

NNER Governing Council  
Minutes of the February 23, 2016 Meeting  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Ann Foster, NNER Co-director, facilitated the meeting. She noted that she and Greg Bernhardt are dividing meeting responsibilities as co-directors, so he was not at the meeting; and Viola Florez, governing council chair has had a death in the family and was not able to attend. Those present introduced themselves. Ann noted that the University of Idaho is NNER's newest member. Participants in the Governing Council meeting include: Catherine Bear, Ann Sebald, Heidi Frederickson, John Smith, Jeanne Gerlach, Debbie Summers, Mary Laffey, Jennie Rakestraw, Jennifer Robinson, Jim Tomlin, Nick Michelli, April Bedford, Rene Roselle, Marcy Keifer-Kennedy, Lisa Johnson, Francisco Rios, [Mascheal Schappe](#), Ann Foster

Budget Report – Ann went over 2015 budget (handout). She noted that the travel of the co-executive directors was one of the larger commitments in the annual budget; however, she and Greg discussed ways in which they could cut back on some of those costs. Then Ann went over the proposed 2016 budget. A new item in the budget is seed money for the work of the three tripartite standing committees and the Equity and Social Justice Committee (\$1,000 each for a total of \$4,000). Examples of collaborative initiatives that could be supported by the funds were discussed. As part of this discussion, the involvement of two Governing Council members, Jennifer Robinson and Renee Roselle in the AACTE Clinical Practice Commission, a follow-up initiative of the Blue Ribbon Panel, was mentioned. The commission is developing a white paper on clinical practice in teacher preparation that will be distributed to key constituents in Washington, D.C. Also, the commission will have some of its members, including Jennifer Robinson, serving on a panel at an AACTE conference session the next day. The involvement of NNER Governing Council members is expected to provide NNER a more national voice in matters related to NNER's agenda; and it is hoped that other collaborations will lead to similar opportunities. Currently NNER is considering how to work more closely with NAPDS. Regarding the seed money for the NNER committees, discussion ensued about how engagement of arts and sciences faculty could be encouraged. An idea was suggested that entailed taking a more organic approach to the distribution and use of the seed funds. Each of the four groups could be asked to submit a grant proposal for a collaborative project, noting a funding limit. Based on the discussion, the following motion was made, seconded and approved: An amount of \$8,000 will be included in the 2016 budget as seed money for collaborative grant projects, with a maximum of \$2,000 per group (more if not all committees submit a proposal and/or are not funded). The results of this initiative in 2016, will inform what is included in next year's budget regarding seed grants to support the committees' work. will be adjusted accordingly.

Last year Audrey Allan, chair of the P-12 tripartite committee and Executive Board member, led a marketing planning group. To support NNER marketing efforts, the proposed 2016 budget includes \$5,000; however, Audrey recommended not moving forward until after the strategic planning meeting is held this summer. It was suggested to leave those funds in the 2016 budget so it would be possible to take some action toward marketing next fall, if deemed appropriate. After the strategic planning meeting in the summer, Jennifer Robinson and Jennie

Rakestraw will work with Audrey Allan to develop a proposal to bring to the Executive Board and Governing Council for consideration. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to keep \$5,000 in the 2016 budget but for the funds not to be used until after the strategic planning meeting in July 2016. Debbie Summers noted that member recruitment is the most effective way to get the budget in the black, and Ann noted that the best way to recruit new members is through current members.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the 2016 budget of \$112,650, which reflects a change of an additional \$4,000 for seed grant funds over what was originally proposed.

The Executive Board at its December 2015 meeting determined that NNER would hold a Strategic Planning session in July 2016 in lieu of a summer symposium. \$20,000 is being set aside for this purpose. (Ann noted that the organization has set aside \$130,000 of our reserves to cover a year's operating expenses if the situation arises where the NNER can't cover annual operating costs.) The strategic planning session is scheduled for July 18 – 20, with the last day set aside for an all-day board meeting. With the allotted \$20,000, NNER could reimburse partial travel costs (Governing Council representatives and Executive Board members), pay for a facilitator, and provide breakfast and lunch. If any site could pay for any of their participants' costs, it would be helpful. The last strategic planning occurred in 2007 and did not include someone from each member site. For this meeting, every setting will be encouraged to participate and also include school partners. At the summer planning session, Rene Roselle said she would ask her husband who is a videographer to develop a video during the summer session to use for marketing purposes. NNER would have to cover his travel expenses. Marcy Keifer-Kennedy offered to work with Rene Roselle on developing questions to be used with the videotaping. They will contact Audrey Allan to get her input as a P-12 educator as well. The video could be posted on the NNER web site and email "blasts" that go out to various constituent groups, including members, prospective members, policy makers, etc. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the strategic planning session this summer in lieu of the summer symposium and use of \$20,000 for this activity.

