ASDP Alumni Chapter Meeting

ASDP National Conference, Nashville, TN

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 8:09 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks, Dona Cady, President, Presiding

Dona welcomed everyone to the 25th annual conference. She thanked everyone on the board for their work to the ASDP Alumni Chapter over the previous year.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The call for approval of the Minutes from the 2018 ASDP Alumni Chapter Meeting were moved and seconded. There was no call for changes. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Eric Spears gave a brief report of the state of finances of the ASDP Alumni Chapter. Eric reported that there were very few transactions and just a few deposits. There was a single withdrawal of $550 for the East West Center. We are still above the $3000 balance to avoid bank fees.

The collection of Alumni Chapter dues in 2019 should add some additional funds to the account. A call for dues will be put out after the annual meeting.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted unanimously.

4. Secretary’s Report

Secretary Matthew Ruane made a brief report on the minutes and the update/revisions that occurred during the year. Matthew made note of the changes that were approved to the bylaws and that a copy of the changes would be sent to the President to be updated on the website.

The Secretary’s Report was accepted unanimously.

5. 2020 National Conference

President Dona Cady spoke briefly about the planning for the 2020 National Conference. With the likely vote to end ARCAS, planning for the National Conference would fall on the ASDP Alumni Chapter annually from 2020 forwards, which would mean more work for all of the board members. The floor was turned over to Eric Spears.

Eric spoke about the preliminary planning for the 2020 conference. Eric noted he was recently elected president of the Asia Council of the University System of Georgia. In September 2018 they discussed for the first time the 2020 conference, and again in January 2020, Eric met with Eric Kendrick to look into possible conference hosting locations. The first location mentioned was the Georgia Tech Conference Center as a possible location, due to their location in midtown, the presence of a large number of restaurants, and the excellent facilities provided by the hotel and the conference rooms. Eric Kendrick was already looking into Asian related sites for potential tours. It was noted that while Atlanta may be more expensive than some locations, it was an easy location to get to throughout the Southeast and that they could draw on students and faculty from the numerous educational institutions in the region.

There was also discussions about looking into additional hotels in the Buckhead area of the city, including the Grand Hyatt. If the Georgia Tech site did not work, there would be additional research into other locations within the city and accessible by public transportation networks.

A call for questions was asked. Betty Buck had a question about Morehouse College and their participation. It was noted that they are a private school, not part of the University System of Georgia. Eric noted that the Asia Council has an annual official professional development event and that the Annual Conference might coincide with that. Usually there are 25-40 participants. It was noted that Eric Kendrick has connections with several consulates who might act as potential sponsors of cultural events.

Dona also spoke about the need to talk with other hotels to get the best rates. Peter mentioned that many locals do not necessarily contribute to room nights. He also noted that the 2021 conference might be held in Louisville, KY due to an offer from a current ARCAS member to help host the conference. Kathleen asked about the ARCAS vote. Barbara mentioned the issue that three conferences would be held sequentially in the southeast (Nashville, Atlanta and potentially Louisville). Dona mentioned that the ASDP would be in the driver seat for the conferences, and that Peter would still have ultimate oversight. Peter noted that there might be a time constraint behind the Louisville offer depending on when the hosts have to spend their available funds.   
  
It was agreed that the West Coast should be considered for the future. Potentially Oregon or even Washington in 2022. It was also raised that San Jose or San Diego in California might offer other conference friendly cities for future conferences. There was also the issue that we shouldn’t forget about the center of the country, like Kansas City. All of this led to more discussion about West Coast locations, including San Francisco. Barbara and Betty agreed they would look into a potential of San Francisco being the site for the 2021 conference. There is a firm commitment for 2022 in Louisville.

Eric then asked about hosting the 30th Annual Conference in Hawaii. Peter pointed out that while conferences have been held in Hawaii in the past, it is largely a price issue for attendees. This in turn led to a discussion about the national meeting for the EWCA being held in 2020. Dona noted she would like some sort of official presence at the conference. Jessica also supported having an official showing at the event, perhaps some sort of posters or panels, and that we wanted our voices heard. This would be another form of outreach to the 1700 faculty in the US. Jessica and Dona both stated that sometimes the EWCA forgets that the ASDP Alumni Association exists and that attendance at the EWCA annual meeting would help in that matter.

Jessica was strident in her defense of the EWCA, however, and pointed out that the ASDP Alumni Association are the largest of the alumni groups within the EWCA. She also mentioned that there had been problems with ASDP submissions to the EWCA blog. Peter clarified that the many of the EWCA members are from the groups of 1960s and 1970s graduates of the program. They studied long term at the EWC and see the ASDP short term programs in a different light, though the EWC officials do not share that distinction.

Dona redirected the conversation back to the 2020 conference. Eric Spears mentioned that he had some ideas about potential speakers, and that Eric Kendrick had thought of potential speakers as well. It was noted that we often rely on local speakers rather than flying in people or paying for hotel rooms. We would need speakers for the reception event, and for two lunches. There will be more discussion on this over the next several months.

