

Western Regional Honors Council Business Meeting  
Friday, November 10, 2017  
Westin Peachtree Atlanta

MINUTES

President's Council Present: *Carmichael Peters* (Chapman), *Richard Cardullo* (UCR), *Daniel Villanueva* (NSHE), *Kim Andersen* (WSU). Absent due to illness: *Ken Mulliken* (SOU).

Member institutions present: 32. A quorum therefore existed to conduct business.

Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM by *Prakash Chenjeri*, SOU, in place of *Mulliken* (illness). *Peters* delegated Chair duties to *Villanueva* in the absence of *Mulliken*. *Villanueva* delegated Chair duties to *Chenjeri* as proxy for *Mulliken*.

Agenda was suspended briefly to allow *Sarah Hitt* (Colorado School of Mines) to present on upcoming NCHC programs and faculty institutes open for participation, including programs in Barcelona, Belize, Boston, the Grand Canyon Semester and more. *Villanueva* underscored that \$3000 is available yearly for students/staff at WRHC member institutions to defray partial costs of attendance and participation at such NCHC-accredited programs.

President's Report: Presented by *Chenjeri*. Copies were provided online prior to meeting and at meeting itself. WRHC 2017 conference statistics were unchanged from the online version. *Chenjeri* stressed the surplus of nearly \$5,600.00. Organizers were able to create a modest surplus to support WRHC initiatives benefitting member institutions. Bullet points in *Mulliken's* President's Letter were also read aloud. Several are detailed below.

April 2017 business meeting Minutes: Copies were provided online prior to meeting and at meeting itself. Motion to approve: *Cardullo*, UCR. *Peters*, Chapman University, seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

November 2017 WRHC Financial Report: *Villanueva* distributed the Report, which shows a current balance of \$66,199.51. One member institution, Lane Community College, has dropped WRHC since its Honors Program was eliminated. No expenditures were made between April - October 2017, only income (4 member dues payments, and conference surplus.) Several expected expenditures at April 2017's meeting, such as student assistant wages, credit card processing fees, website fees, and student/faculty stipends were not booked because: WRHC did not employ a UNR student assistant after April, UNR will still require checks, not electronic payment, for 2018 dues, the new website has not gone live yet, and no stipends were requested, respectively. Other charges such as student intern payments and poster awards for WRHC 2017 were paid from WRHC funds, but from WRHC 2017 surplus funds. Also, *Villanueva's* WRHC travel costs came in significantly lower than budgeted for.

He further noted several expenditures in November which will reduce the current balance of \$66,199.51: 1) Annual Scribendi stipend (\$8500); 2) Outgoing President's plaque (\$92); and 3) WordPress website fees (\$99). In addition, UNR Honors administration has not yet processed a reimbursement from the WRHC account to the main UNR-Operating account, out of which funds *Villanueva's* WRHC 2017 travel was paid. Thus, \$548.64 is currently contributing to the WRHC balance positively, but the true balance is lower by that amount.

Motion to approve: *Cardullo*, UCR. *Peters*, Chapman University, seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Conference Announcements and Updates:

a. WRHC 2018 (Chapman University, *Peters*)

*Peters* reiterated the dates of the conference (April 13-15, 2018), and the theme "Age of Uncertainty." He stressed that there should be two main incentives for people to come, one being Disney of course, and the other being Angela Davis, the keynote speaker. Save-the-date cards were distributed and conference fees and early-bird deadlines were approved by the membership as per the next section.

b. WRHC 2019 (Montana State University, Ilse-Mari Lee)

*Lee* reminded members that WRHC 2019 will be at MSU in Bozeman, MT from March 29 - April 1, 2019. City-as-Text activities are planned which include the Museum of the Rockies, a dinosaur fossil

collection, and the American Computer Museum. The keynote speaker is scheduled to be award-winning documentary filmmaker John Heminway, who has received an honorary doctorate from MSU. Saturday, everyone is invited to ski or snowshoe in Yellowstone National Park!

c. WRHC 2020 (Southern Utah University, Jayci Bash)

*Bash* updated the members on WRHC 2020 planning: It will be held in April on the SUU campus, where a new museum will have opened by then ideal for the traditional *Scribendi* reception. A partnership with the annual Utah Shakespeare Festival housed at SUU is also being explored. Travel plans are best made by planning to fly into Las Vegas and driving to Cedar City, since the closest airport is only served by one airline.

#### Action Items

a. Discussion and vote: WRHC 2018 conference registration fees

A motion was entertained to set WRHC 2018 conference fees as follows: (unchanged since WRHC 2013): Prior to early-bird deadline of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018: \$160 student registration, \$180 faculty registration. February 16<sup>th</sup> onward: \$180 student registration, \$200 faculty registration. Motion to approve: *Peters*, Chapman University. *Chenjeri*, SOU, seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

b. Discussion and vote: WRHC 2021 conference site

*Andersen*, Washington State University, presented to the membership the candidacy of the WSU Honors College to host the 2021 Western Regional Honors Conference. After speaking with WSU Honors leadership and the WSU conference management team, who support the idea, approval was given to pursue hosting. WSU's Honors College is one of the oldest in the West (started as Program in 1960) and became an Honors College 15 years ago. Pullman, WA is easy to reach from Spokane (about 1.15 hours away).

