

TCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, October 16, 2009

3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

ATTENDANCE: President Jeff Benoit, President-Elect Lisa Schiavinato, Past President Kristen Fletcher, Treasurer Jeff Smith, Secretary Hélène Scalliet; Directors: Betsi Beem, Angela Gustavson, Susan White, Rick DeVoe, Rick Burroughs, Tali McArthur; Executive Director Judy Tucker.

WELCOME REMARKS

TCS President Jeff Benoit thanked all the board of directors' members who participated in the board retreat in Wilmington, NC in May. There were a lot of follow-ups, some of which we are still working on.

ACTION: The committee chairs should get back to TCS President in next week or two to make sure all the action items from the retreat are accounted for.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

VOTE: The minutes from the April 9th conference call were approved with all in favor, none opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- 3rd Quarter financials
 - Net assets are about \$66,000
 - Overall we are still on track with budget.
 - We are operating at a loss for this year, which is normal for a non-conference year.
 - We prepaid for 3 years of insurance so that was a large expense for this year and we needed more for accountant due to chapters coming in.
 - We may have an increase in dues income at the end of the year during the membership drive, as we are under budget for dues income so far.

VOTE: The financial report (Jan 1-Sept 30) was approved with all in favor, none opposed.

TCS STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

The membership dues are now based on a calendar year, due on December 31 of each year. This system is difficult for potential student members, because they start school in September and they would have to pay annual fees in Sept for only 3 months (\$20), and then renew for annual membership in January (another \$20). This creates a disincentive to join in September at the full price only to be asked to renew in January, so they may wait until January to join TCS, but at that point they may be less inclined to join.

The Chapters Committee put together a proposal to overcome this difficulty. The proposal was also approved by the Membership Committee. The proposal would create a promotional 16-

months membership for first-time student members so that they can join in September for \$20 and not renew until the regular membership drive the following year.

There was a discussion about whether this 16-months membership would violate the bylaws, which state: “Period of Dues – Payment of dues shall cover the calendar year in which they are paid.” The consensus of the board was that the proposal would not violate the bylaws if we consider this as a promotion for first-time student members. The Board agreed that the promotion would apply only to the Fall semester for new student members.

VOTE: The Board voted on the proposal to offer a promotion membership to first-time student members who join TCS in the Fall (August-December) to receive one year plus one semester of membership benefits for the price of a one-year membership. This includes students who joined THIS fall (retroactively). The proposal was approved by the Board with all in favor, none opposed.

NEW CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS

Two new chapters have turned in complete applications to become affiliated chapters: University of Delaware and Stanford University. They just need the vote from the Board to become official chapters. Since there was not enough time for the Board members to review the applications prior to the conference call, we will vote electronically in the near future.

ACTION: Christine Patrick will set up a conference call for Board members to call-in with comment/ questions next week. Afterwards, we will send out a request for E-vote to Board members.

TCS 22 UPDATE

We are in middle of abstract submission process; we have only 12 abstract submitted as of October 15. For TCS21 we had 144 abstracts including all papers, posters, panels... The Conference Planning Committee agreed to extend deadline by 2 weeks until Friday Nov 6. It will not impact the other deadlines. The authors will still be notified by December 18 if their abstract is accepted or not.

ACTION: Lisa Shiavinato will send out announcements that the deadline is postponed until November 6 on Friday October 23rd in the morning and one more announcement the following week.

Tali MacArthur (formerly Engoltz) has been investigating the option of using a local carbon offset program for TCS22 instead of a national program (NC Green Power – similar to Carbon Fund.org). Christine/Angela will ask chapters for ideas on activities for students at the October 20th Chapters phone call. All chair positions have been filled at this time - Mike Orbach will participate in the opening plenary, and Larry Cahoon and Amber Mace will participate in the closing plenary.

TCS REGIONAL EVENTS

West Coast: David Montgomery will be speaking at a TCS event in Seattle on October 28. Rebekah Padgett has led this effort. This event is sponsored by Taylor and Francis (T&F) and the University of Washington TCS chapter, all the while staying within the \$1,000 budget.

