

Minutes of MEEOA Executive Board Meeting
Virtual meeting

October 17, 2019 • 1-3

In attendance: Andrew Long, Tony Staffiere, Casey Henderson, Elyse Pratt-Ronco, Eric Pratt, Karen Keim, Mary Sinclair, Nikolas Lallemand, Steve Visco, Lisa Black. Andrew Henry joined at 2.

Welcome. Roll Call. Quorum established. Call to order at 1pm.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report: Mary motioned to approve, Eric seconded, all approved. Steve attended COE Executive Leadership Institute at Yale. Content included closing gap for 1st gen students. Participants were assigned case studies in groups based on membership. Rick Williams has asked Steve to chair the new Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity subcommittee for NEOA. Mary suggested this initiative may be something that could be adopted by state orgs as well.

Past President's Report: Mary Kate was unable to attend but had reported a development prospect. Karen will follow up and be in touch with him.

President-Elect's Report: Nothing to report as president elect.

Treasurer's Report: Nik removed all the old debit cards on the MEEOA account and added himself so that now he and Steve have access. Nik requested that Board members be sure to utilize travel reimbursement forms. He also reported that he has gotten some phishing attempts, so beware of those. Future treasurer plans include uploading the budget excel spreadsheet to Box for the group to see. We are currently at \$23,049.37, and operating to the penny, with all expenses and deposits accounted for. Nik and Steve are working to get access to the UMS and MCCS systems to better track membership.

Secretary's Report: Lisa will make edits to location and Fair Share entries for the September meeting minutes, upload to Box, and send to Casey for the website.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alumni: Steve reported that the alumni conference call on 10/15 went well. One idea that came up was revamping the alumni database with a plan for using info therein to connect

alums with opportunities for networking. Another idea was to host a career focused alumni event with a networking focus. The group is working on an idea to reach out to Maine alumni involved in NEOA and to reach out to retired TRIO staff to see if they still have ties to alumni. This can help generate ideas for awards.

Conference:

- Registration: Elyse reported that registration info has been sent out with an intentionally short Early Bird window.
- Location: The hotel contract has been signed and the reservation link will be shared soon. The \$99 rate extends through weekend if anyone is interested in staying longer. The committee is working on an event at the College of the Atlantic that will include a scavenger hunt around the museum.
- Content: Workshop sessions are almost all confirmed. There will be an SSS grant work room available, and Alan Parks will be available for consulting for anyone working on an SSS proposal. Shelby is heading up both live and chance auctions. The hope is to elevate the auction this year with a professional auctioneer, fewer regifts, and items of better quality. Committee is still looking for a keynote to set the stage for day one, which will be focused on educational opportunity policy change in Maine. Jen Rudolph from COE will be coming to Maine to facilitate the policy discussion. Mary reported that there will be time during the newcomer's reception for vendors to set up tables.
- Invitations: There is a list in Box of potential invitees –Elyse requested that the Board please look at the list to see if we can reach out to invitees we know. Hoping to get invitations out ASAP so people can get them on their calendars. She is still working on language to use for the invitations. Eric is going to update the list with policy makers. We are not limited space-wise. The conference committee has created an Event Description document inviting community members to RSVP for a couple conference events for free or to “enhance their experience” by paying for other levels of attendance.

Development

- Andrew raised the possibility of incorporating fundraising more intentionally with the conference. He presented an idea to merge the Conference Ask Form with the official MEEOA Ask Form. He is interested in adding a new \$5K level to the fundraising ask form and possibly getting funding for keynotes. Mary agreed that there are great tie in opportunities between development and the conference. Steve wondered if we could still use two different forms as long as it is clear how they co-inform each other. The next development meeting will discuss this possibility further--volunteers from the conference committee will attend.

- Andrew and Karen have more networking opportunities once the new form is ready, including Lee Auto, IDEXX, and other conference sponsors.
- Eric is working on creating a connection at SAPPI—he has made an initial inquiry, and Karen helped brainstorm ways to follow up.

Government Relations:

- Eric reported that for priority one under the strategic plan, he has begun plans to invite legislators to the conference and that under priority two, he has been sending out regular updates to the MEEOA listserv, especially in relation to the SSS grant
- The House Education and Labor Committee, chaired by Bobby Scott from Virginia, has released the College Affordability Act (CAA) to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 1965.
- The act prohibits grant proposal disqualification for formatting errors, includes Pell and free and reduced lunch eligibility as sufficient documentation for low-income status
- Separate grad/transfer and grad criteria for SSS and doctoral attainment for McNair
- Increases student stipends in McNair, Upward Bound, and Veterans Upward Bound
- Would necessitate outreach to homeless and foster care youth
- Markup session will happen soon.
- Dept of Ed's plan to release RFPs for SSS is advancing. They have promised to give programs as much time as possible to respond. Grants may be due min-Jan. SSS APR will be due 12/6
- Lamar Alexander is retiring—wants reauthorization of HEA to be his parting gift. To ensure this happens, he is willing to break out pieces, but democrats are worried they would lose ground with a piecemeal approach.

Membership

- 18 individual and 8 program memberships so far. Kate is working to improve the process.

Public Relations:

- The logo contest is underway! Tony will guide the process and answer questions. Steve will receive submissions. The deadline for submissions will be 12/1. The MEEOA Board will decide on finalists and send to membership for vote. Given this timeline, it may logistically may not be feasible to unveil the new logo at the conference.
- Tony requested that we all let him know about our First Gen Celebrations so he can promote them.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS

Factbook

- Nothing new to report

Fair Share

- Nothing new to report

Newsletter

- Nothing new to report

Strategic Plan

- Steve noted that the role of treasurer is not on the strategic plan, but asked Nik to use priority 5 in his report outs, as this role supports long-term sustainability.
- Please make use of the whole strategic plan document when filling out reports so Eric can track progress—priority titles may seem to fit your activity, but if you look at the workplan, your item may actually fall elsewhere

Technology

- Casey is working on conference registration and website updates. Preparations for moving the website are underway—much of our content is hard coded for our current server and needs to be adjusted for the move

Advocacy Day

- We are on track for Tuesday March 10, 8am – 12pm in the Hall of Flags. Tony needs a check for \$100—he and Nik determined the process they will follow to get it to the State House. The day we are there will be a session day. Tony requests that programs let their representatives know they will be in attendance ahead of time as they may not have as much time to talk due to the short session

Old Business

Nothing new to report

New Business

Nothing new to report

Adjourn at 2:29

