



BOARD MEETING: OCT. 6TH 2009

Presided over by Jared Wigdor. Minutes by Bryan Kam.

MEETING DETAILS

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 6th 2009

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: WLH 205

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Wigdor, President

Filip Savatic, Vice President (Via Skype)

Bryan Kam, Secretary

Rachel Wolf, MUNTY Head Delegate

Bryce Scanlan, SCSY Secretary-General

Natalie Kotkin, YMUN Secretary-General

Jharrett Bryantt, UNCSY Co-Secretary-General

Elizabeth Breit, Outreach Chair

Swati Yanamadala, Speakers Committee Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- Jared explained that the first order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes.
- Natalie explained that she'd emailed Bryan changes; Bryan incorporated these to produce a revised version of the minutes.
- The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Jared explained these were submitted by each department as per usual.
- He explained that he and Fil had also met with each of the Board members during the previous week to discuss their departments.

4. DISCUSSION / EVALUATION ON UNCSY

- Jharrett explained that the conference had by and large went well, and that he, Jared and Fil had already had a good, substantive discussion and evaluation.

- Jharrett explained that the primary problem had been in delegate numbers; he explained that roughly 50 had signed up, and 28 – 30 had shown up on the day of the event. He said this was a fairly good showing compared to previous years, as usually IMSCSY benefits from 50 – 60 members trying out for MUNTY, and UNCSY was not part of the MUNTY tryout process this year.
- Jharrett said advertisements had been handled well, in particular advertisements on Facebook.
- He also said one of the take-home things from UNCSY was that SCSY Chairs really benefitted from the programs – for instance, Chairs Kevin Ho and Kevin Hoffmann had not really known where their committee’s crises would go, but that test-running the crises had given them a valuable opportunity to do so; on this issue, Jharrett explained that this was the first time that UNCSY / IMSCSY had exclusively had SCSY committees.
- Natalie asked, on the issue of signups, whether there had been different signup mechanisms from previous years; Jharrett explained that last year, there had been a Head Delegate system, which had resulted from the intramural format of the conference, but even then most signups had been MUNTY tryouts.
- Discussion then turned to a discussion of UNCSY moving forward:
 - He said he felt, that on the issue of whether UNCSY should continue to take place, he felt it definitely should in some capacity, particularly given that the conference was not expensive in the least, and could draw at least 30 – 40 members; he said it was worth putting all the effort even if the delegate number returns were not spectacular.
 - Natalie asked how Jharrett would propose running UNCSY differently next year. Jharrett said the expectations and goals of UNCSY are evolving and have changed from previous years; instead of finding members for MUNTY, it is no to trial SCSY committees.
 - Bryce said he liked the idea that UNCSY was no longer necessarily a part of MUNTY.
 - Jharrett said one important issue was the length of the conference; he explained that making the conference longer, perhaps 2 days, might make delegates take it more seriously, while at the same time, he felt some delegates might prefer an even shorter conference instead of having to commit 8 hours to a Model UN conference.
 - Jharrett said the online marketing campaign should be continued, and that the Facebook ads had been fairly successful.
 - Natalie asked whether there would be a Spring UNCSY conference; Jharrett said this was something that would be discussed and decided in the next few weeks.
- To end the discussion, Jared explained that Ferny, after the conclusion of UNCSY, had written a formal letter of resignation for his role on the Board due to his commitments to other organizations.

5. PRESENTATION ON WEMUN OPPORTUNITIES (BY RACHEL FABI)

- Rachel F. started by explaining that this summer, she had traveled to Beijing to serve on the Advisory Board and participate in a Secretaries-General Conference on behalf of YMUN at WEMUN, a Chinese Model UN conference organization.
- She explained that WEMUN had paid for her entire summer experience in China, and that other participants had included the Secretaries-General of HMUN (Harvard), MUNUC (U. Chicago), and BOSMUN (Boston Univ.).
- She said the purpose of the conference was to increase opportunities for Chinese students to get more opportunities to participate in American Model UN conferences.
- Rachel F. explained that WEMUN had agreed to send 115 students to YMUN every year; in exchange, YMUN had agreed that we would notify WEMUN if other Chinese schools registered. YMUN would also recognize the WEMUN “Model UN passport”.
- She explained that WEMUN also wanted more US students to attend WEMUNC, their conference, and that they are willing to advertise in YMUN’s Delegate Guide; YMUN would also allow WEMUNC to hold an information session at YMUN, as well as add a link to the WEMUN website on its website.
- She also said WEMUN had a “Director Exchange Program”, whereby WEMUN would cover the airfare, room and board for 3 – 4 YMUN committee directors to attend WEMUNC next summer, and run the same committee as they had at YMUN (i.e. with no extra work involved).

