

PLATO Board of Directors Approved Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2022
9:30 a.m. via Google Meet

AGENDA

Present: Kathy Brown, Kathie Burman, Alan Capelle, JK Cheema, Carla Dilorio, Michael Dilorio, Sue Ellingson, Patricia Herrling, Mike Kernats, Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, MaryJo MacSwain, Jack Mitchell, Tim Otis

Approval of August 12, 2022 Board Minutes Minutes Approved. It was suggested that these minutes be sent to the Board within a week or two of the meeting, rather than waiting until right before the next meeting. This will be done.

PLATO Policy Sub-Committee Update

All policies have been looked at by the sub-committee and categorized as needing no changes, needing minor changes or needing major changes. Policies have been divided into manageable segments and will be discussed at board meetings for approval, rather than dealing with them all at one time.

Mike Kernats led the board through Report #1 which is the first step in the review process and includes policies needing no changes and those needing minor review.

A suggestion was made that the policy sub-committee look at adding wherever appropriate, a policy statement that each committee annually review their policies and working plans.

Motion to approve the policies as presented in Report #1 and was passed.

Committee Updates:

- Treasurer's Report – JK Cheema gave a brief report to the board.
- Membership & Communication Committee –Hedy reported that as of the meeting date we had 785 members who renewed for the 2022-23 membership year. We have an additional approximately 280 who have not renewed and whose membership will lapse as of Nov. 1. In prior years before the pandemic we would have had closer to 1,100-plus renewals by now so our membership is down. Some of this is due to Special Events and Trips beings limited during the pandemic years.

The annual membership satisfaction survey will be going out October 25th to members.

Hedy reported that they are profiling PLATO members periodically in the PLATO Tuesday Updates. This is in an effort to engage members with personal stories about others who are committed to PLATO, thereby enhancing PLATO's perceived value.

Hedy, Stephanie and Edie attended the Institute on Aging Colloquium on September 22nd, staffing an exhibitor's booth at the Colloquium to provide information about PLATO.

A question was asked about a PLATO Facebook page. Hedy reported that we do

have a Facebook page, but many people were uncomfortable with having their pictures on that page so we have had limited postings. Edie periodically posts information about Agora-related contributions. Several people reported that it has been hard to find this Facebook page, so Hedy will check about the status. Keeping up-to-date with Facebook does mean extra work for the person in charge of this, and if it is not updated it is not really worth the effort. This whole issue will be explored.

- SEC Trips Proposal – Michael Dilorio discussed the “Rebuilding PLATO Special Events” proposals. These proposals have economic impacts on PLATO.

Proposal to Maximize Ticket Discounts: In **removing the six month restriction on purchasing event tickets**, this would allow SEC to purchase tickets earlier to allow for maximum discounts. It would also allow PLATO members to plan their events calendars early in the year before other plans are made. Cheema felt there were enough checks and balances financially to support this idea. **Motion made and passed.**

Proposal to allow subscriptions: **A motion was made to eliminate current wording prohibiting subscriptions and allow subscriptions with approval from the Treasurer. Motion made and approved.**

Guest Ticket Proposal: A proposal was made to charge a flat fee of \$15 for guests, rather than a percentage above the cost of the ticket. There was some discussion about limiting the number of times someone can participate as a guest before requiring membership. **Motion was made to charge an extra \$15 for guests. Motion was passed.**

Indirect cost (11%) Holiday Proposal: Suspend these indirect costs for FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024. These come from credit card fees, accounting expenses, administrative costs, and return ticket costs. Stephanie will put together a report of the percentage of her time spent on SEC matters. **Motion was made to suspend these charges indefinitely, until reinstated by the Board. Motion made and passed.**

Proposal to do a one-time email of the event calendar to previous attendees: Currently they are restricted from doing any mailing. **Motion made to table this** until Membership Committee can discuss this with the SEC committee. Motion passed.

PLATO Partners Proposal: This proposal would allow PLATO partners (Capitol Lakes, Oakwood West, Oakwood Prairie Ridge) to register as guests without being sponsored by a member. They would only be able to register after the event being open for three weeks to members. The issue was raised that there were also other organizations to add to this list, such as SAIL and Theater Bus, etc. Again, the issues was raised about limiting the times someone can register as a guest. **A motion was made to allow PLATO partners (Capitol Lakes, Oakwood West, Oakwood Prairie Ridge) to register as guests without being sponsored by a member. They would only be able to register after the event being open for three weeks to members. Motion passed.**

Fund Development – Tim Otis reported that the fall campaign has started. There are 15 donors so far, but it has only been out a week. Several organizations have been added centering around literacy initiatives. Rod and Tim met with two DCS Fund development staff who encouraged PLATO to look at some other initiatives for the future, including Badger Ready targeting returning adults.

Other: Feedback from Curriculum? Kathie Burman reported that Fall 2022 has 39 courses with 18 virtual, 16 in-person and 5 hybrid. This is pretty steady compared to the last year of classes, with an increase in hybrid courses.

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed.

Next Board Meeting: **December 9, 2022**