

PLATO Board of Directors Meeting
April 14, 2023
Approved Minutes

Present: Kathy Brown, Kathie Burman, Janet Cabot, Dory Christensen, Patricia Herrling, Susan Josheff, Mike Kernats, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, MaryJo MacSwain, Kathy Michaelis, Jack Mitchell, Tim Otis, Stephanie Steigerwaldt

1) Approval of Draft Board Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2023—Motion made to approve and passed.

2) Treasurer's Update: Cheema reported on the budget/financial report FY2022-2023.

a. Treasurer's Report/ b. FY23 Actuals—We have not spent as much as we had anticipated. We have made a little less in Special Events than thought, but we are well on the way to meet expected membership dues.

We did budget for the annual meeting for this year. We budgeted for an open house, but did not hold one. There are no plans for this in the future.

3) Committee Items:

a. **Special Events** – Review and discussion of the Annual Meeting proposal with request for a vote of approval. Janet Cabot will help lead this discussion and Sue Joesheff will represent SEC at the Board meeting as Carla and Mike Dilorio are travelling.

Janet reported about the annual meeting proposal. The business required by the annual meeting will be held in May, as required by our by-laws.. A program component is proposed for June 14 or June 28 depending on the location. Goodman Center and the Madison Public Library are the location possibilities. This would include an introduction of new PLATO officers and committee chairs, followed by a 45 minute lecture with Q&A. Jim Skibo would give the lecture on the recovery of the Mendota dugout canoes. Refreshments will be provided. Registration and RSVP required. Members could invite guests. This would be publicized in a Tuesday email blast.

Refreshment costs were estimated at around \$1,000, with a \$300-\$500 room cost. The MPL is available on June 28th and would not allow us to charge a fee for this event. Because the speaker is available on June 14th the SEC recommends the event take place at the Goodman Center. They would allow us to charge for the event. The costs for this event have already been approved in the FY2022-2023 budget, so no approval is necessary.

A motion was made to approve the SEC proposal to proceed with an annual program meeting at the Goodman Center on June 14th. Funds budgeted for the annual meeting will be used for this meeting, not to exceed the approved budget of \$7,000. Members could invite guests. Registration and RSVP are required. A special email blast could be sent outside the normal Tuesday email. The event would be free of cost to attendees. Motion approved.

b. **Membership & Communications** – Review and discussion of the Facebook Relaunch with request for a vote to approve the relaunch as proposed and to approve sending a special targeted email announcement to members regarding the relaunch on Monday, May 15.

Hedy reported that the committee sent out an email to PLATO committees to ask for their response to a Facebook presence. They received good feedback. She also talked about a set of rules for the use of Facebook, which have been approved by the M&C committee. They want to launch Facebook on May 15th. Stephanie is preparing a list of timelines, responsibilities, and guidelines for the use of Facebook.

A motion was made to approve the relaunch of PLATO Facebook on May 15th Motion was approved. **A second motion was made to approve sending a special targeted email to members** about this relaunch. Motion approved.

c.) **Curriculum**--Kathie Burman reported that we are on a downward trend in numbers of courses. The committee is looking at ways of encouraging course coordinators so we can increase these offerings. Making sure coordinators know that courses could be less than 10 weeks and may only be offering occasional semesters, not every semester. Talking about course coordinating at other PLATO Social events was suggested. Videos by course coordinators is one way to publicize their courses. Curriculum may consider a virtual Open House.

4) **AD Hoc Committee Items / Other:**

a. **Nominating Committee** – Review and discussion of the proposed slate of candidates for this year's election with request for a vote of approval.

Kathy Brown reported the progress of the nominating committee. Two Tuesday email notifications were sent out asking for any volunteers for the open positions. Nominee biographies were sent out to the Board previously. **A motion was made to accept the slate of nominees** as presented. Motion was passed.

Our webpage will soon have a banner about the coming election of officers. Tuesday emails will also announce this election, with the nominee biographies. A special email about the election will go out on April 26th. May 16th will announce the results of the election. There will be a Board orientation for new officers.

Some committees will also have new chairs. Hedy Lukas is retiring as Chair of Membership & Communications. Steve Sparks will become the new Chair and Board representative. Scott Kolar has resigned as Chair of the Technology Committee and that committee is in a reorganization phase. Mike and Carla Diiorio will also be stepping down as co-chairs of SEC.

b. Mike Kernatz requests a brief discussion on potentially pursuing an affiliation with the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society (BDDS) "as it seems that we could take advantage of their free concerts and education programs, and perhaps consider some of their ticketed concerts for PLATO special events.

Mike Kernats met with this society and they brought up some sort of partnership with PLATO. Does the Board approve Mike discussing this issue with them? There are many such organizations that we could partner with, so we need to think about a policy about partnering with outside organizations. This needs future discussion. Mike has approval to talk to this organization on a fact finding basis without any commitments.

c.) **PLATO Fund**--Tim Otis reported that Returning Adult Student scholarship recipients will have a recognition event on April 26th. The committee is on the process of considering recipients of scholarships/grants in the coming FY.

Next Board Meeting: Friday, June 9, 2023 @ 9:30am