- Rachel F. said that WEMUN was in the process of planning a “WEMUN Expo”, a Model UN conference led by top American universities; this would also involve inviting Admissions Officers from each university to attract delegates; YMUN would contribute to this Expo by obtaining university approval, and by providing unique committees and experienced directors.
- Rachel F. said another issue that had been discussed was summer internship opportunities; she explained that WEMUN had offered 3 – 6 month internships for 5 students at WEMUN; their jobs would be to travel to China to promote Model UN conferences, and direct training camps to train delegates. These interns would be paid, with the cost of travel and accommodation covered.
- Rachel F. explained other topics had included a Model UN Magazine, for which WEMUN would pay YIRA members to contribute articles; WEMUN had also offered to print YMUN delegate guides in China at lower cost.
- The Board then asked Rachel F. several questions:
 - Bryce asked which were decisions regarding the partnership that were time-sensitive and had to be made soon; Rachel F. said no decisions in particular were urgent; she said the main time-sensitive issue was internship applications, but that those could be included in the weekly bulletins.
 - Jared asked what the dates of the opportunities Rachel F. had mentioned were; Rachel F. said the closest date was November, when WEMUN would send application materials for Directors and Interns.
 - Lizzie asked how YIRA (rather than YMUN) would play into the relationship; Rachel F. explained that WEMUN would absolutely work with YIRA, and was involved with YMUN primarily because this was their first point of contact.
 - Jharrett asked whether there would be logistical issues with running English committees in China; Rachel F. said English was certainly an issue, as the quality of debate had been far lower, but that this would probably improve as Model UN became more widespread.
- Jared asked Rachel F. to email him the powerpoint presentation.

6. BUDGET DISCUSSION

- Jared explained that the Board had to look at and make decisions on remaining budget items, including for the Speakers Committee and the Outreach program.
- Lizzie asked if it was possible to discuss the Outreach budget first, as she had to attend class afterwards.
 - Lizzie said she had looked into the UNA-USA conference trip, and it would cost \$500 including registration fee and transportation. She further explained that her biggest expenditure was food (\$50 per time × 25 times = \$1,250) and recruitment, which totaled \$1,300.
 - Lizzie explained that \$50 was sufficient to buy two sodas and three pizzas from Yorkside, enough for roughly 20 – 30 people at each meeting; Jared commented that this seemed to be reasonable.
 - Bryan asked whether there were cheaper pizza options; Jared said one possibility might be to build a relationship with pizzerias so we could get cheaper pizza each time.
 - Jared that he wanted to set the budget for food at \$40 a week instead, which would bring the cost of food down to \$1,000; Lizzie said she preferred to keep it higher as she had more kids; she wanted \$1,500 for food altogether; this put her total at \$2,130 (including \$130 for printing, and \$500 for the UNA-USA conference), down from \$3,000 earlier.
 - The Board approved this figure.
- Discussion then turned to the Speakers Committee:
 - Jared explained that the numbers as had been proposed were \$2,500 for dinners, \$3,700 for events and \$500 for basic funds for the Speaker Series.
 - Of the \$2,500 allocated for dinners, there was \$1,000 for dinners with the SCSY and YMUN speakers (\$500 each).
 - Swati explained that \$500 allowed for a dinner of 20 people, assuming \$25 per person at Istanbul Coffee, which was not expensive but of sufficient quality.
 - Jared said he thought as a cost-cutting mechanism, it might be an interesting idea to take speakers to a Yale dining hall.

