

**NRHC Business Meeting @ National Collegiate Honors Council Conference**

**Minutes**

Dallas, Texas  
Saturday, November 5, 2022  
10 a.m.

**Establish Quorum**

*Welcome and Call to Order Darryl Peterkin*

* The meeting began at 10:01 a.m.
* Darryl Peterkin welcomed everyone to our fall business meeting.
* The other executive board members introduced themselves:
  + Marcella MCoy-Deh, President Elect
  + Zachary Aidala, Vice President
  + Kat MacDonald, Executive Secretary
  + Mike Tasto, Executive Treasurer
  + Tanya Radford, Web Coordinator
* Kat acknowledged the board members who could not come to Dallas: Amy McMillian & Gwen Kay (Faculty Reps); Angela Steiber, Derek Stuart, and Natalea Hillen (Student Reps); and Chris Brittain (Immediate Past President).

Approval of Spring 2022 Business Meeting Minutes Kathryn MacDonald

* Linda Kobylarz moved to approve the minutes.
* Irina Ellison seconded the motion.
* All present approved the minutes; no rejections; no abstentions.

**Reports of Officers and Board Members**

*President’s Report Darryl Peterkin*

* Darryl gave a brief overview of our 2022 event in Philadelphia, noting that we had a healthy registration rate, wonderful speakers (Conrad Benner – CAT; Marybeth Gasman – Keynote; Heather Thompson – Author Talk).
* The theme of the conference – A More Perfect Union – was an exploration of restoring and renewing community.
* Darryl noted that our 2023 conference will be in Pittsburgh, PA from March 30 to April 2 and the CFP is open and the proposal deadline is currently Monday, November 14.

*Executive Treasurer’s Report Michael Tasto*

* Mike said our bank account is healthy, floating around $150K.
* The reason it has not increased is because of our rollover balances from 2020 – some institutions still have money as credit with NRHC – please inquire with NRHC if you think you may have a credit to apply to your expenses for 2023 conference.
* Philadelphia was just barely profitable at about $5K – break-even point basically.
* We are hoping to see our pre-pandemic levels of 500 registrants in Pittsburgh so our conference would be profitable since there is opportunity to turn a profit in Pittsburgh.
* This year’s conference registration is still $325 and will continue at that rate for 2024; The hotel rate per night in Pittsburgh is $199.
* As we plan ahead and look to negotiate contracts for 2024, we expect that food and beverage costs might be higher.
* Our institutional dues are now $200 per institution. There are only a handful of schools that have not paid their dues even though they registered for the conference and participated.
* We have not been able to start investing our money as we had hoped, but hopefully we can begin to do this after the 2023 conference year to fund more scholarships and opportunities for members in the regions.
* Darryl thanked Mike for all his hard work in managing our finances.
* Mike asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report:
  + Linda Kobylarz motioned.
  + Andrew Martino seconded the motion.
  + All those present approved to accept the Treasurer’s Report with no rejections or abstentions.

*2022 Conference Report Darryl Peterkin*

* Darryl reviewed the numbers of the 2022 Conference.
  + 317 Proposals with 100% acceptance rate and the conference had 415 registrants; however, some did not come to the conference.

*Student Representatives Report Zachary Aidala*

* Zachary Aidala gave the report on behalf of the Student Representatives who were unable to attend the conference.
* The students have been involved in the board since the Summer Planning Meeting.
* Zak encouraged those in attendance to have their students follow NRHC on social media; the Student Representatives are running the social media channels.
* He also mentioned active recruitment for the Student Activities Committee.
* The students will continue to host Decompression Chambers.
* Darryl mentioned that any pictures taken back during NRHC and/or NCHC to please share them with us so we can post them.