Other site nominations from floor: None. A motion was therefore entertained to endorse the Washington State University Honors College as host site for WRHC 2021. Motion to approve: *Peters*, Chapman University. *Christopher Syrnyk*, Oregon Institute of Technology, seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

#### Discussion Items

a. Scribendi updates

*Amaris Ketcham*, faculty advisor for Scribendi, introduced the new UNM Honors student-editors for the 2018 edition: Josh, Paul, and Tessa. Scribendi submissions were up this year (485) relative to last (337), with 451 coming from the Western Region (Midwest - 6, South - 12, Northeast - 9, Mid-East, 1, Great Plains - 4). Once again this year, the UNLV Honors College is providing judges for literary submissions. *Ketcham* again invited WRHC students to come to UNM as exchange interns to study and work on *Scribendi*; one came from SOU last year, and *Scribendi* is hosting another SOU student and one student from the University of Idaho this school year.

b. Transition to a more permanent WRHC funds depository

In *Mulliken's* absence, *Villanueva* noted that the UNR Honors Director has stressed she desires WRHC funds be housed elsewhere no later than April 2018. *Mulliken* and *Cardullo* had been discussing the option of moving funds permanently to a reliable 3<sup>rd</sup> party account for some time to allow for longer-term stability in accounting and dues-collecting procedures, and this was a top priority mentioned in *Mulliken's* President's Letter sent out 3 weeks ago. Updates will follow via e-mail to members soon.

c. New WRHC logo

*Chenjeri* relayed *Mulliken's* proposal that a contest be conducted to design a new WRHC logo, to potentially debut at WRHC 2018 at Chapman (also noted in President's Letter). E-mail updates will follow but members were encouraged to mention this to their students now to encourage interest.

d. New WRHC website

*Villanueva* and two student assistants have developed a new WRHC website hosted by WordPress to replace the traditional university-hosted WRHC websites. Having now been reviewed by the WRHC President's Council, the site was to have premiered for discussion at the business meeting but there was no projector or internet access in the conference room. Therefore, members are encouraged to log on to **wrhcblog.wordpress.com** and send comments and suggestions to *Villanueva* or *Mulliken* prior to the website going live later this year.

e. NCHC Officers and Committee Members

*Richard Badenhausen*, NCHC Vice President (Westminster College) reminded members to attend NCHC in Boston next year. The theme is "Learning to Transgress," and the conference will include a new professional/administrator strand connected to DiH, and also a focus on teaching and learning issues. *bell hooks* is the plenary speaker, and a story slam is planned also. There will be a post-conference workshop led by *Jim Lang*, whose book *Small Teaching* is very relevant to Honors pedagogy. He also spoke about how regional members can become more active nationally, such as first participating in NCHC committees (over 12!), publishing in NCHC publications, etc. which *Greg Lanier* (UNM) seconded, as he has been on the Assessment Evaluation Committee for some time now. Finally, *Eureka!*, the national Honors student journal, will debut in 2 weeks.

f. Regional Honors Program/College Reports

*Ketcham* introduced the new Dean of the UNM Honors College, *Greg Lanier*. He has a long regional and national affiliation with Honors education, and was previously the Director of the *Kugelman Honors Program* at the University of West Florida.

*Andersen* reminded members that the *Palouse Review*, WSU Honors' online literary journal, is soliciting contributions from Western region students in various genres. Submission deadline is April 1, 2018, with an expected publication date of May 1, 2018.

*Suketu Bhavsar*, Cal Poly Pomona, mentioned that given the news of Lane Community College's defunct Honors Program, one important WRHC role moving forward should be creating and sustaining an advocacy network similar to that of the CSU Honors Consortium, which has been very effective in advocacy. If Honors institutions are under threat of closure at any member university, such a network is very valuable.

As the final discussion point, *Peters* nominated *Villanueva* to serve another 3-year term as WRHC Secretary/Treasurer when his term expires in April 2018. *Andersen* seconded the nomination. *Villanueva* said he would be honored to serve another term, but reminded members he is officially affiliated with the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents as of April 2017, not with UNR's Honors Program. The WRHC Constitution allows for persons with such an institutional affiliation to be officers, and if that is not a concern to WRHC member institutions, he will gladly stand for another term in April 2018. However, he did encourage others with direct Honors affiliations who might be interested in running to contact him or *Mulliken* to be briefed on current and planned initiatives in the role.

The meeting was adjourned by *Chenjeri* at 6:18 PM.