

October 1, 2006 Board Meeting

AAGT Board Meeting

Present:, Ann Bowman, Peter Philippson, Tine van Wijk, Mae Tang, Peter Cole, Dan Bloom, Bud Feder, Marilyn Myles, Bea Mackay

Absent: Jack Aylward, Phil Brownell, Jenny Edwards, Brian O'Neill, Robert DeVos, Warren Weir, Sylvie Falschlunger, Marcy Stern, Ansel Woldt

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Conference Vancouver (Bea)

B. Finances (Peter C)

C. Manchester Conference (Mae)

D. Committee on our Process – Task Force on Decision Making (Dan)

E. RCP (Marilyn and Tine)

F. Yalta (Tine)

G. Individual and organizational dues for Philippines and other financially disadvantaged countries (Peter P)

H. Timings for next Board call (European and American daylight saving ends at end of October) (Peter P)

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME – November 12, 2006 at the following times. One hour earlier for most of us and one hour after (Australia)

Welcome

There was a quick check in from all the members present on the call.

Vancouver Conference

Bea - Bea sent an email to the board prior to the meeting reporting the financial issues still pending at this time. She is working with Heidi from the Conference Center Heidi who will be back Oct 2. Bea has been in communication with her and is now waiting for Heidi's response. DVD's – Warren is in charge of this and conveyed to Bea that the masters have been made and he will follow up with emails.

Peter P – did you go through the list re: who stayed and who didn't?

Bea – There are people who stayed at Gage but weren't accounted for and she is waiting for Heidi to respond to her before she goes through the list herself.

Tine – was it the number of nights?

Bea – says that the Conference Center says we were 55 nights short. If they count everyone who was in a pod, then we would most certainly be over the 55. If we do not get our deposit returned, we

would be down \$4,000. If it's returned we would be down \$1000. She is confident that the end result will be a break even.

Bud – Offered help with this since he has had experience in Florida with determining final costs, room issues, etc.

Peter P – wonders if they did not include people who were not there the whole time. He gave an example that he moved to another room after his family left and wonders if they did not count his nights after this.

Bea – they credited one pod as one count. So if there were more people in a room, they were only counted as one person rather than multiple folks. She is talking with them about how they counted. She has been really trying to work with them on the particulars and has had \$2000 dropped in catering and bar charges.

Bud, Peter P and Bea – talked about the charge for Gage lounge which was rented because of the asbestos removal and lack of meeting rooms for process groups. Noise was also an issue.

Bea – will post results of her talks with the Conference Center on email and hopefully will have this settled by next month.

Manchester Conference

Mae – planning committee is redesigning post cards to include international which will be ready this week.

Peter P – Described the venue. AAGT would have sole use of Manchester conference center. The center has lots of meeting rooms including a large space. There are student study bedrooms which are cheap and hotel rooms for about \$120 US dollars. A room includes breakfast each day. Also included with the conference is audio visual equipment. There is a dining room available for catered drinks and food. A possible minus would be that the large room has stationary chairs (OK for lectures but not for moving around or being more intimate). He felt AAGT could use the dining room for more informal meetings. It is right in the city center and 5 min walk from the railway station and the train also comes directly from the airport to Manchester. It is within the district of china town, the gay village, theater and restaurants.

Mae – various people on the planning committee are keen on this venue. Unless someone else suggests something more specific, this will probably be it.

Peter C – how would we guarantee rooms?

Peter P – probably like Vancouver's university contract rather than hotel. Deposit is placed rather than guaranteeing rooms. As the contract and the costs become known, these should be emailed to board and to Peter C.

Finances

Peter C - is waiting for final bills from Vancouver. Nothing new to report but will send an email out with spread sheet. Financially, the organization is in good shape.

RCP

Marilyn – Tine sent a letter out to persons who volunteered to be RCPs.

Tine – so far there has not been a big response from those who volunteered in Vancouver.

Marilyn – Wondered if people don't respond because they feel uncomfortable responding on a large email list. Suggested they may contact people individually.

Peter P – maybe call them too.

Marilyn – did this with someone recently from Wisconsin who is now more involved in the region.

Peter P – membership issues – suggested that RCPs also encourage folks to become members. This function of the RCPs was decided in Vancouver.

Marilyn and Tine – agree with this. They will also ask Robert to be on the next RCP call.

Tine – maybe need to clarify what the RCP role is. She also talked about the members list and discussion there.

Peter P – the members list is large and doesn't necessarily connect people locally. RCP has a very important function of connecting people locally.

Peter P – will be on the next RCP call. Marilyn and Tine will let him know the date and time.

Yalta

Tine – sent an email to the board asking for volunteers to help support the conference planning. Bud and Peter P have agreed. She would also like to have someone from the board who plans to be there. Need someone to orchestrate and to plan the program.

Peter P – will the conference be in Russian and/or in English? Part of it needs to be in English for English speaking persons to want to attend.