*Faculty Representatives Report Marcella McCoy-Deh*

* Marcella McCoy-Deh gave this report on behalf of the Faculty Representatives.
* Honors Decompression Chambers – there will be a virtual one in November of this year (benefits of NRHC) and one prior to the annual conference.
* Regarding the conference, the faculty reps will be planning the Big Picture Discussion (Thursday night) and the Consultants’ Corner (Saturday daytime).
* Topics for Big Picture being considered include: Promoting citizenship/creating community in honors; Building and promoting student resiliency; How honors directors have navigated dealing with underprepared students/changing standards in honors.
* Consultants’ Corner potential topics include: Beginning in Honors; Increasing Honors Resiliency and Intrinsic Motivation; Value of Honors; Engaging Students; Budget; Retention
* The faculty reps are eager to solicit feedback and seek volunteers to help lead Consultants’ Corner.
* Peer Mentorship Program – the Faculty Representatives will also continue Darryl’s attempt to identify and connect Honors “experts” as peer mentors to Honors “newbies” by having an Honors Peer mentoring meeting. Time TBD!
* No suggestions came from the floor on topics during the meeting.

*Report on NRHC Journal – Illuminate Kathryn MacDonald*

* Kat gave a report on *Illuminate*. Volume 4 was officially released on Tuesday of this week, prior to NRHC.
* There were 32 pieces published as part of this edition.
* The call for 2023 is now open; it will continue to be tied to the annual conference theme; however, journal submissions do not need to be related to the conference theme.
* Kat thanked and acknowledged all of the Editorial Board members of this year – serving the journal is completely voluntary and it cannot be sustained without these individuals’ assistance.
* There will be work on the sustainability of the journal in terms of finding more leaders and permanent helpers outside of Kat. Posting and bringing the journal over the finish line is a very time-consuming and challenging endeavor year to year.
* As we move into 2023 submissions and work, students will be held accountable for following the guidelines set forth by the journal. Submissions will be kicked back to students should pieces not adhere to the guidelines. A new editorial guidebook will be created this year to help further this process.
* A call for more creative work was made – and Kat also participated in a panel this weekend at NCHC with *UReCA* and *Scibendi*—other honors undergraduate publications. Recorded and video creative work will be added to the call for *Illuminate*’s 5th volume. Further, Kat will continue to work with the regions to create better connectivity and relationships between all these fabulous publications.
* Linda Kobylarz thanked Kat for her work since she has spearheaded *Illumination* since its inception in 2019.

**New Business**

*Spring 2022 NRHC Board Elections Kathryn MacDonald*

* Kat MacDonald reviewed the open positions that will be up for election at the end of the academic year: Vice President (1); Faculty Representative (1); Student Representative (2); Executive Secretary (1); Web Coordinator (1).
* Kat noted that if our current Web Coordinator, Tanya Radford, wishes to remain in the post, the term will be for two more years (this would be the first of the three year term). She thanked Tanya for stepping into this role this year! She has done a wonderful job working with our vendor to update the Call for Proposal system and more.
* Call for Nominations:
  + Linda Kobylarz nominated Caitlin Grant, Post University for Faculty Representative
  + Darryl Peterkin nominated Evelyn Spratt, Notre Dame University of Maryland for Faculty Representative
* Several students who attended the meeting who are also running for NCHC Board of Directors have interest in running for NRHC, but held their nominations. It was suggested they consider joining the Student Activities Committee.
* Darryl commented on the collegial atmosphere of the board and Zak mentioned it is a very development-oriented board.

*Theme & Planning for #NRHC2023 Darryl Peterkin & Marcella McCoy-Deh*

* The theme is *Building Resilience from Tragedy—Understanding Hate, Violence, Loss, and Reconciliation.* The conference theme is published on our website along with all presentation types and strands.
* The CFP is slated to close on Monday, November 14.
* There is a Proposal Prep Session on Monday, November 7 – an email reminder will go out on Monday morning with the Zoom link and details.
* Marcella encouraged directors to mentor and encourage their students to participate and propose.
* The proposals do not have to tie to the conference theme as our conference is meant to
* The site is Pittsburgh, PA from March 30 – April 2.
* Linda Kobylarz asked if the proposal deadline will be extended – there will likely be an extension but the Executive Board will be voting on an official extension next week and will let people know before November 14.
* Marcella indicated that our conference cover art/artwork is out – and the student artist is from Thomas Jefferson University.
* Marcella mentioned our confirmed speakers:
  + Tom Morton, University of Pittsburgh – CAT Speaker – he will speak at the opening of CAT, facilitate a CAT strand – this will be a very exciting speaker and CAT opportunity
  + Tony Norman, Journalist and Blogger – he is enthusiastic and wants to attend the conference.
  + We do not have a confirmed Author Talk – the agent we are working with recommended Brian Broome. Susan Dinan thinks that he would make a fantastic speaker for our conference. He is located in Pittsburgh.
* Marcella recognized our Local Hosts:
  + Community College of Allegheny County
  + Point Park University
  + University of Pittsburgh
  + We can continue to add folks to the Local Host Committee

