

NNER GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
March 3, 2014 (10:30 AM – 1:30 PM CST)
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown (Marriott Ballroom 3-4)
Meeting Minutes

A PolyCom Option was provided for Distance/Virtual Attendees

Handouts Distributed (in Virtual and/or Hard Copy format)

1. Agenda for GC Meeting – March 3, 2014
2. List of Current/New Settings
3. Summary of New Member Recruitment Initiative Visioning
4. Survey – Benefits to NNER Membership/Branding the NNER
5. Summary of Feedback for 2013 Annual Conference?
6. Summary of Feedback for 2013 Midwest Regional Conference?
7. Renewed Application Forms for Michelli and Clark Awards
8. Proposed 2014 Budget –in New Format
9. 2014 Summer Symposium – Summary of key logistical details and renewed curriculum plan
10. 2013 Annual Report Template
11. Notes/recommendations from the Equity task Force

Sequence 1: Introductions— Who are we?

- GC Attendees reviewed a list of Current Settings and incoming New Settings
- Self - introductions were made by GC meeting attendees:
 - FTF Attendees included: **Western Washington**-Francisco Rios; **CUNY** - Deb Shanely; **New Mexico**-Vi Florez; **Miami (OH)**-Jean Eagle; **Wright State** -- Jim Tomlin and Charlotte Harris; **Connecticut**--Marjke Kehrhahn; **Wyoming**--Leslie Rush; **St Louis Consortium**-Sam Hausfather; **Winthrop**-Jennie Rakestraw; **South Carolina**--Lemuel Watson; **Colorado State**-Rod Lucero; **Ohio University** -- Renee Middleton NNER Co-Directors -- Ann Foster and Greg Bernhardt
 - Virtual Attendees included: **Nebraska**-Dennis Potthoff, **Wyoming**-- Audrey Kleinsasser and Dave Barker, **St. Louis Consortium** -- Carol Whittier; **UTA** -- Jeanne Gerlach and John Smith.

Sequence #2: New Member Recruitment Initiative

Activity #1: Update on NNER Settings

- **Western Washington University – New Affiliate Member**
 - Dean Francisco Rios was welcomed and indicated WWU was pleased to join the NNER
- **University of Cincinnati – New Affiliate Member**
 - No reps available at the start of the meeting but it was noted that they were now members and might have a representative attend later in the morning.

Activity 2: New Member Recruitment Initiative Planning—Preliminary Report/Visioning

- GC Chair Potthoff presented the working Premises of our Ad Hoc New Member Growth Task Force
 - Discuss Growth Goal – 10% per year (2 new settings for 2014)
- Review / Discuss Proposed Timeline for Action
 - The plan is to present the formal new member growth plan to the GC at the Fall, 2014 Annual Conference with implementation, if approved, scheduled for the Spring 2015.

Activity 3: NNER Membership Benefits /Branding Conversation

- Governing Council Attendees completed a “survey:”
 - Attendees rated/ranked a collection of possible membership benefits generated over the past five months
 - Surveys were collected for review and collating and eventual presentation at the Fall 2014 GC Meeting
 - GC meeting attendees discussed the ideas and merits of such plans.
 - It was noted that there was a gap between the goals of the NNER and the local settings. How are the ideals actually acted upon in the settings?
 - A range of benefits, realized, ideal, positive, negatives, were discussed.
 - There is an ebb and flow of high and low activities and how actualized the ideals of the AED are at any given time in a setting or across the network as a whole.
 - The real benefits are in the actions that occur in the settings.
 - **The GC discussed possible Branding of the NNER**
 - Examples were solicited from the participants about what “is” the NNER if you were to describe it to another briefly.
 - Attendees discussed/reviewed/brainstormed possible “Brands” for the NNER
 - Partnerships supported by the four moral dimensions,
 - Working together with the schools and A & S, and through simultaneous renewal we prepare and develop educators for our schools.
 - We become stronger by virtue of our connections through a national network.
 - GC members worked to tease out what differentiates the NNER from other organizations
 - There was consensus that engaging in a branding exercise is a good idea.
 - The organization needs to have a reason for existence beyond the original ideas of John Goodlad, as the world evolves.

- It was shared that it is critical that we identify a key focus, the distilled essence, and make sure that is what we highlight and engage in and promote regularly.
- The conversation came to a conclusion with suggestions for use of a variety of documents, like strategic planning, equity reports, etc., that already exist.
- **Action Step:** GC attendees were asked to nominate individuals from within their setting that are especially well suited to contributing to a NNER new member growth initiative
 - The in-meeting call for volunteers to help with this effort did not yield any nominees
 - The EB will work to solicit the names of individuals from within the settings who are willing to actively engage with this initiative.

Sequence 3: Past/Ongoing Events UPDATES

- Summary of 2013 NNER Annual Conference Feedback (Vi Florez, UNM setting, Albuquerque, NM)
 - The 2013 Annual Conference was very successful, as indicated by the summary data that was
 - The event profited approximately \$6,000 for the NNER
- Summary of October 2013 NNER Midwest Regional Conference (Greg Bernhardt and Ann Foster)
 - The Midwest Regional Conference was very well attended, 250+ paid, some scholarships, some support of local planners
- Update on Clark / Michelli Award Process/Format
 - Review of renewed application/assessment documents has been streamlined. The call for evidence is less onerous
 - The proposed modifications were embraced by GC attendees.
- Update on Wright State as Host Setting for the NNER
 - Charlotte Harris (Wright State, COE Dean) was thanked for the hosting
 - Ann and Greg expressed the fact that we have found the support from WSUNER and WSU and CEHS fabulous and very much appreciated.

