



ENRLS COUNCIL MEETING

July 31, 2019

Baker Botts Conference Room, Austin

ENRLS MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Steve McMillen, Susan Maxwell, Walt Shelton, David Klein, Lisa Dyar, Aaron Vargas, Erin Chancellor, Pete Wahl, Heather Palmer, Paulina Williams, Mike Dillinger, Nathan Block

Via Phone: Buck Benson, Connie Westfall, Ashleigh Acevedo, Kristen Fancher

Absent: Mary Mendoza, Rebecca Skiba, Greg Ellis, Caroline Sweeney

Steve McMillen opened the meeting at 2:34 PM. The business agenda was started with the Treasurer's Report.

II. Treasurer's Report

Pete Wahl provided the Treasurer's Report. Peter currently projects that we will have \$14,000 more in revenue than projected (\$294k actual v. \$280k forecast). Expenses are coming in approximately \$28,000 less than forecast. Pete forecasts that we will end the fiscal year with \$335,000 cash on hand, an amount very close to the balance at the close of the last fiscal year.

Pete noted that SBOT is now providing itemization of credit card processing fees but, we need additional information to understand exactly how the source of fees is being presented in the information from SBOT (e.g. ENRLS membership paid by credit card). Steve McMillen noted that the vendor now managing Superconference registration is providing a turnkey service and we do not expect to see credit card fees itemized for Superconference.

The timing of the Buck Wynne Scholarship payments was discussed. The SBOT requires cash accounting. Because some spring semester awards are not processed until after the first of June, some scholarship money budgeted for one FY is not actually paid out until the next FY. There are no clear solutions to this. However, because of the Section's cash balance, this does not pose a cash flow or deficit spending problem.

The Council then discussed the proposed 2019-2020 budget line items, and approved the following revisions to the draft presented by Pete:

- It was noted that Ashleigh Acevedo's firm may not allow her to take the stipend earmarked for the EIC of the Journal. This issue is not yet resolved.
- The budget for Superconference planning and materials was adjusted to \$35,000, as a midpoint between the current budget of \$30,000 and the \$38,375 spent last year. Further

coordination with the Superconference planning committee is anticipated, to better understand the nature of planning-related expenses for this conference.

- Budgeted income from Superconference scholarships was increased to \$55,000, based on the successful historic record of law firm and consultant sponsorships.
- The Law School Committee spent less than budgeted in 2018-19 but expects an uptick in activity in 2019-20, including encouraging more schools to apply for special event funding (e.g. support for attending moot court and mock trial competitions). As a result, the line item was unchanged.
- The line item for ENRLS Council meeting expenses (including travel reimbursements) was increased to \$7500.

After review and discussion of the individual line items, Steve McMillen moved to approve the budget. Pete Wahl seconded the motion. The budget was approved.

III. Secretary's Report

Draft minutes for the meeting held on May 15, 2019 were circulated prior to the meeting. Edits received prior to the meeting were incorporated. Minor amendments were offered by e-mail prior to the meeting. There were no additional corrections or edits offered at the meeting. David Klein moved to approve the minutes. Steve McMillen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

IV. Nominating Committee

The Council next discussed the slate for new officers and members of the Executive Committee, developed by this year's Nominating Committee.

The proposed officer slate for 2019-20 is:

Chair: Susan Maxwell
Chair Elect: David Klein
Vice Chair: Nathan Block
Immediate Past Chair: Steve McMillen
Treasurer: Pete Wahl
Secretary: Erin Chancellor

The Executive Committee nominees for three-year terms running from 2019 to 2022 are:

Buck Benson (returning for a full term after filling a vacant position)
Chris Schlag
Heather Palmer

Caroline Sweeney and Paulina Williams have completed their three-year terms on the Executive Committee. ENRLS will acknowledge them and thank them for their service at the Section's annual meeting on Friday.

Susan Maxwell discussed leadership transition after a vote on the nominations. She plans to contact Council members about committee and co-chair assignments.

