

Senior College at Belfast Board of Trustees Meeting

June 21 2023 at Social Capital

Call to order : Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9.30am.

Present : Nancy Perkins, Beth Sterner, Sam Causon, Jim Owen, Doug Chamberlin, Mayo Bulloch, Ron Jarvella, Mike Ray, Monica Morris, Karen Gleeson.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report was sent out by email on June 20th and approved by the board.

Beth had nothing new to comment on with this month's financials.

Nancy made the point that the need to raise course fees as discussed in previous meetings was now probably no longer an issue due to the closure of the Hutchinson Center.

New venues are being investigated and an expenses budget will be dependent on the confirmation of these and their associated costs.

A major element of cost going forward will be office rental, also post office box, VoIP phone, salary of proposed office administrator.

Beth noted that if a salaried employee is hired then it will become cost efficient for the responsibility of payroll taxes and monthly accounting to be returned to MTA.

The finance committee will be having a call with the UMaine fund managers to discuss the fate of the endowment funds currently on our balance sheet.

Old Business

Board of Trustees Retreat – Nancy thanked Martha, Monica & Mayo for their work on this and noted that ideas generated from the event are already being implemented.

The Healing Power of Laughter Event – Mayo reported that there was a great turnout at the event and that Izzy Gesell wants to teach a Winterim follow up course on zoom. The organizing committee will be having a follow up meeting where the Gilda's Place idea will be discussed.

Status of relationship with UMaine – Umaine are closing the Hutchinson Centre building and we do not know what they are planning to do with it. The Finance Committee had the chance to speak with Hannah Carter, the CEO of UMaine extension, who sounded very positive about Senior College and we are hopeful that the relationship will be ongoing in some capacity.

Revision of Bylaws – Doug sent a draft of the bylaws out to the trustees with embedded questions and has had some responses but due to the current more immediate issues that we need to concentrate on he suggested that we plan to have a new set of bylaws ready for approval at the 2024 annual meeting. Mike Ray volunteered to help Doug in his efforts.

Finance committee: Fees were discussed and it was decided to leave them at the current amount for the upcoming Fall semester.

The need to invest in appropriate signage for our new venues was also noted.

Curriculum committee : Mayo reported that there are 7 six week courses for Fall of which 3 will be on Zoom. There are 5 courses of one or possibly two weeks. The zoom arm chair travel course may also happen in Fall or Winterim.

Nominating committee : Jim handed out a document showing the current and expected makeup of the board through 2024. Jim, Beth and Deirdre are leaving at the end of 2023, Marjorie will probably be staying on. Karen and Trudy will be joining but Fred Bowers will not. Mayo is considering accepting the role of President. Prospective names for the remaining board member were discussed, Monica will talk to Marcia Cooper and Van Bankston.

Communications committee : Mike handed out a copy of the committee meeting minutes from May 30 2023. The committee had discussed the issue of membership in Senior College, what membership means and why is it necessary to be a member in order to enroll in classes. Another topic of discussion had been branding for the website, newsletter etc and Mike has contacts in graphic/website design who are interested in working with us on rebranding. It was also noted that Trudy Miller has already made an excellent start on redesigning the current website. The committee will meet again in August once Denise is back in town.

New Business

Website Committee – An ad hoc committee looking at the aesthetics of the website will be formed under the presumed leadership of Denise Pendleton and Nancy has invited Trudy Miller, Patsy Meisner, Sam Causon and Fred Bowers to join.

Facilities Committee – An ad hoc committee consisting of Nancy, Martha, Doug, Pete Riley & Ron Jarvella will be looking into a long list of prospective venues for classes, in and outside of Belfast.

The immediate need for office space on the ground floor was discussed and Doug suggested that we investigate renting a space in the shared office at 17 Main st. A motion to this effect was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed on by the board.

It was agreed that a few people should go to the current office at the Hutchinson Center to inventory the contents and decide if any additional storage will be necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.05am.