

Great Plains Honors Council Business Meeting Minutes
Abilene Christian University
April 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order by David Lawless who welcomed all members. He introduced Brad Gamble, who will take over as President. Twenty-eight schools were noted to be in attendance at this conference. Minutes from the 2007 GPHC meeting were read. Dave made a correction to the minutes, replacing Elizabeth's name with that of Karen Lyons. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved with the correction.

Virginia Brackett presented the treasurer's report, stating the following:

Previous balance: \$18, 800.90
Deposits from membership dues: \$4100
Balance: \$22,915.90

Expenses: Boe cash awards: \$600
Boe Plaques: \$225
Service charge to reg with MO: \$7.00

Estimated Expense total: \$832

Balance: \$22083.90

Brackett stated that she hoped she would have the e-mail address for each Program director, so that 2008 dues notices could be sent electronically.

An incentive plan to attract new members to GPHC had been discussed at National. GPHC agreed to offer \$200 to prospective new members to visit the conference as a way to help them determine whether they wanted to join. One Director took advantage of that offer. David Lawless requested for anyone who knew of additional prospective members to write that information on the member survey distributed.

The survey results will be tallied and e-mailed to all members.

The Dennis Boe awards procedure was explained. Students must be in attendance at the conference in order to receive the award. Judges cannot sponsor their own Program student entries. It was suggested that some plan be developed so as not to penalize Programs whose directors agreed to help judge. John Korstad suggested an "honors system" in which judges agree to read objectively. Elizabeth Yelverton suggested a 4th judge be added, so that one judge could "bow out" of the process if necessary. Originally one session was desired for a presentation by all Boe winners. That was not possible this year. Instead, a joint brief awards presentation and summary of the projects was organized.

Under New Business, handling of excess funds by conference host institutions was discussed. What should be the policy? David suggested that the funds be divided 50/50 between the host institution and GPHC to be placed in the Rainy Day fund. That fund assures any institution they will never lose money when hosting a conference. Funds can also be used as travel money awarded to schools with Boe Award winners. This could include travel money in the amount of \$500/ school to use to attend the National Conference. Carl suggested we try that for three years, and then assess. Mark Feris moved for acceptance and Lydia McCauley seconded. Guy had investigated investment into a CD – Virginia Brackett will do so again, keeping in mind the timing of possible need for the funds. It was moved, seconded and accepted that the Executive Board will set an amount of funds that should be reserved in that special account.

Nick Flynn suggested that each host institution must supply a “collective memory document” with details about their budget, attendance records, the number of hotel rooms required, and any other helpful details that could be passed on to the next host. Guy supported that idea as helpful. Carl suggested that edited guidelines be added to the document annually. Chris Willerton will begin the document this year. Guy suggested a survey of three recent hosts to determine their overhead and use that as a benchmark.

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln has discussed serving as the site of the 2009 conference; David is waiting for confirmation. No theme or date has been set. Nick Flynn suggested a deadline be set for establishment of that information. Dave urged everyone to consider hosting a future conference.

The National Conference was discussed. Jay urged stronger support for submissions to that conference in the future. John Blunt is a member of the National College Honors Board with travel to meetings supported. National needs nominees for officers, to include Vice President, 3 Board members, and 2 student members. Nomination forms were made available. The 2008 meeting will be in San Antonio, October 21-23.

Chris Willerton noted that the website needs re-design. Volunteers were requested.

Karl Petruso recalled Chris Willerton’s call in 2007 for improved quality of student presentations. Guidelines were suggested for session monitors. The host institution is to present the guidelines. Carl agreed to draft some guidelines. John Korstad suggested the moderator remind the audience to ask questions of everyone each presents. If we wait until all 3 present for questions, the final presenter tends to receive all the questions.

Following a move to dismiss and a second, the meeting was adjourned.