



Northeast Regional Honors Council Business Meeting Agenda

Saturday, April 11, 2015

6:00-7:00 p.m. Eisenhower Room, Wyndham Gettysburg

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Helen Fallon, NRHC President, called the meeting to order, and introduced the Executive Board members.
2. The draft Minutes of November 7, 2014, Business Meeting in Denver were circulated. Helen Fallon asked members in attendance to review the document, and then called for a vote to accept the minutes. Ross Wheeler moved to accept the draft minutes; Elaine Torda seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws were presented. The changes are:

Division of Executive Secretary-Treasurer to separate positions
Regional conference committee planning and leadership changes

Julia Fennell moved to accept item number one above; Elaine Torda seconded. All voted in favor. Ross Wheeler moved to accept item number two above; Chris Brittain seconded. All voted in favor.

4. James Buss, the Executive Treasurer, presented the Financial Report as follows:

Opening balance: \$119,919.79

Total Expenses: \$30,315.95

Current Balance: \$133,393.40

Elaine Torda motioned to accept; Lucy Laufe seconded. All voted in favor to accept.

- Conference Registration Fees and Membership Dues

James Buss explained issues with membership dues collection, which was late this past year because of the change of signers of the regional account with the bank. More people want to pay by credit card, but we can't process that at the moment. Furthermore, we used YesEvents as the platform for people to pay their membership dues, so there was a membership lag in leading up to the setting up of our account with YesEvents. We will aim to approach YesEvents to collect membership earlier next year.

Helen Fallon noted that the NCHC is in transition, so we are not sure if it is good to go with them for conference registration and membership dues collection.

Andrew Martino noted that YesEvents is a good one-stop platform.

A member noted that it was more convenient to pay conference registration fees and membership dues together. James Buss agreed and said this would be much easier to process through YesEvents.

We updated the new membership list last week; there is no March report yet, but we will be able to check which colleges have not paid, and provide notification.

5. Helen Fallon and Justin Karter presented the Preliminary Gettysburg Conference Report.

There were 540 registrants in total.

- Conference Site Issues

Helen Fallon reported that there were multiple issues with venue although Gettysburg is a great city. We had to be mindful of AV/tech fees, and could only have five AV rooms. James Buss noted that when the planning committee was on-site in July, it looked at AV fees in context of larger event budget. We did not want to raise registration rates.

We did not get BOEs until one month before the conference and were not able to secure local hosts. Gettysburg shuts down in winter (Dec-March), and we had to pay \$900 for buses.

However, Frederickson CC was very accommodating with volunteers. A suggestion for next year is to provide waive registration fees to local hosts and student volunteers.

- Panels and Speakers

Everyone was satisfied with both conference speakers. Student comments indicated that they had great experiences and liked the community service events.

However, students are not turning up for events they had signed up for. Furthermore, there were a lot of no-shows for the paper presentations.

Helen Fallon also explained the new roundtable format, which emerged with the site's space issue; however, the audience evaluations noted people wanted more attention provided by the new format than received previously. Members of the audience commented that the focus on dedicated roundtables reflects a new professional format.

Helen Fallon said that evaluation forms will be sent out the week after the conference.

- Other Comments

Elaine Torda complimented the moderators.

Julia Fennell pointed out that we need to prepare students.

Audience members asked for more explanation about what paper presentations and roundtables on website Call for Papers for the next conference.

Shirley Shultz-Myers expressed that she liked the engagement of students and Q&A; there were serious scholarly discussions.

- Student Events

Jhenny Bedoya, Kathryn MacDonald and Margaret Roman oversaw the student events.

Jhenny Bedoya reported on the student caucus. Students wanted assigned seats to nurture mingling. They wished that the conference site was closer to town. For City as Text, they wanted groups to be retained for reflection. Helen Fallon noted the latter would have been possible had the students all come back to the final activity.

The students liked the students events (e.g. SWAG, liked Open Mic), which were good ice-breakers.

Kathryn MacDonald suggested variation for ice-breakers, for example a scavenger hunt for Cambridge. She suggested increasing social media traffic.

- Student Representatives

Issues about the Student Representative positions were raised. Although a letter from Honors Program Director is provided, the student representatives and sponsors need to be held accountable. This year one of the student representatives resigned less than a month from the conference.

An *ex officio* position for someone to advise the student representatives was brought up. Julia Fennell also asked about having additional students to support the student representatives. Peter Campbell reported that he contacted interested students from last year, and the student representatives, but did not receive any response. He said that we can entertain this option if students propose it next time.

This segment ended with all agreeing that we need to share the conference work.

6. Andrew Martino, the Vice President, presented an updated on the 2016 regional conference.

Next year's conference will be held on March 31-April 3, 2016, in Cambridge, MA. Hyatt. Will not have space issues. CFP will be out the second week of Sept. 8-10 students will meet historical society for city as text. Two colleges have already volunteered to serve as hosts. Andrew Martino would like to have three hosts.

The conference fee will be around \$189-200. Gettysburg \$10-15 more per head than Niagara. We will also be working on sponsorships.

7. Andrew Martino led discussion about possible 2018 conference sites
Providence, Rhode Island
D.C. suburb – being investigated (Alexandria and Reston). People seem to like Alexandria.
8. Helen Fallon announced 2015 Executive Board elections for the following positions:

Vice President
 Two Student Representatives
 Possible addition of *ex-officio* member or elected officer to work with Student Representatives
 Faculty Representative
 Web Editor

Elections to take place April 30. Andrew Martino advocated for leadership; there's a lot of work but it's a chance to support students with opportunities.

9. Jhenny Bedoya presented a Report from the Student Caucus
 Students wanted more involvement. Lori Rubeling suggested that student candidates who are not elected be given opportunities to be active in conference work.
10. Feedback, questions, suggestions and comments from members.

- Acknowledgements

Helen Fallon thanked Peter Campbell and Chris Brittain for website work, and Lorna Ronald for work on faculty sessions. And she thanked Justin Karter for phenomenal work on the entire conference.

- Possible new sessions for next year

Elaine Torda noted an increase in new members, and a turnover in Honors leadership across the region. So we could do a Beginning-in-Honors session at regional next year. Werner suggested that we add a session for 2-year college faculty. The current Nuts-and-Bolts session is too large and composed of diverse programs and colleges; we need conversation for specific groups. Having these new sessions would also support those who cannot go NCHC.

- Student Proposals

Patricia Warunek asked for feedback for rejected proposals. Andrew Martino responded that we have to be more selective because of higher volume of proposals, and personalized feedback is not sustainable.

Lori Rubeling noted that paper proposals may not fit the conference theme.

Peter Campbell pointed out that we received over 500 papers and had an 80% acceptance rate.

James Buss noted that providing personalized feedback is too labor intensive.

Margaret Roman noted that that we are helping students learn professionalism.

Andrew Martino said that we can put disclaimer on the Call for Papers that feedback or rationale for rejected proposals will not be provided.

Lorna Ronald said that we need to tell students to get faculty to read proposals before they are submitted.

There was feedback that we need to develop the Art Show next year.

Motion to adjourn was accepted, and all were in favor at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karlyn Koh.