

Council Meeting I
Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 2:00-3:30 pm

Present: Adia Wingfield, Vrushali Patil, Wanda Rushing, Ronni Tichenor, Chriss Sneed, Barret Katuna, Abby Ferber, Diane Wysocki, Angela Hattery, Rhacel Parreñas, Tiffany Taylor

Not Present: Veronica Montes

1. We began with brief introductions and our preferred pronouns.
2. Barret read the SWS Community Agreement.
3. We decided to include a Sexual Harassment policy in our manual.
4. We voted to approve the October Meeting Minutes (Results= unanimous yes)
5. We voted to approve the December Meeting Minutes (Results=1 abstain, all others yes)
6. Investment Committee Report (Angela Hattery): We made money over the past year, but we do have a pressing issue: our investment counselor moved from one brokerage firm to another, and the transition has created some disruption in our financial records.
7. Treasurer's Report, Executive Office Site Visit, and Responsible Budgeting (Angela Hattery):
 - a. Angela stated that we are doing well financially. Over the past year, we have brought in more money and spent less. Our new EO model is also more efficient and saving money. We will be in a good position in our next budget to make a contribution to our Feminist Futures fund.
 - b. Based on a previous OBM meeting, Angela described a new emphasis on responsible budgeting when it comes to what sort of requests will be funded.
 - c. Regarding the site visit, Angela also affirmed that it went well.
8. Site Selection (Abby Ferber):
 - a. Abby explained that we have now decided to move to a rotating site system where we rotate among three pre-chosen sites (with a fourth non-rotating site) as a way to save money. In doing research on which sites would be included in the rotation, Abby and Barret visited various sites. For next year, they have chosen Denver and located a hotel there. The following year, the meeting will be in San Diego. The San Diego meeting will be the first meeting/site for which we will sign a multi-year contract.
 - b. Abby also discussed other potential sites vis-à-vis costs. She explained that we have decided to cross New Orleans off the list due to high cost. Additionally, Marisa Crame has also recommended we consider cities we did not initially think of, such as Myrtle Beach, Jacksonville, and Birmingham, in order to save money. On this recommendation, Council decided to get more details from Marisa and come up with two more possible cities. We also decided we need a process for

how we want to decide this in future. We agreed that Barret can research some additional possibilities and then we can choose a few to focus on.

- c. We decided that Barret/Abby will announce the Denver and San Diego sites/dates at Business Meeting I.
9. National and Local Collaborations Update (Rhacel Parreñas): Rhacel explained that the primary constituency of the various local SWS-associated groups is students. The groups' activity is shaped by shifting student presence and interest and hence is not systematic or consistent over time. These groups do not have substantial budgets and generally do not want to pay membership fees to SWS.
- a. Council discussed several issues related to these groups. First, what are the legal implications of these groups using the SWS name and logo—especially given that the SWS National is subject to IRS rules and Rhode Island laws? In addition, if they do not pay us dues, can they request funds?
 - b. We decided to create an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the issues and explore legal options. Adia will figure out the charge of the committee.
10. Responsibilities and Protection of SWS Council Members (Barret Katuna):
- a. See Dropbox folder for information on Fiduciary Responsibility and Board Responsibility
 - b. Non-Profit Best Practice for Council Members is to review Bylaws and the Operations and Procedures Manual on an annual basis.
 - c. We are a non-profit legal entity. Council members are board members, and we have a fiduciary responsibility. This is why we have some new insurance policies to protect us.
11. Nominations Committee Message (Wanda Rushing and Abby Ferber):
- a. Wanda explained that we have had some challenges in 2017 to build a slate of candidates. People turn down nominations for all kinds of reasons, including funding issues, teaching burdens, etc.
 - b. Council discussed strategies for addressing this problem and building a diverse pool of candidates. These include:
 - i. Collecting peoples' interest in running on their membership forms, when they are paying for membership (online). Here, we can have a message that encourages folks to think about running if they have not done so before. If they do express an interest, we can pass this information along to the Nominations Committee. Here, we can also have an automatic reply that thanks them for interests and encourages them to read a description of that position in the Bylaws.
 - ii. At New Membership Orientation, we could have a session on 'Have you ever thought about running for an elected position'?
 - iii. We can ask various committees to suggest nominations for next year. Some committees don't want an elected chair--they want to choose their own.
 - iv. We also discussed a confidential, electronic process for submitting nominations.