

**Maine Educational Opportunity Association  
Executive Committee Meeting  
September 23, 2011 10:00-2:00  
UMaine - Senior Skulls Room**

**Roll Call**

Sean Graham  
Angela Theriault  
Alyssa West  
Elyse Pratt-Ronco  
Jess Berry  
Dorrea Fellman  
Sarah Henry  
Alan Parks (guest appearance)

**Call to Order**

-Change of agenda to add Alan at 11:30 and move the conference report a little earlier so Alyssa can be done by noon.

**Action:** Approval of amended agenda

Motion: Dori

Seconded: Angela

Vote: All in favor no abstentions.

**Secretary's Report**

Motion to accept June 2011 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: Angela

Vote: All in favor no abstentions

-Jess is going to contact Laurie to find out about the Trio yearbooks and if a pdf went out to programs (no one on the board received the pdf).

**Treasurer's Report**

-In the black, we are coming out of the Eastland Hotel Recession

-Using last year's conference budget as a guide

-Trio Achiever dinner- Dave McGuire is going to COE next week and wants to invite some of the aids to dinner to talk with them more about TRiO. He requested money for 6 (\$600), which was more than we could afford, but we could do half (around \$110 per person). He is going to pay for one himself. Should we put in \$400 for this?

-MEEOA budget will appear to be in the red, but there is money in the checking account. \$12,000.

-Jess learned at the NEOA meeting last week that this is the year to dig into our reserves because they are calling it a "crisis" and we are looking at our jobs.

-As we are doing better, should we start putting back in some of the things that we eliminated? For example, an ad in the COE program for \$500? This year we are not going to do an ad because we have \$1,000 in Fair Share contributions.

-It is possible to do the domain cheaper if we go for 5 years instead of 3 years.

-Giant football with alcohol Maine won at NEOA– raffle item at the conference maybe turn it into a Super Bowl theme with snacks and other items supplied by the board and conference committee?

-Angela will edit the budget and bring to the conference. Also, post it on the website.

**-Voting suspended until Angela can rework the numbers and will email to us.**

### **Past President Report**

-Dorrea had nothing to report.

### **Conference- Alyssa**

-Conference will be on January 3 this year.

-Opening up to non- MEEEOA professionals- changed the structure to accommodate that by making MEEEOA business all happening.

-Keeping the registration fee at \$130 and \$75 for one day.

-FAME and Collegeboard is going to do something.

-Policy Seminar alumni- should we try to make them mentors to the new policy alums? Should we try to include them in the conference?

-Elyse would like to invite adult alums to the auction to contribute to revenue.

-Conference committee will send out ad requests on listserv in order to get people to solicit their individual campuses and towns for ads.

-Newcomer's reception on the night before the conference? Intro to TRiO, Fair share, etc.

### **Alan- On Course**

-Would like to do an On Course training with Skip Downing sometime in the next year.

-SSS needs a fiscal agent for the training. MEEEOA?

-For \$380 per person plus lodging and one dinner on own.

- Alan is going to think about putting an ad in the conference book.

-Could do a cheaper rate for the members. \$50 less for members.

-Bill Stone, Laurie Davis, and Alan are doing all the work and MEEEOA would handle the financial aspect.

-Alan put in a processing fee for each participant of \$5 which means MEEEOA could make \$250.

-The only risk MEEEOA is taking is that if there aren't 50 people, and it doesn't work.

-MEEEOA would like to know what the upfront costs are.

-Alan is going to get us the numbers and let us know ASAP.

### **President's Report**

- NEOA Board Meeting

-The meeting was depressing. There is lots of stuff

-We will follow Roberts Rules of Order so that we are accountable for any decisions that are made.

-Advocacy is a priority right now because our jobs are on the line. We need to have a thread or plenary during the conference to educate people about how to advocate. People are “battle weary” right now because there are so many pushes right now for phone calling, etc. It is everyone’s job right now, because we aren’t going to have jobs if we don’t do it.

-We need to think about how we can push the advocacy and get more people making the phone calls, etc.

-There is a packet with information about advocacy. NEOA would like every organization to get out an OpEd before the next **NEOA meeting which will be in November**. If you get published, send it to Jess and she can bring it to NEOA. Anything TRiO related is welcome.

-Use connections you already have. Campuses may use their PR people on their campuses

-We talked at the last meeting about creating an advocacy committee so it isn’t just the board doing the advocacy. Jess would like to have a point person on every campus to deal with advocacy. People who we think would be good: Dave McGuire, Steve Visco, Lynn Ploof-Davis, Lena Michaud, Alyssa West. Jess is going to start inviting point people to participate.

-Jess has a list of the top 50 organizations who award grants throughout the state. NEOA has started a Development Committee who are looking at partnerships with organizations, etc. Share this list with other people we work with and see if they have any connections to any on the list. Let Jess know because they want to pursue these partnerships. Have an elevator speech prepared so you can talk with others.

-Jess would like to revisit this list at our next meeting to talk more about partnerships. Jess wants to bring these to the next NEOA board meeting in January.

- We have not applied for a NEOA State Initiative Grants – (due 10/21) or a COE State Initiative Grants – (due 12/1) in 6 years. NEOA are \$600 and COE is matching money. The state grants have funded Hall of Flags, TRiO day, something with advocacy.

-We know they have successfully funded the Hall of Flags. . .maybe we should ask for that amount again. It could pay for the TRiO yearbook (\$374.80).

-The MEEOA website needs to be updated. Casey is wondering about the advantages of Pay Pal for membership. Casey has done it for NEOA, so he feels better about it. Pay Pal keep some of the money (a percentage) in each transaction. It might make a difference with membership, but probably not with the conference. Jess is going to ask Casey for some numbers.

-There aren’t any Gear Up Programs listed

-“How to be an advocate?”

~~-President’s Q&A~~

-Directory update from New Membership chair

-New photos

-Bling- sparkles, glitter, music, etc.

-The New England Council has meet and greet breakfasts with elected officials. Anyone can go as a member of NEOA. We have paid dues. People can ask questions about how TRiO will be funded, etc.

-Jess made copies of our Constitution for everyone along with the fiscal policy. Please read and

#### President Elect’s Report

-Sean wants clarification about his roles as President-Elect.

-Policy Seminar- we can maybe open it up to people who are interested in advocacy, but make sure someone who has gone before does go.

-We all need to be diligent about recruiting new people.

#### Committee Reports:

**Action:** Approval of Proposed Committees

Motion: Elyse moves to accept Alumni Committee and Hall of Flags

Seconded: Sean

Vote: All in Favor no abstentions

- Conference - standing
- Nominations and Elections- standing committee. They start the process of looking for new people.
- Membership- ad hoc board position. Maybe it should go with the conference committee. It is an appointed position.
- Alumni
  - NEOA Database/Facebook- Elyse is thinking about a campaign to remind people to register on the NEOA database and on Facebook. She is going to do some more research. This may be appropriate for a state initiative grant.
- Hall of Flags – Betty and . . .

#### Adjourn

Motion: Jess

Seconded: Angela

Vote: All in favor, no abstentions.