

Marlboro College Alumni Council
July 11, 2021
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Pamela Nye, Melanie Gottlieb, Kate Hollander, Gretchen Gerzina, CJ Churchill, Dagmawi Eminetu, Bess Pohelmann, Ellie Roark, Mark Genszler

Meeting called to order at 1:05pm EST

Approval of agenda

A closed meeting item is added to the agenda, agenda is approved

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved with one small amendment from Kate.

Officer Reports

Treasurer (Mark)

- We spent some money! Will update on that later. A larger conversation that we should make time for: we've finally taken the various recurring expenses for communications and moved them from the old council members to Mark and Melanie's personal accounts and cards. (Pam also one outstanding recurring charge.) How should we set this up in a longer term way? Our Council account has limited funds there and no incoming funds. How can we meet our needs in an interim way, separate from a longer term fundraising goal? We should add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Clerk (Ellie)

- Potash Hill committee minutes will be going up on the website soon

Moderator (Melanie)

- We filed for 501(c)(3) incorporation! Thanks to Dave Simonetti, Amy Tudor, Mark, Randy George. We have not heard anything back yet-- it cost less than we anticipated.

Committee Reports

Communications

- No council email update sent to the association for June because we didn't have much news to report.
- Email report- not much substantive communication; but indications that at least one person is reading our minutes!
- Upcoming communications- Melanie will draft something this week announcing 501c3 progress, send her any other updates we want to include
- Dagmawi looked through pictures that Pam sent from college photo account; will work on curating some for upload to social media accounts

Archives

- Committee has drafted a short letter for communications purposes with a list of where all the archives are. Will circulate to make sure council signs off. Geraldine has agreed to be interviewed for an oral history archive.

- We discuss adding an Archives section on the website. Communications team will check in with Erik (webmaster) to make this happen .

Governance

- Discussion about Bylaws Article V: Committees
 - This is a less polished product than we've introduced before; we want your thoughts about these policies! Some of the main issues to discuss:
 1. There's a huge demand from the association for representation across the years on committees-- how do we facilitate this?
 - Debate about whether representation will happen naturally or whether we need some kind of Nominations Committee (perhaps made up of elected members) to help recruit a diverse selection of candidates for committee roles. Are we too limited by our volunteer pool to have a nominations committee operate effectively? Perhaps a nominations committee would be more effective to put in place once we have more opportunities for engagement with each other and have a more active community-- without engagement it may struggle to help urge candidates forward. A membership survey could be used by a Nominations Committee to identify people who have signaled interest in volunteering. This may not be the moment for such a survey, but it's something to keep in mind.
 2. How do we facilitate participation and recruit people who want to be engaged for committees?
 - Each committee should have a liaison from the Council-- NOT to serve as chair or attend every meeting but just to generally make sure the committee is engaged and participating and help them communicate with the Council when they need support.
 3. How do we remove people from committees?
 - Participation needs to be the biggest criteria, but reasonable behavior needs to be another criteria; we need to establish criteria so that people understand we're following a process.
 - Removal process as written is pretty open and non specific. Council is generally in favor of this language.
 4. How do we keep people moving without constant input from us?
 - Liaison should not be a full committee member. We need to have some kind of role, especially because we are how committees derive their power. And we shouldn't have more than 9 committees anyway, to retain focus. There should be a different council member as liaison to each committee.
 - Other thoughts: one approach is to just NOT name any standing committees in the bylaws-- keep a separate working document that is a list of committees.
 - Can we begin to get buy-in about the bylaws from the community? Should we start to schedule a community conversation?

- Yes! We very much want to do this. But maybe we should wait until there's a little more certainty with the campus, otherwise that will dominate the conversation. Maybe in October, 1 year after our election. We need to carefully consider how to facilitate this meeting, because we need it to be productive, not like a town meeting free for all with the language.

Old Business

none.

New Business

none.

Open meeting session adjourned at 2:08 PM EST.
Closed Meeting session followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Roark
Clerk