

December 18, 2005 Conference Call

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Brian O'Neill, Ann Bowman, Tine van Wijk, Bruce Aaron, Peter Philippon, Peter Cole, Bea Mackay, Victor Daniels, Warren Weir, Ansel Woldt, Marilyn Myles

Absent: Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, Sylvie Falschlunger, Alan Singer, Bud Feder, Marcy Stern,

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Conference Report (Bea and Warren) Program Planning Report (Victor) Web/email Report (Phil) Newsletter (Marcy) RCP Report (Marilyn) Finance Report (Peter C

NEXT BOARD CALL January 15, 2005. Note times below.

Vancouver Conference:

Bea and Warren: Trying to get rough estimate of cost. Looking at about 200 attendees. Brian – We had 110 – 120 at St Petersburg last time. This one seems to have much more potential for 200 attendees. Bruce A – concerned about over shooting attendance. Victor – suggested incremental estimation of charges for number of attendees. Bea – if most people stay in Gage Towers, no problem. Also can stay in bed and breakfast's nearby. Some people may elect to stay further away. Peter P – inquired about if meeting rooms are included as part of # rooms people reserve. Bea – there is a minimum fee for the meetings rooms. Based on occupancy of 150 (80% of the 150 needed to not lose deposit). Victor – strongly recommended that people stay on campus. Warren – very lovely rooms at Gage Towers starting at (Canadian dollars) \$36/night to \$129/night (for one-bedroom suites). Peter P – really pushing for us to set a conference cost. Brian – Bud figured a \$50,000 cost estimate. Peter C – figured costs at \$34,342 US dollars (does not include harbor cruise). Discussed break-even point. Bud had recommended \$350 as conference cost. Bea – recommended we estimate costs for 150 attendees. Brian – set conference fee for \$350. Peter P – Offer reduced rate for early bird. Victor – not increase the costs too much as we don't want to discourage people to attend if they sign up late.

Discussion among the board present regarding dates for early bird fees, conference fees, member, non-member rates, student rates.

Ansel - \$450 by August 1 or the door. Tine – first of March for early bird registration. Bruce – stated there was no separate dinner fee in Florida. Ansel – suggested we include the dinner *and* the cruise. Bea and Warren – estimate the cruise cost to be \$50/person, which does not include transportation to and from the cruise ship. Peter C – consider not including cruise Bea – important to offer a “really good student rate” to encourage

students to attend. Suggestions – 50% conference fee reduction or \$200 conference fee? Board discussed issue of clarifying what constitutes student status - University and college and gestalt training students too? Brian – suggested gestalt students outside N America be included at student rate. Bruce – not sure how discerning N American students from outside the area would work. Peter P – Consider full time students that also don't work full time as student rate. Marilyn – people who travel far away can also apply for scholarships. Ansel – we have usually gone on the honor code and let students identify themselves. If they say they are a student then we honor that. Peter C – suggested we have a smaller committee to discuss this further.

Brian – Summary: So far in this discussion consensus seems to be that 3/1/06 is the early bird deadline; \$200 for students (honor code as Ansel suggested); conference fee will be \$350 (early bird registration) which includes the dinner dance and not cruise; and conference fee will be \$450 as of August 1 and at the door.

Peter C will look at spreadsheet but thinks \$350 will be sufficient for early bird registration. Bea and Warren are estimating the dinner dance cost for 150 persons to be \$30 per person. Bruce – reviewed costs from last conference. Ansel – increase conference fees to additional \$100 for non-members to encourage persons to join AAGT Discussion about this. Some felt it was too high and some felt that it should be \$50.

Brian – Suggested that we offer a special membership fee of \$50 (1/2 price membership fee) for first time persons to join AAGT and attend the conference. They could, for example pay the \$50 reduced cost membership rate and then get the membership conference rate of \$350 equaling \$400 (the conference rate they would pay if the non-member conference fee was \$50 more than the member fee).

Board agreed that Warren, Bea, Peter C, Ansel and Peter P will form a committee to finalize the conference fees. They will use the discussion the board has already had as a guide and will be empowered to make the final decision regarding conference fees. Bea – also concerned about March 1 being too late for early bird registration and would like to see this date sooner.

There was a discussion about the Pre conference offerings. It was suggested that we continue to charge \$100 per person for the for one day workshops as we did in Florida and Amsterdam. There will be other half day offerings which will need costs set. The committee that is defining the overall conference fees will also decide these fees as well.

Victor – Much work has been done on the website for the conference. January 15, 2006 is the last day for proposals. Last week in January, they will begin putting the schedule together and rooms will be assigned.

Victor talked about the invited speakers conversation hours. He explained that the conversation hour involves a well-known person in the gestalt field who is esteemed by the community and another person who interviews them. In the interview, they may talk about their history or any other gestalt topic that they feel others may find interesting. This will be a part of the ongoing schedule and program.

Victor also briefly talked about scheduling. The beginning plenary and ending plenary will not have other activities scheduled at the same time.

Brian – expressed appreciation for Victor’s energy and direction as the program-planning director for the conference.

Much appreciation was also expressed for Bea and Warren too!

RCP

Marilyn and Tine talked about doing an RCP workshop at the conference.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Peter Cole - We have \$8000 in the bank.

CEU’s

Ansel – everything is ok now. Need to have the information on the website for the conference regarding CEU registration and fees.

SECRETARY’S NOTES

Ann – the notes are now on the AAGT website. Steve Logan, web manager is very efficient and responsive. The notes will now be posted after each meeting when the board has approved them.

PRESIDENT’S ABSENCE

Peter P will be covering for Brian until January 13, 2006. He will put the agenda together for the next meeting.

Brian – closed by expressing much appreciation for the upcoming conference and hope that it will bring a renewal for us all.

Happy Holidays!!!!!!!!!!

WEB/EMAIL REPORT

In an email prior to the conference call Phil Brownell offered the following:

As preparation for the conference call, and so you can see, experience, and relate to what I might share with you, would you please go to (the website and) create an account. At this site you will notice that there is a mix of content right now between the AAGT and

something called "Mambo." I am in the process of switching out the Mambo content and replacing it with AAGT and Gestalt Therapy related stuff. What you should do once you're at this site is to click on the menu items and see what is there and see if you can get a feel for the site and begin to imagine its functionality. There will eventually be links to two sub-domains by which people associated with our two new AAGT listserv discussion groups can find information about those places (a kind of mirroring in a web-based context, and also an informational service so that we are creating multiple means and options for communication within the organization.

NEXT BOARD CALL January 15, 2006