

PLATO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2016

21 N. Park Street, Madison, WI

Present: Scott Kolar (President), Sybil Better, Kathy Brown, Janet Cabot, Ed Cothroll, Mary DeWolf, Kevin Gould, John Koch, Tim Otis, Frank Power,
DCS: Louise Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER – Kolar called the meeting to order at 9:30 am with a quorum in attendance. Since this was the initial meeting of the 2016-17 Board, members were asked to introduce themselves. Kolar reported on the new Board member orientation held on August 18th.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **On a motion by Otis and a second by Power, the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting were approved. On a motion by Power and a second by Cabot, the minutes of the June 17th board meeting were also approved.**

III. APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR – **On a motion by Cabot seconded by Brown, Carla DiIorio was appointed as chair of the Special Events Committee.**

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

In addition to the written reports distributed as part of the agenda packet, the following additional information was presented:

A. Communication Committee – The draft statement of the Committee’s responsibilities will be reviewed by the Board in September.

B. Annual Meeting & 30th Anniversary Committee – The Committee recommended that the annual meeting be held on May 17 from 2-5 pm at the Lussier Heritage Center and the 30th anniversary celebration be held at the same site on October 18 from 4-7 pm. **On a motion by Power and a second by DeWolf, the Board accepted the Committee’s plans for both events.** The Committee will look into how to increase the accessibility of this site for members with transportation issues.

C. Diversity Committee – Power described the Committee’s plans for the UW Go Big Read project. Fifty copies of *Evicted* will be obtained from UW-Madison and distributed at the Fall Preview. Members will be encouraged to participate in a discussion of the book at the Madison Public Library and/or to attend the author’s presentation in November. A wrap-up event for PLATO members featuring a panel of speakers will be held on November 16. **On a motion by Power, the Committee’s plans for the Go Big Read project were approved by the Board.**

D. Membership Committee – DeWolf reported that she will work with the Technology Committee to add a “volunteer” button to the PLATO home page.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hamilton Ticket Rollout – Fair Access Policy. Kolar reported that the Special Events Committee has developed a policy dealing with the holding back of tickets and the Curriculum Committee has been asked to develop a policy relating to course access. The two will be considered together at a future meeting.

B. Number of Board Meetings. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Kolar proposed a reduction in the number of Board meetings. Better reviewed her analysis of the content of the

last year's Board meetings which supported this change. **The Board approved a reduction in the number of board meetings from 10 to 8 each year, eliminating meetings in February and May, in addition to the non-meeting months of July and December.**

C. Video Recording Request. Kolar provided background on Rick Orton's request for \$2,000 for a second round of videotaping of presentations at his Racial Injustice and Inequality course. The subsequent discussion touched on a number of issues including how much PLATO should allocate to this type of activity, limited viewing of initial videos, promoting the availability of videos to members and the broader community, and technology options (i.e., videos vs. streaming). **On behalf of the Executive Committee, Kolar proposed funding of up to \$1500 for video recording during the Fall 2016 Racial Injustice and Inequality course. This motion was approved with one negative vote.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Contract with Fowler for Additional Administrative Services – The growth of PLATO has placed increased demands on PLATO's office staff. **The Board approved a motion offered by Kolar on behalf of the Executive Committee Kolar to contract with Fowler for additional administrative services at a rate of \$433/month for 6 months (renewable) beginning July 1, 2016.** Plato's personnel needs will be part of the renegotiation of the MOA with the University in 2017.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Conflict of Interest Statement – The form was distributed to Board members for their review and signature.

B. Member Survey Update – De Wolf reported that the survey was posted late and the response rate has been much lower than last year. Dedicated emails encouraging member response will be sent out now and in September. She anticipates reporting on the survey results at the October Board meeting. De Wolf also told Board members that they would be asked to encourage volunteerism by speaking at courses in mid-October as was done last year.

C. Coordinators' Luncheon – Brown announced that the luncheon for coordinators will be held at Warner Park on September 14. Board members are invited to attend.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 11:06 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Sybil Better, Secretary

Minutes approved by the PLATO Board on September 19, 2016.

