

PLATO Board Minutes

Friday, August 14, 2020

Videoconference Meeting

9:30 AM

Present: President Kathy Brown, Vice President Rod McKenzie, Past President Michael Stevens, Treasurer Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Janet Cabot, JK Cheema, Meg Taylor, Paul Thompson, Sharon Scratish, Sue Dentinger, Bill Eisinger, and Alan Capelle.

Also Present: Hank Weiss, Henry Anderson, Theodore Goodfriend, Christine Bartlett, and Edie Urness-Pondillo

1. Call to Order and introduction of new board members and new PLATO office operations associate.

2. Approval of June 2020 Minutes--Approved

3. Report to the board by working group on “Criteria to Assist PLATO Board in Reopening In-Person Activities”

a. Michael Stevens introduced an initiative to create this criteria in late spring, when he was PLATO president. Stevens explained the need for researched criteria in support of the PLATO policy on reopening, which was approved and released by the board in June.

b. Meg Taylor (who spent her career in the public health field) led the working group and introduced her team: Hank Weiss, PhD Epidemiology; Theodore Goodfriend, MD, Internal Medicine Specialist; and Henry Anderson, MD, Occupational Disease Epidemiologist.

c. Hank Weiss led the Board through a slide presentation outlining the group’s research and findings, along with current data on the pandemic. (See the report for details).

d. All members of the team entertained questions following the presentation.

e. Michael Stevens made a motion, seconded by Sue Dentinger, to adopt the criteria recommended by the work group and asked the group to keep PLATO updated. The motion passed unanimously.

f. The full report and executive summary will be posted on the PLATO website on Aug. 18, the same day that members will be notified in the Tuesday email about the report.

4. Open House Re-Design Team – Hedy Lukas explained the result of this committee’s research, survey, and results. She said the intention was to come up with the ultimate new design for the open houses and although many ways to make it an amazing event were found, their findings showed it still needs to be anchored to previewing and offering registration for PLATO courses. Their report also showed that much of the introduction to courses can be communicated via online sources as PLATO perfects this method with members. The social element of the open house, which was reported to be very important

to PLATO members, can eventually be done face-to-face in other ways. The recommendation of the committee is to abandon re-designing the open house at this time.

Hedy made a motion asking the board to endorse the committee's recommendation that an open house for purposes of providing course information not be implemented in the foreseeable future. The motion was seconded by Michael Stevens and passed.

5. Treasurer's Report – Scott Kolar's report shows slightly under \$52,000 expenses for the upcoming year and predicts \$30,000 in the reserve at the end of the next fiscal year. At this point, about \$13,000 in donations for the operating fund have been received from members.

6. Board Resolution on Systemic Racism – Vice President Rod McKenzie is working with the Diversity Committee to review options for getting PLATO's resolution to go beyond the PLATO community to make the statement more than words without action. A letter is being crafted to send to elected officials and other leaders, as well as suggestions to PLATO committees to increase awareness of systemic racism. This is a project still in process.

7. PLATO Directory Access to Membership Data – Scott Kolar reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the recommendation of the board to eliminate email addresses in the online membership directory. Because that information is vital to member to member communications, the extra security measures of adding CAPTCHA and manual office approval to new member requests is now in place.

Scott made a motion to retain all member information in the online directory, with the caveat that individual members can limit what information is shared in the directory by changing their membership privacy settings. The motion was seconded by Alan Capelle and passed.

8. Transition in the PLATO Office. Christine Bartlett was introduced. She is training as PLATO Office Operations Associate with Louise Fowler and Edie Urness-Pondillo and will take over Edie's duties in early September. Board members individually expressed gratitude for Edie's work for the past few years and wished her well in retirement.

9. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Next Board Meeting: Friday, October 9, 2020, 9:30-11:00.