

September 25, 2005 Conference Call

AAGT Board Meeting

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

Absent: Peter Cole, Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, Marcy Stern, Sylvie Falschlunger, Alan Singer

Previous Notes from emailing re: how to make the board calls more efficient

Everyone call in within 5 minutes of the start time

Limit check-ins to 1 or 2 minutes each.

Once our call has begun (which occurs once two people have "arrived") and someone else dials in, do not interrupt whatever process is going on but instead pause every 3 or 5 minutes to review who's present.

Next Call will be October 9, 2005 at the usual times. This will be an expanded call like the one on September 11, 2005.

Agenda for September 25, 2005:

- 1. Feedback re Amsterdam conference and minutes**
- 2. Vancouver conference**
- 3. The scholarship issues and decisions re committee**
- 4. An official decision re the Sirata**
- 5. The 3 committees**

An official decision re the Sirata

Bud and Sylvie's efforts in carefully comparing AAGT's hotel registration list to the hotel's list of registered persons led to a reduction of charges... The board unanimously voted that when this figure is finalized, Peter Cole, Treasurer, will be instructed to pay the Sirata and settle the bill.

Scholarship issues and committee recommendations

At the meeting in Amsterdam there was much discussion re: guidelines for the scholarship committee. A committee of four persons was formed (Marilyn, John Blend, Katia and Bud) to develop guidelines for how to make scholarship decisions.

In general, the following was recommended:

Eligibility= diversity, financial need, student status, practitioner status, hardship, whether they are presenters.

Size of the award = distance, housing costs, meal costs.

Eligibility and size of the award will also be coordinated with work-study options and the applicant's financial situation.

They suggest that the scholarship committees view these recommendations as flexible guidelines to encourage creativity.

In response to questions regarding how scholarship funds have been raised in the past, Bud noted that Norman Shub has contributed \$3,000-\$4,000 in donations to the fund. Before the last conference, Susan Gregory, Bud and Pat Tucker donated proceeds from work they each did to the fund as well.

There is also a place on the Conference Application form for donations to the scholarship fund.

Vancouver Conference

Committees are formed and up and running. The Program Committee headed by Victor Daniels is meeting, Bea and Warren complimented Victor on how organized he is with this process and leading the committee. He will be invited on to the board call in November.

Some of the general issues being addressed include sorting out a time line for peer reviewing proposals (so far 6 to 8 have come in). They have decided that December 9 is the deadline for proposals.

Bea and Warren are organizing a community meeting/ recruitment meeting on October 28th for local folks who want to help with the conference.

Post cards for the conference have been distributed to various AAGT members and passed out to the public. There is an email version of the post card in PDF form, which will be sent out to the board and to other members. A flyer will also be sent out via mail and email.

Peter will explore advertising the conference in the British Gestalt Journal. Bruce Aaron recalled that the Journal did not charge for advertising the last conference.

Program Planning Committee. Has been considering a one-day pre-conference workshop and a possible post conference marathon. The board recommended experimenting with 2-day pre-conference workshop instead of a one day.

Irv Polster has agreed to come to the conference. Peter P has been encouraging Gary Yontif to attend as well. The committee and the board hope to attract other original AAGT members as well to attend the conference.

The issue of keynote speaker(s) is in discussion. An "elders and founders series" of meetings has also been proposed. This series was supported by the board *with* the recommendation that the program planning committee be sensitive to issues such as inclusion and exclusion in this series.

Scholarship Committee. Bud will chair. Marilyn, Bruce and ? will also participate. Bud will also ask persons to be in this committee who are not on the board

Logistics Committee. The local committee is absorbing this function, which includes audio/visual needs, food, transportation, etc.

Marilyn asked about the interest group coordination. She has been contacting some of the interest group leaders, asking them about their current level of interest in their interest group. Jack Aylward is the Interest Group Coordinator. Bud will talk with him this week and mention Marilyn's questions.

Question, do we want to tape workshops? This was done in New York and Cleveland. There was no cost to us as it was a buy back program. Brian O'Neill will talk with Tom Cazdarovski who films for Bob Resnick and helped Liv Estrop with Behind the Empty Chair. There was a discussion that followed about the possibility of paying Tom's way to Vancouver if we decided to invite him to produce a tape of the conference. Bea and Warren will also explore possibilities in the Vancouver community for taping the conference.

Amsterdam conference

Brian offered Tine an opportunity to receive and give feedback re: the Amsterdam conference.

Tine said she felt we did a great job with the conference. She shared a metaphor of her personal experience ...

Brian – from head and heart – gave support for all the work Tine and her sister had done together...

There was a discussion about inclusion and exclusion.

Bud said Tine did a wonderful job. The conference coordinator really suffers a lot because they uniquely carry so much of the information needed to run the conference and therefore are pulled out of the conference process often.

Brian said that the emails that happened later did not really lend themselves to processing in the way that being on the phone together does. We need to make sure we invite people to be included throughout the conferences.

Ansel – have key people meet together after the conference to process the conference. Intentionally take the time and agree not to fly directly out after the conference has ended.

Peter mentioned that since the annual meeting was directly afterward in Amsterdam, there was not this kind of time. After the annual meeting, people did leave rather quickly.

Marilyn. Could we get a place arranged for this kind of meeting after the next conference?

Tine - need the conference convening committee to touch base throughout the conference.

Bea has already arranged for the board and all conference committee members involved to meet at the tennis club during the middle of the conference in Vancouver.

On behalf of the Board, Brian congratulated Tine for her work on this very excellent conference.

As a result of the conference, there has been much more involvement from members of the AAGT community in decision-making and communication issues. There is great energy now that will be carried forward.

Peter P regrets that some of the issues, which arose at the conference, could not be dialogued there. Instead there have been some disparaging exchanges since then.

Ansel – complimented Tine as well and regrets that the name change has somewhat overshadowed accolades for her. Clarified his comment on love in – he meant it as a compliment.

3 committees

Committee 2 - Minutes

Ann proposed to place the minutes on the website so that they are readily available to the members. The issue of “members only” viewing the minutes in their entirety was discussed. This is not possible on a public website. It was proposed that a summary of minutes be placed on the website as well as in the newsletter. Committee 2 can also talk about this and make recommendations.

Committee 3

Questions so far arising are concerning the bylaws. What do they mean? Need clarity re: power and authority within the organization.

There is also confusion re: committees 2 and 3 as they were tied together by some members through emails. *Really need to check to see if the emails we are sending out are going to the right people.*

Need to make sure that Peter P's email is being sent to his g-mail.

Disputes on the email

This is an issue that was briefly raised but not enough time on this call to discuss.

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