

PLATO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Friday, January 21, 2011
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 110 N. Whitney Way, Madison WI

Present: Judy Sadowsky, Patricia Becker, Mary Boyd, Harold Green, Mike Lovejoy, Frank Stein, Arden Trine, Wendy Kerr, Barry Orton.

I. CALL TO ORDER – J. Sadowsky called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. MINUTES – The minutes of the November 19th, 2010, meeting were accepted unanimously.

III. INTRODUCTION – Barry Orton, Professor of Telecommunications, was welcomed as the DCS liaison, taking over for Sarah Schutt.

IV. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Outreach – J. Sadowsky for A. Falconer

1. The Persimmon: The January issue has been mailed.
2. The PLATO Agora: To date there are 70 submissions. Deadline is February 1.

B. Curriculum and Facilities – H. Green

1. Class Schedule
 - a. The list of courses, of which there are 38, is included in the Persimmon. There will be another new offering, a Chorus group, bringing the total to 39.
 - b. For the first time as a trial two courses are offered in the evening, one on the east side at the Monona State Bank (Creating Tolle's New Earth), the other at UW Space Place (Planets: Foreign Worlds).
2. Spring Preview - February 16, 2011. Will be organized similarly to the Fall Preview but without in-person sign-up for classes.
3. Community relations follow-up. Relations with Capital Lakes are going well.

C. Special Events and Activities - M. Boyd

1. Interim offerings:
 - a. Last of three election lectures – January 21, Capital Lakes.
 - b. Nepal Lecture and Dinner – February 2, Madison Senior Center. To date 62 are registered.

c. New Member Meeting – February 8, Capitol Lakes.

2. Spring lectures: Two are planned: Taliesin Restoration; Iran and Iraq – Joe Elder.

D. University Relations – M. Lovejoy

1. The MOA: Revision is in progress, to be completed by June 30.

2. Tax exempt status number - Obtaining a number for miscellaneous purchases that do not go through DCS is still in progress.

3. UW Foundation endowment fund

a. An issue paper, *PLATO and the UW Foundation*, was submitted at the October meeting of the Board. The paper is based on three premises: (1) we want to invest, (2) the venue selected should enable donations, and (3) it is not necessary to obtain 501-3c status as we can go through DCS.

b. Recommendations:

1) Establish a UW Foundation fund through DCS.

2) Set it up as an endowment fund (only interest can be withdrawn) but also consider an unrestricted gift account (both principal and interest can be withdrawn).

3) Prepare a statement of purpose in collaboration with DCS that will clarify issues such as types of programs we wish to support and age definition for ‘senior’ learning.

4) Create a committee to manage issues related to the fund, e.g., communication to members and fundraising.

c. An initial deposit of \$10,000 is required. Will need to determine the source, i.e., from cash on hand, CDs coming due, UW Credit Union investment account, or MG&E funds.

d. Barry Orton noted that DCS has legal resources for reviewing the purpose statement.

e. No action will be taken until the MOA is revised and approved.

E. The Agora – See IV.A.2. above

F. Other

1. Spring Preview – See IV.B.2. above.

2. New Member Meeting – T. Otis
Scheduled February 8, 1:30-2:30, at the Madison Senior Center. The 152 members who have joined since July 2010 have been invited. A question was raised about also inviting members who have not renewed. B. Orton noted it might not be fruitful, as the survey results showed reasons were mostly ‘too busy’.
3. Annual luncheon speaker (May 24, Sheraton, John Nolen Drive) Will invite UW-Madison Chancellor, Bidy Martin. B. Orton will make the contact. Fall back options include the President of the Madison College (MATC).

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee

1. Membership - The President and President elect are ex officio members. Committee chairs were asked to solicit volunteers through their committees. W. Kerr will review membership forms for indications of interest and will send out an email asking for volunteers.
2. Positions - Candidates needed for president elect, treasurer, and at-large board member(s).
3. Terms of office - Whether the term for president should be extended to 2 years was discussed. It was determined that no By-Laws change would be needed, and that terms for president and committee chairs could be left to the preference of the candidate or incumbent.

B. Bus trips - Committee chairs were asked to solicit a volunteer through their committees to take over for Peter Priegel. Email request for a volunteer bus trip coordinator and treasurer will be sent.

C. Class participation issues

A draft procedure developed by T. Otis to provide guidance for course facilitators in dealing with disruptive behavior was discussed. It was decided not to develop a written policy, but leave action to the discretion of the course leaders, who can ask a participant to leave the class, and in extreme cases call 911. B. Orton will look into university policy as a guide for further consideration of this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting: Friday, February 18, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Becker, Secretary