

Draft

December 4, 2009

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Cynthia Barnett, Moorpark
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Rebecca Hatch, Mt. San Antonio
Joe Holliday, El Camino
Joan Jacobson, College of the Canyons
John Oakes, Grossmont
Erik Ozolins, Mt. San Jacinto

Alison Primoza, San Diego Mesa
Kay Ryals, Irvine Valley
Kathleen Sell, Riverside
Susanne Spangler, East Los Angeles
Darrell Thompson, El Camino
Christina Yamanaka, Mt. San Jacinto
Jeanne Venditti, Irvine Valley

- I. **Call to Order:** Alison Primoza, as proxy for Brian Waddington, who was sick, called the meeting to order at 11:15. Erik welcomed the group to Mt. San Jacinto, Menifee.
- II. **Minutes:** The minutes of the October 16 meeting were approved as amended to spell Erik's name correctly.

III. Reports:

- a. **Building Bridges:** Tim gave the options for publishing *Building Bridges*: use two traditional print publishers such as we have in the past or use Create Space, an online affiliate of Amazon.com. As Create Space costs about \$3,000 less and gives us the option to archive past issues, Kathleen moved that go with them. The motion was seconded and passed.
- b. **Conference:** Kathleen moved that we name the Director's Award after Chuck Whitchurch. It was seconded and passed. For the Scholarship committee, John reminded us that students for the Exemplary Student award must be nominated by directors and sent directly to John. These should be students who have grown academically in the impressive way that epitomizes what honors programs are about and are eligible to possibly graduate by spring 2010. These students also *should* be presenting at the Irvine conference.

We agreed to keep the amounts on the award as previously done, with the hope we can raise them later. John reminded us of the UCI Grant, which must go to students who will be attending UC Irvine in the fall. UC Irvine pays this scholarship. If a student won it but did not ultimately attend UCI, he or she could still put the honor in a resume, though not accepting the money. We agreed to revisit the question of the amount of money in the Outstanding Abstracts awards once we see how many submitters we have.

There was concern that printing a separate page about the Issues Forum would disadvantage other presenters during that session. Debate will be settled and a

topic chosen by or at the next meeting. Kathleen suggested we bring a more detailed discussion to the issue of the Forum in the spring.

President Robert Schultz of Mt. San Jacinto welcomed us to the Menifee campus and reaffirmed his and his institution's resolve to stand by honors programs.

Broke for working lunch, 12:05, reconvened at 12:26

- c. **Treasurer's Report:** Jeanne said we have just under \$19,000. She brought up a logistical question for the conference: a student who is working at Orange Coast with a mentor from another college. Under whose auspices is the student attending the conference? Denise said that Orange Coast considers the student theirs and will pay for registration.
- d. **Transfer Committee:** The committee is halfway through printing out an updated list of transfer agreements. Alison stressed the survey from Elaine Torda, head of the two-year college committee at NCHC, asking for feedback on the structures of our schools' programs. Elaine is also asking for suggestions on presentations for next year's NCHC conference in Kansas City. She said that our schools are more likely to approve our travel expenses if we are presenting at the conference. The Western Regional conference is at Jackson Hole next year with a theme of Crossing Currents. Joe reminded us of how simple Elaine's survey is, in that he did a similar survey on an HTCC-wide basis several years ago. It takes 40 minutes, at most, to fill out. Such surveys are necessary to demonstrate for administrators the importance of honors programs in this economy.

There is nothing new on an agreement with **Columbia**. The university is still interested and moving forward. **San Diego State** is recovering from the uproar over its local priority exclusion of students outside San Diego. It is currently receiving 15,000 applications for 2,000 slots. Hardly any students are going to be accepted. We need to intensify our transfer efforts in the semesters to come.

- e. **President's Report:** The time was ceded to Denise to discuss the process of moving the HTCC website to a new server. The new server is connected with Orange Coast College, and transferring has taken longer than expected and was not fully up yet, but Denise showed the website from PDFs. It has been streamlined, and we went over finer points to sharpen further—mostly taking away duplications, such as requiring a student to apply to present and then to attend, as it's assumed that if a student is presenting that student must physically attend to do so. We ended the multiple deadlines for submission to present, solidifying all of them to December 23.

IV. Old Business: Terry Scarborough is writing a letter to administrators arguing to protect honors programs. She will work to make it malleable to the purposes of as many directors as possible. Alison suggested stressing the importance of transfer, while Joe emphasized giving new directors the arguments they need to defend their programs. To that end, we are moving from having a separate meeting for new programs an hour before the regular HTCC meeting; we are going to have mentor schools, experience directors mentoring new directors. If a new director wishes to have such a mentor, he or she should talk to Kathleen to set up a mentorship. Mentorship is now officially part of the HTCC's goal. Alison suggested setting up an agenda on the directors' topic and a new program round table at the NCHC conference.

Erik is sending everyone a registration form based on Joe's. Kathleen said we have rooms at the conference for 180 presenters, but can expand a bit if we need—for example, if 294 students submit.

We addressed the question of students who bypass their directors and submit while not in good standing in the program. That is a problem for individual directors, and the fact that they are getting reports on their students who have registered or submitted will help provide oversight on that. Denise said the site would be ready for students to start registering for the conference that night.

We revisited the issue of GPA requirements, brought up by the NCHC survey. Darrell took an informal survey "of people in this room." Results fit within the norm: 3.0-3.25 GPA requirements. As is the national trend, many schools allow 3.0, and hardly any require 3.5.

V. For the Good of the Order: Joe said it was good for the order that we have seen a 90% turnover in recent years. He has never felt better about where the organization is going. Kathleen set an organizational meeting for the conference, which will be done face-to-face or by email.

Adjournment at 2:10