

Minutes from the WRHC Business Meeting, Washington DC, 30 October 2009

1. 4:35pm, meeting called to order (Walker)
2. Emergency fire drill interrupts meeting, but WRHC members present at the meeting introduce themselves anyway.
3. Minutes from the last WRHC business meeting (4 March 09) approved by acclamation (motion put forth by Christy Fox and seconded by Diane Rawls).
4. Financial report given (Scott). Scott stated that the WRHC account currently holds 13,284.23 dollars, which is approximately 3000 dollars less than what the account held last year, due to the fact that the 2009 WRHC conference in Spokane, Washington did not make money. Libby Walker explained that her conference came within 600 dollars of breaking even last year, and that she was forced to make some very difficult decisions about whether to run the conference or cancel it. WRHC members expressed gratitude about the fact that the conference was so well run.
5. Update given about the 2010 conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming (Harris). A number of WRHC members stated that they had not yet received the call for proposals, so Scott will post the call for proposals on the website soon. Registration fees for this conference will be set at 150 dollars for students and 175 dollars for faculty. The fees were approved by acclamation (motion put forth by Ron Vaughn and seconded by Brad Stone).
6. Update given about the 2011 WRHC conference, to be held March 31-April 2 (Walker, in place of Marsha Bradley). Marsha Bradley (Univ. of Utah) will be the conference coordinator. She has supplied WRHC members with a “remember the date” postcard. The conference has lined up Eric Jorgenson from the University of Utah’s Brain Institute; he will be speaking on the human genome project and the power of collaboration. The conference theme is titled “constructing places of collaboration.” Alison Primoza volunteered information about the location of the 2011 conference--Park City, Utah—as having prime skiing during this time of year, and the location of the conference – the Marriott – as having nice amenities. The drive between Salt Lake City and Park City is 20 minutes.
7. The WRHC constitution revisions were addressed, one change at a time:
 - a. An amendment was proposed to the changes suggested for Article 5 of the Constitution and was approved. (Amendment stated by Christy Fox; motion made by Alison Primoza and seconded by Jennifer Lane). The emendation clarifies the Executive Secretary/Treasurer’s term of office as follows: “The Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected at an annual meeting for a three-year renewable term.” After the emendation was approved, the proposed changes suggested for Article 5 of the Constitution were approved.

- b. The changes suggested for Section 1 of Article 2 of the Constitution were approved (motion made by Leslie Donovan, seconded by Diane Rawls).
- c. Discussion about Section 3 or Article 2 of the By-Laws included concerns that not just the WRHC conference surplus but also its deficits should be transferred to the WRHC. This concern led to other concerns that there needed to be an upper limit imposed on any transferred deficits, namely a 5000 dollar upper limit. This comment led to more concerns that such an upper limit would require that conference coordinators then negotiate any remaining deficits with their own host institutions, a negotiation that might not always be possible given certain universities' budget concerns. (Participants in discussion, among others: James McKusick, Jennifer Lane, Ginny Atkinson, Alison Primoza, Rosalie Otero, Jefferey Taylor, Anne Scott, Libby Walker, Brad Stone, and Rick Vaughn.)
- d. An amendment was proposed to the changes suggested for Section 3 of Article 2 of the By-Laws, namely that the word "coordinator" be changed to "vice president." The section now reads as follows: "Conference surplus revenues shall be transferred to the WRHC account as soon as all revenues have been collected and the bookkeeping for the conference completed. The WRHC will consider helping host institutions with conference costs by giving them a certain sum of money, to be both negotiated between the WRHC council and the vice president and designed to keep conference fees as low as possible.
- e. The New Section 9 of Article 2 of the By-Laws was approved after a friendly amendment was accepted by Scott. The friendly amendment states that the word "registration" be added between the words "conference" and "fees," so that it is clear that when the Section 9 is discussing fees, these are registration fees. (Amendment proposed by Leslie Donovan; motion made by Alison Primoza; seconded by Diane Rawls.)
- f. A motion was made to postpone discussion of the changes made to Section 3 of Article 4 of the By-Laws, since the WRHC meeting was nearing its conclusion and there was not enough time to discuss and vote to approve or amend these changes. The President's Council will take up this issue between now and the next business meeting and will report back to the WRHC members at that time. The motion passed. (Motion made by Rosalie Otero; seconded by Brian Stone.) Discussion about this Section 3 of Article 4 of the By-Laws focused on how much money should be specified for each student who is participating in an Honors Semester, and/or Partners in the Park, and/or in the NCHC as student board members. Jennifer Lane suggested that the amount to be devoted to these students be a percentage of the WRHC revenue; other WRHC members

disagreed, saying that such a percentage would be very difficult to determine and might have to change every year. Other WRHC members proposed an upper limit to be imposed on funds available to help these particular students. Rick Vaughn tried to re-word the changes to this section such that 2 students total, from all such programs, would be helped by the WRHC but no more (“...the WRHC may provide stipends for up to 2 students annually, to help defer costs for the students’ participation in an NCHC-sponsored program, such as....”). In the end, the WRHC members were not able to come to an agreement about how this section of the Constitution should be worded and how a motion might read. Therefore, discussion on this topic was postponed.

- g. A motion to approve the new Article 5 of the By-Laws, which concerns itself with the description of the nature and function of the new President’s Council, passed following friendly emendation proposals that were accepted by Scott. Section 1 of this new Article 5 of the By-Laws will now read as follows: “A President’s Council will consist of no more than 5 WRHC members. The members will include the current WRHC President, the current WRHC Vice President, the former WRHC President, the current WRHC Executive Secretary/Treasurer, and 1 member to be appointed at large.” Sections 2 and 3 of this new Article 5 of the By-Laws were also approved (Motion made by Alison Primoza.)

- 8. Walker put out a request for someone to host the 2012 conference.
- 9. Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.