V. Committee Updates and Recommendations

a. Publications & Communications Committee

Ashleigh Acevedo reported that TELJ Vol. 49.1 is done and will be distributed on 8/1. Issue 49.2 is on track to be completed in early fall. Articles have been selected for Vol. 50.1. Two to three articles are still needed for Vol. 50.2; submissions for that issue will need to be submitted to the Journal by early fall, 2019.

Ashleigh discussed the possibility of transitioning the Recent Developments section of the Journal to an on-line forum. This would work to make those available more timely and free up space in the Journal for more articles. There was also discussion regarding potentially modifying the amount of the stipend paid to the student editorial staff to increase participation. Ashleigh explained the nature and amount of the stipend and expressed the view that increasing the stipend would not likely produce that result. The Council indicated an openness to consider any suggestions that she, as the new TELJ Editor in Chief, may wish to propose.

b. Law School Committee

Walt Shelton gave the report for the Law School Committee. Walt began by recognizing Kerry Halliburton for almost 15 years of service to the Law School Committee including a long tenure managing the Buck Wynne Scholarship program. Jon Bull has taken over management of that program from Kerry and the transition has gone very smoothly. Walt then summarized law school programs held over the past academic year, including programs at Baylor, Texas A&M, St. Mary's, UNT and one combined for the Houston area law schools. UT, Texas Tech and SMU are expected to have programs in the fall.

The Law School Committee recommended St. Mary's as the venue for the next fall Council meeting to support/facilitate a program there. The Council supported the recommendation. Walt will coordinate with St. Mary's and report back on some possible dates in late October or early November.

The 2019 summer internship program is nearing completion and has been very successful. There was one complication with the Tex. Water Development Board. Somehow, the TWDB staff ended up making an offer to two students even though ENRLS only pays for one per agency. After discussions with the Law School Committee representatives, the TWDB corrected the issue with the students. It is believed this was an aberration that is not likely to recur. A few of the interns are expected to attend the ENRLS annual meeting during lunch on Friday to be recognized. ENRLS policy on intern attendance at the Superconference was clarified. Students who want to attend the lunch and Section annual meeting on Friday are welcome to stay for the rest of the day without charge. Any who would like to attend the entire conference would pay the student rate.

c. Education Committee

Lisa Dyar provided the Education Committee briefing and began by reporting on Superconference registrations. The Wednesday evening program is all ethics and has a record 122 registered. So far, there are 482 registered for the full conference and reasonably anticipate filling all 500 available slots with registrations at the door.

Steve McMillen noted that the Education Committee is planning to debrief with Haynes & Boone after the Superconference to better understand, among other things, the mechanics of how the conference registration is managed. The Council expressed gratitude for the work that Haynes and Boone does in managing the Superconference.

d. Pro Bono Committee

David Klein reported that the Pro Bono Committee had no updates or recommendations for Council consideration. The Section's 2018-2019 charitable contributions were made to Tree Folks, the Texas Trees Foundation, and Trees for Houston. Tree Folks has offered six tickets to their fall fundraising gala. Allocation of those tickets was discussed, and Steve McMillen intends to announce their availability at the Section's meeting on Friday.

The Committee discussed whether the TEAP program was still functioning. Susan will seek clarification from TCEQ staff regarding the status of the program.

e. Sponsorship & Membership Committee

Mike Dillinger reported on successful efforts to secure sponsorships for the Superconference. All law firm slots were filled. The Committee did get feedback from some engineering and consulting firms regarding the benefits of sponsorship. The Committee is considering opening sponsorship opportunities to other companies and NGOs. The Committee is also considering revising the sponsorship levels and anticipates presenting a recommendation to the Council later in the year.

Membership renewals are trending a bit lower than last year. There is some speculation that the SBOT switch to on-line membership renewal may be the cause. An e-mail blast to remind folks to renew will be going out.

f. Website & Technology Committee

Steve McMillen reported that the new Section website is complete, and content has been migrated to the new hosting platform. The new vendor, Workhorse, is fully onboard and the services of the old hosting firm have been concluded. There is some remaining work to populate the archives section of the website with prior Council information, Superconference materials, TELJ issues, etc. but it is progressing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.