Francisco Rios suggested that as the organization is "renewed," this would be a perfect time to bring others (prospective settings) into the work and collaborations and possibly inviting representatives from some of those institutions to the planning meeting. Ann questioned how we reach out to others locally and to each other nationally. A discussion ensued as to who those organizations might be to include in the strategic planning process. Nick Michelli suggested that part of the strategic planning would include how to better connect with certain organizations—other institutions and organizations such as NAPDS. Ann noted that the Executive Board will be planning the summer meeting and Vi is obtaining the consultant. John Smith noted that we should be strategic about which voices to bring in to this conversation; and Ann noted that they would have to be like minded organizations or settings. It was determined that we should keep the summer session internal to its current members and then determine how to bring others in the planning process. This would be a more straight forward approach and would make more sense budget-wise.

Updates –

Nick Michelli – Policy work and KDP publication. There are policy issues today that threaten the work of NNER and leading to negative impacts on schools and educator preparation. Nick began a study a couple of years ago to determine what we knew regarding policy. Although his team did not get enough responses from a survey of NNER sites for statistical certainty, they have been able to glean some useful findings. Nick provided several examples, such as VAM and its importance as a critical issue to P-12 educators; thus that topic must be considered important to NNER if we want to listen to the P-12 voice. Other examples were edTPA and its summative, consequential use for teacher licensure; college and career readiness moving to just career readiness, ESSA-funded “academies” that do not have to be accredited and could bypass IHEs; CAEP changes, NCTQ, etc. We need to encourage every NNER setting to promote and conduct advocacy work—IHE and P-12, possibly organizing a professional development consortium at each setting and Nick’s group available to work with the settings. There is a lack of knowledge regarding policy that should not exist. David Imig is willing to help with this. Nick Michelli noted that he and colleagues can provide sessions to settings on how to get information into newspapers, simulations on how to testify in front of legislative groups, etc. and a packet of materials could be used in settings interested in working with Nick and colleagues. It was noted that this needs to be part of the strategic planning discussions in July.

Nick Michelli – Kappa Delta Pi Journal. Nick was invited to edit a journal for Kappa Delta Pi that highlights the work of NNER and the legacy of John Goodlad. Every setting that contributed a proposal for an article has been selected to do one. First drafts are due in mid-May and the publication will come out in November. Ken Zeichner has agreed to contribute an article.

Ann Foster (for Renee Roselle) – NNER Journal. Manuscripts have been coming in and the deadline was extended since the NNER conference in October is a month later this year. Those who submitted a promising manuscript have been contacted with an invitation to revise and resubmit. Renee is pursuing another option in terms of a publisher this year. Also, some consideration has been given to moving to an electronic format that would save the organization \$2,200 to \$2,700 a year. However, there will continue to be a hard copy this year.

Ann Foster - League of Democratic Schools MOU. NNER will support the LDS with \$3,000 (approved at October 2015 meeting). This could possibly bring more P-12 educators into NNER. The organization is searching for a new director and Ann encouraged Governing Council members to mention this to anyone involved in LDS from our settings. Jennifer suggested that we consider asking someone from LDS to participate in our strategic planning.

John Smith - Diversity, Equity and Social Justice Committee. John Smith said that the group would like a two-hour block of time scheduled into the October conference schedule. (Wayne Reed chairs the committee and could not attend today’s meeting.)

John Smith - NNER 2016 Annual Conference. John is facilitating the planning for the conference at Arlington, Texas. The conference will begin Thursday, October 7, beginning with

three school visit options. Tripartite Council and Governing Council meetings will be held that morning. Newcomer sessions that afternoon at 1:00, followed by a welcoming session at 2:00. Two breakout sessions will occur on Thursday afternoon and a general session speaker and dinner that evening. Friday will begin with a pastry bar; then there will be two concurrent sessions that morning with a general session and speaker for lunch. More breakout sessions in the afternoon with dinner on your own. Saturday will be a half-day, beginning with a general session breakfast where two Teachers of the Year will speak, followed by two more concurrent sessions that morning. Conference information will be posted on the website and a call for papers will be released soon. Ann Foster acknowledged John's new position as interim dean of the College of Education at UT Arlington; and that Jeanne Gerlach is now Vice Provost for K-12 Initiatives at the university.

NNER 2017 Annual Conference – Catherine Bear of Maryville University, St. Louis, will be hosting the conference in October 2017.

Annual Report – Ann Foster provided a copy of the 2015 annual report including each settings reports. She encouraged all to read it and use it to inform our work and make connections across settings. She asked those from University of Maryville to speak to their MSP grant project and other partnership work presented in their annual report. Jennie Rakestraw distributed a draft template that shows how settings could submit their annual reports electronically that could then directly go to update the settings web page on the NNER website. She also distributed a sample of the template that was completed with information from the Winthrop 2015 report. Ann suggested that we include a key word search to allow settings to more easily locate others doing work in specific NNER-related areas.