

Western Regional Honors Council Business Meeting
March 31, 2019
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by *Ashley Cosgrove* (Chapman University) in the absence of President *Carmichael Peters* (Chapman University) at 9:01 AM.

Representatives of 18 member institutions were present. A quorum therefore existed to conduct business.

Cosgrove noted the minutes from the November 2018 business meeting had been distributed online prior to the meeting and hard copies were available in the room. *Jayci Bash* (Southern Utah University) motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and *Carol Johnson* (Arizona Western University) seconded. No discussion ensued, so a vote was taken. The November minutes were approved unanimously.

Daniel Villanueva (Nevada System of Higher Education) then presented the membership update. Relative to 2018, the WRHC this year has one new member (San Diego State University), while two members have renewed after a year's hiatus (American River College and Lane Community College). BYU-Hawaii has declined membership this year, as their Honors Program has been suspended. Therefore, the total of expected members in 2019 once all dues are in should be 138 (2018 = 136).

The membership report segued directly into the Financial Report, as *Villanueva* noted that the WRHC still cannot accept dues payments via credit card. Until paperwork establishing the WRHC as a nonprofit is processed by the IRS – still delayed by the prior government shutdown - checks or Eventbrite remain the only ways to pay dues (Eventbrite as a last option if the WRHC cannot establish its IRS bona fides by the end of this fiscal year). *Villanueva* reported that as of March 29, 2019, 49 members have paid by check, and 36 have indicated their binding commitment to pay when credit cards can be accepted. One check each was for two year's dues and three year's dues respectively, and two credit card pledges are for two year's dues. We have not heard one way or the other from 53 members from 2018, and *Villanueva* will be redoubling efforts to contact those institutions.

With regard to the overall budget, the ending balance in November 2018 was \$62,956.65. As of March 29, 2019, the account balance was \$64,698.55, which reflects Secretary/Treasurer conference travel costs, two WRHC student travel stipends, and the annual purchase of a plaque to honor our outgoing President on the withdrawal side. On the deposit side, 49 dues payments by check have been recorded thus far. A detailed financial report was distributed for membership approval at the meeting and can be requested from *Villanueva*. *Ilse-Mari Lee* (Montana State University) motioned to approve the Financial Report as delivered, and *Johnson* seconded. A brief discussion ensued about options to pay via credit card if PayPal does not work by the end of the fiscal year. *Villanueva* suggested that payments may be made via Eventbrite in that case. Following this clarification, the Financial Report was approved unanimously.

The WRHC 2019 Conference Report was delivered by *Logan Schultz* (Montana State University). A feedback survey will go out soon so that attendees can voice their opinions on how they felt the conference went. While detailed final statistics and a final accounting of funds will be delivered at the

November 2019 business meeting, preliminary figures show there will be a conference surplus. Catering costs, which came to around \$25K, are the biggest expense and still need to be finalized. The Yellowstone trip fees allowed that pre-conference event to be held at a break-even cost. There were 310 attendees overall, including presenters and general attendees.

All present applauded *Schultz, Lee* and the entire MSU Honors team for facilitating an excellent WRHC 2019. Besides the Yellowstone trip, the Scribendi reception, the wonderful new Asbjornson Hall space, and two excellent guest speakers, the musical and spoken word aspects were mentioned as highlights. *Schultz* mentioned that it is this year's organizers' hope that future planners will build in similar creative and performing-arts opportunities into their WRHC conferences.

WRHC 2020 conference updates were provided by *Bash*. Of primary importance is notifying the members that because SUU is transitioning into a year-round, 3-semester format next year, the conference date had to be changed to March 27-29, 2020 (exactly one year from WRHC 2019). Attendees should enjoy beautiful weather in Cedar City and there is a guaranteed rate of \$100-115 for the hotels. *Bash* reminded members that travel to Cedar City can be accomplished via direct flights or flying to Las Vegas and then taking a scheduled shuttle to Cedar City or renting a car. Transportation will be arranged for conferencegoers once in Cedar City since planned accommodations are not directly at the conference site.

WRHC 2021 updates were provided by *Kim Andersen* (Washington State University). The conference dates will either be April 16-18 or the last weekend in March. The conference theme remains "Planet and Peoples: Conservation and Coexistence." Hotels have been secured and to get to WSU, one can either fly into Pullman or Spokane, and there will be hotel shuttles to WSU.

After the updates from the planned host sites through 2021, *Villanueva* asked if any member institutions had interest in hosting a WRHC conference beyond that. Representatives from the University of New Mexico and the University of Montana expressed firm interest in their institutions being considered, and a Pima Community College student who recently transferred to the University of Arizona suggested both those institutions might co-host a future conference. A vote will be taken on these and any other potential host institutions at our November 2019 business meeting.

Villanueva reminded the members that there is some \$3000 that the Board sets aside each year – including this year – for faculty and staff travel stipends for NCHC or regionally-accredited seminars, workshops, and conferences. *Kyleigh Tyler* (Utah State University) was the sole applicant and awardee since the last business meeting. She received \$250 for travel to WRHC 2019 and was in attendance at this business meeting.

Cosgrove then invited members to share news and announcements. For *Scribendi*, *Amaris Ketcham* (faculty advisor), *Alyssa Aragon* and *Hyunju Blemel* (student editors) reported that 1250 copies of the 2019 edition were produced. Each member institution will receive two copies, one in the fall and one in the spring. 53 submissions were accepted - 9.5% of the total. 25 Honors institutions are represented in those works published, of which 17 are from the WRHC, comprising 34 students at WRHC institutions. New staff is in the process of being recruited for next year's edition, and the editors again reminded members that a semester or yearlong student exchange is possible among Honors institutions. SOU and the University of Idaho have sent students to UNM Honors in the past two years for this purpose.

Aragon and *Blemel* also mentioned they are Adobe Ambassadors, and provided information as to how Honors undergraduates at WRHC institutions can also enjoy free use of the Adobe suite.

Won Choi (Cal Poly Pomona) spoke on behalf of *Suketu Bhavsar*, NCHC VP, who could not attend in person. He encouraged WRHC members to become active on the NCHC level and told *Bhavsar's* story as to how he became involved – essentially because he wanted to effect change in Honors policy on a national level. Ways to become involved include volunteering to be a site evaluator, serving on committees or running for national Board seats, and editing or submitting work to NCHC publications.

Kaetlyn Cordingley, interim Dean of the University of Montana Honors College, let the members know that a search is underway for a permanent Dean to succeed Brock Tessman, who is now working for the Office of the Commissioner of the Montana University System. Interviews are scheduled to begin the day after WRHC 2019 concludes.

Ketcham encouraged members to consider attending the NCHC Place as Text Faculty Institutes, including those in Detroit, Cooperstown, and New Orleans (Place as Text Master Class) this year. *Bash* inquired as to whether one must have attended a prior Place as Text to be allowed to attend a Master Class. The NCHC website implies that Master Class attendance is limited to those who have attended a prior Place as Text seminar.

Prior to adjournment, *Villanueva* congratulated those WRHC members who automatically become WRHC officers or succeed current officers as per WRHC Constitution and By-Laws today:

2019-2020 President:	Ilse-Mari Lee, Montana State University
2019-2020 Vice-President:	Jayci Bash, Southern Utah University
2019-2020 Immediate Past President:	Carmichael Peters, Chapman University

All members present congratulated these officers on their new positions.

Hearing no further member comments for the good of the order, *Cosgrove* adjourned the meeting at 9:43 AM, with the expectation to reconvene in November 2019 at NCHC in New Orleans, LA.