

Western Regional Honors Council Business Meeting
Friday, November 9, 2018
8:00 AM, Sheraton Boston (Gardner Room)

MINUTES

Officers Present: *Ken Mulliken* (SOU/UIC), *Daniel Villanueva* (NSHE)

Officers Excused: *Carmichael Peters* (Chapman, represented by *Ashley Cosgrove*), *Ilse-Mari Lee* (MSU, represented by *Logan Schultz*), *Kim Anderson* (WSU)

The meeting was called to order by Immediate Past President *Ken Mulliken* (SOU/UIC) at 8:01 AM in the absence of *Peters* and *Lee*. A quorum to conduct business was established, as representatives from 31 member institutions were present.

Mulliken motioned to approve the April 2018 minutes from the WRHC business meeting (Chapman University), seconded by *Megan Hughes* (MSU Denver). Comments were solicited from the members present but no edits were suggested. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

In the absence of *Peters*, *Cosgrove* presented the WRHC 2018 Final Conference and Budget Report. Among the highlights were 275 presenters and 313 attendees. Most impressive of all was a final conference surplus of over \$11,000 which was transferred to WRHC in September 2018. *Villanueva* noted this was the largest conference surplus in recent memory save that from Metropolitan State University at Denver (2014). He, *Mulliken*, and all members present congratulated Chapman on their great conference and the large surplus. For a more detailed WRHC 2018 statistical breakdown, members are encouraged to consult the WRHC website "Conferences" page, where this will be posted once received from Chapman.

Villanueva presented the 2018 WRHC Budget and Membership Report for approval. Membership held mostly steady in 2018 at 108 institutions, but two 2017 member institutions chose not to renew their membership (University of Montana, Aims Community College) in 2018. Lane Community College, whose director had said their Honors Program would be eliminated at last year's NCHC, reported via e-mail that it exists again and they are excited to be part of WRHC in 2019.

Villanueva also updated the membership on the recently-concluded funds transfer from the University of Nevada, Reno Honors Program to the WRHC Wells Fargo account, and thanked the UNR Honors Program for having been steward of WHRC funds from June 2016 – July 2018. The account balance is \$62,956.65, which reflects the transferred balance from UNR, the WRHC 2018 conference surplus from Chapman, and debits to the account in the amount of \$12,917.92 (*Scribendi* subsidy, student logo contest prize, travel grants to members, Secretary/Treasurer travel reimbursements, WRHC 2019 seed money, and website fees). *Villanueva* noted that UNR apparently did not deposit most received dues payments until May 2018, which caused four institutions' checks (\$300 total) to be void due to exceeding the 90-day limit to cash them. It was decided not to pursue collection of those, as the delay was attributable to UNR Honors' lengthy custody of the checks, not member institutions' negligence.

Finally, *Villanueva* informed the membership that, as promised, membership dues for 2019 can be paid either via check or credit card (no purchase orders or vouchers). A PayPal account will be set up prior to dues invoices being sent out in early January 2019. As per discussion at the April 2018 business meeting, it was agreed that there will also be an option to pre-pay up to two additional years of dues beyond the current year's dues. *Richard Cardullo* (UC Riverside) asked if prepayment at the current rate would be honored even if dues increased during the time an institution was paid up for additional years. *Villanueva* answered in the affirmative and also noted he is not aware of anything to indicate WRHC Board or member interest in raising membership dues in the

foreseeable future.

Mulliken motioned that the WRHC Financial Report be approved as presented, with *Hughes* seconding. The financial report was approved unanimously by all members present.

Future Conference Announcements and Updates

- a. WRHC 2019 (Montana State University; *Schultz*)
 - Abstracts are due to the conference organizers by December 1st, notifications will follow in early January. Many different types of presentations are solicited, including traditional panels, TED Talks, Pecha Kucha, etc. as well as the option for artistic performances, art exhibits, spoken word, and the like.
 - 12 students are on the planning team, taking a special Honors seminar as part of conference planning and execution;
 - Friday before the conference, weather permitting, a Yellowstone excursion is planned, as well as other events such as skiing with students (MSU paired up with guests);
 - The keynote address will be given by filmmaker John Heminway, and an address with Dan Wenk, Superintendent of Yellowstone Park, is planned.
- b. WRHC 2020 (Southern Utah University; *Jayci Bash*)
 - No keynote has been decided yet, but the conference will be titled “20/20 Perspectives.” Save-the-date cards were distributed.
 - The conference will be held April 17-19, which is a little later than normal for WRHC conferences but should be better weather and more activities available then.
 - Submission and coordination information will be available later on.
- c. WRHC 2021 (Washington State University; *Grant Norton*)
 - Many details still to confirm, of course, but a couple of interesting items:
 - The last time WSU hosted a WRHC conference, it was 2009 in Spokane, this time in WSU’s hometown of Pullman.
 - Fall 2020 will be the diamond anniversary of the WSU Honors Program, so that will also be a reason to celebrate.

