**National Network for Educational Renewal**

**Governing Council Meeting – Thursday, October 18, 2012 (1:00 PM)**

**Brown Palace Hotel -- Denver, CO**

**Settings Present**: St. Louis Consortium--Missouri; University of South Carolina; Miami, Ohio; CUNY—Brooklyn; Colorado State; Nebraska; Wyoming; University of Missouri Consortium; Montclair State, NJ; UConn; Wright State--Ohio; New Mexico; Illinois State; U Texas-Arlington; Winthrop University—South Carolina; Ohio University

**Sequence #1: Introductions and Dick Clark Memorial Tribute**

* Dr. Clark was the first director of Executive Director of the NNER
* Special Poem, “To Be of Use,” by Marge Piercy

**Sequence #2: Thank You to and Update from the 2012 Conference Planners – Colorado State, Nebraska, Wyoming Settings (Donna, Audrey, and Dennis)**

* Projected attendance of 330+
* Very strong commitment of “in-kind” and financial resources from the host settings; approximately 50% of the conference attendees are from the host settings

**Sequence #3: Budget Update (Ann and Greg)**

* 2012-2013 Budget spending is on target; we will underspend as planned
* Overall budget $171,000 in Savings Account; $75,000 in CD; $6,000 in Checking Account
  + Suggestion that consideration be given to the possibility of lowering the annual dues be lowered to reflect the large size of the budget surplus
  + Suggestion that consideration be given to providing additional financial support from the National level budget for the host setting(s) of the Annual Conference
  + Suggestion that the budget surplus issue be revisited as a part of the transition conversation
* Major expense to upgrade/update the NNER website
* Zero cost increase in terms of salary with the shared co-directors for 2012-2013 (even split of salary between the co-directors
  + Slight increase in benefits due to slightly higher taxes in Ohio for co-director Bernhardt

**Sequence #4: Summary of 2012 Summer Symposium (Ann and Greg)**

* 36 participants was an all-time high; were able to manage it successfully
* $11,000 cost surplus due to the high number of participants
* Co-facilitation of the Summer Symposium done voluntarily by the members of the NNER Executive Board
* Projection for 2013 Summer Symposium is to return to Seattle for “at least one more time” (given the impending transition to a new executive director and possibly a new site for the NNER)

**Sequence #5: Membership Update (Ann and Greg)**

* UTEP has rejoined the NNER after a very brief hiatus
* We have several potential new member settings – including the University of Idaho (and?) plus a few other not yet publicly named potential settings
* The University of Southern Maine has informed the NNER that their future membership is in jeopardy.
* The new website will announce the possibility of individual membership in the NNER; this will be announced soon.

**Sequence #6: NNER Transition Update (Jean Eagle and Greg Bernhardt)**

* Update of the report submitted by the NNER Transition Team
  + Charged with studying infrastructure possibilities for hiring a new executive director and potentially moving the “home” for the NNER from Seattle to a new place.
  + Report included a set of key questions for consideration
* Presentation of a proposed timeline for advertising, screening, and hiring a new executive director and a new host site/setting.
  + The timeline spans from October 18, 2012 through August 1, 2013
* Motion by Michelli (Rakestraw) to move the process of crafting/finalizing the transition documents and announcing them by the projected release date of November 15, 2012. Motion carried unanimously
  + Discussion of the importance of the settings with regard to identifying prospective executive directors and thoughtfully considering their potential for applying to be a host setting for the NNER
  + Suggestion that hiring of the next executive director is more important than identifying the host setting; should these two processes be so closely merged?
  + Suggestion that advertising the position announcement / search for the next executive director should be widely advertised – beyond the confines of NNER settings
  + Agreement that background in the work of the NNER Agenda should be a crucial hiring consideration

**Sequence #7: Announcement of New Tripartite Council Chairpersons – also serving on the NNER Executive Board**

* Arts and Sciences – Leslie Wilson (Montclair State)
* P-12 Schools – Audrey Allen (South Carolina)

**Sequence #8: Election of Two (2) At Large Governing Council Members**

Nominations: Jean Eagle, Lemuel Watson, Dennis Potthoff

Elected: Jean Eagle and Lemuel Watson

**Sequence #9: Groundspark Update**

* Groundspark advocates for social justice in schools/communities
* Created several outstanding documentaries
* Interested in collaborating on a grant-writing possibility
  + Particularly a grant focused on experimenting with new curriculum for schools as they work with underserved youngsters
  + The initial grant, if awarded, would involve one volunteering NNER setting
    - The grant funding decision is imminent—we will be informed

**Sequence #10: Teacher Education for Sustainability—Update on May UNESCO Conference in Toronto**

* Strong contingent of NNER affiliated individuals attended the conference.
* The agenda really aligns nicely with the Moral Dimension of Nurturing Pedagogy and also with the Stewardship Moral Dimension
* Encouraged attendance at the Saturday afternoon Professional Development Class (October 20, 2012)
* A powerful and compelling alignment of sustainability issues (of the environment/planet) and issues of social justice
* Preliminary steps for the NNER to help facilitate the emergence of a United States-based entities/individuals
* Strong belief that teachers and schools can make a difference with sustainability

**Sequence #11: Summer Symposia Update (Deb S. and Greg**

* Report of evaluations from the 2012 Summer Symposium
  + Very positive evaluations overall
  + Strong affirmation for the importance of continuing the Summer Symposium as a professional development opportunity for settings/individuals

**Sequence #12: 2013 Annual Conference Update (Vi Florez)**

* Host setting will be the University of New Mexico—Albuquerque, New Mexico
* Dates are October 10-12, 2013
* Host Hotel will be the Embassy Suites—contract signed

**Sequence #13: Executive Board Meeting--December 7-9, 2012 (Deb)**

**Sequence #14: NNER Journal Update**

* Publishing of the Annual Journal Delayed
* Manuscript authors to be notified soon – with a 30 day turnaround for accepted articles—published around February 1, 2013
  + Paper copy disseminated to conference attendees
* Deadline for Submission for 2013 Journal is March 30, 2013

**Sequence #15: Annual Reports (Ann and Greg)**

* Template for setting annual reports will be disseminated soon
* Deadline/due date will be in February
* Uses of the annual reports are to inform settings of what is happening throughout the Network and to also provide insights for potential grants

**Sequence #16: AACTE Governing Council Meeting in Orlando, FL**

* Date / Time for NNER Governing Council Meeting in Orlando, FL still TBD

**Sequence #17: John Goodlad Occasional Papers**

* Dr. Goodlad has authored an introduction and three papers
* Feedback and comments to Dr. Goodlad would be greatly appreciated

**Sequence #18: NNER Directory of Settings**

* Each setting was given a copy of the names listed in the directory on the NNER website
* Each setting is encouraged to update their list – and resubmit it in a timely fashion

**Sequence #19: Other Announcements and Opportunities**

* Science/Earth Science Grant opportunity for NNER rural settings – key contact is Bill Slattery at Wright State University – make a contact with Greg Bernhardt or Bill Slattery if setting is interested
* Suggestion to consider increasing the salary level for the soon-to-be hired new NNER executive director
  + The position is listed as a half-time position – is that realistic?
    - To make it manageable, the new executive director will need some infrastructure support – or it is probably more than a half time position
* Illinois State is interested in developing a leadership associates program and would like to meet with other settings with interest or expertise – perhaps to meet in the Summer, 2013
* Interest in creating a Wiki page for the NNER
* A strong thank you to Ann and Greg for their work as 2012-2013 as executive co-directors for the NNER
* Adjourned 3:46