Sequence 4: Budget

- The GC reviewed the proposed 2014 Budget
 - The new format for the budget document will include the annual conference, NNER journal, operations, summer symposium, and mini-grants in one overall budget.
 - The revised budget format is an outcome of a conversation at the Fall 2013 Governing Council Meeting
 - A motion to approve the 2014 budget was made (Shanley, Rakestraw) and the budget was approved unanimously.

- Update on NNER Mini-Grants Expense Item
 - Each of the items below were reviewed and GC members felt that this is moving in the right direction and no new questions or issues were raised at this time.
 - In 2013, the NNER Governing Council/Executive Board Budgeted \$30,000 (total) for mini-grants designed to support renewal initiatives in the settings.
 - The allocation was for a three year period (2013-2015). All funds were to be expended by the end of 2015
 - As of March, 2014, fifteen months into the 36 month time period, \$21,000 of the \$30,000 has been allocated - \$9,000 remain
 - In response to questions raised at the October, 2013 Governing Council meeting, a scoring rubric was created for use with future min-grant proposals.

Sequence 5: Future Events/Possibilities UPDATE

- NNER Journal Update:
 - NNER Co-executive director Foster led an overview of the journal to date and a discussion about who will host and edit the journal for the NNER. The proposal was for consideration of a 3 year consideration. Key insights included the following:
 - The NNER Journal is being hosted/led by UTEP for the current 2014 year
 - The next host for the NNER Journal has not yet been identified. Where will we go with the journal after UTEP?
 - A suggestion to return to a model where a setting hosts the journal for 3 years was discussed.
 - The possible need for incentives that might be offered/possible/necessary was explored.
 - **Projected ACTION STEP.** No decision was made.
 - Zero settings volunteered at this time to host upcoming iterations fo the NNER Journal but several inquired about the process.
- Update on the 2014 NNER Summer Symposium— Seattle
 - Key Logistical Details were shared
 - A Mockup of Renewed Curriculum for the Summer Symposium was shared
 - The curriculum will be re-focused more squarely upon the four moral dimensions and simultaneous renewal
- Update on the 2014 NNER Annual Conference – Cincinnati
 - Charlotte Harris distributed a call for proposals, a save the date for the Fall 2014 Conference. Proposal deadlines is April 4, 2014.
- Update on 2015 Annual Conference Long Term Visioning.

- No Action Taken

Sequence 6: The NNER Annual Report – A Renewal Conversation

- Discussion Question for the GC: Is the NNER Annual Report, in its present format, accomplishing what it was intended to accomplish.
 - Historical Perspective: The history of the Annual Report – How did the annual report come to be a part of NNER’s routine/expectations? What were/are the expectations for the annual report?
 - Qualitative Review of Recent Annual Reports
 - Key Themes?
- GC Attendees engaged Small and Large Group Discussion(s)—Guiding Questions
 - In what ways are annual reports being used within and across settings?
 - What are/might be the most effective goals/desired uses for the NNER Annual Reports?
 - Does the present annual report template, help the NNER to realize it’s goal of sharing promising practices?
 - How might the desired goals for using the NNER Annual Reports be more fully realized? How might the template be renewed to be more valuable/powerful?
- Discussion insights included the following general trends/themes:
 - Some support for streamlining the annual reports content / process was voiced
 - Some support for the usefulness of the annual reports was shared.
 - A clear sense of the overall level of support/ownership for the Annual Reports was not yet made clear.
- **Projected Action Steps:**
 - Three or four current Governing Council members who are willing to serve as members of an ad hoc committee charged with renewing the format and/or content of the Annual Reports will be identified.
 - Possible renewal of the Annual Reports process/content will be presented to the GC at a future meeting.

Sequence 7: Educational Equity – A Renewal Conversation

- Co-Executive Director Foster Reviewed the history of the NNER Equity Task Force
 - The task force was initiated in 2003.
 - At one point, settings were required to address equity in their annual reports?
 - Currently, equity is one of four possible additional topics to be discussed in the Annual Report
 - There is recent interest in continuing the work and renewing efforts.

- Wayne Reed and other task force members will present at the 2014 conference. Members of the equity task force have previously presented at Hartford and Albuquerque.
- Co-Executive Directors Bernhardt and Foster reviewed evidence from recent Annual Reports – to what degree are settings documenting/addressing equity-related issues? What specific equity issues are the most prominent in the reports?
 - GC members expressed support for the
- Foster and Berhna Reviewed notes/recommendations from the most recent meeting(s) of the equity task force (2013-2014)
 - The GC response to recommendations of the ad-hoc Equity Committee was supportive of the notes and of the general direction of the task force
 - The GC indicated that the ad hoc taskforce should consider themselves officially endorsed to move the process and work along
 - The GC encouraged implementation of the task force recommendations to begin at the Fall 2014 Conference in Cincinnati.