



Friday, June 12, 2020

Via Zoom

11:00 AM

Establish Quorum

1. Welcome and Call to Order Kathryn MacDonald
 - a. Kat welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - b. Rich reviewed the “rules” that will be used during the virtual meeting.
 - c. The Board introduced themselves.
2. Approval of Fall 2019 Business Meeting Minutes Richard Cohen
 - a. The minutes were approved

Reports of Officers and Board Members

3. President’s Report Kathryn MacDonald
 - a. Kat displayed the new website and thanked Ann and Chris for their hard work
 - b. Kat congratulated this year’s award winners
 - c. Kat displayed the annual report and directed people to read position statements written by the board concerning items up for vote.
4. Executive Treasurer’s Report Michael Tasto
 - a. Mike shared the treasurer’s report
 - b. Mike highlighted how much of our current balance is due to roll-overs from this year’s cancelled conference
 - c. The organization lost \$44,000 this year due to the cancelled conference, but it could have been far worse.
 - d. Mike highlighted the fact that this year’s conference was not cancelled by us, but instead by force majeure.
 - i. The patience showed by the Board saved the region considerable money.
 - ii. The Board initially walked away from the contract with Albany after force majeure cancelled the 2020 conference. Albany approached us with very favorable terms to hold the conference there in 2021 which will allow us to cancel by January 15th, 2021 without any financial penalty
 - e. Some institutions requested a refund later in the process after the report was written. These refunds will slightly alter the numbers presented in the report.
 - f. A very small adjustment of a few thousand dollars needed to be made due to numbers not adding up correctly.

- g. No longer using Helms Briscoe to help us negotiate contracts will allow us to negotiate savings from hotels in future years as they won't have to pay Helms Briscoe.
 - h. The amount of money spent on Chromebooks and how much it'll save on our future A/V costs was highlighted.
 - i. The report was accepted.
5. Albany 2020 Conference Report Irina Ellison and Kathryn MacDonald
- a. Irina reviewed what was planned for the 2020 conference.
 - i. Specific statistics are included in the annual report
 - b. Kat and Irina reviewed the timeline of events that lead to the 2020 conference being cancelled
 - i. The timeline can be found in the annual report.
6. Student Representatives' Report Taylor Bennett and Bryan Pimentel
- a. Bryan named and thanked the members of the Student Activities committee
 - i. This can be found in the annual report
 - b. Bryan highlighted the benefits of serving as a student representative.
 - c. Bryan was congratulated on his recent graduation.
 - d. Kat thanked Bryan and Taylor for their contributions.
7. Faculty Representatives' Report Linda Kobylarz and AnnMarie DelliPizzi
- a. AnnMarie reviewed the new application for Minority Scholarships
 - i. This year's award included \$50 cash for the first time to help defray cost of attendance
 - ii. 16 students applied and 16 were awarded it.
 - 1. Due to the cancellation of the conference the awards were not paid out.
 - 2. Any student who was given the award this year is eligible for it next year.
 - b. Linda reviewed Partners in the Park scholarships
 - i. As no PitP were held no scholarships were awarded.
 - c. AnnMarie reviewed what was planned for Consultant's Corner
 - i. This information can be found in the annual report.

Unfinished Business

8. Voting on Amendments to Constitution Kathryn MacDonald
- a. Kat reviewed that only institutions that are current on their dues will receive a link to vote on the following constitution amendments
 - i. The following amendments were discussed at previous meetings and are not up for discussion today.
 - 1. Dues Increase from \$100 to \$200
 - 2. Change in name/revising duties for Webmaster
 - 3. Codification of the Immediate Past President position
9. Strategic Plan Kathryn MacDonald
- a. Kat displayed the names of the people who have pledged to serve on the Strategic Plan committee
 - i. These names are available in the annual report
 - b. Kat asked for additional members to serve.

10. NRHC Journal – *Illuminate*

Kathryn MacDonald

- a. Kat displayed the *Illuminate* website and reviewed what is available online.

