

## **SIGMA TAU DELTA, SPRING 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting convened at 10:34 a.m. CT, 1 April 2024

**Present:** Matt Hlinak, Jeannine Szostak, Chris Lockwood, Katie Mudd, Namon Kent, Jessica McCole, Sheila Byrd, Diane Steinberg, Shannin Schroeder, Lexey Bartlett, Kevin Stemmler, Felicia Steele, Zoe Talbot, Katherine Berube, Ami Comeford, Kelly Taylor, Charlotte Beale, Amy Gates, Elle Hardoin, DeAni Blake-Britton, Leigh Dillard, Eunice Tan, Ja’Vontaye Gagum, Kaine Ezell, Destiny Jones, Irelyn Coker, Kaitlynn Sass, Autumn Koors-Foltz, Carie Tucker King, Glen Brewster

Apologies: Carrie Fitzpatrick (minutes taken by Bartlett for Fitzpatrick), DeAndra Miller

### **Welcome**

Schroeder begins with Naomi Shihab Nye’s poem “Arabic.”

**(Re)Introductions:** As per tradition, all participants introduce themselves with a current or recently read text. Steinberg presents Schroeder with a “100” tiara in honor of her last Board meeting as President and in honor of the Centennial. Merriment ensues.

### **Reminder of Board Meeting Guidelines (Robert’s Rules of Order & Special Rules)**

Steinberg will serve as parliamentarian.

**Old Business** (Submitted written reports about what has been done are the old business. All reports were submitted in writing and were to have been read by all members before the meeting. Board members will respond to any questions or comments about their reports before giving updates. Questions are welcomed from voting and non-voting board members.)

### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (also a chance to propose emendations to the agenda)

Discussion: No comments or additions to the agenda.

### **Approval of Minutes from the Fall 2023 Board Meeting**

Discussion: Several minor edits are noted and corrected.

**Minutes are approved with minor edits.**

### **New Business**

#### **Central Office Updates:**

Executive Director (Matt Hlinak): No additions. Steinberg asks about what the support for SKD from Calhoun College entails; Hlinak explains they will supply office space and some student worker support, but no money. The CO also has space for student worker help.

Director of Society Operations (Jeannine Szostak): Szostak provides a graph of numbers for new members by year since 2018: after a dip from the pandemic, numbers are increasing and

approaching to those from before the pandemic. Comeford appreciates the detail in the reports regarding the daily work of the CO and asks about the comment about the angry Advisors. A few were upset after the change to digital certificates. Szostak responded to the Advisors by explaining the reason for the change and pointing out the benefits of Sigma Tau Delta beyond the certificate. Comeford asks if the CO will put those Advisors into contact with their Regents. Comeford asks for an update on the IRS issues; Szostak says the case appears to be resolved and will notify the Board when it is completed.

NEHS/ELA Director (Chris Lockwood): No additions. Steinberg congratulates Lockwood on the increase in membership and the good start for ELA. Schroeder asks to receive more details about the Advisor Enrichment Grants as something we might consider doing as well. Comeford asks about the slower start for ELA, and Lockwood says the timing (at the beginning of the school year, after summer planning has already been completed) might have been a factor for the past year but expects it to improve this year.

Director of Marketing & Communications (Katie Mudd): No additions. Steinberg asks about the scavenger hunt activity during the Convention: a crossword puzzle, based on this year's journals. Schroeder asks how much of the social media content can be shared between us and NEHS. Mudd says our societies share an Instagram account, so they are already shared. Comeford congratulates Mudd and Kent on their promotions and new titles and wants to note all the work they have seamlessly picked up this year. Schroeder asks about the status of the Alumni Representative handbook; Mudd says it is forthcoming from Miller.

Director of Technology (Namon Kent): No additions. Comeford notes the comments about workload from all the Central Office staff; Schroeder responds that it is on the Executive Committee agenda and has been. Bartlett thanks Kent for the creation of the new convention registration system noted in his and Hlinak's reports, which will save us \$9000 each year.

Program Coordinator (Jessica McCole): Schroeder asks about where to address questions about social media, to McCole or Mudd. Mudd says both/and or either/or. Steele requests an org chart for what each CO member is responsible for, and Hlinak notes it is in the works. Taylor asks about tracking engagement with Pinterest and tracking engagement between NEHS and STD in Instagram; McCole responds that they are looking at Pinterest and weighing its merits, as well as the pros and cons of the shared Instagram account, although it is hard to separate NEHS and STD engagement.

Schroeder reiterates to the CO staff that their concerns about workload are a top priority and asks for an expression of appreciation from the Board for the CO.

## **Board Member Reports**

### **Officer Reports:**

Immediate Past President (Diane Steinberg): No additions. Comeford asks about her concerns with using the Convention app, both as a distraction during sessions and with bullying in the app. Steele explains the bullying was related to the prizes for engagement in the app, and that

gamification elements have been removed, per Mudd. Mudd and the Student Leaders also monitor all the comments in the app and can flag and remove problems. Koors-Foltz asks if Steinberg still has concerns; this issue will be re-evaluated after this Convention since the app is different this year. Szostak notes that some paper copies of the program are available.

President (Shannin Schroeder): Her only update is related to the question from an Advisor about local honorary members, which the Executive Committee has addressed. Steele raises the concern from the report regarding the use of AI and the need to develop a policy related to it. Schroeder responds that we may want to model our work on that being done by MLA/CCCC. Koors-Foltz asks about how all committees may address the issue, and Schroeder notes that this is something that will be a **charge going forward because we must be proactive with AI** [this charge will be part of the Board planning for next year]. General commentary about some issues with AI follows (data protection, confidentiality, originality, use by Advisors in letters of recommendation or by students in submissions or applications).

Vice President (Lexey Bartlett): No additions.

Secretary/Treasurer (Carrie Fitzpatrick): Schroeder notes that Fitzpatrick has provided the financial report, despite having to be absent.

Officer at Large (Kevin Stemmler): No additions. Szostak asks about the concern regarding response times to communication for Board work, and Stemmler explains that some people do not respond, even when prompted, which interferes with work. Steinberg appreciates Stemmler's work with Student Leadership to close the gap between the Executive Committee and Student Leadership, and Dillard notes that it has been helpful for the Regents as well. Stemmler says it is a privilege for him to see how much the SLs are doing, so it is a good model for the Officer at Large to continue going forward.

### **Regents & Student Leaders Reports:**

Eastern Regent (Felicia Steele): No additions. Comeford asks about Steele's concern with workload for faculty advisors and suggests that the Professional Development Task Force might need to be reconstituted to work on that issue. Steele says they might put together a template for faculty volunteers for requesting time at institutions for Sigma Tau Delta work. Steele also encourages people to submit abstracts for the *ADE Bulletin* issue on mentoring. Schroeder asks about a shared announcement with the MLA and  $\Sigma\Delta$  because of their upcoming centennial. Steele notes some interesting history, such as shared meetings of  $\Sigma\Delta$  and MLA in the 1930s. Stemmler asks about working with Norton because of their centennial as well; one issue with having Norton at our convention is the frequent timing conflict with CCCC. The timing and location of the 2025 Convention in Pittsburgh will likely be better.

Eastern SR (Zoe Talbot): Talbot worked with Berube and Taylor on the journal crossword and reports 256 hours of service from TCNJ's chapter already for "100 for 100." Taylor asks if there is a set document or instructions for the "100 for 100" project, and Schroeder notes it is posted on the Centennial page on the website (accessed by the slide on our home page and also linked from the "About" page, per Mudd). Taylor asks about the timeline for the project; it is through

the next Convention or the end of the next academic year. Hardoin asks about when the Centennial announcement will be made during the Convention; Schroeder says it will be at the opening ceremony. Mudd adds that all the Centennial info is in the convention app as well.

Eastern ASR (Katherine Berube): No updates except that she is filling in during one of the workshops.

Far West Regent (Ami Comeford): No updates.

Far West SR (Kelly Taylor): No updates. Taylor thanks everyone for engagement with their regional Instagram. King congratulates Taylor on her upcoming Random House internship.

