

Western Regional Honors Council Business Meeting
Friday, October 14th, 2016
Minutes

President's Council Present: Richard Cardullo, UCR (President), Ken Mulliken, SOU (Vice President), Daniel Villanueva, UNR (Secretary/Treasurer). Absent: Anne Scott (Past President), Susan Jacobsen (At Large)

Representatives from 32 WRHC member institutions attended; a quorum to conduct business therefore existed.

1. Call to order; Approval of April 2016 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by President *Cardullo*. A motion to approve the minutes from the April 2016 meeting was made by *Mark Clark*, Oregon Tech. Seconded by Vice President *Mulliken*. Approved with one abstention.

2. President's Report

Cardullo reported that WRHC 2016 was successfully held April 8-10 2016 at UC Riverside. There were 312 registered attendees, 150 presenters, and a 75% acceptance rate for submissions. Results of an electronic survey distributed to attendees after the conference indicated respondents thought the conference was successful. Final conference budget figures will be presented to the President's Council at a later time, but the conference broke even after an initial deficit of \$8K was predicted. A total of \$13K in sponsorships was received, with \$10K of that coming from the UCR VP of Undergraduate Education.

3. WRHC Secretariat Transition; WRHC Budget Report

Secretary/Treasurer *Villanueva* outlined the now-complete administrative transition of the WRHC Secretariat from Northern AZ University to the University of Nevada, Reno. Invoices to current member institutions for \$75 will go out in December 2016 or January 2017, but institutions may need to establish new vendor relationships with UNR. As per prior practice at NAU, UNR also cannot accept credit cards as form of payment. He also reminded members that his term will expire in November 2018 at the NCHC conference, as he is filling out the remainder of *Scott's* 3-year term. He also encouraged members to view the new WRHC website hosted by UNR Honors, and to suggest any edits to it that might be useful.

The budget as of October 2016 was presented to members for approval. *Scott* transferred a final financial report to UNR in June 2016 and sent a final check to UNR for \$63,751.31. Although no deductions have yet been processed, *Villanueva* noted several payments are pending, including the annual Scribendi subsidy, travel reimbursements for attendance at WRHC and NCHC, a refundable conference subsidy for the organizers of WRHC 2017, and any student or staff funding requests that may come in by April 2017. A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by *Mulliken*. Seconded by *Lourdes Maldonado*, UNR. Approved unanimously.

4. Conference Announcements and Updates:

- a. WRHC 2017: *Mulliken* introduced his staff and student conference planners and shared the following details: OR Governor Kate Brown may be the keynote speaker, particularly appropriate since the conference theme is "Leadership." The conference website will go live on or around October 24th. Student Coordinator *Micaela Saling* unveiled the complete conference theme: "The Journey to Leadership." Save the date mails go out October 24th, and there are Facebook and Twitter pages as well. Student Coordinator *Bri Morgan* announced the submission deadline of January 15th, with a 2-week turnaround for acceptance notification. Proposals not approved in the first round can be either edited and resubmitted or presented as posters. The conference is now expected to be held off campus. Student Coordinator *Lauren Aldana* noted that an Oregon Shakespeare Festival performance of *Julius Caesar* is held the first night of the conference, and participants can attend for an additional fee. An art installation is scheduled as part of the Scribendi reception. *Riley Evetts* put forward the official request for approval of conference registration fees, which are unchanged from last year: \$160/180 early bird for students/staff respectively, increasing by \$20 each after February 17th.
- b. WRHC 2018: *Ashley Cosgrove* reported the tentative date for WRHC 2018 is April 13-15. Chapman student interns for WRHC 2017 have already been chosen, and a faculty review panel is forming.
- c. WRHC 2019 (Montana State University): No representative was present. The President's Council will contact Dr. Lee to ensure MSU is still committed to hosting WRHC 2019.

