

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