

Western Regional Honors Council Business Meeting
Southern Oregon University
April 9, 2017

MINUTES

President's Council Present: *Richard Cardullo* (UCR, via video call), *Ken Mulliken* (SOU), *Daniel Villanueva* (UNR).

Member institutions present: 12. A quorum therefore existed to conduct business.

Meeting called to order at 7:42 AM by President *Cardullo*.

Approval of minutes - copies were provided. Motion to approve: *Linda Diaz*, Mount San Antonio College; *Ken Mulliken*, Southern Oregon University, seconded. Approved unanimously.

Villanueva - Budget report

Became Treasurer last year, part of the year was spent organizing records and confirming membership, then getting renewal invoices out. Also clarifying who had and had not paid in the past. Oct 2016: \$63,000 in account. To that were added \$300 in dues after last year's conference. \$7,050 currently deposited (Oct -April) and more is still to be deposited.

Expenses: Wages + fringe for *Margaret Duvall*, WRHC Assistant. Repayment of poster award to Nicole Lopez (UC Riverside, WRHC 2016). Dr. Villanueva travel costs to NCHC and WRHC. Subsidized Scribendi magazine and category winners \$8500. Outgoing President plaque. Currently 59,872.08. Currently over our estimate of \$56,000 from October 2016. Expected revenue and expenses until next conference: \$1800 in membership dues. Approx. \$10,000 WRHC 2017 conference surplus. \$1610, intern subsidies to Chapman U. Poster awards for WRHC 2017 are 600. \$3,000 faculty and student stipends set aside last year for NCHC or regional seminar attendance, but no one has yet applied for these.

Mulliken - WRHC website has the application instructions? --- *Villanueva* --- Yes

Other pre-budgeted costs include travel and lodging for Secretary/Treasurer at NCHC and WRHC next year, and next semester's student assistant wages. Due to complaints about paying for WRHC dues by check, *Villanueva* is looking into cost of paying membership dues by credit card. It is in the budget as \$600 as a potential for next year.

Currently our WRHC website is linked to the UNR webpage. This is free, but less professional and has fewer capabilities. To move to another host such as WordPress, it would cost \$150. These changes are not to be voted on now, but more information and specific cost estimates will be distributed within the year to members.

Mulliken moved to approve the budget as presented, *Kim Andersen* seconded. Budget approved unanimously.

WRHC 2016 announcements --- *Cardullo*.

2016 conference was very well attended, but was very expensive because it could not be held at the university itself. The survey results were very positive. There was a conference deficit but all of it was absorbed by the UCR office of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Instruction. The largest expenditure was the meeting room rentals - overestimating the guaranteed number of rooms for the hotels. In the future, be careful in estimating the number of hotel rooms and pre-guaranteed agreements. Final budget was presented to the membership and will be archived.

WRHC 2017 --- *Mulliken*.

Riley Evetts reported that the WRHC 2017 budget is 99% finalized, with less than \$500 in flux expenses. A majority of registrations were early bird. Sponsors included sponsored the conference. The keynote speaker donated her honorarium back to the conference. Expenses - Rooms were donated in kind, saved \$7600 because it was hosted on campus. Food was a large part of the budget. Registration costs of items in the goodie bags. Program was printed on campus which also saved money. Rented vans from campus and from a partnership dealership. Allowed for hotels to be canceled, so owe nothing to the conference hotel. Current estimated surplus of \$9,000, still will be adjusted prior to final report.

Cardullo - What was the attendance? *Liesa Morrow-Bratcher* --- 225 registered from 44 institutions.

Mulliken thanked the interns and staff, including *Bratcher* and *Prakash Chenjeri*, for their hard work on the logistical details. *Mulliken* was himself thanked by his staff and all in attendance for being “the glue” that held the entire operation together.

Cardullo also thanked the interns, and everyone at SOU, for exceeding expectations. He looks forward to see this same success at Chapman, and would like to share the details of the WRHC intern program at an NCHC conference in the future.

WRHC 2018 --- *Carmichael Peters*

Chapman University will host, theme is “An Age of Uncertainty.” April 13th-15th, 2018. Angela Davis is projected keynote speaker. Hotels have been reserved, and organizers can cancel rooms up to a week before at no cost. Four Chapman interns currently present at SOU, and on-campus meeting rooms currently selected. The 2018 website is up and running with things to do in the area. More information will be posted closer to the day of the event. Set up hotel shuttles to the university. Cost of bringing in Angela Davis might cause conference to run a deficit, but will be covered by Chapman sources.

