

## **PLATO Board Minutes**

**Friday, June 12, 2020**

### **Video Conference Meeting**

**9:30 –11:00 AM**

Present: Michael Stevens, Kathy Brown, Janet Cabot, Suzy Griffiths, Sue Dentinger, Bill Eisinger, Barb Freiberg, Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, Sharon Scrattish, Meg Taylor, Paul Thompson

Also Present: Edie Urness-Pondillo

**1. Call to Order and approval of April 2020 Minutes** -- Approved, with one correction brought forward by Kathy Brown and passed unanimously. (The minutes posted on the PLATO website reflect the amended minutes.)

### **2. Pro Forma Annual Meeting**

President Michael Stevens presented the written report for the 2020 Annual Meeting and it was accepted by the board. It is posted on the PLATO website on the Organizational Documents page and will be featured in the PLATO Weekly Update.

### **2. Committee Reports**

- a. No questions for chairs
- b. Additional Updates - Kathy Brown and Hedy Lukas reported on the Open House Redesign Committee progress. Two subcommittees--the research and survey teams--have begun their work and the full committee will converge in a couple of weeks. The plan is to present their findings and recommendations at the August board meeting.

Curriculum Committee - The Madison Senior Center will not be able to accommodate an open house in the fall due to the pandemic.

- c. Position Recruitment Status - The position is not yet posted. Edie will keep the board updated.

### **3. Process for Reopening of PLATO In-person Activities**

The Executive Committee approved a process for reopening and that document was put to the full board for approval. The PLATO Reopening Policy was approved unanimously. It will be posted on the PLATO web site on the Organizational Documents page.

The policy reiterated that in-person PLATO courses and events are canceled for the remainder of 2020 due to the continuing Coronavirus health crisis, including Fall 2020 in-person PLATO courses, although plans for Fall online courses and online special events will continue. It decided that the resumption of in-person programming shall not occur until authorized by the PLATO Board. Once the Board has authorized resumption of programming and defined criteria, the opening of in-person courses will begin when the Curriculum Committee or the Special Events Committee (as appropriate) and the PLATO Executive Committee agree that the Board-approved criteria are met.

Michael Stevens thanked Meg Taylor, whose career was in public health, and her work group who are working on developing specific policies focusing on the PLATO demographic. Taylor recruited PLATO members who are experts in public health, medicine, and epidemiology for her group.

She expects results as early as next week for board members to review. She is also willing to meet with committees to assure those guidelines align with various activities across PLATO. There will be ongoing communication between Meg's work group and committee chairs to assure the information gets to those who will put the policies into effect (coordinators, trip leaders, etc).

#### **4. Update on Donations to Operations Fund**

Scott Kolar reported \$9,938 from 141 members has been donated for the operational expenses of PLATO since the announcement of the fee waiver was made. The board acknowledges the donors and their support for PLATO and its work.

An automatic renewal email usually goes out in early July and this year that renewal will be a reminder that no membership fees will be charged for 2020-2021 and give an opportunity for members to donate toward expenses.

#### **5. FY21 New Member Dues Rate and Proposed Changes to Application Process**

Membership Chair Hedy Lukas suggested the board approve no membership fee for new members (in addition to existing members). She cited this as a possible way to increase membership and notes PLATO has more to gain than lose by doing so.

In light of the concern of scammers joining PLATO to gain access to the member directory and information, a captcha code and administrative approval step has been added to the new member enrollment page. A new member will not have access to the directory until admin approval is individually made.

A motion to approve no charge to new members and the added security was unanimously approved.

Suppressing the email address of members in the directory was discussed and a motion tabled until the August meeting. Research will be done on whether that suppression would cause coordinators and committee chairs undue difficulty in connecting with members.

#### **6. FY21 Budget**

Scott Kolar presented the FY21 budget. Sue Dentinger asked for \$300 to be added to line item 6270 Honorariums for any online lectures that may be scheduled. Paul Thompson asked that \$1,000 be added as a contingency fee in line item 6290 for software that might enhance the ability to hold online classes.

A motion to adopt those amendments and approve the budget was made and passed unanimously. The FY21 budget is posted on the PLATO web site.

#### **7. Fund Development Committee report and request for approval of education grant distributions**

Rod McKenzie, Chair of Fund Development, moved to approve PLATO disburse \$30,000 from funds received and held at the UW Foundation to support PLATO Education Fund recipients. This is a continued level of giving. The motion passed unanimously.

Rod also thanked the board for keeping separate the operational fund giving and scholarship fund giving to keep up the Fund Development levels.

#### **8. Diversity Committee proposed resolution**

A resolution sent to the board from the Diversity Committee condemning decades of systemic racial oppression and urging local, state, and federal officials to eliminate the causes and implement meaningful solutions, was approved unanimously by the board.

#### **9. Other Business**

1. Paul Thompson expressed thanks to the cross-committee collaboration which enabled Google Meets for both meetings and online classes.
2. Kathy Brown reiterated Michael Stevens' thanks to board members ending their time on the board and a special thanks to Michael for two years as president of PLATO.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting: Friday, August 14, 9:30 to 11 a.m.