

PLATO Board Minutes

Friday, April 10, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

9:30 –11:00 AM

Present: Michael Stevens, President, Kathy Brown, Janet Cabot, Sue Dentinger, Bill Eisinger, Barb Freiberg, Patricia Herrling, Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, Sharon Scratish, Meg Taylor, Paul Thompson

Also Present: Edie Urness-Pondillo

1. Call to Order and approval of February 2020 Minutes -- Approved

2. PLATO response to Pandemic

a. Where we are now – Currently Spring/Summer Courses are cancelled, as well as Special Events and any in-person meetings. Committees are working remotely. Members are updated through weekly email blast and via the website.

b. Today—decision on 2020 Annual meeting – It was a motion to cancel our May 20th annual meeting, we would open the June Board meeting as our annual meeting and share the election results. We would then adjourn the annual meeting and reconvene as the regular June Board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

c. Technological options to carry on in short-term

Scott Kolar discussed email/phone options as well as video conferencing. After researching several options Google Hangouts was selected as the standard for PLATO which would be supported. That didn't mean that courses, etc. couldn't select another option. Technology Committee will continue to look at other options that may work better.

Scott is meeting with Curriculum and Special Events about other options. Paul Thompson reported that Therese Stevens is doing a survey of course coordinators about options for doing courses in the Fall. The results will help with planning for mechanisms of offering courses. Probably courses will need to be offered online.

Field trips, theater trips are cancelled for the future. Lectures may go online and information about self-guided walks will be shown on the PLATO website.

Social events such as breakfast talks, etc. could also look at online options. This was tabled for discussion at the next Board meeting.

d. Preparing options for the longer-term

e. Temporary dues restructure – Dues run from August 1st through July 31st. Scott's proposed budget is based on no in-person offerings and no income/expenses. However we would still have administrative fees and the Agora, which were about \$66,450/yr.

Hedy Lukas proposed no fees for renewing or new members for the coming year. Discussion was held on the pros/cons of this proposition.

A motion was made/seconded to waive fees for 2020-2021 for renewing members. We would still pay DCS as if we had charged our members. (40% of member dues). Motion was approved by the Board.

Discussion of fees for new members was tabled until the next Board meeting.

Planning for future – Covered under previous discussions listed above.

3. FY21 PLATO budget –the Board will look at this closely and come back in June to discuss/approve the budget.

4. Open House Design Team – All of the committees were in favor of the redesign of the Open House.

A motion was made/seconded to:

1. Identify volunteers and a leader to create an “Open House Design Team” composed of representatives from each key committee – Curriculum, SEC, M&C, Technology, Diversity.
2. Establish a “charge” to the Design Team from the board to:

Showcase PLATO’s Core Offerings in order to:

- **Generate incremental involvement in PLATO programs among current members and to**
- **Generate new members motivated by the programs they see.**
- **Provide PLATO members an opportunity to showcase their work, thereby nurturing a sense of accomplishment and pride.**

The motion was approved by the Board.

5. Committee Reports – no discussion

- a. Questions for Chairs --none
- b. Additional updates

6. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 12, 2020, 9:30-11:00.