February 8th Global Connections Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance (quorum):

Voting members: Bob Persiko, Bruce Truitt, Melanie Miller Foster, Marco Damasceno, Debbie Leo, Rita Graef, Shannon Holiday, Anna Borisova de Valdez.

Call to order at 7:06 PM. December minutes were accepted as submitted.

Reports of officers:

President - Bob

Bob reported:

- 1. On Monday, February 13th, Bob will attend the American Association of University Women luncheon as a GC representative. GC is sponsoring the attendance of two Humphrey Fellows.
- **2.** Bob is developing the idea of connecting with OLLI (PSU's long-term learning center) for mutual collaboration. He has an appointment for a Zoom call with the staff there on Feb. 20.
- **3.** Bob requests that everyone make a greater effort to maintain good communication practices. For example, if anyone sends a message to anyone in the organization, there should be an effort to respond on a timely basis. Bruce suggested adding the desired deadline for receiving the answer in the message.
- 4. Webster's Bookstore Café has sold all GC T-shirts (a project of 2019-2020). Bob is negotiating with them to pay the remainder of the proceeds from sales, which they'll do soon.

Vice President - Kieran- absent

Treasurer – Bruce

Bruce reported:

- 1. GC's current balance on the checking account is \$5,220.28. GC recently paid \$700 for the liability and omissions insurance for officers, directors.
- 2. A membership dues clarification: it is not possible to pay dues for multiple years, due to GC being on a cash basis for accounting.

Public relations, website, and social media - Marco

Marco reported that he and Anna presented GC activities and advantages of membership for students of English classes at Career Pathways in January.

Penn State Global – Wenjie Fu – absent

Cultural luncheons Committee – Shannon Holiday

Shannon reported the following:

- 1. Shannon reached out to the Mt. Nittany Methodist Church, where GC had organized indoor luncheons before, to ask about hosting a Saudi Arabian luncheon. We can use this venue, but unfortunately the church has a new policy that restricts access to the kitchen only to designated church members. Shannon will continue to search for an appropriate venue for the luncheon.
- 2. The Eric J. Barron Innovation Hub coworking space is available for meetings and events free of charge for private nonprofit organizations.
- 3. Shannon suggested participating in the WPSU children's fair.

Membership - Rita

Rita reported

- 1. 60 current members (53 are regular and 7 associate members).
- 2. 243 contacts in WA from 250 possible (according to the selected plan).
- 3. WA is increasing their prices by \$20 per month over those of 2022.
- 4. Bruce, Rita, and Kieran will meet again to continue to work on criteria for archiving inactive contacts in the interest of maintaining GC below the 250 ceiling.

Small Groups - Debbie Leo

Deb reported

- Intermediate -Advanced group: consists of 10 members (increased by 50% this year).
- Beginners group organizing for the current year.

New Business

- 1. An international poetry evening will take place at Webster's Bookstore Café on Thursday, March 23, at 7:00 PM. It will be free for the public, but donations will be welcome. Donations by credit card can and will be processed by WA. Cash donations can be processed and a receipt given.
- 2. Center Gives will take place on May 10-11. GC will take part, and Bruce will submit the application.

Meeting adjournment: 7:56

Prepared and submitted by Anna Borisova de Valdez 02/17/2023 with edits by Bob Persiko