*NRHC Member Involvement Darryl Peterkin & Marcella McCoy-Deh*

* We have several committees:
  + Diversity and Inclusion Committee
  + Strategic Planning Committee
  + *Illuminate* Editorial Board
  + Peer Mentorship Program
* Please get in touch with us if you would like to serve on any committee!
* Marcella mentioned that these committees are also excellent professional development opportunities.

*Awards and Contests Kathryn MacDonald*

* Kat reviewed all of the upcoming awards and contests, noting that our website needs to be updated – the fall has been very busy, so we are behind in this. Follow up emails and announcements will be made when the dates and forms are current.
* Awards with monetary value:
  + Minority Scholarships – award up to 10 for students who have accepted proposals to NRHC 2023; the scholarship pays for the student’s conference registration and the student receives $50 cash
  + Partners in the Parks – students who attend PitP can apply for partial reimbursement of their expenses
* Other Awards:
  + Student of the Year Awards – 2 year and 4 year categories
  + Honors Professional of the Year Awards – Administrator, Faculty, and Staff categories
  + Publications Contest – Newsletter, Magazine, Journal categories

*Future Conference Sites Michael Tasto*

* Mike Tasto presented on this item and said Chris Brittain has been actively writing a Call for Proposals for future conference sites.
* Omni Providence has responded to our Call for Proposals but early negotiations indicate this may be a difficult site to work with.
* We are looking for other locations—but we need to find conference hotels that can fit 500-600 attendees which can limit our search.
* We typically do a site visit to further negotiate the room rates, food and beverage minimums, etc. Board members will do any eligible site visits in the late fall.
* As the board continues to negotiate these contracts, we will keep the membership informed.

*Other Business Open Forum*

* Virtual Conference Participation
  + Linda Kobylarz asked about virtual opportunities for the conference—she is concerned about the expense of attending in-person and for NRHC to be inclusive – Post has 1200 online honors program students who will never be able to come in person. The virtual conference year was wonderful for these students. Linda further mentioned that other conferences have used a model where there is a virtual mini conference preceding the in-person meeting. And there are some presentations that were prerecorded and available and others that were live and scheduled via virtual platforms.
  + Kat mentioned that the Virtual Option is listed on the NRHC website and we would be open to hosting a virtual conference day one week prior to the in-person conference. Then, major speaker engagements in Pittsburgh would be streamed for these individuals. The registration rate would also be $325 because we cannot offer a large virtual event when we are contractually obligated to fill a hotel block and meet food and beverage minimums at our in-person conference.
* Kat MacDonald asked those in attendance if they would be willing/interested in sending NRHC an Excel sheet with their honors student emails so NRHC Student News and Notes can be distributed directly to students from NRHC. Those in attendance seemed interested. A follow up call for this initiative will be in the next NRHC email.
* Andrew Martino took the floor--- there are two Place as Text for Faculty coming up:
  + Contested Narratives in Charleston, SC: Preservation, Progress, and Peoples (May 21-25 2023)
  + Bridging the Gaps in Pittsburgh, PA: Exploring the Cultural Geography of Pittsburgh (June 21-25 2023)

**Adjournment**

* Darryl called for a motion to adjourn the meeting:
  + Zachary Aidala motioned.
  + Irina Ellison seconded.
  + All present approved the motion; no rejections; no abstentions
* The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m.