Far West ASR (Charlotte Beale): No updates. Taylor thanks Beale for stepping in and working hard.

High Plains Regent (Kassia Krone): Krone notes that last year High Plains was left off of the region list on the form for potential SL candidates to indicate interest, so students had to select a different region when filling it out. Dillard says it will be fixed.

High Plains SR (Rachel Harvey): No updates. Steinberg asks about her chapter's fundraising event with Barnes and Noble. Krone explains it was a book fair event; they provided activities at the store all day. They made more money when they were allowed to be toward the front of the store, but not all store managers allowed that. The store gives a portion of the proceeds from sales to the organization when customers ask at check out. They made \$500 but have made up to \$1000 in the past.

Midwestern Regent (Amy Gates): No updates. Schroeder brings up Gates's concern about workload for faculty members of the Board depending on their institutional situation and notes that our Board will take those situations into consideration with assignments. Members should feel comfortable asking Executive Committee members for assistance.

Midwestern SR (Elle Hardoin): The regional Instagram is picking up some followers.

Midwestern ASR (DeAni Blake-Britton): No updates. Steele asks about the podcast she and Hardoin are doing and if they are able to see their impact from it; Steele also asks if they will share them. Gates commends Hardoin and Blake-Britton on their podcast work and the project's evolution to include other voices. Hardoin says that Student Leadership has also talked about doing a podcast that might help them with recruitment of new Student Leaders.

Southern Regent (Leigh Dillard): The Southern Regional Conference will be 26 October 2024. Students from all regions are welcome; UNG will host again, with possible other chapter hosts in the future. The incoming Regent may initiate an event with HBCUs. There is some general discussion about conference dates in conjunction with the Convention submission date, especially moving the date later than it was this year (23 October 2023), to allow for students to practice with potential Convention submissions at the regional conferences. Making the

Convention submission date the last Monday in October rather than the fourth Monday will ensure it stays later.

Southern SR (Eunice Tan): No updates. Steinberg asks about Southern's regional word of the year (Connection). Tan explains the idea was to focus their goal on increasing connection within their region.

Southern ASR (Ja'Vontaye Gagum): No updates. Schroeder asks about the Southern SLs' way of structuring their activity, and Gagum explains their themes were the 4 Cs: Connection, Community Service, Collaboration, and Convention.

Southwestern Regent (Kaine Ezell): No updates, but he thanks everyone for the well wishes for him and his family as they welcomed and cared for their new child this year, and he thanks those who picked up his Board responsibilities where needed.

Southwestern SR (Destiny Jones): Her chapter held a mock conference for their new presenters, and Schroeder mentions it also included an event to honor inductees who missed those events because of the pandemic.

Southwestern ASR (Irelyn Coker): No updates.

### **Student Advisors and Alumni Representative Reports:**

Alumni Representative (DeAndra Miller): No report submitted. No updates submitted.

Senior Student Advisor (Kaitlynn Sass): No updates. Steinberg congratulates Sass on completing her first year of teaching in her PhD program. Stemmler remarks how proud he is of her as she is leaving the Board and that he is grateful to have been able to watch her professional development in her roles on the Board (she also served as Student Advisor from 2018-2020).

Junior Student Advisor (Autumn Koors-Foltz): Regional Instagram accounts have been made and are up and running. The SLs are having a friendly competition to see which regions can pick up the most followers. Koors-Foltz will be starting her MFA at Colorado State University, but CSU's chapter was deactivated about six years ago according to Szostak, so perhaps Koors-Foltz can help get it restarted. Steele expresses appreciation for Koors-Foltz's chapter's program around a work from 1924 (Andre Breton's *A Surrealist Manifesto*).

