

LEVAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

1:30 p.m. in Conference Room of the Levan Center

MINUTES

PRESENT: Jack Hernandez, (Director), John Collins, Andrea Garrison, LaMont Schiers, Bob Allison, Mike Stepanovich, Moya Arthur, and Miriam Valenzuela (committee secretary)

Review of February 9, 2010 Minutes

Mike Stepanovich moved and Andrea Garrison seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Director's Report

Under Scheduled Events, Jack remarked upon the Inaugural Levan Center/ St. John's College Visiting Scholar lecture and lecture paper. The lecture paper was requested by so many that it will be published. Jack went on to show the committee a rough draft. The Center will publish occasional papers that are in connection with the Center. When there is a poster published for a public lecture or event, that poster will be used as the cover for the paper. When there is no poster, Jack will work with Eric in Graphics to develop a generic cover for the Center. Cost will be minimal. Jack would like to publish about 100 copies so they can be distributed to different educators around town. Eventually there will be a website related to this part of the program.

Under Programs, it was noted that there were 4 proposals for 2010 summer grants and last year there were 8. The committee did award 3 grants: John Giertz - \$850, Jeannie Parent - \$900 (Jack recused himself from that discussion and Isabel Stierle chaired the committee), and Reggie Williams - \$1000. They will be acknowledged and checks will be presented at the closing day meeting. There will be a luncheon with Dr. Levan, grant recipients, and committee members, which include Humanities Essay committee members, at the Guild house. There were 4 Humanities Essay Scholarships. Three students are transferring and 1 returning. They will be acknowledged and presented with checks at the Honor Reception on May 7th.

Under future events/programs, Jack mentioned that he is intrigued by St. John's seminars, which he spoke to Greg and Nan about. Nan and Jack are under discussion to offer during each semester, through the Center, 2- ½ unit great book seminars as special studies with 10 students and 2 "tutors"/faculty members. The Center can buy the books and pay for the modest salaries

of the faculty, and the courses may be aimed at the President's Scholars. Andrea suggested that the ½ unit for each student should also be paid by the Center. Although this had not been considered, Jack will make sure the cost of the ½ unit will be covered.

Under Administration, it was noted that the endowment may be increased by 2 million. The paperwork for hiring an assistant for the Center is with the District Office, but since Miriam is helping Jack and there currently is not much traffic through the Center, he will hold off since there seems to be no need for a part-time/full-time assistant at the present time.

Director's Scholarship/Creative Work – Jack believes that the Director of this Center should also be engaged in scholarly/creative work. He has submitted work to different publications and he has a proposal for a presentation at the regional Community College Humanities Association Conference. He has had a poem accepted for publication by the Anglican Theological Review.

Program Committee

The program committee met on 3/11/10. He mentioned 4 things from the minutes:

- 1.) The difference from the ongoing and ad hoc programs. Ongoing are like the Faculty Colloquia and Reading the Classics. Ad hoc programs are like the seminars on Darwinism and Health Care seminars.
- 2.) C.H.A.P. – They discussed whether this program was a fit for BC. While this program seems to be a major event for Porterville College, we already have musical events, events with the art department, and so forth. We could possibly develop more thematic events and Jack will talk to Greg about this.
- 3.) Proposal for a new ongoing Center program: Dialogues on the Great Ideas: Coffee and Conversation, A Seminar Series led by BC faculty. One idea, for example, is the subject of justice. The seminars will be at a time convenient for all. This will be discussed further in the fall.
- 4.) An ongoing Symposium program for local professionals. Jack will follow up with this while Bob will follow up with a local physician and attorney. The idea is for local professionals to get together and talk about humanities issues. For example: spirituality and medicine, ethics and the law. They will try to put this in effect by next fall.

2010-2011 Budget

The operating endowment for the Center was 1.5 million. The corpus is now 1.3 million. If the endowment is increased by 2 million it will be in addition to the 1.5 million we currently have for a total of 3.5 million. Last year, Jack budgeted for 75k and should have for 60K. There was a large contingency; however, no more than 60K was spent. This year Jack has based the budget on 4% and has put in a 15K contingency up to 5%. Mike pointed out that according to U.P.M.I.F.A. rules, the 4% and 5% have to be based on the 1.5 million. The contingency is for possibilities such as website development.

Bob moved and John Collins seconded to approve the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Budget was approved unanimously.

Jack has been working with Michael McNellis and possibly will work with Dick Holden for website support.

Jack was asked what will be done with the additional endowment. He explained that it would maintain and enhance the Center's current programs, and provide for increased programs and more administrative support. So it will ensure the future of the Center.

Building Update

According to Daniel Reed, the contractor has told him that the completion will be at the end of the month. LaMont commented that it is 98% done even though there are still some small items that need to be completed.

Jack explained the maximum occupancy is 72 even though it was originally planned for 120. Each seminar room has been classified as a classroom with only 36 as a maximum. A process has begun to reclassify the seminar rooms to assembly rooms, which will increase the maximum occupancy.

Moya asked if Jack has budgeted for art and he responded that he hasn't. But he explained that we've had posters framed that could be hung throughout the Center. He would like to be careful as to what is hung up and where since some of the rooms will be open to the public, which would make it easy for items to be carried off without notice.

Next Meeting

Early September 2010.

Meeting adjourned by 2:23 p.m.