

**National Network for Educational Renewal – Executive Board  
December 2 & 3, 2016  
Marriott St. Louis West**

**Meeting Room Board Room 241**

Attendees: Jennie Rakestraw, Jennifer Robinson, James Tomlin, John Smith, Greg Bernhardt, Deb Shanley, Nick Michelli, Audrey Allan, Vi Florez, Ann Foster

**Agenda**

- **Welcome and meeting overview** – Vi Florez
  
- **Meeting with St. Louis Consortium 2017 Planning Committee and Conference Hotel Tour**

The St. Louis Consortium hosted the NNER conference back in 2004 and met with the board to provide an update and receive input from the board to help in their planning. Their goal is an inclusive conference to be inclusive and involve extensive participation of people who support the NNER mission. The planning committee is considering how to market the conference for more inclusion and make the conference a bigger venue than it usually is. They may advertise in local newspapers that reach different demographics; post in the Ed Week supplement; consider reaching out to a range of members in the various states; contact school partners to help advertise it; contact social justice groups of teachers in our regions; ask the Equity and Social Justice Committee of NNER for help. They asked about inviting vendors to the conference—maybe select organizations and vendors that address issues related to NNER’s mission and could include small local business owners to have tables at the reception. In 2013 NNER had Native American vendors and 2014 had special needs group display art—both a success. Involving local organizations/vendors could benefit the local community and add to the diversity of the conference. Ideas for options included a display of faculty publications and university book store presence. Format and presentation discussion included considering a format that would involve each presenter presenting twice. John noted that when they scheduled sessions at the past conference, they spread the strand presentations out to attempt to avoid conflicts. Avoid confusion of having two presenters at one time and not realizing that in advance. Could possibly have a moderator (from school district and university) to help keeping time and introduce the paired sessions. Options include having a discussion session the day after the concurrent sessions with the presenters of like topics; use a mobile app for conferences where presenters post their PowerPoints or papers in advance so participants can access and come better prepared for discussion during the sessions or in the discussion periods; discussion sessions or “human conversation” rooms; Town Hall session on critical topics and maybe get local television personality to facilitate it—hold it the evening (to not conflict with other sessions). Soliciting sponsors for such things as speakers, reception, bags, etc. Scholastic may be a good idea. In Seattle in past year, they sought and got sponsors (Starbucks, Boeing,

Google etc.). Edward Jones was suggested in the St. Louis area. Note things we want to do and what we need of a sponsor. Maybe a private company that handles food or bus services in schools may be a possibility—or other businesses that are sponsoring schools. Maybe approach the local Chamber of Commerce to get ideas and suggestions. Timeline and first steps: How early to set out call for proposals. (John shared a conference planning guide that will answer these type questions.) Theme is same as the setting's recent mini-conference: The Moral Purpose of Education Manifested in Practice. Strands—First: Exploring issues of educational equity and access—under that Models of Success and Challenges. Second: Education Innovation--Sharing practices from the cutting edge; Third—Integrating the Arts and Sciences in the Classroom: How do the arts affect learning in the classroom--STEM and STEAM? and How do you prepare teachers to do that? Bringing in a local organization for that (Springboard to Learning and others). Nick suggested one on policy. Understanding and influencing policy (where policy comes from, when interventions should be made, etc.) Maybe invite AACTE (Deborah Koolbeck)—Jen said they are looking to partner with teacher ed programs around the country to help them identify the issues and guide how to take action. Look at what goes on in your state (AACTE has resources by state). Greg suggested inviting all IHE's in the state. Ideas on consortia and partnerships in Missouri shared. John gave Carol the NNER conference planning guide—passed the torch. John noted that the closing session had many empty seats. Maybe do the town hall on Saturday morning. Expect 60-100 presentation proposals—and encourage non-profits or others who are not NNER members to submit a proposal. How much to charge for registration. The range is \$300-\$350 typically. Budget was addressed, the conference expenditures must be covered by the conference income (including registrations and sponsorships). Conference cost range has been \$40-50,000 with registrations, sponsorships, etc. providing revenue to cover that cost. Attendance ranges from 130-400. John used Event Brite for registration fees and people registered online. On line support ranges from venue to venue. Vi noted that NNER is trying to develop a web site that will be able to handle this type of thing via Pay Pal—registration with payments, etc. Currently registration is set up as planners see best—based on planned budget, sponsors lined up, etc. Sponsors are invited to everything—meals, etc. Casey Lawson is the contact at the Marriott St. Louis West (Maryville Center). Any questions about posting on website, etc. should be sent to Greg and Ann and they will facilitate getting those resolved. They could upload the video presentation with the Save the Date announcement on the NNER web site. Last note was the importance of including students from public schools and universities—reminding us whom we serve! The group noted they are involved with a presentation throughout around the country, Antigone in Ferguson (violence and police) as an example of a format that would be appropriate for the conference.

