

PLATO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2021 (Approved August 13, 2021)

9:30 a.m. via Google Meet

Present: Present: Kathy Brown, President, Janet Cabot, Dory Christensen, Carla Diiorio, Bill Eisinger, Sandi Fike, Patricia Herrling, Cheema JK, Mike Kernats, Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, Michael Stevens, Therese Stevens, Meg Taylor, Paul Thompson

Also present: Louise Fowler, Stephanie Steigerwaldt

Welcome and Introductions

- New Board members—Kathy introduced the new Board members, Dory Christensen and Mike Kernats. Welcome!.
- Stephanie Steigerwaldt-Steph started her position June 1st. Welcome!

Pro Forma Annual Meeting—The slate of nominees for the Board were announced and the results of the election was presented. These results were also announced in a May 18th email to members, along with the President's Report. The President's Report is also available on the PLATO Website.

Approval of April 2021 Board Minutes

Motions made to approve the minutes. They were approved.

Treasurer's Report

- FY22 budget—Scott discussed the Treasurer's report. The budget was based on an estimated 75% renewal rate of members. It is a very conservative budget. Membership is August 1st through July 31st so we will soon see the actual retention rate. Motion made to approve the budget. Motion passed.

Committee Updates

- Curriculum Committee update—At the last Board meeting it was approved to give \$100 for 9 walking tour events. An honorarium for course speakers was also brought up. The Curriculum committee discussed this. It seemed to go against the principal of volunteerism and the committee voted not to offer honoraria to guest speakers.
- Fund Development update—Rod reported that the fund drive so far has been very successful. \$27,700 so far with donations still coming in. A motion was made to request that the UW Foundation distribute the funds amounting to \$34,000 to the designated recipients stated in the Fund Development Committee report. Motion approved.

Re-Opening PLATO Events

- COVID Advisory Workgroup latest report & discussion—Meg Taylor guided us through a discussion of the issues. Therese also supplied an update of the opening locations requirements. Classes start the 3rd week of September and people will be asked to register for all classes. The various location requirements will be stated for each class as a requirement of registering. A motion was made to open fall in-person classes which will follow the host location protocols. PLATO's minimum requirements are that we will follow the CDC and Dane County guidelines. We will include the information that people may wear a mask if they wish. The motion was passed.
- A discussion of the requirements for events requiring transportation were deferred for the next meeting.

Conversation with UW-DCS

Rod, Scott and Kathy met with the DCS Dean Russell and Hope about the status of Louise. They will continue to keep Louise on the payroll put to 4 hours a week and will bill PLATO for the actual amount of time. This will start July 1st and she can work with Stephanie through September. That could be extended to December if needed.

DCS will continue with the PLATO Fund agreement.

DCS/PLATO association will continue, with cross-listing of events and branding on websites. A new MOA will be created.

PLATO will be out of the DCS office space by the end of September. Paul Thompson brought up continuing access to meeting rooms and phone access. Michael suggested we could meet at other facilities with a phone if there are no DCS meeting rooms available to us.

Other Business

- Thanks to those completing their terms on the Board
- Other: We need to review our bylaws. Currently they say that DCS will set our membership dues and that our memberships run July 1st through June 30th, so many changes need to be made to these. A committee of Michael Stevens, Jatinder Cheema, and Mike Kernats will redraft a version that addresses these and other concerns and present it to the Board later this year.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Board meeting: August 13, 2021