**Northeast Regional Honors Council**

**Business Meeting Minutes**

Friday, November 7, 2014

5:00pm-6:00pm

Governor’s Square 16, Sheraton Downtown Denver, CO

**Welcome and Call to Order**

President Helen Fallon called the meeting to order at 5pm, and welcomed everyone.

She noted that materials discussed at today’s meeting will be put on the website.

New Executive Board members introduced themselves.

**Draft April 2014 Business Meeting Minutes were distributed.**

Helen Fallon asked for membership to review them. She noted the following highlights of the minutes:

* 2015 NRHC conference will be held in Gettysburg
* Minority Scholarships
* Honors website and news
* Board elections and nominations

Ross Wheeler moved to accept the draft minutes; Julia Fennell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Executive Treasurer James Buss reported on the impact of NRHC’s bank’s practices (regarding change in Board membership) that impacted in the late membership renewal announcement this year. He reported that the NRHC’s account balance is currently. $108,000. This means that the organization is in good fiscal shape, including for the Gettysburg conference. His financial report was approved unanimously.

**2014 Niagara Falls Conference Update**

Helen Fallon reported that there were 557 registrants, of which 99 were faculty and 458 were students. 375 students took part in Place as Text, and 356 students attended the art show.

There were 192 paper presentations, 4 interactive presentations, 144 posters, and 54 roundtables. The acceptance rate for paper presentations was close to 80%, and 94% for all submissions.

**2015 Gettysburg Conference Update**

An update was provided by President-Elect Joseph McGinn and Justin Karter (Graduate Assistant to Helen Fallon).

Joe McGinn described the conference theme, “Battlefields of Change.” He provided information about the keynote speaker, Dr. William Blair, a Penn State historian and director of the Penn State Civil War Institute who has a presentation on “Changing Perceptions of Gettysburg.”

Faculty Representative Rebecca Keaton shared that there will be four Place as Text strands, including of downtown Gettysburg and the Eisenhower farm.

Helen Fallon noted that transportation issues need to be worked out. Also, because there is currently no local host, the organizers are having a difficult time pulling together the activities, including a community service project.

A question from the audience was raised about the call for submissions and proposal deadline. Vice President Andrew Martino explained that the reason for late call for submissions is due to issues with locating a vendor. The downside of making the deadline later is that there will be a late notification of acceptances. A discussion ensued, and the Board and membership in attendance agreed to change the proposal deadline to December 1, 2014.

Justin Karter then explained that the new proposal platform (YesEvents) streamlines the review of proposals.

He also noted that—per agreement of the entire Executive Board—rejected paper proposals will not be moved to roundtables and posters. Andrew Martino explained that this new policy is in synch with the growth of the region, increase in submissions (hence making the process more competitive), and the smaller venue size.

In response to a question from the audience about the costs (for Place as Text, for instance), Helen Fallon and Rebecca Keaton noted that everything in Gettysburg will cost something, and the information will be posted on website when ready. Rebecca Keaton noted that there is a limited number of strands to create unity. Joe McGinn pointed out that we don’t have a local host and this has impacted on our ability cast a wider net.

Student Representatives Nicholas DeFiore suggested that having some graduate program representatives present to talk to students would be useful. Jhenny Bedoya noted that the Open Mic and Student Dance were popular last year. There will be a Friday Open Mic, and a more formal dance with a Hollywood/gala theme. Some version of a casino will be set up on the side. There will be no dinner, just finger food.

Helen Fallon reported that NCHC wants to bring BIH/DIH to regional.

**Proposed Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws**

Executive Secretary Karlyn Koh presented a draft of Constitutional and By-Laws amendments. She foregrounded the highlights, including the splitting of the Executive Treasurer-Secretary position into two positions. She thanked Shirley Shultz Myers for her years of dedicated service as Executive Treasurer-Secretary. Most of the proposed amendments relate to the duties of the two new positions. The others relate to the President and President-Elect co-chairing the Annual Conference Committee.

The membership in attendance was provided with copies of the proposed amendments; a digital version is also on the NRHC website. The membership was asked to review the document, which will be voted on in Gettysburg.

**Upcoming Conference Sites**

Helen Fallon noted the following confirmed sites:

2016: Cambridge, MA

2017: Pittsburg, PA

Sites need to be determined 3 years in advance.

Possible sites brought up by membership in attendance: Annapolis, Providence, DC suburbs, Springfield, Valley Forge.

**Preliminary Call for NRHC Board Nominations**

Helen Fallon noted that nominations are needed for Vice President, Faculty Representative and Student Representatives.