

PLATO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2015

DCS Office, 21 North Park, Madison, WI

Present: Mary Boyd (President), Sybil Better, Bob Blitzke, Lauren Blough, Lewis Bosworth, Mary DeWolf, Gail Gordon, Scott Kolar, Aleta Murray, Tim Otis, Frank Power, Don Reeder
DCS: Louise Fowler, Barry Orton

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Boyd called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- II. MINUTES** – Better identified two corrections to the draft minutes. On a motion by Reeder and a second by Bosworth, the minutes of the April 17, 2015 meeting were approved.
- III. LUNCHEON UPDATE** – Boyd reported on plans for the upcoming annual meeting and luncheon at the Nakoma Golf Club. DCS Assistant Dean Laura Ingram is expected to attend. A Q&A with members will be held prior to the annual meeting.
- IV. VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT** – Better presented a one-pager highlighting volunteer opportunities. This flyer will be distributed at the luncheon and included in the Persimmon. In addition, a volunteer button will be added to the webpage. The Executive Committee will discuss the use of badges/name tags. Personal contact with individuals is probably the best way to attract volunteers. Bosworth suggested recruiting UW students as volunteers.
- V. FUTURE DISCUSSION ISSUES** – Bosworth suggested that the group focus on inclusivity/diversity and recommended that an ad hoc committee be appointed to address the issue. The Board will discuss this as an agenda item in June with the discussion to include mobility issues and other physical impairments.

DeWolf reported that she made several contacts at the multicultural health fair at Warner Park, although in general she recommended against future participation because of the audience's size and demographics. It was recommended that we try other events that attract people seeking a more active life style. Power will help to structure a future discussion on the relationship between PLATO and other senior organizations.

- VI. FINANCIAL REPORT** – Otis will bring a proposal for a standing finance committee to the Executive Committee and the Board in June. The budget for 2015-16 will also be on the agenda in June.

The group briefly discussed the AGORA's funding shortfall. Several options for reducing publication costs were identified (e.g., print fewer copies, single copies to households with more than one member, reduce mailing costs). At the next meeting, a motion will likely be offered to provide supplemental funding for this year's AGORA.

Boyd reported that she and Dean Jeff Russell had both signed the MOA. Processing by the UW System should take several weeks.

- VII. MEMBER SURVEY** - The Board reviewed the latest draft and agreed that a question on the Persimmon should be added. The survey will be available on-line starting the last week of May and it will remain on-line until the end of June. Periodic reminders to complete the survey will be included in the weekly member update.
- VIII. UW LIBRARY CARDS** – The UW Libraries are seeking an easier way to identify PLATO members seeking library cards. On a motion by Kolar and a second by DeWolf, the Board authorized the web services team to create a password protected webpage that is viewable and accessible only by the UW Libraries. The page will provide an online directory of PLATO members so that the UW Libraries can verify PLATO membership for library card requests. On a motion by Kolar and a second by Murray, the Board decided that membership cards would no longer be provided to PLATO members unless requested.
- IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Boyd reported that Janet Cabot has agreed to chair the Special Events Committee. Blitzke will continue to coordinate trips. Blitzke indicated that nonmembers can only participate in trips if they are guests of members, and the member must register the nonmember accompanying him or her.
- X. BEHAVIORAL POLICIES** – The Curriculum Committee contacted coordinators to determine if member behavior in courses is an issue. To date, the response has generally been negative. The Special Events Committee is drafting a policy which is expected to be ready for Executive Committee and Board consideration in June.
- XI. 30th ANNIVERSARY OF PLATO IN 2017**– In August, Power will set up a committee to plan a celebration of this milestone.
- XII. JUNE MEETING** – The next meeting will be held on June 19, 2015. Boyd will invite incoming board members. A social event for Board members will be held later that day.
- XIII. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REAPPOINTMENT** – The Board acknowledged the extension of Fowler’s position with UW through 2018.
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Better
Secretary

Approved by the PLATO Board on June 20, 2015.