WRHC 2019 --- *Ben Leubner, Logan Schultz*

Montana State University will host, projected dates are March 29th-30th, 2019. MSU has had an Honors Program since 1965, and has been an Honors College since 2013. There are currently 1,400 students in the MSU Honors College. In the past nine years we have produced three Rhodes Scholars, three Truman Scholars, 20 Goldwater Scholars, and numerous other winners of major scholarships and awards. We are particularly proud of our two-semester freshmen seminar, Texts & Critics; our Hike-and-Read and Ski-and-Read programs; our Freshman Research Symposium; and our Great Expeditions series of study abroad seminars. MSU-Bozeman is currently the fastest growing university in Montana. It is the University of the Greater Yellowstone Area; the next-door neighbor to the Museum of the Rockies; home to the newly opened Ivan Doig archive; and features innumerable opportunities for first-class outdoor recreational activity, most notably skiing and fly-fishing. By the spring of 2019, a brand new \$75 million “green” facility housing the college will have just opened, featuring, among other things, the largest array of solar panels in the state.

Cardullo and *Diaz* noted the Honors Transfer Council of California’s annual conference at UC Irvine is also typically held at the end of March.

WRHC 2020 --- *Mulliken for Jayci Bash*

Southern Utah University will host, tentatively, April 10th-12th, 2020. SUU has capacity to host approximately 300 registrants, about 140 presentations and at least 80 posters. Those numbers are still very flexible based on new facilities being built on campus in the next couple of years. We will continue to learn from the upcoming conferences and become more active in the planning as our time grows near.

On another note, Partners in the Parks is hosting an Honors Director's Retreat in Bryce Canyon National Park this July. Dr. Johnny MacLean (an SUU Geology Faculty member and Honors contributor) and myself are leading the project. We would love the opportunity to help folks from the Western Region learn more about Partners in the Parks and what their students can expect on one of our many summer offerings. To learn more, please visit nchchonors.org and search for Partners in the Parks.

Future Conferences: *Daniel Bubb* from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Honors College expressed interest in hosting WRHC 2021, but his delegation had to leave early and could not attend the meeting. *Andersen* noted that Washington State University would also be interested in hosting. *Villanueva* will coordinate communication between the two universities to present concrete proposals at NCHC in November. *Cardullo* was excited WRHC is potentially planning 5 years in advance for conferences now.

Amendment to WRHC Constitution.

Villanueva received a request last year from an individual to become a member of WRHC. The President’s Council agreed we needed to clarify who can be a member, since our criteria were loosely defined up until now. It was proposed to amend Article 3 of our Constitution to state that only academic units related to Honors education within accredited institutions of higher learning in the 13 state Western Region can be members, subject to affirmative President’s council vote.

Mulliken moved to approve, *Cardullo* seconded. No discussion. The amended text was unanimously approved and will be posted on the WRHC website soonest.

Margaret Duvall presented an overview of current membership trends.

In 2016, we had 149 institutions listed as members. We added 94 potential members to our solicitation list. Of our solicitation list, 49% responded positively and initiated or renewed membership. Income from membership fees was 2016 was \$9300, which equates to 124 members. This year so far it's \$8925, which equates to 119 members. Two more institutions have said they will send checks. Thus, 121 total members at present, 119 paid. From 2016, we have lost 30 members listed, approx. 20%. (149 to 119). However, paid members only represent a loss of approx. 2% (124 to 121)

3 institutions were removed due to specific request: Yavapai College, Modesto Junior College, Loyola Marymount University. It is suspected that some of the members that were listed in 2016 had not actually renewed membership.

Mulliken - Was contact done solely through email? *Duvall* - No. First 3 attempts were email, then a phone call. Phone calls mostly resulted in requests for removal from the list.

Cardullo - What are thoughts on our marketing activities? *Villanueva* - New members or change in directorships frequently caused us to get questions about what the benefits of membership were. Most responded positively, unless they weren't actively involving students in Honors life outside of taking classes, or were already active members of the California Honors organization or NCHC alone. A marketing campaign is recommended since *Duvall* created a list of all institutions with known Honors Programs in the WRHC region. We only have about half of these as members currently.

Cardullo - Why isn't there better participation through CA Honors programs? Why weren't some members involved? Suggests more funding for students. *Diaz* concurs: Her institution participates in regional associations which do not spend as much money on goodie bags or conference materials, but does give out \$14000 in scholarships yearly. Recommends WRHC give out more scholarships.

