

STHSA Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2011

5:00-6:00pm

STH Room 115

Officer Attendees: Sara Beth G., Andrew K., Soren H., Dan K., Insung Ko, Debbie B.

Student: Anne H. Jen Q.

**A. Merit Scholar Days Event/Sponsorship**

- a. Students discuss request from Karen H. and Admissions Office to sponsor Merit Scholar welcome dinner and breakfast
- b. Details:
  - i. Dinner on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 for 20 people – \$200 requested
  - ii. Breakfast (from Panera) on Wednesday morning, the 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 on – \$350 dollars requested
- c. Discussion: Students clarify requested funds (total \$550), discuss that this event has usually been held at Theo House, request sent before spring break, general hesitancy is voiced, students question whether this is really something that falls in purview of STHSA budget
- d. ***Jen moves to fund entire \$550 but make explicit that this will be a departmental transfer or a total check, the STHSA should not be responsible for making arrangements – seconded – passed unanimously***

**B. Faces of Peace**

- a. Anne H. presenting on behalf of Faces of peace – requesting \$300 to help fund event
- b. Details: Event hosting speaker from Telos Group to speak on religious leadership in Israel/Palestine conflict, co-sponsored by Center for Practical Theology, BTI, Religion and Conflict Transformation, Faces of Peace still needs \$300
- c. So far the total estimated budget is \$1750
  - i. Stipend by CPT \$500
  - ii. Catering \$450
  - iii. Hotel \$400
  - iv. Flight \$250
  - v. Asking \$300 to cover some of these costs as well as miscellaneous travel expenses
- d. Discussion:
  - i. Jen - will this speaker be perceived as pro-Israel or pro-Palestine? We have had a lot of issues with ongoing protests on campus.
  - ii. Anne – As far as I understand, he has not made a public statement on either side. This organization, of which he is a founder, is a *conflict transformation* organization.
- e. ***Soren moves to fund additional \$300 with the stipulation that we will also require and pay for the expenses associated with having a BUPD officer present at event (SAO will probably require this given the subject of the lecture) – Approximate total of \$500 – Motion seconded – unanimously approved.***

**C. Japanese Tsunami Relief**

- a. Over break, some emails regarding how the STHSA should offer support for assisting Japanese with tsunami relief.
- b. Andrew K. brought up UMCOR – the relief agency of United Methodist Church
- c. Dan has also been in contact with Japanese Student Association – they have been taking donations for the Red Cross's work in Japan – Dan suggests we take donations and offer them to JSA to pass to Red Cross – thinks this is a gesture of cooperation between groups
- d. Soren – In full support of donating money to Japan, but adamantly opposed to using student funds designated for programming in this effort. We should fundraise. STHSA is restricted, by the university from using the monies we receive from student fees and from University for charitable donations – we need to think of other ways to raise money
- e. Sara Beth – What about asking for donation at the Variety Show?
- f. Jen – We could also ask for donation at community lunch.
- g. Andrew – We could also take an offering at chapel.

- h. Debbie – We should do all of these things. Make an announcement at community lunch. But where does the money go?
- i. Jen – in favor of giving a gift to UMCOR because they make sure that 100% of donation goes to relief work, where as with the American Red Cross approximately 85% goes to relief work and the other 15% goes to overhead – while the American Red Cross is still efficient in this respect, UMCOR might be a better option
- j. Andrew – is there going to be blow back from non-Methodist students at STH who will have a problem with donating to and through a religious organization?
- k. Debbie – As a student not associated with the Methodist church or any other Christian denomination, I understand the concern, but UMCOR does give 100% of donations to aid work, which is really the most important thing. That is not true of almost any other organization. We need to make an immediate response, and given the historical ties of BU to the UMC, I don't think this is an unreasonable organization to support. If there are other students who disagree with this decision, they are more than welcome to offer feedback that can certainly be considered in future donations.
- l. Jen – American Red Cross and Salvation Army are in fact more “conservative” than UMCOR.
- m. Jen – Motion that we send out email this week that at community lunch next week we will be asking students to contribute what they will be paying for lunch on campus. We can also let them know that we will be taking donations at the Variety Show and at chapel
  - i. Discussion: Soren notes that we need to secure a cashbag to take donations, we can't get that requested and receive it for at least a week and a half so we will have to push this back a week, Dan also notes that next week's lunch will be at Photonics center
  - ii. Details: Ko/Soren to fill out paperwork for cashbag, Debbie to send out email
- n. **Motion revised: Two weeks from now we will take donations at chapel, variety show, and community lunch, motion seconded – passed unanimously**