- **2016 Conference Update** – John Smith  
Forty participants completed the online survey asking for conference feedback. A bar graph shows results on which events participants attended. Participants liked the featured events; key notes—school visits, etc. Generally appreciated the social justice strand and events. Appreciated opportunity to connect with colleagues.

Regretted running out of conference space and had to schedule some at 5:00. Suggestions offered on themes and types of session. It helped to have a technology specialist involved, e.g., setting up the survey, Event Brite.

- **Overall Budget Update** – Greg Bernhardt

Greg shared 2016 General Operations Budget Compared to Actual YTD. We are close to projected budget

He gave a Financial Recap as of November 30, 2016 that shows total cash assets on hand in all accounts.

Summer Strategic Planning Institute Budget for 2016 handout: spent 23,311—over what the target was (20,000 was the budget). More people came than expected but that was a good thing.

Annual Conference Income and Expenses for 2016: Budget \$45,000 and generated revenue of \$24,417 and NNER had to expend \$15,698 out of reserves. May need to reduce number of meals provided—cutting out those that have had low participation, particularly just do a continental breakfast on Saturday and possibly Friday morning. Note: Quite a few member institutions use the three free registrations for the conference which impacts bottom line.

Final handout was a balance sheet showing comparison report (end of year 2010 to date in 2016). Currently we have \$171,658 funds on hand and still need to collect \$47,000 in unpaid dues—that would leave total assets at \$218,658. We had approximately 25 settings in 2010 and operating off a smaller budget. Now we have fewer member settings.

- **Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives** – Vi Florez

- Action Plan Update

News reported by Vi: IEI is being disbanded, they anticipate some money left to disperse and Gene Edgar and the IEI board agreed that if funds are available at the end of the process NNER could receive some—not sure how much that will be but expect it to be a small amount. Funds will be given without restriction.

Action plan received some excellent feedback. Notes were taken during the conference sessions. Revisions have not been made yet but in process. Vi should be able to get the completed plan out to the Board in January. After one more look the plan will be shared with the Governing Council in March to seek approval. Then it will be posted on the NNER website. Several individuals volunteered to work with specific action steps of the plan.

One of the actions in the strategic plan was to develop a plan for increasing purposeful participation of K-12 partners. John brought a draft plan with a needs assessment survey that he developed for UT Arlington with the hope that each NNER site be asked to do the same.

Other key priorities of the plan include (1) NNER's use of technology, (2) work in the area of policy, and (3) marketing strategies (how to get the word out about what NNER is about—the value added). One suggestion was to develop a social media committee. Another was to look at NNER's governance structure. We already have a marketing committee and might need a policy committee.

- Update from the Marketing Committee – Audrey, Jennie & Jennifer

Results of the Tripartite Council voting on essence statements and taglines at the conference were shared. After discussion, we will present statement 2 as the recommended essence statement, adding the word “public” before “education.” The essence statement will be presented to Governing Council in March, and the three top tag lines (7, 8, 13) will be presented to Governing Council for a vote to determine which would be adopted.

