

Marlboro College Alumni Council  
November 7, 2021

In Attendance: Ellie Roark, Kate Hollander, Pamela Nye, Bess Poehlmann, CJ Churchill, Mark Genszler

Meeting called to order: 2:04 PM EST

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to extend meeting to 4pm. Approved.

Agenda otherwise approved.

**Approval of minutes:**

We vote to table approval of October minutes until December meeting so that we can further review them and make contact with individuals before minutes are public.

**Officer reports:**

- Treasurer-- Mark
  - Had a meeting with Erik Olsen [webmaster], trying to anticipate using the squarespace for online donations since we're now a 501c3! Erik would like us to spend time deciding what we want and what we think we will need in the future. If we have thoughts about this-- send them to Mark.
  - Reporting: we will need to file IRS reports now-- not too serious this year. We will still need to do accounting of who is paying all our ongoing accounts. No money coming out of the official bank account right now, because that's being shouldered by the council members.
  - We may need a database for membership moving forward-- if we don't have a place to put the data we collect right now, we should keep it simple until we have such a database
- Clerk-- no report
- Moderator-- no report

**Committee Reports:**

Communications

- Email report: Lots of comments about access to the campus and future reunions. Some specifics:
  - Some questions about Marlboro Music Festival
  - Request to donate some negatives from 1974-1979.
    - Pam volunteers to help scan and archive these; Kate will connect them via email.
  - A volunteer to help plan events on zoom

- Recent grad is looking for support for a make-up graduation ceremony on campus sometime in the future for those who missed theirs due to COVID.
  - We're happy to help support this in some way! Love the idea; need more details once the organizer has them. May not be able to directly fundraise for this, but can help advertise and support in other ways.
- One alum is trying to track down the subject of a drawing she found. In this process, it was revealed that many people have class lists laying about-- we have a volunteer willing to try to collect these lists.
  - Council agrees the volunteer can begin collecting lists; we don't have a plan for personal information sharing yet, but aggregating the old documents into one place should be fine for the moment.
- Discussion of developing some kind of FAQ page to send people to on the website that addresses common questions about Emerson, Music Festival, etc.
- Upcoming communications: Kate will draft; send her sentences to include if you like! We will announce 501c3 status, share the survey, potentially share news of the recent council resignation, and add a note about resources meeting with Ellen.

#### Resources:

- Continuing to meet productively with Ellen McCulloch-Lovell. Conversations are wide-ranging, warm, and forward-looking.

#### Governance:

- We have a procedure for replacing resigning council members per our interim council procedures document-- we use the person with the next most votes in the last election. Ellie will email the council to share the last election results again. Mark volunteers Melanie as moderator to reach out to the next candidate. We will check in with Melanie about this.

#### **Old business:**

##### Survey:

- Bess incorporated many of the changes we discussed last meeting, but did not make some changes that came in late.
- Discussion about how data will be used; it will not be made public-- just summarized for the association.
- We agree the survey looks fine and support Bess's decision to be done editing and send it out. Deadlines for comments on projects might be helpful in the future. We agree this will go into our November newsletter.

##### Facebook page norms:

- We have a draft of the Facebook group guidelines/norms. Asking for MCAC approval, then Kate and Mark will ask moderators if they're willing to use these norms to moderate, gather

new moderators if necessary, then post to the page and call it done. MCAC supports these community norms for facebook and supports the next actions with the moderators.

#### Elections article:

- A few open questions we want feedback on: do we really want to have an election every year? How do we replace vacated seats on the council?
- Election frequency: We don't need elections to look exactly like they did this last year. We have a variety of opinions. We do want candidates to respond to questions, etc, not just put their names on the ballot-- how much work is sustainable?
- Vacated positions: should we hold special elections to replace vacated council seats? Would a special election be whenever we end up needing it, or during the normal election cycle? Or perhaps we should have an "alternate" position on the ballot? We need to have more discussion about this.
- As an aside, we need a quorum to officially accept a council member's resignation. We do not have a quorum, so we will have to do this at the December meeting. Council will follow it's interim procedures document guidance to replace this seat. But we're not bound to the interim processes moving forward for the bylaws.
- Governance committee proposes a new workflow: we will continue to have discussions about articles as we draft them, but we don't want to vote on the individual articles until we have a draft of the full bylaw document to review. We're coming upon too many internal conflicts in the document to keep having this interim article-by-article votes.

#### **New business:**

##### Potash Hill document

- We have a draft, attempting to clearly outline what Potash Hill is and what it is not and what needs to happen going forward. Table discussion to December

##### Committee proposal for a community blog/community engagement committee

- Emerging out of conversation with Erik Olsen about website functionality is a need for some kind of space for class notes that is more continually updating (with comments, etc.) than just a twice-a-year Potash Hill class notes publication. Squarespace has a blog function, so we could use it to do something like this. We could even have subset blogs for particular eras. Simple profiles of alumni (three questions people answer, for example). It would be a lot of work, but a great community engagement tool.
- Should we put out a call to the community to think about this model? This can be a tool to engage and interact with more people than we're getting just on social media and through newsletters.
- Ongoing question of how to better utilize our website.
- Melanie has written a little community blog proposal-- we will read this and discuss again in December.

Meeting adjourned at 3:53pm EST

Closed meeting followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Roark  
Clerk