East Coast: Under our agreement with T&F, TCS proposed to host a DC-focused event in the fall. Kristen Fletcher was going to take the lead, but requested assistance given her duties with the development and nominations committees. She suggested that a January event focused on the Ocean Policy Task Force final report due for release in December might be more appropriate. Jeff Smith volunteered to help Kristen organize the event.

ACTION: Kristen Fletcher will contact T&F to ask if the event needs to happen this Fall or if we could extend into January.

RESULT OF BYLAW CHANGES

The Bylaw changes have PASSED! It was a challenge getting all the votes we needed, but we will have an easier time updating the bylaws in the future because of changes to the voting system included in the new bylaws. The membership categories will go into effect for 2010 – Judy will work with membership committee to revise forms to show benefits for each categories.

ACTION: Judy Tucker will update current bylaws and make sure everyone has a copy, as well as post a copy of the new bylaws on the Web.

ACTION: TCS now has to change our articles of corporation. It must be done at an annual meeting; we will do that at TCS22 Conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Chapters**
 - There will be a chapters call on Tuesday Oct 20th. We expect participation from all chapters except for University of Hawaii because they are inactive at the moment.

- **Nominating**
 - We have 2 self-nominations already for this year's elections. Some individuals who ran last year but were not elected are interested in running again.
 - The deadline for members to nominate someone closed last week
 - The Nominating Committee will send out a slate of nominees to the Board in a few weeks. The Board will have a quick turnaround to vote on the slate, then the biographies will be prepared.
 - The ballot will go to membership in November, with a 3-week voting period.
 - The Board will vote to accept results of election in December.

- **Development**
 - The Development Committee is now focused on TCS22, all the while keeping an eye on long-term development opportunities.
 - There have been good early discussions with NOAA about the potential of being a major sponsor.

- We will also try and fill in gaps with members of the private sectors that we haven't approached before.
- The Fort Fisher Aquarium has offered to partly sponsor a conference reception at Aquarium (rental of aquarium from 6-9pm, including table and chairs – TCS would be responsible for security, food ...). We are not yet sure whether this will work, as there are issues with the Hilton (minimum cost we need to reach) and with transportation to the Aquarium. At this point this is still a real possibility.
- **Communications**
 - Update: Kevin McLean has created a fantastic new design for the TCS website. Now we need to transfer all the content of the old website to the new website, which is a perfect opportunity to update some of the content. As a start, each committee could take on a section of the website containing their topic, review it and provide comments.
 - The goal is to switch to the new website by the end of December. Therefore comments on the old website should be in early November.
 - After the content is moved to the new site, the Board will have a chance to review the whole new website before it goes live. This is likely to occur between Thanksgiving and Xmas.
 - **ACTION:** Hélène will send the website redesign recommendations developed over the summer, and the list of 9 areas that need review on old website.
 - **ACTION:** Hélène will talk with Kevin about timeline
- **Membership**
 - A proposal for a list of criteria that would apply to the new membership database was circulated. This was the result of great work done by Tali MacArthur.
 - **ACTION:** Tali will collect comments on the file sent out about the database from BOD and work with Membership Committee to finalize database format. Will then request an e-vote to accept the database as a new membership benefit that will be created on the new website and accessible by members beginning Jan 1 or ASAP. Then Tali will work with Judy and Keven to get it up and running.
- **Education**
 - **ACTION:** Education Committee members would like to meet with Judy Tucker and Jeff Benoit to talk about expectations and to clarify the role of the committee with respect to student awards, etc...

ACTION: Jeff Benoit will schedule a committee chair call soon to follow up on the tasks that emerged from the retreat in Wilmington this spring.

OTHER

Betsi Beem gave an update on CMJ special issue. Unfortunately no abstracts or papers were submitted, therefore we have canceled the edition. The lack of interest may have been due to the timing during a non-conference year. T&F feel confident about a good journal coming out of TCS22 because we'll be able to build interest during conference.

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