

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, May 10, 2021

Council Members present: David Bernard, Stephanie Butler, Wayne Cotter, Pam Gemelli, Bob Gottfried, Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Frieda Lipp, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Ruth Ward and Michael Wellner.

Council Members absent: None

New Council Members: Mary Ann Donnelly, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer and Michael Wellner

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown, this monthly meeting was held via Zoom call. The meeting was called to order by Quest President Bob Gottfried at 4:00 pm.

Quest President Bob Gottfried thanked everyone for the gift that he received commemorating his years as Quest President from 2017 to 2021. Effective June 1, 2021, Ruth Ward becomes President and Wayne Cotter becomes Vice-President.

Introduction of New Council Members

Bob welcomed new Council members Mary Ann Donnelly, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer and Michael Wellner. He thanked outgoing members Frieda Lipp and Pam Gemelli for their service to Quest.

Authorization to Use Reserve Funds for Equipment at 25 Broadway

Bob emailed Council information regarding the funds needed for expenses to set up 25 Broadway for our return. The amount is \$33,000 and it will be taken from our reserves. Bob made a motion that Council authorize this money required to create zoom rooms.

There was discussion about how this money would be used as well as questions regarding the operation of the equipment. New equipment allows us to create zoom rooms with multiple cameras and will have overhead microphones to provide better sound. In addition to the two classrooms, there will be an overflow room. Decisions regarding whether or not it will be interactive are still being considered but it will definitely be interactive for all guest speakers. There are still items that the Online Learning Committee will review and work out.

The new equipment will enable Quest to operate a hybrid version with both in-person and Zoom attendance. Wayne said there is a perception that the new set up will be for the fall semester only but this is not the case. It will be for the future and can be used going forward to attract new members as well as help current members who may not be able to attend Quest in person due to illness or moving to an area outside New York.

Several members of Council expressed concerns that the hybrid model may change the dynamics of how Quest operates in the future. Nan McNamara suggested we move slowly and build

the model now. As noted above, Quest is now buying equipment and moving ahead with the hybrid model so we are properly prepared for fall classes. In its future meetings, Council pledges to continue to consider the potential impact of its technological decisions on the dynamics of our organization.

Donna Ramer asked which presentations will be recorded. For the most part, only webinars will be recorded. However, if a lead coordinator requests to record a presentation that is a meeting, that can be done.

Michael mentioned that the hybrid may help with our cap of 270 members.

Council unanimously approved the authorization to spend \$33,000.

Announcement of Committee Chairs and Council Liaisons for 2021-2022

Quest has 18 standing committees. Each committee has a committee chair and a Council liaison. The liaison is responsible for keeping Council updated on committee projects. Committee chairs will be approved at the June Council meeting.

In accordance with the bylaws, there are four committees (Auditing, Curriculum, Membership and Scheduling) that have decision-making roles and are subject to special term limits. With respect to the terms for these committee chairs, they may not serve more than three consecutive years and committee

members may not serve for more than four consecutive years. Quest bylaws allow for Council to deviate from this policy if it determines this is in the best interest of the organization.

For all other committees, there should be a rotation of committee chairs every three years and recruitment of new committee members are encouraged.

Below is the list of proposed committee chairs and the Council liaison. The Zoom Committee is now called the Technology Committee. Many of the members on the Technology Committee were already on the Zoom Committee and it made sense to merge these committees.

Committee Chairs

Council Liaison

Membership - Nan McNamara

Nan McNamara

Curriculum - Joyce West

Donna Ramer

Scheduling – Steve Allen

Penelope
Pi- Sunyer

Emergency Response - Michael Wellner

Stephanie Butler

Technology - Wayne Cotter, Bob Reiss
and Ruth Ward

Wayne Cotter

Q Review - Ruth Ward

Ruth Ward

QNEWS - Carolyn McGuire

Michael Wellner

Freshman Class - Betty Farber and Pam Gemelli	Nan McNamara
Marketing and Communications - Wayne Cotter and Martha Drezin	Wayne Cotter
Travel - Carolyn McGuire and Michael Wellner	Karen Levin
Auditing - David Judlowitz and Michael Wellner	Michael Wellner
Caring - Linda Redding	David Bernard
Diversity - David Bernard	David Bernard
CultureQuest - Renée Woloshin	Mary Ann Donnelly
Social - Lois Cardillo and Marcia Friedland	Arlynn Greenbaum
Special Events - Michael Wellner	Karen Levin
CWE/Quest Administration – Ruth Ward, Stephanie Butler and Bob Gottfried	Not applicable
Nominations and Elections Committee	TBD in Feb 2022

Discussion About Zoom Membership, Geographic Parameters and Limitations of Zoom Members

Nan McNamara discussed different classes of membership that were suggested by the Membership Committee. She also addressed the roles and dues for full members and Zoom members. In September, Membership will start interviewing new members for Quest, including those who are currently Zoom members.

Both Donna and Michael are on the Membership Committee and spoke. One item to address are members who do not live within the New York City area. Additionally, there are members who may not be able to get to Quest due to physical difficulties. Michael felt that members who live far away should pay a reduced tuition. Donna mentioned that we may need to review the bylaws after determining how membership will work.

Stephanie spoke about the budget for the next year and said we will review our finances at the June meeting. Tuition will be addressed and decided on by Council in June.

To date, there are 228 full members (including the 7 founding members), 41 Zoom members and 12 members on a leave of absence.

After much discussion, Bob made a motion to keep one membership category for the fall semester. It would simplify administration for Membership and for the Treasurer who has to

process all the checks. It would also encourage the same camaraderie among members as before. Council can review this again prior to the spring semester after seeing how everything worked for the fall semester.

Council unanimously agreed to this.

Videos Posted on Quest Website

Council discussed the posting of recordings on the Quest website. There were security issues related to the recordings which are currently located on the private members' portion of the website. Ruth said that proprietary issues were discussed but did not raise any concerns about our being sued.

If any member would like their presentation removed from the website, it will be taken off.

Some concerns were stated about having presentations and member questions posted on the website due to privacy issues. Council decided to table this item to the June meeting. We will vote at that time when all new members can vote.

Reservation System for Fall Semester 2021

Council decided to address this at the June meeting.

New Ad Hoc Committee

Quest offers programs like Noontime Knowledge, the Book Club and Creativity Day during the lunchtime hour. Initially the Curriculum Committee proposed having a new ad hoc

committee to schedule these events instead of maintaining them. David Bernard said there was further discussion on this and the Curriculum Committee decided to keep these programs.

Council decided to discuss this at the June meeting.

CWE Scholarships

Quest gives scholarships to CWE students. Two recipients received \$2,000 each from Quest's operating budget. Two additional recipients received \$2,500 each (this came from the Ken Leedom/Peter Cott bequest).

Quest also gives money annually to support the June film festival. In prior years, \$3,500 was contributed and paid out of our reserves. CWE asked Bob if we planned to give funds this year to the festival. However, these funds were not included in our budget.

A motion was made to pay \$1,750 from reserves and Council voted to contribute \$1,750.

Curriculum Schedule for Fall Semester

Ruth spoke to Joyce West regarding the fall schedule. Joyce would like to email the schedule to members although it is not final. She would like to send the schedule and include wording that this is a "draft schedule." Bob recommended sending the schedule with the caveat saying that "unless there are extraordinary factors causing any changes, this is the new schedule." Bob will speak to Joyce about this.

Treasurer's Report for May 2021

Quest Treasurer Stephanie Butler said there are no significant changes since she presented the report at our General Meeting.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is Monday, June, 7 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Gottfried at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Levin

Secretary