Action Items

1. Discussion and vote on WRHC 2019 conference registration fees. *Schultz* moved for approval to set the WRHC 2019 conference fees as the following (unchanged since 2014): \$160 student registration, \$180 faculty registration (early bird until Feb. 1), thereafter \$180 student registration, \$200 faculty registration (regular). *Mulliken* seconded the motion. No discussion.

The motion to set the WRHC 2019 fee as above passed unanimously.

2. *Mulliken* resignation; Appointment of *Jayci Bash*. Due to Immediate Past President *Mulliken’s* change of job and university, he resigned from the WRHC Board effective November 9th, 2018. Per WRHC By-Laws, the Board nominated *Jayci Bash*, Director of Southern Utah University Honors Program, to fill the remainder of *Mulliken’s* term through March 2019. As this nomination requires member approval, *Villanueva* first called for any additional nominatons from the assembled members. Hearing none, *Cardullo* motioned to appoint *Bash* to the Board. *Mulliken* seconded. Members present then voted unanimously to appoint *Bash’s* to the remainder of *Mulliken’s* Board term, from November 10, 2018 – March 30, 2019.

Discussion Items

1. *Scribendi* updates

Amaris Ketcham, faculty advisor to *Scribendi*, introduced 2019 student Editor *Hyunju Blemel*, who also noted she would be at the Idea Exchange to discuss *Scribendi* in more depth the following day. Some 2019 statistics: There were 598 submissions total, of which 392 came from WRHC member institutions. The Great Plains Region and Southern Region were the second and third-largest regions with submissions. 18 institutions from California sent submissions in as well. *Scribendi* now has its own Instagram and Facebook pages, which will be linked to from the WRHC website as well.

2. Website/Facebook page reminders

Villanueva reminded members of the WRHC website and Facebook pages, highlighting the new WRHC logo, the job ads section, and the minutes and conference information. Information from the recent awardees of WRHC travel stipends will also be available on the website soon. He also encouraged more to join the Facebook page for regular updates, as content is posted more often there now.

3. News and Announcements:

a. NCHC national officers + committee members

Richard Badenhausen (Westminster College), Incoming NCHC President and NCHC 2018 conference chair, gave a few important updates. First, he was especially proud that some 70% of conference attendees opted for an electronic rather than printed program. In governance matters, he highlighted the following ballot initiatives on which all NCHC members will be asked to vote soon: 1) Restoring a 1-year term for student Board membership; 2) Introducing dues increases and new, progressive, tiered membership categories to go into effect in 2020 (dues have not increased since 2003). Particularly on the second point, he underscored the need for Honors Programs and Colleges to showcase to their universities the aspect that not just the College or Program is the NCHC member, but the entire institution, bringing prestige to the entire institution. NCHC has done more with less for quite some time – increasing programming, hiring a full-time Secretariat, increased publications, and ways for members to exercise national leadership on issues relevant to all of higher education – but this comes at a cost which needs to be shared and sustained by its members. This would also include creating a new strategic plan to address the role of Honors in university/college education.

Several members brought up concerns with the new dues structure, ranging from the fact that any cost increase would be vetoed by higher-ups, to better communicating the value of an NCHC membership, to technical aspects of determining the tiers for membership. *Badenhausen* encouraged members to discuss this further at forums scheduled for this purpose during the conference.

Suketu Bhavsar (Cal Poly Pomona) asked *Badenhausen* whether NCHC was reconsidering the site of its planned future conference in Dallas, TX. As a State of California public employee, he and others in CA and perhaps other states will most likely be prohibited from state-funded professional travel to Texas and other states which the CA Attorney General has determined promotes discriminatory legislation. This will be a discussion point moving forward.

Mulliken congratulated *Badenhausen* on behalf of the WRHC members present for an excellent conference in Boston, which was followed by sustained applause.

b. Candidates for NCHC Board positions: *Suketu Bhavsar*, (Cal Poly Pomona), candidate for NCHC VP, *Kristine Miller* (Utah State University), candidate for NCHC Board At-Large, and

Aline Webb (University of New Mexico), candidate for student Board member, each spoke briefly to the members about their key policy goals if elected to the Board. *Mulliken* commented that it was great that so many WRHC members are now aspiring to NCHC Board and Committee service, and encouraged even more to consider national participation.

- c. Reports from travel grant awardees: Due to time constraints, *Villanueva* stated that these reports would be made available on the WRHC website “Stipends” page. He congratulated all those who won stipends this year and encouraged more to apply, since not all the encumbered funds were used this year.
4. The meeting was adjourned by *Mulliken* at 8:58 AM. We will reconvene again in March at WRHC 2019.

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