At-Large Board member selection

Susan Jacobsen expressed a desire to step down as At-Large WRHC President's Council member last November. Nominations for new At-Large member were solicited via e-mail for discussion at business meeting. *Kim Andersen* (Washington State University) was the sole nominee and briefly discussed his candidacy. He is a Clinical Professor in the WSU Honors College (Danish and Scandinavian literature background, experience in study abroad, scholar exchange, and current poetry editor of *Palouse Review*.)

Villanueva opened the floor to additional nominations. None were forthcoming, so *Andersen* was acclaimed by the members present as the new At-Large Member on the WRHC President's Council. *Mulliken* and *Cardullo* will take care of the formalities of naming him to the position as per by-laws.

Cardullo - WRHC has a modest but 'glowing' budget, thus he proposes a subcommittee to determine how to grow our funds. Registration costs for students might be revisited. What is going to make us stable financially in the future, and how can we become more solvent and stable? The preference should be to support students more in the future at the regional level.

Scribendi Updates --- *Amaris Ketcham*

Ketcham thanked the 2016-17 Scribendi editors (*Alexandra Magel*, Editor in Chief; *Melissa Krukar*, Managing Editor), then introduced the 2017-18 editors: *Josh Rysanek*, Editor in Chief; *Tessa Chrisman*, Managing Editor; and *Paul Talley*, Digital Editor.

Scribendi had a total of 6 non-WRHC schools published, and 65 total submissions from outside WRHC. The published schools were: Kent State University at Stark- North Canton, Ohio; Grand Valley State University- Allendale, MI; University of Florida- Gainesville, FL; American University- Washington, DC; Maryville University- St. Louis, MO; and William Patterson University-Wayne, NJ. Here is a listing of each region's number of total submissions and published works, respectively:

81% of total submissions came from WRHC, 33% from UNM

87% of published works came from WRHC, 29% from UNM

Allie Sipe from SOU joined *Scribendi* for the school year and took classes at UNM. Next year, there is potentially another student from SOU coming for first semester and a University of Idaho student visiting for the whole year.

Mulliken - How was *Scribendi* advertised to university and students? *Ketcham* - Emails were sent to all in the NCHC, and people in charge, and advertised at NCHC. Won't be able to advertise there this year. They are targeting schools who have never submitted.

Mulliken – What is the submission deadline? ---- *Ketcham* Friday Oct 13th

Mulliken - What is the number of published from submissions? ----- *Ketcham* Great Plains: 7 submissions, 1 published. Mid-East: 19 submissions, 3 published. Northeast: 6 submissions, 1 published. Southern: 25 submissions, 1 published. Upper Midwest: 8 submissions, 0 published. Western: 272 submissions, 39 published. 54 total schools published.

News and announcements:

Brock Tessman, Davidson Honors College, University of Montana: In the process of hiring 2 post doctoral fellows, research and teaching interests must be interdisciplinary. These fellows can hire undergrads and have research funding. Finalizing selection now, very good amount of applicants. Ultimately 6 such fellows are envisioned.

Cardullo - Are post-docs funded with university funds? ---- *Tessman* - No, funds are entirely privately donated by a local family.

Mulliken suggested that as several WRHC institutions do not have extensive graduate programs, there should be informational opportunities for students at WRHC to explore transfers or other WRHC graduate programs. Potential graduate fair at future conferences would ease the transition from undergraduate to graduate for WRHC students.

Cardullo – Contacting grad schools with enough lead time would not be a problem. What would be the venue? Just a grad fair? Inviting to WRHC would be a great idea. Students would really benefit.

Introduction of 2017-2018 WRHC officers:

Ken Mulliken, SOU - President; *Carmichael Peters*, Chapman University- Vice President; *Daniel Villanueva*, Nevada System of Higher Education, Secretary/Treasurer; *Richard Cardullo*, UC Riverside, Immediate Past President, *Kim Andersen*, WSU, At-Large member

Villanueva thanked outgoing President *Cardullo* for his work in organizing WRHC 2016 and subsequent President's Council service over the past year. Thereafter, *Villanueva* announced he has accepted a new job at the Nevada System of Higher Education. The WRHC account and secretariat remain at the University of Nevada, Reno through the end of his term in 2018. He is willing to remain thereafter or work other candidates into the job over the next year.

Cardullo thanked *Villanueva* officially on behalf of the WRHC for his contributions of several years on the President's Council, particularly in the Secretary/Treasurer role. *Mulliken* then moved to adjourn meeting; *Peters* seconded.

Motion approved and meeting adjourned at 8:47 AM.