

Participating: Doug Brown, Bill Robbins (partial), John Hawkins, KC Toh, Flavio Franco (partial), and Karen Ohland (partial).

Excused: Richard Bunce

Not Participating: Kambiz Farhang, Carlos Lasarte, Hasan Sabri

The teleconference was called to order by Doug Brown at 4:05 PM. There were no requested additions to the published agenda at the start of the call.

GCOB Meeting Minutes (Face-to-Face and Telecon): Len proposed a rotation, as suggested by Bill in the email exchanges on this topic – and also suggested we appoint a main and a backup person before the end of the previous meeting. Bill proposed we rotate, alphabetically by District Letter and that we rotate “down” to whomever is the next available person in the meeting or on the call. Len (Dist B) had previously volunteered to take minutes for THIS call, and at the start of the call, Karen Ohland (Dist A) was not on the call at the beginning. Discussion ended at the 5 minute limit listed in the agenda.

Section MBF Disbursement and Follow-up from Congress: Bill proposed in discussion that we fund the “late” filers the same as we did at Congress. KC agreed. Flavio stated we need to show good faith to those sections who are still active but just didn’t make the minimum – or felt it was hopeless since they could see they wouldn’t meet the minimum and didn’t bother filing. Motion by John / Seconded by Bill: Move to fund all “late filing Sections” currently in hand @ 1-19-2007, at a minimum of 50% share; and otherwise by the same criteria as used during our meeting at Congress – or as feasible within the available \$17K designated for this purpose. Motion passed unanimously. It was decided to ask Karen to plug in the appropriate numbers and to “publish” the resulting spreadsheet to the GCOB and to Burt; that we / she allow 2 to 3 days time for review and for DLs to take exception to the spreadsheet; then to consider the spreadsheet numbers final and for Burt to proceed to have the checks cut and distributed. (Note by Doug on 1/22 - in order to receive funds, the "late filers" must, of course, have submitted their financial reports.)

Section MBF Program Changes: Doug discussed that there are 3 sources for MBF change suggestions.

1. Feedback received during the MBF Webcasts and incorporated into the Webcast PowerPoint. Doug will email a copy of the PowerPoint to the DLs as background; also Bill will locate and post a link to this PowerPoint on the GCOB Public COP. (Note by Doug on 1/22 - Powerpoint forwarded to GCOB on 1/22.)
2. Feedback received on the FY '06 MBF submittal forms themselves. These have not been processed or assembled. Discussion on how to compile. The plan developed was to have each DL tabulate the comments received on his or her Districts’ MBF forms. Those on the call had retained copies, at least, of the forms from their Districts. Doug will pass on this request to the DLs not on the call, and will also ask whether anyone needs copies, or whether they have also kept their copies distributed during our meeting at Congress. Len proposed Doug ask the DLs not on the call to acknowledge by 1/25 latest, whether they are willing to do this tabulation and return it to Doug / Burt / the GCOB prior to the St. Louis GCOB meeting 2/3 and 2/4. For those DLs not committing to do this by 1/25, Doug would ask Burt to have Staff do those Districts’ tabulations on the same deadline. Bill will post a document on Google Documents and Spreadsheets that the DLs can use to publish / store these comments. (Note by Doug on 1/22 - request by Doug sent to all DLs on 1/22.)
3. Feedback we DLs have received and/or feedback we may have ourselves.

Len proposed we compile all of this information electronically and have it available to show on the screen during the St. Louis GCOB meeting.

Bill proposed we consider establishing a GCOB standing committee on Section MBF. Doug described he

was thinking of MBF and Finance, combined. Flavio commented we (1/25) do not need a committee to CHECK the MBF submittal forms. Doug proposed we table this issue till either the St. Louis meeting or possibly our meeting at the LTC.

New Item – Unique Approach to Soliciting LTC Delegates: Bill reported he had mass-emailed one of his inactive Sections soliciting for LTC Delegates – and he actually received 6 responses from interested members. (Bill: Update Jan 24,2007: Now have 13 responses and an interim chair forming an executive committee. The BC, Canada section has been inactive for several years) Bill is considering offering to fund ONE of these volunteers – if they agree to serve as Section Chairman as the Section starts revitalization. Karen proposed we could consider using Section Revitalization funds to support this. Doug proposed Bill / we consider even funding more than one volunteer in this type of circumstance. Doug believes we DO have the authority to do this. Bill will forward his email as an example.