**Director of Society Publications (Carie Tucker King)**: King hosted a Teams event on internships and had 62 participants this year vs. 9 last year. The journal internships had 146 applicants this year, and they selected 4 (Sarah Pouliot, Palm Beach Atlantic University; Raisa Harris, University of Southern Mississippi; Miranda Miller, University of Iowa; and Baylie Jett Mills, Texas Tech University). She will be soliciting faculty reviewers for the next cycle and is looking for a graphic designer. A Teams event on submitting to the journals will happen on April 9. Schroeder is excited to see the expanded journal this year for the Centennial and commends King on the transparency of her process with the intern selection.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Communications Committee**

**Update:** Krone thanks those who created the materials for the display table for the journals, including King, who brought older editions of the journals to distribute, and Talbot, Berube, and Taylor, who created a crossword puzzle based on the 2024 Journals. Student members of the committee gave feedback on the Society website. They would like to see a landing page with all the societies listed, and the students said they use Google to find things on the website rather than navigating within the website. They noted that the Scholarships and Awards section was hard to navigate, but the Student Leadership section was easy. They would like a map of chapters with Advisor names and emails, but there might be a cost to have the number of items on it we would need, based on research into that feature already completed. Requested Advisor additions for the website include a QR code to a form to nominate students as SLs throughout the year rather than just around Convention and the application deadline, as well as adding Instagram links to the website. All agree we need to pare down the website. There were 146 applications for the journal interns, and 5 finalists were selected, resulting in 4 interns for this year.

**New business:** They had a meeting with G-Merch, who explained that most of their clients use them for marketing, but we don't. They would need our members' contact information in order to do so. The new items are popular, and the Student Leaders thanked Mudd for those designs. G-Merch estimates we would earn up to \$100,000 in total sales per year (of which we receive 10%) if we let them do direct marketing. Only 20-40% of our emails from Mailchimp get opened, so we might get more response with direct marketing because people do not open the emails to click the links to Shop English. There are some alternatives, such as having the CO distribute the marketing emails G-Merch writes, but that would be more work for the CO. They plan to have students model/share products through Instagram. Local chapters could work directly with G-Merch for customized and fundraising items. NEHS merchandise: parents are more likely to buy it than students, so the best timing for marketing might be during inductions. The committee would like to see a one-click option to add items to the shopping cart. They would like more visibility for the option for group orders and for the possibility of custom merchandise. Additional product ideas are mentioned, especially graduation cap decorations.

**Motion: The Communications Committee moves that we establish the top ranked journal intern from this year as the Centennial Intern.**

**Motion Discussion:** King explains that they have an extra intern this year because of the increased number of submissions, and one was scored particularly high in the process. Koors-Foltz asks for clarification that this distinction is just among the journal interns. Schroeder suggests amending the motion to add the word *journal* to clarify. This designation will be noted on the journal's editorial staff page.

**Vote: The motion carries unanimously.**

Discussion: Comford asks about where the further conversation about G-Merch will take place, in Executive Committee or elsewhere. Krone says it might be worthwhile. Dillard asks if this would cost us money, and Mudd clarifies that it would not. She says our percentage of sales is 10%. Schroeder asks if their other clients are honor societies or social societies (fraternities, sororities, etc.). Stemmler asks about whether ACHS works with other companies that offer a higher yield than 10%; we get little of the proceeds, and people may feel they are misled by how much their purchase contributes to us or other organizations we support. Szostak asks if we might be able to renegotiate the contract. Schroeder likes the expanded selection but is surprised at the prices and wonders if there is a way to offer a less expensive option, even if it means giving up our profit on the item. Bartlett suggests that the Director of Marketing and Communications research other companies or renegotiating our contract, with the assistance of the ED and the Executive Committee. [Informational addendum: As of April 10, Matt Hlinak has reported on this matter. The percentage we earn on sales with GMerch (10%) is generally the maximum companies provide on this kind of agreement, so there is likely no reason for us to switch companies and little possibility of renegotiating the contract. However, we could send out a Request for Proposals (RFP) in Spring 2025 since our contract with Gmerch ends in October 2025. He also supports allowing Gmerch to do direct marketing on our behalf, which would require sharing our members' contact information, but he has written a policy to protect our members' data, which the Executive Committee is reviewing before we allow this step to be taken.]