- Update on Technology, Web Transition, Web/Technology Survey, and Proposals for Consideration

Two proposals for revamping NNER’s web site and enhancing NNER’s use of technology were presented to the board for consideration. The board will review the CERRA and the Schull Consulting and the UMN COE websites to compare the products of each. The follow-up discussion resulted in a consensus that we would go with the UNM proposal and, if Vi continues chairing, it would provide the communication and continuity needed for this project and for transition to a new executive director. Deb made the motion that the UMN proposal be accepted, Jennie seconded and all approved. Vi noted that the web work will begin immediately and the position noted in the proposal will be advertised soon.

- **Executive Director Search** – position description, search process, timeline  
Vi provided a draft of the position description for the board to review. It will be a part-time position with plan to fill it early in spring 2017. Audrey made a motion to move forward with the search using the revised position announcement. The announcement will go out to NNER membership first. If in February, after applications received by February 1 are reviewed, the position announcement may be disseminated to the broader educational community. Vi, Jennifer, John and Nick will serve as a screening committee. The Executive Committee will meet prior to the Governing Council meeting in March. A meeting of the Executive Board is tentatively scheduled for 5:00-7:00 p.m. on March 3, 2017. Vi and John will work out the details on how to accept applications (putting in Dropbox) so Executive Committee members can review.
- **Summer Symposium**  
Deb submitted a proposal to host the 2017 symposium in New York. Meeting space at Lehman College will be free along with technology support. An affordable hotel, 11 miles from the campus, is a Hampton Inn and Suites in Yonkers (near the Bronx). It includes breakfast and free high-speed and wireless internet and is close to good restaurants. The Board was pleased with the arrangements as presented by Deb. The proposed dates are July 17-20. Ann, Greg, Nick, Jennifer and Deb will serve as a planning committee for the symposium. Discussion of the purpose of the symposium ensued and there was agreement to renew the venue and be clear and consistent on the purpose and activities and include practical application examples.
- **Tripartite Council Chairs** – updates and discussion from Texas  
Issue is different set of P-12 educators at Tripartite Council meetings each year and a special session for P-12 educators at the conference in addition to the TC meeting was suggested by the P-12 group. The board had agreed that there could be up to

\$2000 to support TC work and the P-12 group had generated some ideas to support their involvement. Ann suggested that Audrey and Jim communicate with setting contacts to get the P-12 and A&S names so the TC chairs could make contact with them during the year. Both seem to be “tag-ons.” Also there is a problem with a reduction in travel funds. The journal needs to be indexed so it can count for COE and A&S faculty in promotion and tenure. The first step will be to get the journal on Google Scholar and Vi will pursue that. Jim is working on the course for complexity work. One suggestion from the P-12 group is the need for more P-12 and CAS voice on the Governing Council. We may need to change the by-laws to add more people to the Governing Council which is currently comprised of one representative from each setting selected by the setting.

- **Update from Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice Committee** – No report at this time.
- **NNER Journal** – UCONN through 2017 edition, future home, format, etc. were discussed.  
We need to identify future home for the journal. A call will go out to settings. John and Nick will gather information from Taylor and Frances/Rutledge publishers to determine if the journal could be printed by a national publisher.

Greg noted that Wright State will conclude its fourth year as NNER host in 2017. Greg and Jim will contact Wright State to see if they are willing to continue this support.

- **Policy Work** – Vi asked the board if NNER should respond in any way to the appointment of Betsy Devos as the incoming Secretary of Education. Jennie noted that the strategy used by NNER over the years has been for NNER to help inform, synthesize, and analyze information about issues, policies, etc. and then individual settings determine how to best react or respond. Those who participated in NNER’s 2016 summer institute for strategic planning voiced a need to take more deliberate group action. It was suggested that for this issue an NNER member could propose and draft a statement for NNER collectively to release, with proper vetting by the various member settings. Greg and Ann will contact Ann Schulte and April Bedford to see if they are willing to draft a position.
- Other items – Vi asked that if we have any videos on our work, please send those to her for the NNER website for the redesign.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - Governing Council Meeting – AACTE, Tampa, FL
    - Saturday, March 4, 2017, 9–11am, Meeting Room 5-6, Tampa Marriott Waterside
  - Summer Symposium – New York (Bronx), July 16-20, 2017
  - Fall Conference, St. Louis, October 12–14, 2017