Section Revitalization: Flavio stated we should discuss and consider the situation of Sections who still have Officers and/or Volunteers, but who aren't going to be receiving MBF because they did not submit for it. He said this will become a vicious circle; that they won't receive any funding so they may not be able to provide sufficient programming for their Members to warrant any MBF next year, so again they won't receive any funding and eventually any existing Officers or Volunteers will quit and the Section will go dormant. KC observes that International Sections would only receive funding for ONE Section revitalization under the currently approved program, as opposed to TWO Sections per each North American District. KC stated he had no objection to this, but pointed out that International Districts' ONE Section might require much greater funding due to extensive travel requirements, etc. Doug stated we can consider permitting greater numbers of Sections be included in the program vs the guidelines. He also pointed out that we are committed to supporting the International Sections and that funds should / will be made available as necessary for them to revitalize at least one Section each under the program.

Doug reviewed the information from the agenda on accessing the Section Revitalization program funds; that Burt advises we utilize a regular Volunteer Expense Reimbursement form – even when requesting advance funds. A special form is under development, but we can use the standard Expense Reimbursement form in the mean time. Burt had also requested that GCOB Members submit all of their Expense Reports timely. Doug proposed we decide on Districts' Section Revitalization candidates at St. Louis.

FY '08 Budgets – GCOB and Districts: Doug pointed out the info on the Agenda; that he anticipates we should have draft budgets for the Districts and GCOB by our meeting at St. Louis 2/3 and 2/4. He believes we need to have justifications for these items complete either before, or at the St. Louis meeting. Doug stated we need to be proactive on this. He said we needed, at least, to identify our respective Budget Categories and Sub-categories &/or Example Sub-categories – that these would be for OUR definitions and desires, not necessarily according to the categories used for FY '07.

SPDCs – Status and Issues Identification: The applicable Districts still on the call reported their status: Len -- District B, OK. Bill – District D, OK. John – District E, OK. Len reported he had confirmation late in 2006 that several of the designated cash awards from the contests at last year's "RSC" have not yet been distributed (including the CT Main nominee award). He stated this MUST NOT happen in '07.

GSTCs – John reported these have been re-cast as GSPIC. He reminded us that District E is holding two of these conferences. He stated that ALL Grad Students are welcome to attend these Conferences, and encouraged the other DLs to promote it to their Student Sections. He said expenses would be paid for all accepted authors. John will forward info to the GCOB.

LTC: Status of District Posters was reviewed: KC sent his to Burt; Richard has sent his; Len has not worked on it yet; Bill, not yet; Bill stated that, per Burt, the working deadline is actually 1/31. Again, mentioned Bill's blast to the BC, Canada Section. Doug related that the agenda for the LTC is still in flux – content is still being developed. Doug will forward the current draft agenda to the GCOB for review and comment back to him (Doug). Bill stated the LTC should provide formal agenda time for meet and greets between the DLs and their constituents attending the LTC. Doug will feed that back to the Committee. **(Note by Doug on 1/22 - I've forwarded the emails and attachemnts regaring the most current LTC preliminary schedule and sessions content to the GCOB on 1/22. Also on 1/22, I've made contact with the LTC Committee regarding a "Meet & Greet" session for the Section leaders and the GCOB, and will advise further as soon as I have feedback.)**

Student Sections: Doug will summarize the status of the in-process Student Section petitions, etc., and will circulate to the GCOB.

XR3: Doug stated there has been some progress; that he is awaiting the XR3 response to a question.

Communication Issues: Some discussion on this issue on the call. Will definitely discuss further at St. Louis.

Next GCOB Meeting: Sat & Sun, Feb 3 & 4, St. Louis – Per the decision at the beginning of the call, Karen as District A will serve as the Secretary for that meeting. We discussed the fairness of dividing the meeting into portions as far as taking minutes; so that Karen wouldn't have to do the entire day and a half.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 PM EST