

Marlboro College Alumni Council
February 7, 2021
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Melanie Knight Gottlieb, Mark Genszler, Kate Hollander, Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, Pamela Witte Nye, CJ Churchill, Bess Poehlmann, Ellie Roark (arrived late)

Minutes taken by Kate Hollander and Ellie Roark

Approval of agenda

- Are we going to discuss which council members serve which term limits during this meeting?
 - We're not quite ready for that discussion. Gov group will work on a plan for making this decision and suggest a strategy for decision making.
- Council votes to approve the agenda

Approval of Minutes

- Item tabled until Ellie arrives

Officer Reports

- Treasurer - Mark: Working with Randy George (former treasurer) to get our debit card, this has been delayed but should happen soon; account currently has \$850.
- Clerk- Ellie: Tabled until Ellie arrives
- Moderator -Melanie: Officers met re: VT state non-profit filings due April 1. Melanie is seeking support from association/community members who are lawyers who can help us on a pro-bono basis; council members suggest some names, Melanie will reach out.

Committee Reports:

- Communications :
 - Email report
 - Q: Does the current system of sharing emails received work for everyone? A: Yes, looks great! Melanie has been fielding most emails, she invites others to volunteer to share the load. One important email query for contact information request. We need to have a policy on whether we share contact info. In the past, alumni office has been a go-between (alum A requests info for alum B, alumni office shares A's info with B and invites B to contact A). Should we use that method? Sounds good for now, but looking to the future we consider having a searchable, accessible, secure contact info database for members; members could choose to make their contact info available. Q: How high a priority should this be? A: Fairly high, this is an important part of what any alumni association does. Q: How can we achieve this? Price it out, these systems can be purchased. In addition, council will consider charging a committee for data and membership (interim council attempted

to set up a committee for this purpose a year ago, got no volunteers; folks may be more interested as the association grows and this becomes an important part of what we do). Another option: How much would it cost to “farm it out,” pay someone else to do it/maintain in.

- Action item for next meeting’s agenda: Melanie will check in with Erik about what systems could interface with our web apparatus; Melanie and Pam will look into systems we could use.
- Email from member volunteering re: Threadless Store, Pam will address in her Threadless store report later.
- One other email to talk about re: domain name for Potash Press, table til next time; Comm Group will meet with Archives Committee
- Upcoming communications and process for approving communications:
 - Draft communication and share draft by 2nd Sunday of the month, all council members can comment/suggest edits by 3rd Sunday, post/email to membership by Sunday evening or Monday.
 - Council affirms this process.
 - Melanie will check with Erik to be sure this schedule will work for him.
- Governance
 - Working process for bylaw drafting: Gov group will bring a drafted section of 2 to 3 Articles to the Council for discussion at our next meeting. After discussion, Gov group will amend as necessary. Articles will be preliminarily voted on at the next council meeting. If approved, the next drafted section of bylaws will be discussed. If rejected, discussion will continue and the Gov group will amend again and bring back for a vote at the next meeting.
 - Important note: our vote to preliminarily approve sections does not preclude ratification by the full Association
 - We discuss “listening session” for association members to try to get a sense of Association values to inform the bylaw drafting process.
 - Council affirms this working process. Asks Gov group to be wary of getting too prescriptive with the bylaw language so as not to hamstring future councils.
- Resources
 - No report at this time

Officer reports (we return to this now that Ellie is present!)

- Clerk- Ellie:
 - Plans to circulate minutes to the group within 72 hours of the meeting ending
 - This will be followed by a two week comment period, where people can suggest amendments if necessary.
 - Minutes will be formally approved at the beginning of the next meeting.
 - Ellie introduces amendment to our council procedures to reflect that minutes will be posted publicly promptly after approval.

- We vote to approve the change to our procedures (see procedures doc for specific language).
- Ellie will highlight changes in procedures doc so Melanie can update Erik about changes that need to be made to the website version.
- We also explicitly agree that the goal is to move towards having an open meeting, where community members can participate as part of the agenda, if requested.

Old Business

- Facebook ad-hoc committee charge
 - Kate to draft letter to moderators to explain what we plan to do with the ad-hoc committee, thank them, and invite them to submit letters of intent.
 - We affirm the “job ad” version of the facebook committee charge; this will be added to our next communication to the Association.
 - Letter needs to go out to the moderators first, then the dispatch to the association
 - We will send out letter to mods by Wednesday, and send out dispatch after that
 - Kate will send this out ASAP, does not need to show everyone. Will send out via facebook messenger.
 - Gov group will work on creating a rubric for choosing committee members based on letters of intent.

New Business

- Threadless store
 - 2 sales in Feb, earned \$7 for association. Link to the store was broken but is now fixed. We can come up with ideas about what we want to see there. Pam will create a process for people to submit ideas for merch they want, and communicate with alum who volunteered to help.
- Legacy Center Proposal
 - Folks associated with the proposed Legacy Center have reached out to some members of the council’s Resources Group and the MCAA Archives Committee. We will follow up and discuss further at our next meeting.

Meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting will be Sunday, March 7th.