suggests EnglishHonorCon to balance it out. We could do a poll. Mudd points out that the current full title doesn't mention English either. Miller suggests using full year to avoid confusion that it's the 18th or 19th convention etc. Mudd notes their research showed that EnglishCon is a unique tag. Comeford notes the less formal language might undermine the sense of serious academic work, but maybe that's okay because it's a student conference. Mudd notes current social media tags are EnglishCon. EnglishCon is more inclusive of all societies involved. EnglishConvention (fully spelled out) might be an alternative. Matches our website.

- Finding a substitute for the Business Meeting roll call to save time that would still acknowledge all chapters—map with pins? Other ideas?

Meeting Notes: A few issues with the map: congestion in some areas, people putting up pins in other places than where they're from. Maybe a regional roll call instead? Miller points out that it's not that long; getting people in the meeting for just a 20-30 minute meeting only to shuffle back out might be something to consider. Steele asks what that time would be used for otherwise. Gabriel says talking about awards would be one thing. We might go state by state; or we could use AV to present visual lists of schools while calling state by state. Bartlett likes the roll call and can't see any of these as an adequate substitute.

- Program—Now that we have the app (and produce a PDF of the full program), might we move to an abbreviated printed version of the program? (Example will be shared in meeting.)

Meeting Notes: Miller likes still having a printed adjunct to the program to use with app; Hovet agrees. Some comments—phones might run out of battery power, so helpful to have some paper. Avoids inaccuracies of printed program that are inevitable due to cancellations, last-minute schedule requests, etc. Also lower cost and easier to proofread by printing deadline. Motion to board to approve the reduced option. Have a question about it in the post-convention survey.

2. Re: Committee Charge to produce a handbook or guide for future Convention Chairs: Bartlett proposes the President create a task force composed of those on the Board who have served as Convention Chairs to work on developing a new structure for chairing the convention to share the workload such as a structure for delegating sections of the workload to subcommittees and/or

vice chairs. Bartlett proposes a first draft of this handbook/structure be developed over summer 2018.

3. Any loose ends for 2018 Convention? Questions? Concerns?

--Bartlett mentioned special Stowe House event; some small discussion of questions about literacy projects and mention of next year's service project for Benetech.

4. 2019 Convention: Report on progress thus far and any requests/items for discussion from the 2019 Convention Chair, Felicia Steele

Meeting notes: Tess Taylor is Common Reader author and was sponsor at Whittier College.

Theme is Work in Progress. Offer currently out to Nnedi Okorafor (latest Black Panther books, lots of stuff—rising star in AfroFuturism); has talked about how much she works and the work of the author, so relevant to the theme [post-meeting note: is confirmed as a speaker]. Bookseller is confirmed: Left Bank Books. Has contacted some chapters to see if anyone wants to host. Asked about idea of letting students who live locally come and buy a day pass. Gabriel: we don't advertise this to avoid diluting the registration price, but we do offer day passes for \$30. Steele: would advertise after regular registration deadline, and maybe to NEHS chapters. Wants to contact Hallmark to present on career options (they are located in Kansas City).

Minutes submitted by Lexey Bartlett