

MINUTES
GREAT PLAINS HONORS COUNCIL
Business Meeting
Stillwater, Oklahoma (As part of the GPHC Conference)
April 22, 1995

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, April 22 at 8:05 p.m. by President C. Earl Ramsey (University of Arkansas at Little Rock).

Virginia McCombs, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, discussed the minutes from the 1994 regional meeting at the NCHC conference in San Antonio. There being no corrections a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried by a voice vote. Virginia then reviewed the treasurer's report. No corrections being made to the treasurer's report, a motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and carried by voice vote.

Virginia reported the results of the election for GPHC officers. K. Ann Dempsey was elected to serve as President-Elect. Virginia McCombs was elected to the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Four students were nominated to serve as Student Representative. They are: Mary Mensinger (University of Missouri at St. Louis), Derek Richardson, Larry Hurst, and Amber Messenger (Southwest State Texas University). Mary Mensinger introduced herself to the meeting. K. Anne Dempsey recommended that we delay the election until later in the meeting to allow more members to arrive.

Ellen Myers (Wichita State University), Travel Grants Committee Chair, presented her report on travel grants for the 1995 GPHC conference. The committee awarded a total of \$475.00 to support students for this conference. The committee awarded a \$125.00 grant to Southwest Texas State University, a \$100.00 grant to Park College, \$75.00 grants to Texas Christian University and Southeast Missouri State University, and \$50.00 grants to Kansas State University and Wichita State University.

Earl thanked K. Ann Dempsey and Virginia McCombs for standing for office. He asked if there were any objection to Virginia serving as Executive Secretary-Treasurer until the 1997 NCHC meeting. There being none, Virginia will serve until that time. Earl encouraged those present to consider standing for the office of President-Elect or nominate others for the election to be held before the Pittsburgh conference. K. Ann Dempsey asked the membership to consider Mary Lou Underwood (Graceland College) to serve as a GPHC officer.

Robert Spurrier (Oklahoma State University) suggested that the GPHC president serve a two year term. This topic will be discussed at the Pittsburgh conference.

Dennis Boe (East Central Oklahoma State University) , newsletter editor, announced that there will be another issue of the GPHC newsletter on June 3, 1995. May 27, 1995 is the cut-off date for information or articles to be included. Dennis encouraged program directors and students to send information about Honors student awards to include in the newsletter. He recommended that the GPHC promote both regional and national conferences through press releases to local newspapers and radio/tv.

Larry Clark (Southeast Missouri State University) voiced his concerns about the increasing difficulty of taking students to conferences because of the high cost. He suggested that the GPHC make an appeal to the NCHC Conference Planning committee to implement a two-tiered registration structure. Discussion followed. Ada Long (President, NCHC) stated that the registration fee probably will not go down unless NCHC makes major changes in the conference. Hotels large enough to accommodate the conference are expensive, and arrangements include the necessity to order a minimum number of meals. Requiring presenters to pay for their own audio-visual equipment was one suggestion to lower costs. Ron Brown (Southwest Texas State University) suggested that NCHC raise institutional fees to use as a subsidy to reduce student fees.

Larry Clark voiced his other concerns about the changing guidelines for student research presentations at the NCHC conference in Pittsburgh. Student proposals submitted from several GPHC schools were redirected to the student research category, requiring a much lengthier abstract. Earl Ramsey stated his belief that students should not be discriminated against in the proposal selection process.

Jim McKinney (Wichita State University) introduced the following proposal:

"Resolved, the GPHC should allocate \$1,000/yr in grants to support GPHC students participating in a National Honors Semester."

Discussion followed. Earl proposed to amend the proposal to include the following: 1) the students' home institution would be obligated to provide matching funds to support the Honors semester; and 2) the students should be required to give a report on their experiences, either at a GPHC meeting or in the newsletter. Earl also proposed that the Travel Grant committee be given oversight in these grants and that the grants be **up to** a total of \$1,000/yr. Objections being raised to the suggestion that home institutions be required to match funds, Earl agreed to drop this part of the amendment. A motion was made to call the question. The proposal as amended passed by a voice vote.

Bob Spurrier announced the Portz Scholar competition for 1995. Jane Lawrence of Washington State University is the new chair of the Portz committee. Bob also announced the upcoming NCHC satellite seminar.

Ron Brown asked the membership to send their special recollections of Sally Bohon to the TCU Honors Program. TCU is assembling a memory book in honor of Sally's retirement. Ron suggested that GPHC send Sally a special bouquet which the membership heartily approved.

The chair of the site selection committee not being present, Earl stressed the need for a list of proposed GPHC conference sites to be discussed at the business meeting in Pittsburgh.

Gary Wyatt (Emporia State University) gave a report about the upcoming 1996 GPHC conference in Emporia, April 19-21.

A motion was made to congratulate Oklahoma State University for an outstanding conference. Special thank yous to Bob Spurrier and Alaina Harrington. Motion passed resoundingly.

In reference to the Honors Semester, the GPHC grants will begin with the Fall semester 1995. The newsletter will include information about the grants. Ada Long suggested that the Travel Grant committee request from the Honors Semester chair, Bernice Braid of Long Island University, a list of all GPHC students and that the allocated money be divided among all of these students, provided that their institutions have paid their GPHC dues. The check should be made payable to NCHC Honors Semester and sent directly to Bernice. Motion was made to adopt these recommendations. The motion passed. The Travel Grant committee will decide how much money to be allocated, not to exceed \$1,000 per year.

Motion to adjourn passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia McCombs
Executive Secretary-Treasurer