### **Convention Committee**

**Update:** Brewster reports that events are in train and they will “shoot the trouble” as it comes up during the events, and he thanks the CO staff, especially Katie, for helping with the transition at the end of December after Gabriel’s retirement. Brewster requests introductions to all Board members and affiliates he hasn’t yet met so he can pronounce everyone’s names correctly. Brewster says they also discussed Centennial activities and the 2025 Convention. Stemmler, one of the 2025 Chairs, explains how they figured out the Spotlight Author for Pittsburgh, who will be Willa Cather. She wrote the short story “Paul’s Case” while she lived in Pittsburgh. The 2025 Convention theme, based on Cather’s story, is “One of Ours.” This theme will celebrate not just Pittsburgh-related writers but also our members. The Convention location is on the Point, where Fort Pitt was.

Discussion: Steinberg says she is glad we are back to our pre-Covid size for convention attendance. Dillard gives a shout out to the Student Leaders who have assisted her and Schroeder with Research in the Round.

### **Executive Committee**

**Update:** Schroeder reports that the Executive Committee have been working on the By Laws and updates to the Constitution itself. Those changes will be shared electronically for Board review and vote first, and if they are approved, they will be sent to the chapters for a vote. One issue was timing for stepping into new offices, and there will be a motion related to that. They discussed new positions in the CO and potential further positions because of workload. They also discussed the addition of Sigma Kappa Delta to our group of societies, now that the audit is completed. Honorary memberships, usually awarded to convention speakers, will be voted on in

the fall, and we will be re-establishing our archive of the past convention websites. They also spoke about Gmerch.

**Motion: Bylaw II Section III. Term of Office. Outgoing Board members shall complete their duties by June 1, to allow a transition period for newly elected Board members.**

Discussion: Some discussion of how this Bylaw would interact with the Regents motion takes place.

**Vote: The motion passes unanimously.**

### **Regents Committee**

**Update:** Dillard reports that they have made changes to their handbook to reflect their new processes, and these are not yet final, but the handbook has been distributed to our newly elected Regents. They have discussed the Advisors workshop and set up a Regents onboarding event during the Convention for the new Regents. **They voted in the fall to move the Outstanding Chapter Award application deadline to April 30, but it still says June 15 on the website, so they will stay with that date for this year but then move it next year.** They recommend we shorten the window for chapter reports and make them due earlier. They are going to encourage more chapters to participate with the Feature Chapter concept, where they can participate in the Chapter Share event at convention or also present service projects for greater funding than the Regents funding allows. They have discussed some website needs as well. They have created a Regents funds request form for Regents to share with chapters to streamline the process by putting the application and other needed information (such as who to make checks out to) in one place. They talked about support for Regents-elect for this Convention, but it's not enough because it was not previously in the budget.

### **Motion 1:**

**The Regents Committee moves to adjust Bylaw III, Section IV, to accommodate for the recent changes to the Regents election process:**

*BYLAW: III, Section IV. Term of Office.*

**Original: A Regent shall be elected for a term of four years. A Regent, unless filling an interim term as determined by the Board, shall serve no more than two full consecutive terms. A Regent shall assume duties upon election.**

**Revised: [...] A Regent shall assume duties at the conclusion of the Convention.**

Discussion: Dillard explains that the outgoing Regents can still communicate and assist the new Regents. Krone points out that the new Regents will then be the ones choosing the new Student Leaders.

**Vote: The motion carries.**

### **Motion 2:**

**The Regents Committee moves to approve a budget increase of \$200 per region (\$1200 total) to support "Feature Chapter" travel to convention.**

Discussion: Dillard explains that this additional amount would help to support the kind of activities they discussed for the Feature Chapters.



**Vote: The motion carries.**

**Motion 3:**

**The Regents Committee moves to provide complimentary registration and \$200 reimbursement for incoming Regents to support travel to convention.**

Discussion: Dillard clarifies this would not come from the Regents' budget, but from the general Board expenses budget. This amount might vary from year to year depending on the number of Regents coming in. Steele says it might be possible that the Regents' budget might be able to help cover this expense.

**Vote: The motion carries.**

**Steele moves that available Regents funds be reallocated to provide the \$200 reimbursement to the three new Regents in attendance at this Convention. Krone seconds.**

**Vote: The motion carries with one abstaining.**

Recess 3:14 to 3:28 PM.