There was more discussion on possible themes. Among the serious (and not so serious suggestions) were “Asia and the World,” “STEAMY STEAM,” and then Taine brought the conversation back to earth by mentioning there should be a cultural or cosmopolitan theme, perhaps focusing on cultural exchanges as a way to bring people in from the arts who might not otherwise attend the annual conference. The theme was still open to discussion, and email would be used by 1 June to start wordsmithing a proper theme.   
  
Dona asked about committee members for the conference. Matthew and Barbara agreed to work on the Program Committee since they had learned a great deal from the 2018 conference program work. They did ask that the solicitations be turned in by January so they were under the pressure they had been in 2018. Eric Spears volunteered himself and Eric Kendrick to oversee the Publicity Committee. There was still a need to discuss pre-conference events. Eric noted he would ask for some support from the Asia Council for local AV help for the conference.

**To Do: ASDP alumni would be encouraged to attend the EWCA Annual conference in July 2020 in Hawaii. Dona and Jessica agreed they would put a call out for at least one annual panel to be put together and that they would send a flyer to the ASDP Alumni Association by summer 2019.**

6. Old Business: EWC Blog, 501(c)3 Update, & Fundraising

Dona talked about their being an info logjam when it came to getting information out through the EWC blog. She asked if there was interest in revisiting the ASDP Alumni Facebook site. Jessica is the Facebook “editor” and she mentioned that it was a closed group and not used enough. There was mentioned that there is another ASDP site that has more members. There should be some discussion about more participation on the official listerve from the EWC and that we should post to the “official” ASDP EWC Facebook site more regularly.

Dona also noted that we were reapproved for 501(c)3 tax exempt status. This would allow us to raise funds, seek out grants, and that we should be collecting the $10 annual dues. Dona mentioned she intended to highlight the dues to the membership at the annual meeting of the whole on Friday night. A PayPal link would be set up as an option, but it was also noted that due to financial considerations, the dues need to be collected separately from the conference fee. The Treasurer was tasked with establishing a PayPal account and a Square account by 1 July 2019. The Square would be used to collect dues at registration starting at the 2020 conference. Betty suggested there might be the use of a sticker on badges to indicate those who paid dues. It was noted that we should look at other fundraising activities.   
  
(Dennis and Barbara left at 9:15 am).

7. New Business: ARCAS Vote, Elections, & Articles

A discussion of the ARCAS vote was then undertaken. It was noted that Tom Patterson, the previous ARCAS president, has raised two concerns: first, what was the purpose of ARCAS in the 21st century; and second, how does ARCAS contribute to the overall mission of the ASDP? They had lost their 501(c)3 status and at the fall workshop meeting there was a vote to dissolve. Peter clarified that “regional status” was through ASDP not through ARCAS. Dona mentioned that the ARCAS board would make a decision during their lunch meeting. In November 2018, a preliminary vote was taken that had a 11-1 vote to dissolve. However, the board pushed the final decision to the 2019 annual meeting to consider a final vote. The funds currently held by ARCAS, between $18-19,000 would got to ASDP for the use of the regional centers. Those funds had originally been raised by annual institutional dues of $250.

If ARCAS was dissolved, the Secretary noted there would have to be some changes made to the ASDP Alumni Association by-laws. Any changes would be voted on at the 2020 annual meeting.

Barbara and Eric both stated that they would run again for their respective positions. Dona noted that a call for nominations would be submitted to the membership and voting would take place in May as listed in the by-laws.

There was a motion by the board to change the position of Editor of the ASDP Alumni Chapter (EWC) newsletter to ASDP Alumni Chapter Information Liaison. This was approved by the board, and would be put to the membership in the annual voting period. (See Appendix A)

There was discussion of funding opportunities for the board to consider. This included applying for a USIFL grant, partnered with the ASDP. It would require a specific number of schools to participate as part of a consortium. The USIFL grant is focused on developing faculty curriculum for foreign languages. Grants are usually around $145,000 and a 1:1 cost sharing by the participating institutions. There was also a discussion about applying for a Fulbright for study aboard in April or May of 2020. Other possible sources of funding were discussed, including the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR). Peter mentioned that possible sources of grants to help fund the Infusing Institute each summer would always be welcome.

Jessica and Dona both raised the issue of writing an article for publication in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Peter mentioned that this would be a good way to promote the experiences of attending the Infusing Institute and other ASDP programs, and what people in higher education can learn from it. Eric mentioned about the ability to see our problems by looking inward and then discussing the issues. Taine volunteered to be the point person for this project. Jessica said she would solicit from the alumni material about “ASDP Reflection” to be no longer than 10 sentences, that would be combined into another article. There was some final discussion about other options to pursue additional avenues for research and publicity about our activities to the wider world.   
  
Dona also stated that she would request Audrey to publicize the annual meeting and that there would be a renewed attempt to have the EWC blog publish our activities.

8. Conclusion

As the meeting was once again running behind schedule, there was a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Ruane

Secretary, ASDP Alumni Chapter (EWC)

Submitted: 2 May 2019

Edits: 24 May 2019

**Appendix A:**

Motion to be submitted to the membership:

The position of Editor of the ASDP Alumni Chapter (EWC) newsletter will be renamed the ASDP Alumni Chapter Information Liaison. The holder of this non-voting position will be appointed by the voting members of the Board of Directors and will serve at their pleasure.