5. Action Items

- a. WRHC 2017 registration fees. *Mulliken* proposed setting WRHC registration fees as stated above by *Evetts*: Early Bird = \$160 student, \$180 faculty from October 24, 2016 – Feb 17, 2017, thereafter \$180 for students and \$200 for faculty. *Aaron Bushong*, UCR, motioned to approve these fees, *Mulliken* seconded. The fees were approved with one abstention.

- b. WRHC by-law amendments. After a short discussion, a motion was made by *Clark* to approve amendments to the WRHC By-Laws relating to who is eligible to serve on the President's Council, and creating a process to fill any President's Council vacancies prior to an officer's regular term expiration date. *Mulliken* seconded. The amendments were approved unanimously and were posted on the WRHC website.
- c. WRHC 2020. *Jayci Bash*, Southern Utah University, offered the SUU Honors Program as the host. SUU is in Cedar City, UT, somewhat rurally located, meaning flying to Las Vegas or St. George is recommended. There may be some way to include the Utah Shakespeare Festival infrastructure during the conference, and a new facility should be built in time to hold the Scribendi reception on campus. No other sites were nominated from the floor. *Mulliken* made a motion to select SUU Honors as the host institution in 2020, seconded by *Beth Wightman*, CSU Northridge. SUU was unanimously approved to host WRHC 2020.

6. Discussion Items

- a. *Scribendi* expansion. *Amaris Ketcham*, University of New Mexico, reported that expanding Scribendi to accept submissions from all NCHC regions is going well, though final figures will not be presented until WRHC 2017. The first Scribendi intern, Allie Sipe from SOU, is enjoying her time as a "exchange student" at UNM this semester. There may be an option for her to remain in spring semester as well via independent study.
- b. News and Announcements:
 - i. *Richard Badenhausen*, Westminster College, spoke to encourage more regional participation in NCHC activities. For example, there has not been an NCHC President from WRHC since 2002 (Rosalie Otero.) He is running for NCHC Vice President and would appreciate members' support. If elected, he would welcome communication of any kind from WRHC members as to how they can be more involved in NCHC activities, and to provide feedback on issues of interest.
 - ii. A representative from the Honors semesters committee publicized the existence of several relevant seminars, particularly the Birmingham Faculty Institute and the Yellowstone Border Towns Institute.
 - iii. Regional Honors institution reports: *Mulliken*, *Badenhausen*, *Bash*, *Sukhetu Bhavsar*, Cal Poly Pomona, and *Christopher Syrnyk*, Oregon Tech, shared diverse news including updates from the NCHC Publications Committee and Partners in the Parks, in an effort to solicit more interest in participating from WRHC member institutions.

Christina Denison, Central Washington University, noted the upcoming "Honors in Washington" conference in December, where all Honors programs in Washington state discuss(ed) diverse issues pertinent to Honors education. A one-day conference will be held for Honors students in Washington on April 21st (after WRHC).

Daniel Bubb, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, announced that, in conjunction with the upcoming Presidential debate at UNLV on October 19th, Honors College students would be participating in focus groups and analyzing the debate afterward with coverage by NPR and MTV News. A link may be provided for wider dissemination.

Kelsey Bennett, Western State Colorado University, announced she is the recipient of a two-year Enduring Questions grant from the NEH to support the development and teaching of a new undergraduate seminar, designed primarily for Honors students, to explore the purpose of art. She will be glad to share her experiences at future WRHC events.

Kim Andersen, Washington State University, reminded all that the WSU-Honors produced *Palouse Review* is accepting both literary works and traditional research papers, and directed interested parties to a flyer distributed at the meeting and conference.

Leslie Donovan, University of New Mexico, announced that UNM will be advertising the position of Dean of their Honors College soon. No job ad exists yet but when it is created, WRHC will send it out to our members and post on our website.

Villanueva reminded members that funding for students and staff to participate in NCHC seminars is available from WRHC conference proceeds, and an application link is on the WRHC website.

- 7. Adjournment. President *Cardullo* adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM (motion by *Maldonado*, seconded by *Mulliken*, accepted unanimously.) He expressed special thanks to the members both for supporting their Honors students generally, and specifically encouraging them to come to NCHC and WRHC conferences.