- Jared then asked what the remaining \$1,500 allocated for dinners was for; was this for 3 dinners at \$500 each; Swati was this was not necessarily the case, and that there could be more dinners costing less or having fewer people.
- Jared also suggested whether the Board thought YIRA members would be happy subsidizing a small amount (e.g. \$5) for dinners.
- Bryce asked Swati what the breakdown for \$1,500 in dinners was; Swati said there were 3 panels, and each would allow for a \$500 dinner, giving \$1,500.
- Natalie asked how the Gaddis-Smith Grant, which the Speakers Committee had been awarded, would factor into the Speakers Committee costs; Swati said this would subsidize the North Korean Panel, but there would be no substantive monetary difference, as she had added a China-US relations panel.
- Discussion turned to the \$3,700 allocated for speaker events; Swati explained this was \$1,200 for small events that Committee members wanted to hold, \$1,400 was for International Week (I-Week) (7 days, \$200 per day), and \$1,000 was for the Women in Politics and China-US relations panels.
- Rachel W. asked whether Swati thought there would be 6 good events for the \$1,200 allocated; Swati said there were currently 8 members of the Speakers Committee, so 6 events was really not sufficient to allow each member to hold an event.
- Rachel W. asked what the \$200 breakdown for each event consisted of; Swati said this was for food and refreshments as well as advertising and printing.
- Bryce suggested spending \$20 per person for 15 people for dinners, giving \$300 per dinner, which would be a good figure.
- Swati suggested one way to reduce her budget might be to budget for 3 – 4 events instead of 6; this amounted to \$800 instead of \$1,200.
- Jared asked what the breakdown of \$200 spent per day for I-Week amounted to; Swati said this was for a combination of things, which had included renting movies that had been shipped from around the world.
- Rachel W. asked what attendance at I-Week events had been like; Swati explained that they had been attended by 10 people each. Rachel W. asked given this, whether Swati still felt I-Week was worth holding.
- Swati said she thought that she did not really particularly think YIRA needed to have an I-Week; the Board approved this, cutting \$1,400 from the budget; given these cuts, it was possible to increase the small speaker events to \$1,000 instead of from the \$600 it had been reduced to.
- The last issue that needed to be decided was the \$00 for the annual Speakers Series; Jared asked why the figure was \$500; Swati said it was \$500 because this was the per-event figure for the other events.
- Swati explained that she had been having trouble of thinking how to differentiate the Speakers Series event from other normal speaking events.
- Bryce proposed that one idea might be to not include the Speaker Series in the budget, but if Swati found a particularly good speaker, she could propose it to the Board and apply for extra funding. This was agreed upon by the Board.
- The Board then turned to a holistic review of the budget, having resolve the remaining items:
 - Jared explained that notwithstanding a drop in YMUN's delegate numbers, net income would be \$12,439 on revenue of \$134,000 and expenditure of \$121,526.
 - Rachel W. said she thought this was great, and that the Board should congratulate itself for being able to retain a profit despite the recession.
 - Jared said if YMUN's numbers remained strong, the Board could approve further discretionary spending.

7. LOOKING AT POLICIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jared explained that he wanted to review the Board Policies that Directors had written previously, but that the Board had run out of time; at best, it could look at the Table of Contents.
- Bryce said he had added a section referring to "Secretariat membership changes", and that this should be noted in the Table of Contents.
- Jared also explained that the budget process that the Board had just completed should also be codified as it had been particularly complex.

- Jared said discussion of the Board Policies would be deferred until the next meeting, but that Board members should feel free in the meanwhile to update or rewrite any policies.

8. BOARD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS

- Jared asked each member to explain what they would be doing in the next two weeks.
- Fil explained that Friday, Oct. 9th was the Honduras trip application deadline, and that George and Fernanda would be interviewing applications the following week. Spring Break Trip leader applications would be due Wednesday, Oct. 14th. There would be a Happy Hour on Oct. 17th.
- Swati said the Speakers Committee would be continuing discussion on events, but no events were upcoming.
- Rachel W. said MUNTY will continue to practice.
- Jharrett explained he would be wrapping up a handbook for future UNCSY Secretaries-General.
- Bryan explained that he had completed a triage of the list of YIRA members and added class years, which had previously been missing; he explained that the YIRA mailing list had now reached 1,000 emails.
- Bryce said that Fil and he would go through rooms given to him by Karen Remos. There would also be parli-pro training, and USG Committees would sit down with their respective committees.
- Natalie said YMUN was in the second half of its registration period, and that registration would close on Oct. 23rd; second topic papers were due on Oct. 11th.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.