As the topic of funding around the convention comes up in the Regents' update, Stemmler requests additional funding from the Society to make all Convention awards equitable in amount, including those that may receive funding support from outside general Society funds, in order to ensure that winners in all categories feel their accomplishments are of equal worth. Schroeder notes that this request would fall under Other New Business, so it is added to the agenda.

**Scholarships and Academic Awards Committee**

**Update:** Gates reports that they have a form requesting volunteers to evaluate awards. The language for the 1924 Scholarship is in process and they hope to have it awarded the first time in Fall 2024. They have requested the link for the Scholarship video on YouTube be made available, perhaps on the Overview page for Scholarships. They request making sure all references on the website to transcripts be changed to unofficial. They are considering a Sophomore Scholarship and an award for similar short programs like the summer scholarship for programs at other times of the year. Schroeder suggests that the applications request information in small pieces rather than as a long document to avoid AI generated materials. King notes that AI hallucinates, so integrating details about the candidate in recommendations should be embedded in letters. Steinberg mentions the frequent use of forms for recommendations that might help foil AI, and we could add a checkbox certifying that the letter was written by the recommender rather than AI. This would be practice that might apply for other systems as well. Mudd notes that the First-Year Graduate Student Award is not in Awardspring for this year, but Gates says it should have been offered and asks why it was not added to the website as well. Steele also notes some possible missing information on the Continuing Ed scholarship on the website.

**MOTION 1: The Scholarships and Academic Awards Committee moves to award the P. C. Somerville Awards for Future Teachers both in fall and in spring and to adjust the award**

**description to indicate that winners will provide verification of their initial teaching contract by the beginning of the semester following their application process—that is, the semester following graduation. The fall award will begin with the fall 2024 cycle to be awarded in spring 2025. In addition to the monetary award, winners will have the sign-up or annual fee for NEHS or ELA waived for one year for their school. We will craft the specific language for this change following the Board Meeting. We request an additional \$4000 per year in the budget to accommodate two additional awards for a total of four awards per year.**

Discussion: Bartlett thanks the Committee for this change but asks a question about the language around timing since fall graduates might not get contracts in the spring and could not apply in the spring. So the suggestion is to allow the award to be given in the calendar year after the award is applied for, pending the receipt of the teaching contract. Szostak mentions the 1099 requirement for this award. Dillard asks if the extra time causes budgetary problems (no), and there is some discussion of the timing implications.

**Vote: Motion carries.**

~~MOTION 2: The Scholarships and Academic Awards Committee moves to adjust the language describing the Summer Program Scholarship to open it for more applicants, including alumni, by removing eligibility language about applicants being current undergraduates. We will provide examples and links to summer programs, including certificate programs, that would qualify for the Summer Program Scholarship. We will craft the specific language for this change following the Board Meeting.~~

Discussion: Ezell explains that there have been limited applications and some discussion follows about confusion over the purposes of various scholarships, such as the Continuing Education Scholarship, which already allows alumni to apply for a variety of programs. Koors-Foltz mentions programs like writing workshops that would be appropriate for the Summer Program Scholarship. **The motion is withdrawn** for further discussion about the purpose of different awards.

### **Service and Partnerships Committee**

**Update:** Steele reports that the ADE wants one of our Board to attend the MAPS mentoring workshop this summer and is offering a complimentary registration. Steele is already attending and so offers the registration to another Board member. Bartlett is suggested as the attendee as incoming President [Bartlett accepts and has registered]. The MLA will give us a table in the hub at the MLA Convention. Lockwood and Stemmler are making strides getting an agreement in place with LULAC for a partnership (nearly complete). Steele encourages the Board members and affiliates to send abstracts to the *ADE Bulletin* issue on mentoring.

**Motion: The Service and Partnerships Committee moves that the board appropriate \$1500 toward an internship with the MLA. Procedures and the duration of the internship will be negotiated with MLA directly. We will reevaluate the program at the conclusion of the internship and renew the program if satisfactory.**

Discussion: Steele explains this is a temporary motion pending our satisfaction.

