

**Minutes of MEEOA State Business Meeting**  
**Black Bear Inn**  
**January 8, 2019 | 10:45am-12:00pm**

**Welcome and Call to Order by Mary Kate Barbosa (President)**

**Officer Reports:**

**Secretary's Report- Mary Sinclair**

- Presentation of the Minutes of MEEOA Business Meeting of January, 2018- on the table and emailed to the membership by Mary Sinclair.
- Darylen Cote moved to accept. Dannette Madore seconded. No discussion. Unanimously passed with one abstention.
- Review notes of MEEOA Meeting at NEOA 2018- This meeting was never called to order, so notes only need to be reviewed but not formally accepted.

**Treasurer's Report-Patrick Blanchette**

- Projected income is close to \$13K in conference registrations. There have been two conference sponsorships and two association sponsors.
- Income at the conference: \$720 in the chance auction and \$1842 in the live auction. Raffle income is not yet calculated.
- Incomes and expenses are pretty much exactly where they should be and what was projected.
- Steve Visco moved to accept report for audit, Darylen Cote seconded. No further discussion. Unanimously passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership Report- Kate Walsh**

- 57 individual members paid as of today.
- 61 conference registrations paid as of today.
- Membership is important: it helps support the conference, members meet and network with people, members can be on the listserv, and members are eligible for funds and opportunities.
- Michelle Richards asked about getting onto the listserv as new members. Kate and Casey will cross reference names to make sure everyone is included.

**Hall of Flags/Public Relations Report- Tony Staffiere**

- An e-mail invitation to Hall of Flags (HOF) will go out Monday. HOF is Wednesday, March 20. Please start reaching out to elected officials.
- HOF will be an all-day event by travelling to UMA in the afternoon with lunch, college trivia, and college tours (12:00-2:30pm, tentatively).
- Follow along on social media: especially Facebook. Tony has been updating during the conference and will continue to do so.
- Send any media information to Tony when you go back home.

- He is willing to help with leg-work related to media for any event. Use him as an outlet for contact or suggestions.

### **Alumni Report- Michelle Richards**

- Another successful banquet was held last night. “Thank you” to the nominators.
- Think about your alumni and who could be nominated.
- Policy Seminar is coming up, Michelle has nomination forms for people to take with them. Nominations are due January 18. Nomination forms can also be found in an email from Michelle and on the MEEOA website.
- Michelle and the board are thinking about simplifying the nomination process: both for alumni awards and policy seminar. They are also thinking about making this more of a rolling process, so people could start nominating for next year very soon.
- Work has begun on business cards to give alumni with links for the national alumni database.

### **Development Report- Karen Keim**

- After this conference, the next big push in Development is looking for donors to help with sending people to Policy Seminar.
- Karen is exploring writing for a grant from Walmart.
- To get on the Development Committee one would want experience with how to ask for money, can let Karen know if there is a lead of someone to ask, or could help with organizing,
- Machias Savings indicated they are ready to start giving more. They have been sponsoring for at least 10 years for \$1000 each year.
- Syntiro donated to the conference in honor of Dori’s service. Karen will expand the practice of asking in the honor of a leader this coming year.

### **Government Relations Report-Eric Pratt**

- Eric is new and learning as he goes. An update of biggest things in the last year:
  - Appropriations bill passed on time this year, which was the first time since 1996. This allows Dep of Ed (DOE) grant-funded programs to keep working even in government shut down.
  - Senators Collins and King wrote letters supporting VUB at USM to continue their funding.
  - All TRIO programs received a 4.2% increase this year, across the board.
  - All UB programs that applied received additional \$40K STEM grants this year.
  - The federal deficit increased this year, leading to the proposal to DOE cuts.
  - Jared Golden is the new US Rep from District 2. Rep Pingree, Sen Collins, and Sen King are still here: we are thankful for their support.
  - FAFSA Act introduced this year. It should streamline the FAFSA process.
- Moving Forward:
  - Programs should reach out to their congressional delegates, thank them for their support, introduce programs, and invite them to visit.

- Everyone can get on the COE listserv to stay up to date on information and be willing to reach out when called upon with writing letters, making calls, etc.
- Programs can Attend Hall of Flags with students or alumni.

### **Fair Share Report- Andrew Henry**

- Half of COE's annual budget comes from Fair Share in the forms of personal and institutional contributions.
- COE advocates on behalf of educational opportunity programs.
- *10 for 10* memberships are any donations of \$100 or more by June 1.
- Currently Maine has between eight and ten.
- Maine needs twenty *10 for 10* memberships to get a free registration to Policy Seminar.

### **Conference Report- Shelbie Ross**

- Shelbie thought she would have a co-chair when she offered to be conference chair, which never happened. She did, however, have amazing people help her.
- Conference evaluations will go out in the next couple of days. Please provide feedback.
- 97 people registered for the conference.

### **Other Business:**

- Board Vacancies- Mary Kate
  - Elyse Pratt- Ronco, Eric Pratt, and Mary Sinclair will be Conference Tri-Chairs for 2020.
  - The Treasurer Position will be vacant at the end of this year. Patrick will finish his year and is willing to help the next person coming up. Patrick says it is not hard work.
  - President Elect is still open. It would be best for someone who has already served in some capacity before, since the President Elect year is already half-way over.
  - Please let Mary Kate know if interested in serving on the board.
- Policy Seminar- Karen
  - Life changing for Alumni AND staff.
  - COE does the training to gives the right things to talk about and do. Everyone comes prepared.
  - Alumni stories are powerful and need to be told. Get those nominations in.
  - The MEEOA Yearbook will be handed out, so please get information to Sara Flowers. The book highlights one student from each different TRIO/Gear Up program.
- Strategic Plan- Eric Pratt
  - Eric has been working on updating it; Alan Parks is helping. He would be happy to have anyone help.
- Mary Kate encouraged everyone who is interested to help in some way.

**Velma Murphy motioned to adjourn, Laurie Davis seconded. Unanimously passed. Adjourned at 11:47am.**