#### **D. Alumni Gift of \$3,000 to Graduation Celebration**

- a. Office of Alumni Relations has promised \$3,000 dollar gift to graduation celebration with stipulation that they want to make presentation about “Class Gift” campaign at Celebration
- b. They want Dan to give presentation – Soren also promises to assist
- c. Alumni want Dan to give presentation about this
- d. Options for using class gift given by alumni office: library or TA/RA office renovations
- e. Dan we need to come up with more options
- f. Jen – we could designate this fund to be used as student scholarship monies or housing funds
- g. Soren – if each graduating student gives \$20, the approximate total will only be \$1000-2,000
- h. Jen – better idea to campaign for scholarship monies, this might also be important for the alumni campaigns for scholarship monies – that way alumni office can go to alums and say “students want more money for students” to campaign for greater scholarships we should show that we think this is the most important issue, rather than renovations or library books which should be covered under other budgets
- i. Soren – we could designate that all funds collected in the “Class Gift” campaign could be given to student scholarship monies - if we leave this general it can be distributed, if we specify this as a ‘line item restriction’ in the scholarship budget, it can only be used in a single capacity; i.e. housing scholarship
- j. Debbie – given that this is a rather small amount of money compared to other scholarship funds, I think it makes sense to leave this as a general scholarship fund
- k. ***Debbie motions that we empower Dan notify Alumni Relations Office and Deans Office that we would like to accept Alumni Donation for Graduation celebration with an agreement that we will give presentation on Class Gift but that we would also like Class gift to be donated, generally, as scholarship funds – all in favor Dan abstains – motion passed***

#### **E. Women's Resource Center Lecture**

- a. We've received request to advertise lecture hosted by WRC, a “Mary Baker Eddy Lecture” which will be held at 5:00 pm this Tuesday. The problem is that there is also a lecture at 4:00 that same afternoon given by Dr. Fluker, one of our newest faculty and this will probably be his only lecture of the semester – how can we endorse both or should we endorse neither

- b. *Jen motions that we endorse both events and ask Valentina to put both in Collegium, we will empower Dan to talk to Valentina – seconded – all in favor – Dan abstains*

#### **F. Drop the “I” Word Campaign**

- a. Received email from student asking BU STHSA to sponsor and pass on word about “Campaign to drop the “I” word”
- b. The goal of this campaign is to advocate for the discontinued use of the word “illegal” from discourses both public and private in reference to human beings
- c. A student from another Methodist university emailed and asked
  - i. To be put into contact with student groups so they can coordinate on this issue
  - ii. To have BU STH endorse the campaign in some printed medium, i.e. newsletter
- d. Discussion
  - i. Andrew: this has been an issue (controversial) in UMC all over country
  - ii. Soren: this is not an issue that STHSA should take a stand on in this way, we need to discuss this issue on our own terms – We don’t want to endorse this campaign because we have no idea what list our name could end up on – this could be a bad move for future classes. We should however, encourage Cause to be a part of this conversation, let them do with it what they want
  - iii. *Jen motions that we forward information on campaign to CAUSE, and encourage them to act on it as they wish. If they want to publically commit, that is fine but we shouldn’t endorse in other ways - seconded - all in favor – motion passed*

#### **G. Elections for Officers**

- a. Elections for Pres, VP, Secretary, Treasurer will run April 4-8, nominations due Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 9am – we have yet to receive nominations, but we know Soren, and others, may want to run for reelections, Soren cannot be responsible for facilitating voting guide. We need graduating students to facilitate this so there is not conflict of interest.
- b. Soren – we need someone put together voter guide and help facilitate voting process, also someone to host, a week from tonight, an open forum – there will be q/a during next meeting and introductions at community lunch and then the other dates are the same
- c. Debbie and Jen volunteer to assist, co-facilitate voting process
- d. *Nathan motions to empower Debbie and Jen to facilitate voting process and elections while Soren runs for reelection - five in favor – three abstain (Jen, Debbie, Soren) – motion passes*

#### **H. Joshua Duncan – Wordsword/ Cengage Language Learning**

- a. Soren met J. Duncan at SBL – Duncan works for language learning organization interested in putting together pronunciation guides for world religion books, interested in recruiting students to assist with this work at BU
- b. Students discuss – no real conflict of interest – while there isn’t significant compensation, good project – no reason we can’t encourage him to recruit students – as long as he doesn’t ask for student information
- c. Soren volunteers to respond to him on this
- d. *Jen motions to say yes as long as we don’t give student information out – all in favor – motion passes*

Meeting adjourned.