**Vote: Motion carries.**

**Motion: Service and Partnerships moves that the Service and Partnership Committee be divided into two separate committees moving forward with the recommendation that the Service Committee be cochaired by a person from the Central Office and a Student Leader.**

Discussion: Steele notes that the service component is getting short shrift because of how much attention is focused on partnerships work. This change would restore the committee structure that existed about ten years ago. Schroeder asks if the language about the chairs is a recommendation or a requirement, and Steele says it is a recommendation.

**Vote: Motion carries.**

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

**Update:** Bartlett reports that the reporting meetings are completed, and reports on Strategic Plan progress will be shared with the Board in April.

### **Student Leadership Committee**

**Update:** Sass and Koors-Foltz report that they have created a QR code to the form for signup for the trivia night, the social salons are set up, and the regional Instagrams are set up, so the whole Board is asked to encourage students to get involved with these activities. The SAs have picked up the AR's responsibilities at the Convention. Steele asks if permission has been given for pictures and livestreaming, and Mudd notes that it is on the registration form, and it is clarified that livestreaming is only done with the major presentations, not student presentations. Schroeder asks about Student Leader workload during the Convention and suggests that we make sure SLs have time to enjoy and participate in the Convention beyond working.

### **Advisory Council/Task Force Updates:**

**Past Presidents Advisory Council:** Stemmler says they will report to the President after their meeting this week.

**Centennial Task Force:** No updates. Comeford asks if the Centennial merchandise is available at the Convention; it is, and it will be on the website as well.

**Website Redesign Task Force:** Dillard reports that the meeting this week was to get the new members up to speed. Dillard mentions that some questions will be added to the chapter report on how people are using the site and where people go to get information. They are looking at other ways to survey members too, such as a brief form to share through Instagram or email. The task force also discussed what objectives they want to achieve with the redesign and who the audiences are for the website to develop a request for proposals (RFP) for this summer. She has charged members of the task force to look at websites to see what works well or might provide models for what we want, and she proposes to ask ACHS if they have recommendations for designers that work with organizations like ours. Kent will supply information to evaluate search engine optimization (SEO) and the current structure and state of the website.

### **2024 Budget Review**

**Discussion:** Steele asks a question about how the budgeting for awards will work with the transition to the new academic year budget schedule versus our current calendar year budget

schedule; it will likely be easier. Some discussion follows to clarify the way to read the budget and which period this document covers (last year, especially the Convention income and expenses). There are some questions about the expenditures for the Convention-related travel that the ED and DSO will need to clarify within Quickbooks. Some categories may have been combined in a way that is confusing, so there is a request for clarification after the conclusion of the meeting.

**2024 Investments Update:** Hlinak reports on behalf of Fitzpatrick: Our portfolio total stands at \$1.7 million, but we have had an increase in our assets. Our portfolio is beating the market compared to other investments, and because of volatile world events, Leslie Dunn's recommendation is to stay with relatively conservative investments. We gave out over \$110,000 in scholarships and other awards last year. Steele asks if our giving is made public somewhere, especially in comparison to other organizations. Schroeder notes that ACHS has that information.

### **Other New Business**

The question of ensuring equity among convention awards is taken up with a motion from the floor.

Dillard moves that we allocate funds up to \$1000 to equalize the Stemmler-Dennis LGBT& Award amounts to the Convention awards in other categories. Steinberg seconds.

Discussion: The equity is important. These awards are heavily subsidized from outside, so this is a small request.

**Vote:** The motion carries with one abstention.

### **Kudos**

- King and her co-editor have received the NCTE Award for Best Technical and Professional Writing Collection of Original Essays.
- Krone's book *Hollywood's Monstrous Moms* will be forthcoming this spring from McFarland.
- Steele thanks Diane Steinberg for a full decade on the Board.
- Dillard congratulates Tan on being accepted to multiple MFA programs. Tan is leaning toward George Mason University for fiction.

### **Announcements**

Student Leadership applications are due April 11.

### **Reminders/Closing Thoughts/Formal Adjournment**

Expense forms should be submitted no later than Friday, April 19. Committee minutes should be sent to Jeannine in the CO and to Lexey Bartlett no later than April 29.

**Dillard moves to adjourn; Steinberg seconds. Motion carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m. CT.