11. Updated Member Proposal

Ross Wheeler, Queens College (CUNY)

- a. Ross reviewed the updates he has made to his proposal and his rationale behind it.
 - i. Ross spoke about how stipends change the model of the organization from a volunteer model to a paid model and the fact that NRHC should be committed to shared governance which would strengthen the organization.
 - ii. The Board has issued a written statement addressing aspects of the proposal which Ross responded to and why it believes the proposal would hamper the Board's ability to conduct the region's business. This statement is available in the annual report.
 - 1. Ross explained why he believes the proposal would not hamper the Board's ability to run the organization. Ross highlighted that organizations regularly sign contracts for conferences years in advance so the delay in the Board's ability to spend money would not hinder it.
 - 2. Ross stated his belief that the purchase of computers for use by the region does not provide the benefit the Board believes it does
 - a. He stated that several hotels force organizations to use their AV
 - b. Additionally, in previous years members institutions loan computers for use.
 - 3. Ross addressed the Board's concern that the proposal would supersede our bylaws and he agreed that it would.
 - iii. The motioned was approved to be discussed.
 - 1. Mike spoke to how he believes the proposal seeks to manage the board and suggested that Ross might want to run for a position on the Board.
 - a. Ross spoke to his long history of serving the NRHC and his concern of how much of the NRHC budget is spent on stipends.
 - 2. Chris suggested that if the main issue is on stipends that there should be a proposal that speaks specifically to stipends and not general spending.
 - 3. Chris also spoke how we don't sign conference contracts years in advance the way other organizations do.
 - 4. Margaret Anne Roman spoke to her concern about how the Board awarded themselves stipends without first consulting with the membership which was always the process in the past.
 - 5. Linda asked Ross for what the updated language was for his proposal.
 - a. Linda highlighted how the language of the proposal would make it difficult for her to receive reimbursement for significant expenditures related to attending NRHC conferences and planning sessions.
 - i. Ross stated the language Linda read was the old proposal and read the language for the updated proposal to address this concern.
 - 6. Kat stated her support for a proposal that directly addresses stipends.
 - 7. Several comments were made in the chat that supported another scheduled meeting to discuss this while others asked to move to a vote

because the same arguments have been made for several meetings in a row.

- a. Linda recommended another meeting to discuss this proposal.
 - i. Ross responded by stating that this should be sent out by ballot to membership and that further discussion or changes to the proposal are not needed.
- b. Kat stated that our bylaws called for a vote on accepting the changed language of the proposal. If the language is accepted, the proposal would then be voted upon after the next Business Meeting in the Fall.
 - i. Ross asked for clarification on what was being voted on to which Kat stated it was accepting the language of the proposal.
 1. Ross agreed with the clarification.
 - ii. An initial vote took place using the “Raised Hands” function in Zoom in addition to posting “Yays” and “Nays” in the chat.
 1. There was confusion concerning what people were voting on and what the results of the vote was.
 - iii. Due to confusion as to the results of the vote, Rich suggested using only the chat feature to post people’s votes.
 1. Nays outnumbered the Yays.
 - a. It was declared that the updated language was not accepted.
 - b. Kat said Ross can modify the language further and re-submit if interested.
 - c. Kat stated that she believes she was following proper procedure and checked with Linda who said she believes we are following what the constitution states.
- c. Due to prior commitments both Kat and Mike had to leave the meeting. Kat turned the meeting over to Irina.

12. Spring 2020 NRHC Board Elections –

Irina Ellison

- a. Irina reviewed the positions up for a vote this year. She directed members to the annual report to read more about each position.
 - i. Faculty Representative (1)
 - ii. Vice President
 - iii. Student Representatives (2)

New Business

13. Planning for 2021 Conference

Chris Brittain and Irina Ellison

- a. Chris reviewed the fact that we are planning for both an in-person and virtual conference in 2021.
 - i. We will have a committee to ensure that the conference will be held as safely as possible.
- b. Chris reviewed the updated timeline that has been moved up so that we’d have a better sense of numbers so we can make a decision as to the viability of the conference before the January deadline to cancel without penalty.

14. Future Conference Sites

Michael Tasto, Chris Brittain and
Kathryn MacDonald

- a. Philadelphia was intended to be the 2021 conference but no contract was signed.
 - i. We intend to go to Philadelphia in 2022.
 - ii. Pittsburgh, Niagara Falls, and Connecticut are potential sites for future conferences.
- b. Christian Rubio asked whether we can move the timeline forward in terms of making a final decision for the 2021 conference. He suggested we take a survey of the membership in advance of the Fall.
 - i. Chris stated that we do plan on doing that.
 - ii. Chris also stated that by planning for both an in-person and virtual conference we'll be able to shift as needed.

15. NRHC Member Involvement

Kathryn MacDonald

- a. Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - i. Irina directed people to read the Annual report for more information on the Diversity and Inclusion committee
- b. Other Committees
 - i. Similarly to the above, Irina encouraged members to become involved in additional committees and directed people to read the annual report for more information.

Irina stated that since the meeting is being recorded and the chat will be recorded that we'll have to review whether the vote followed proper procedure.

A motion to end the meeting was approved. The meeting ended at 12:26pm.