

PLATO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2015

DCS Office, 21 North Park, Madison, WI

Present: Mary Boyd (President), Patricia Becker, Sybil Better, Lauren Blough, Lewis Bosworth, Mary DeWolf, Mike DiIorio, Gail Gordon, Aleta Murray, Tim Otis, Frank Power, Don Reeder
DCS: Louise Fowler, Barry Orton
Others Present: Patricia Herrling, Scott Kolar, John Koch

I. CALL TO ORDER – Boyd called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She welcomed Herrling, Koch and Kolar who will be joining the board in July and recognized outgoing members Becker and Blough

Diversity was added to the “New Committee” portion of the agenda.

II. MINUTES – On a motion by Power and a second by Reeder, the minutes of the May 20th annual meeting were approved. The following change was made to section XIII of the minutes of the May 15th board meeting: The Board *acknowledged* the extension of Fowler’s position with UW through 2018. On a motion by Bosworth and a second by Becker, the revised May 15th board minutes were approved.

III. LUNCHEON EVALUATION – More than 160 attended the luncheon and Fowler reported that 40% of attendees returned an evaluation form. Responses were generally positive with the most concerns dealing with food service. The cost to PLATO for underwriting member attendance at the luncheon will be somewhat less than \$1,000. Prior to next year’s luncheon there needs to be a discussion whether invitations should be sent via US mail or by e-mail as was done this year.

IV. TRANSITION EVENT – Scheduled for June 19th at 4 pm.

V. 2014-15 BUDGET REPORT – Otis presented summary projections for 2014-15. He is anticipating an end-of-year surplus of more than \$700. Trip expenses currently exceed trip revenues, but steps are being taken to address this situation.

VI. 2015-16 BUDGET PROPOSAL – Otis introduced a proposed 2015-16 budget. Greater use of digital technology is reducing expenditures in some areas. Also, a reduction in the number of trips will lower trip revenue. On a motion by Reeder and a second by D’Iorio the 2015-16 budget was accepted.

VII. AGORA UPDATE – Becker reported that printing costs had been reduced by using a new printer. Total costs of printing and mailing the AGORA to all members are expected to be under \$5,000. Following the completion of the 2015 edition, a surplus of \$2,000 is projected. Becker moved with a second by Murray that PLATO increase future appropriations for the AGORA by \$500 to \$2,500 per year. She argued that the AGORA is a member benefit, and that this increase is needed to compensate for a possible reduction in

future donations and to enable more copies to be printed as PLATO membership grows. Others maintained that fewer copies would be needed if the AGORA were sent only to members requesting it or if it was published on-line. On a motion by Kolar and a second by DiIorio, the original motion requesting an increase in the annual appropriation was tabled. A motion by Gordon that the size of the 2015 print run not be determined until the Board makes a decision on distribution failed to receive a second.

VIII. NEW COMMITTEES

- A. Finance Committee - Otis discussed the proposed finance committee and responded to member questions. On a motion by Becker and a second by Blough, the establishment of a standing finance committee was approved. This committee will be small with membership drawn from the Board and the general membership. Like other committees, it will prepare meeting minutes that will be distributed to board members.

- B. Leadership Committee – The ad hoc working group consisting of Becker, Boyd and Kolar distributed a proposed leadership development plan, implementation strategies and timeline. Kolar indicated that this plan incorporates approaches that have been discussed in the past (e.g., board members visit classes to make appeals for volunteers). The ad hoc committee did not recommend the establishment of a standing leadership development committee at this time. This recommendation will be revisited in late 2015.

- C. Diversity – Bosworth circulated a proposal for an ad hoc diversity/inclusivity committee. On a motion by Bosworth and a second by Power, the board agreed to the establishment of an ad hoc committee to make recommendations on how to increase the diversity of PLATO membership. A progress report from the ad hoc committee is due in November 2015.

IX. MOA UPDATE – Orton reported that a legal opinion has been requested from University counsel because of differences between the proposed new MOA and the existing MOA.

X. MEMBER SURVEY STATUS - Kolar reported that 345 responses had been received for a completion rate that is slightly above the last survey. The survey will be available until the end of the month. An executive summary will be prepared by Kolar, DiIorio and DeWolf. The Executive Committee will review the results and determine what additional analysis is needed.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – In Blitzke’s absence, Reeder reported on attendance at the initial member coffee klatch. The next one will be held in July. Janet Cabot will assume leadership of the Special Events Committee in July. At the next Special Events Committee meeting, the group will consider a “trip reward” proposal for members who are frequent trip-goers.

DeWolf reported on plans to develop a new color brochure. No board approval is needed to proceed with its development.

XII. FALL 2015 PREVIEW – Boyd reported that planning is underway with the fall preview following the format used in the spring preview.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS – Otis acknowledged the work of out-going board members Blough and Becker. He also recognized Boyd for the outstanding job she has done as president over the past year.

XIV. AUGUST MEETING – The next meeting will be held on August 21, 2015.

XV. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Better
Secretary

Approved by the PLATO Board on August 21, 2015.