Tine – Yes, it will be half and half. There will also be translators. Many Russians speak English too. She shared an idea regarding using the 3 rooms available for the conference. There will be translations between both languages in 2 rooms and with the other, larger room, there could be 2 facilitators - one who spoke Russian and one who spoke English. People would choose which person to be with. There is also a need for translators for the process groups.

Peter P – what is the advantage of AAGT producing a program over the local persons doing this?

Tine – AAGT will produce the English programs and Russians will produce the Russian programs.

Tine - Conference is 12-16 of September 2007 right after the EAGT conference. She thinks one can travel from Athens to Kiev in one day and will be checking this out before the Yalta conference.

Peter C – How do you see the financial relationship between the Yalta conference and AAGT?

Tine - They have to register with Silvie because they cannot process credit cards in Russia like AAGT can. She has an AAGT account from Amsterdam. She noted that all is done in cash including the hotel.

Peter C – would AAGT guarantee the financials with the hotel?

Tine – doesn't think this will be necessary. There are several hotels being used which are quite different from each other.

Peter P – How dependent is the conference on persons coming from outside Eastern Europe?

Tine – lots of people said they would come.

Peter P – so there will be a need for publicity in other regions.

Tine – Yes. She also shared that the institutes in Russia have their own conferences each year and are used to doing this.

Ann – asked Peter P if he was asking if the conference was financially dependent on AAGT?

Peter P – clarified his use of the word “dependent” as referring to the need for English speaking persons to be represented for the workshops which are planned for English speaking audiences.

Tine – this conference is not dependent on AAGT for financing. The local committee is working on the particulars about the overall financial needs. She shared that the conference cost could be \$150 per person which would include everything. There are rooms available for \$40 for single and less (perhaps \$20) with roommates. She expects the costs to be very reasonable. They will need Sylvie to help process the credit cards.

Peter P – Tine has a great track record for conferences. If people are needed to attend who live outside Europe we need to keep track of this.

Tine – many folks from Russia are coming and all the gestalt institutes join together at these conferences.

Peter P – suggested she advertise on the members list and also on the AAGT web site. She could also ask others on the members list if they would be willing to help with the organizing.

Peter C – supportive of this and also wants a clear statement about AAGT financial support.

Peter P- Tine is saying that there is no financial backing being asked from AAGT.

Tine – Yes.

Bud – should be no financial involvement with AAGT for this conference. We have not financially supported any regional conference.

Peter P – AAGT would process the AAGT members credit cards.

Individual and organizational dues for Philippines and other financially disadvantaged countries.

Peter P – Persons from the Philippines have contacted him and have asked to join AAGT at the \$10 rate for individual memberships. We have also done this for persons in Russia.

Bud – what are the costs incurred by the organization for each member? Mailing of the directory is one which would cost about \$5 or so. What are the other costs?

Peter P and Peter C – suggested we send the directory as a PDF file and they would do the printing.

Peter P – other cost would be to reduce the conference fee.

Dan – how do we decide what country qualifies for reduced membership?

Peter C – will be working on this.

Peter P – think this needs to be on a case by case issue.

Tine – maybe we could look at statistics of countries.

Peter P – what about reducing the organizational membership fee? Costs incurred by AAGT for organizations would include flyers, directories, publicity. Could we reduce the fee to \$30?

Dan and Bud – we charge organizations \$100 for memberships but not all individuals pay a flat rate as this depends on their circumstances – (e.g. regular membership fee and student rates).

Tine – maybe there should be dialogue with each organization too before assuming the organizational rate should be lower based on the country they are in. For example, some Russian organizations might be offended by assuming they could not pay the regular rate.

Peter C – Suggested keeping the organizational rate at \$100 with the option for the organizations to dialogue with AAGT if they feel their circumstances necessitate this.

The board agreed to keep the organizational membership rate at \$100 with the invitation to dialogue if an organization feels they need a reduced rate. The board also agreed to extend the \$10 individual membership rate to the persons in the Philippines and be open to future considerations on a case by case basis.

Committee on our Process – Task Force on Decision Making

Dan - The issues discussed, so far, cluster roughly around 5 issues: 1) The authority of the annual membership meeting; 2) the relationship of alternate year annual meetings to those held at our biannual conferences; 3) Membership's ongoing input to the organization; 4) our international character and its implications; and 5) consensus.

Dan – is getting input from the committee members. Committee is also going to discuss if they should make a recommendation to the board.

Cynthia is now on the committee. Some discussion has occurred around the issue of the power of getting things added to the annual meeting's agenda.

Quorum – huge issue.

Bylaws – are not specific and are unclear. Our intent was to empower the members but the bylaws don't speak to HOW to do this and there are no guidelines. There is nothing clear about the consequences of agenda items. Also issues that reflect the power of the board and the power of the members are unclear.

Peter P – probably need to change the by laws. Suggested that Dan not add too many members and take members off if they don't respond. Thanks Dan!!!

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING November 12, 2006 - see above for correct times.

Please note that the times for the November meeting will change due to daylight savings times in the Northern hemisphere changing at the end of October.