



Northeast Regional Honors Council

Dedicated to the Engagement and Support of Honors Undergraduate Learning

Business Meeting
Friday, November 10, 2017
Westin Peachtree Plaza Atlanta, GA
Chastain E
5:30 PM - 6:20 PM

1. Welcome and call to order Helen-Margaret Nasser

The Board introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Spring 2017 Business Meeting Minutes Richard Cohen

Karlyn Koh from Laguardia Community College made a motion to accept the minutes. Elaine Torda from SUNY Orange seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

3. Pittsburgh Conference Report Helen-Margaret Nasser

Helen- Margaret Nasser reviewed the feedback from Pittsburgh and discussed some of the suggestions to improve future conferences. Overall feedback was very positive.

4. Executive Treasurer's Report Jim Buss

Jim discussed how the way we are reporting the organization's finances has been changed to better align with IRS requirements. Jim reviewed the numbers from the report (see attached).

A few thousand dollars was lost on the Pittsburgh conference due to items previously discussed. The overall balance is holding steady compared to previous years.

Linda Kobylarz from Post University motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Karlyn Koh from LaGuardia Community College seconded. The treasurer's report was accepted.

5. Providence Conference Theme and Update Tony DeLuca

Tony discussed the theme of the upcoming conference in Providence, Rhode Island. No questions were asked about the theme. November 19th is the deadline for proposals and acceptance letters will be sent before the holidays in December. Members were encouraged to submit proposals.

Nathalie Waldschmidt and Kathryn MacDonald distributed a document containing information about NRHC. The goal of this document is to increase awareness and understanding of NRHC amongst students and to help them submit a proposal.

The NCHC has volunteered to help with professional development during NRHC. A question was asked as to what the NCHC would do. It isn't clear exactly what the NCHC would do as it depends upon what the region wants from them. The NCHC is looking to assist with professional development so the region can focus on the students. A suggestion was made to have a session for new directors since there is so much turnover in directors of programs. Jim suggested that we focus on one professional development item as opposed to several different ones in



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“Consultants Corner” since that hasn’t been well attended in previous years. A suggestion was made to have a session on how to have meaningful and difficult discussions that are in-line with the mission of the program. Matt Ward from Daemon College suggested that a session be held to discuss what impact the “free tuition” movement is having on institutions. A new director suggested it’d be helpful to have faculty development sessions to encourage faculty members to attend the regional conference in addition to the national one. Perhaps it’s possible to have three breakout sessions instead of consultant’s corner so that faculty would be free to attend their student’s presentations. An idea was raised to send potential topics out to the membership so they can help choose which sessions to hold. Volunteers were solicited to help run some of these sessions. The “Big Picture” topic would still be held separately on Thursday night. A suggestion was made to have concurrent sessions but it was felt that not enough institutions arrive by Thursday night to have concurrent sessions.

6. Report from the Student Representatives Autumn Barszczowski, Maria Shapiro

Autumn and Maria reviewed the student activities that will be taking place during NRHC. Lots of information is being sent out via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). A video was made on how to submit a proposal and is on Facebook.

7. Student Involvement & Committee Kathryn MacDonald

Kathryn reviewed the formation of a student activities committee. 12 volunteers from 6 institutions are currently on the committee. Autumn and Maria chair the committee with Kathryn serving as Advisor. Two student year of the awards (1 for a 4-year student and 1 for a 2-year student) will be awarded this year. A successful candidate for these awards should demonstrate scholarship and leadership. Professors need to write a letter of recommendation in order to nominate a student. The student then needs to answer several questions and submit their resume in order to complete the application. The awards ceremony will be held on Sunday morning after the last poster session.

Kathryn reviewed the need for submissions for the cover of the conference program. It is important for members of NRHC to communicate to their students the meaning of being part of NRHC.

8. Membership Committee Helen-Margaret Nasser

A membership committee was formed over the summer to initiate contact with institutions that were delinquent in their dues. The membership drive was successful in terms of increasing membership of NRHC. It was interesting to see the amount of turnover that occurred in a single year and how not all new directors were informed about NRHC from the previous director.

The membership committee will be evolving into an outreach committee in order to increase contact between the NRHC board and member institutions.

A point was raised that a small college listserv has been initiated to increase communication between schools. The 2-year group likewise has a listserv and is trying to determine a way to archive the information. It was mentioned that a membership directory used to be maintained and should be updated and posted on the website.

9. Upcoming conference sites Kathryn MacDonald



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The 2019 conference will be held in Baltimore. Local institutions should see Kathryn if they are interested in serving as hosts. The location for 2020 is being investigated. New York City is regularly suggested as a potential spot for a conference. Kathryn discussed how NRHC hosts conferences similarly to NCHC while other regions host conferences in a “hybrid” model where they are hosted on a campus and suggested Monroe College as a potential host. Two hotels (A Residence Inn and a Radisson) are within walking distance of Monroe’s campus. It may be possible to work with the MTA to roll transportation costs into the cost of the conference. Kathryn is looking for people to volunteer to assist with the NYC conference. Kathryn asked whether the region is interested in having the conference in NYC and the consensus was that there is interest in doing so.

Suggestions were solicited for conferences beyond 2020.

10. Website and Discussion Forum

Chris Brittain

Tony mentioned the NRHC website was redesigned over the summer. Chris mentioned how much easier it is now to maintain the website. A discussion forum is on the website which might serve the same purposes as the previously mentioned listserv but hasn’t taken off yet. A sign-up for a listserv will be distributed in the future. Many listservs allow users to receive emails as a “digest” to cut down on the number of emails users receive.

11. Other Business

a. NCHC Award Winners

Kathryn MacDonald was named the winner of the Sam Schuman Award for Excellence at a Four Year Institution.

Dr. Lucy Laufe was named the winner of the Ron Brandolini Award for Excellence at a Two Year Institution.

Salisbury State’s newsletter, Monroe College’s newsletter, and LaGuardia Community College were chosen as awards winners.

Please share names of previous award winners so they can be highlighted on our website.

b. Spring 2018 NRHC Board Elections

The following positions will be available:

- One Faculty Representative
- Executive Secretary
- Vice President
- Two Student Representative

Please consider running for available positions. Rich stepped up to fill a 1-year term so the position is open for elections in the spring. He is willing to run again but others are encouraged to run as well. The position is a 3-year commitment.



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The Vice President position is a 4-year commitment as the position transitions to President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President for continuity.

Kathryn mentioned how we need to be leaders if we want our students to be leaders.

- c. NCHC will be in our region (Boston) next year.
- d. Bernise Braid discussed how NRHC has been the architect of many activities held by NCHC. She highlighted several upcoming programs for students to apply to.
- e. The Beacon conference is being held at Montgomery Community College. Information was given about the conference and it was urged for people to join (first year is free). Information can be found at www.beaconconference.org. The top four papers/presentations are given awards.
- f. Elaine Torda from SUNY Orange Community College is running for VP of NCHC.
- g. Jim Buss is running for the Board of NCHC.
- h. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm.