

Western Regional Honors Council Fall Business Meeting

November 12, 2020

Minutes

1. Hacker called the meeting to order at 3:02 PST.
2. Edgington presented the minutes of the March business meeting for discussion, potential revision, and approval.
 - a. Kegley motioned to approve the minutes; Lee seconded the motion; minutes were approved without revision.
3. Edgington delivered the membership and financial reports. She noted that few institutions had opted to renew their WRHC memberships following the March business meeting and speculated that the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic may have deterred some institutions from renewing. The several institutions that have contacted Edgington in recent weeks regarding paying 2020 dues have been advised to wait to renew when 2021 dues invoices are sent out in January as WRHC membership is for the calendar year. Although the total number of members for 2020 is a lower-than-normal 105, the WRHC account balance remains healthy. The shift to a virtual format for recent WRHC and NCHC conferences has resulted in considerable savings as there has been no need to fund secretary-treasurer travel or student and faculty travel grants. The balance of the WRHC account for April 2021 is estimated to be approximately \$62,000. Members may request a copy of the complete financial report by contacting Edgington.
4. Regional Conference Announcements and Updates
 - a. WRHC 2021 (Southern Utah University)
 - i. Hacker reported that SUU is pleased to be able to host WRHC 2021 virtually on April 10. The conference will be hosted via Zoom, taking advantage of SUU's institutional license and its excellent IT team, which is already at work building the conference website. Leveraging SUU's virtual conferencing infrastructure will result in significant savings for WRHC and participants in this time of budgetary uncertainty. Conference sessions will be roundtable discussions based on pre-circulated work. Faculty and staff members will facilitate sessions; training will be provided to volunteer facilitators. This format should be more engaging for students and help make the most of the one-day conference.
 1. Ketcham voiced support for the proposed format and inquired about guests, for example, parents attending the *Scribendi* reception. Hacker noted that guests may be accommodated easily via Zoom at no additional cost.
 - b. WRHC 2022 (University of New Mexico)
 - i. Ketcham reported that planning for WRHC 2022 is well underway. The conference is scheduled to be held from April 8–10, 2022 in Albuquerque, NM. The conference hotel is expected to be the historic Hotel Andaluz, which is easily accessible from UNM's campus via bus. A virtual option for participation will be available. The theme of the 2022 conference will be "Revolutions and Constellations: The Dawning of New Paradigms." UNM plans to follow Montana State's excellent example and offer a class for its conference interns. UNM faculty Myrriah Gomez and Megan Jacobs are involved in the planning process.
 - c. WRHC 2023 (University of Montana)

- i. Nichols reported that Montana is in the pre-planning stage for WRHC 2023.
 - d. WRHC 2024 (Washington State University)
 - i. Andersen reported that WSU is pleased to be able to host a future WRHC conference and noted that WSU is in the pre-planning stage for WRHC 2024.

5. Action Items

- a. WRHC 2021 registration fees.
 - i. Because WRHC 2021 will be inexpensive to host, Hacker proposed modest registration fees for the event. The proposed early-bird rates are \$25 for student registration and \$40 for faculty/staff registration. After the early-bird period, rates would increase by \$10. Student presenters may invite parents and/or other interested guests to attend their sessions free of cost. Registration fees will cover the cost of conference swag to be mailed to participants as well as offsetting costs incurred by Southern Utah University related to the canceled WRHC 2020 conference.
 - ii. Proposed fees approved by vote.

6. Discussion Items

- a. Board succession
 - i. Hacker noted that, because of the disruption to WRHC conferences, board succession has been impacted. With SUU hosting WRHC 2021, Hacker would be set to continue as president for a second year. Hacker is willing to continue to serve or to step down in accordance with members' wishes. A vote will be held at the spring business meeting.
 - 1. Andersen noted that Hacker is doing a wonderful job as president.
- b. Formal Student Representation in WRHC
 - i. Lyon previously proposed that a student member(s) be added to the WRHC board. She noted that, ultimately, students in the western region might elect to form a student council-like governing body but that, over the short term, a less ambitious approach is likely advisable.
 - 1. Syrnyk inquired about the distribution of representatives (e.g., by state).
 - 2. Lyon proposed that two representatives selected either by election or by the board would be a feasible starting point.
 - 3. Taylor suggested that one of the proposed two slots be reserved for a student of a two-year honors program.
 - 4. Ketcham noted that the editor in chief of *Scribendi* would be a natural choice. Lyon proposed an ex-officio position for the *Scribendi* editor.
 - 5. Nichols felt that two elected representatives plus an ex-officio representative would be appropriate and noted that, in the Midwest region, two student representatives were selected from each state.
 - 6. Hacker suggested that action be taken to (s)elect student representatives immediately and wondered whether splitting representatives between honors programs and colleges might be worthwhile.
 - 7. Lyon inquired about how many programs and colleges there are in the region. Edgington directed attendees to the WRHC website for a listing of member institutions.
 - 8. Linneman noted that many honors programs are large while many honors colleges are small. Badenhausen confirmed that program vs. college may not be

a meaningful metric for determining representation and advised that the implications of student representatives for the professional board be considered.

9. Hacker agreed that the role of student representatives would need to be defined and specified that students should have a voice in that discussion. Lyon suggested that student representatives could be offered summer work and/or training opportunities.
10. Andersen suggested that two representatives would be a good starting point and wondered whether the *Scribendi* editor would necessarily be representative of the whole WRHC student population.
11. Hacker suggested that we move forward with a call for expressions of interested together with the CFP for WRHC 2021 and work with students to determine whether an election or selection process is most appropriate. She also suggested that staggered two-year terms might help maintain continuity.
12. Rosenow pointed out that two-year terms might deter both seniors at four-year institutions and students at two-year institutions.
13. Lyon and Hacker suggest proceeding with a call and carrying on with the discussion this spring at WRHC 2021.

c. Investment of surplus WRHC funds

- i. Edgington reported that this has been a long-standing discussion item. None of the current board members is qualified to manage investments, and the costs associated with hiring a financial consultant to manage the invested funds would likely be prohibitive.
- ii. While investment of surplus funds may make sense in the future, attendees agreed to table this item indefinitely.

7. News and Announcements

a. *Scribendi* updates

- i. Ketcham reported that she will be on sabbatical in spring 2021 and that Leslie Donovan will be taking up her role as *Scribendi* advisor. She introduced Megan Kornreich, *Scribendi* editor in chief, and Zoe Perls, *Scribendi* managing editor. Kornreich and Perls reported that 479 submissions were received for the 2020 edition; of those, 449 came from WRHC member institutions. Colorado State, the University of Utah, and Western Washington University were well represented among the submissions. *Scribendi* was a finalist for a Pacemaker Award. Copies of the 2020 issue have been sent out to WRHC members. Additional copies may be requested by emailing scribendi@unm.edu, ideally prior to the Thanksgiving holiday when UNM will move to remote instruction. Attendees are encouraged to advertise the *Scribendi* Visiting Staff Exchange Program.

b. NCHC Officers, Staff and Committees Report

- i. Badenhausem alerted attendees to upcoming NCHC elections. Video interviews with candidates for selected positions are a new feature. WRHC member Sandra Pérez of Cal State Fullerton is among the candidates.
- ii. Ketcham reported that virtual Place as Text events have been a success thus far and are likely to continue to be offered as necessary.

c. News from regional Honors programs and colleges

- i. Ketcham introduced Diane Marshall, Interim Dean of the University of New Mexico Honors College. Marshall expressed her commitment to demonstrating the value of the honors college to UNM's newly installed provost.

- ii. Linda Dove let attendees know that the Woodbury University Honors Program would be fully up and running by next fall. She graciously proposed Woodbury College as the site of WRHC 2025.
 - iii. David Volk introduced himself as the new director of the Center for Honors and Leadership at Colorado State University Pueblo.
- 8. Hacker adjourned the meeting at 4:09 PST, reminding attendees to expect the CFP for WRHC 2021 as well as information on the process for selecting student representatives in the coming days.