

KPA Business Meeting Minutes
3 March 2018

Agenda Items

- I. Welcome and acknowledgements
 - a. Welcome by Rebecca at 12:01 p.m.
 - b. Thanks to host committee Shayne, David, Jimmy for organizing, food, etc.
 - c. Introduction of and thanks to executive committee

- II. Fran moved, Susan seconded approval of minutes from 2017 business meeting. Yes vote by acclamation with no dissent.

- III. Treasurer's report by David Powell
 - \$8100 savings balance
 - \$2100 checking balance
 - \$2000 conference expenses
 - \$550 deposit into checking Monday
 - KPR publication and mailing expense still outstanding - will have to dip into savings to cover.

- IV. Officer election - Thomas Vann unable to attend so presented by Rebecca
 - a. Slate:
 - Justy Engle: President
 - David Powell: Vice-President
 - Susan Kroeg: Shayne Confer
 - David Powell: Treasurer
 - Laura Dennis: Secretary
 - Craig Steffen: Webmaster
 - Jimmy Dean Smith KPR Editor
 - Peter Smith: Pop Culture Studies Rep
 - Rhonda Pettit: Creative Writing Rep
 - Nancy Jentsch: Foreign Language Representative
 - Rebecca Brackmann: Executive Director
 - Cristy Hall: Program Chair
 - b. Candi moved, David seconded to elect slate as presented; yes vote by acclamation with no dissent.

- V. Survey results/Next year's conference - Rebecca's summary = people are mostly pleased; Rebecca opened floor for comments.
 - a. Craig had a question, but upon learning these were same results as seen last fall's executive committee meeting, he's good
 - b. Candi commented about no-shows, repeat offenders, how she handled it using e-mail and suggestion they send paper even if

can't come at last minute. That worked in at least one known case.

- c. Next year's conference - James Riley at University of Pikeville. UPike on board. Note that we will have to be mindful of reserving our rooms in a timely manner b/c same weekend as mid-south conference. We will announce about rooms early and often.
- d. Susan, Neil, Shayne, David - work with Rebecca to create a "what host institutions need to know" document including budget requirements, expectations, etc. as per Susan's suggestion.

VI. Website update. Short version is that our web host, ipage, had a gap / lapse that allowed malware possibly to go out. Worst case scenario is someone got the type of information a receipt would hold - name, e-mail, phone, address, food preferences, last 4 digits of credit card. No financial vulnerability at any time. We could only get more money, not lose any. We will be moving to a new site. Craig will share more with anyone who wants to know. Can transfer our domain in April. Recommend possible hosts to Craig. Site will be rebuilt, is currently living in placeholder form on Craig's own site. Will be prettier in future. Justy and Shayne have access to all parts of the site if something happens that Craig can't get to. We have control of the kpasubmissions@gmail.com email address. Things should be good by executive committee meeting next September.

VII. KPA in action discussion boards

- a. big promo push from Rebecca.
- b. CAVEAT: question of whether should use for political action because could jeopardize our tax-free status, so Jimmy and Sharee looked some things up and we can. We can organize as a non-profit organization, just not on university time or university property.
- c. Scott suggested using alternate, non-work e-mail address.
- d. Craig put a link to the boards on the website.

Items not on Agenda

- I. KPR Report (accidentally left off printed agenda)
 - a. In process, production delay for which Jimmy takes responsibility, but will be mailed soon.
 - b. MLA-indexing seems to have lapsed circa 2012. Jimmy will work on that.
 - c. Possibility of being indexed in JSTOR via begging and hassling. JSTOR would help junior faculty get those much-needed mentions for their tenure dossiers. Jimmy has 4 interns working on KPR who will work on this as part of their duties.

- d. Gary – MLA members can also send in critical papers for indexing themselves.

New Business

- I. Rhonda – Mini writer’s workshop proposal. Arrive the Thursday night and have a mini-writing retreat Friday morning. And if we’re having a writer as a keynote speaker, maybe they could do a pre-conference workshop. So we would reserve rooms for Thursday night too. James is in. He and Rhonda will talk it through.
- II. Rebecca – we will have a creative plenary for 2019. Speaker suggestions requested on evaluation form.
 - a. Maybe abolish academic plenary because two times in a row has not worked out.
 - b. Laura – maybe alternate creative and academic plenaries with invited speakers. Rhonda also suggested having 3-4 respondents who would read. Work it out with the reception so it’s kind of a more convivial experience and maybe move it up a little earlier in a day. Will work on this with host committee and at fall meeting.
- III. Neil – The format of no more than 3 concurrent sessions has really helped individual session attendance. Rebecca noted that this probably because attendance is down, but this is definitely a silver lining to that issue. Neil suggested that we should try to keep this model even when conference is in locations where it could be more heavily attended.
- IV. Rebecca – continued with issue of numbers, noting that we’re on a slow steady-ish downward slide which is affecting finances as well.
 - a. We need to spread the word via other conferences, get people onto the forum, etc. etc.
 - b. Proposed financial change: charge undergrads at the grad rate of 20 dollars. Originally suggested an appeals process for those who can’t pay, then Phil suggested we create a scholarship fund for undergraduates to attend. General agreement from the room.
 - c. Jimmy thought his undergrads could do 20 dollars. They agreed. Jimmy also pointed out that other organizations have higher membership fees, and that some, such as Appalachian Studies Association, have scholarships as well.
 - d. Rhonda asked if we are promoting ourselves as an undergraduate venue. Rebecca expressed a feeling that we want to focus more on graduate students and faculty; discussion continued with observations about more and more institutions promoting undergraduate research and travel, so

this may actually be where our future lies. Could actually improve faculty attendance at the KPA conference. Faculty sponsorship model helps ensure quality of undergraduate presentations.

- e. Shayne moved, and David seconded, to charge undergraduates for membership at the grad rate of 20 dollars. Yes vote by acclamation with no dissent.
 - f. Neil then proposed raising membership fees for faculty from 40 to 60 dollars. Laura and others wondered about 50 or 55, but as financial situation became clearer, in part with a question about registration numbers from Milton, 60 seemed to be the target amount. Some discussion ensued, led by Susan, about where the money goes. Answer from Rebecca, Craig, and David: printing/ mailing; programs, badges, etc.; entertainment at receptions; grad student prize; honoraria and room for plenary speakers; room and registration for executive director should s/he avail him/herself of that option.
 - g. Laura moved and Phil seconded to raise membership from 40 to 60 dollars. Yes vote by acclamation with one dissent.
- V. Student award. Change from a graduate student prize to a student prize where undergrads can compete, as they will now be paying members
- a. Phil moved, James seconded a motion to make this change. Yes vote by acclamation with no dissent.
- VI. Other points of discussion.
- a. Fran - can we have donation space on registration form? Craig - as long as we are very specific about which donations are for what. Justy - would we need separate accounts to be that specific? No, can be itemized in treasurer's report
 - b. Gary - will it weaken conference or university support to promote undergrads? Answer from numerous faculty / members = nope, not at all. In fact most universities give more, travel funds if students are involved.
 - c. Egil Brudvik - Council for Undergraduate Research. CUR.org a place where we could advertise and recruit. Gary added that undergraduate resource offices at various institutions could help us with that as well.
 - d. Feedback from undergraduates helps - use their comments on our website. Laura suggested we incorporate quotes about member experiences at all levels; Rhonda suggested a sort of "wall of fame" of past (and/or present?) members. All would help share KPA's story and why it matters.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.