



**BOARD MEETING: OCT. 20TH 2009**

Presided over by Jared Wigdor. Minutes by Bryan Kam.

**MEETING DETAILS**

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 20th 2009

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: WLH 205

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jared Wigdor, President

Filip Savatic, Vice President

Bryan Kam, Secretary

Rachel Wolf, MUNTY Head Delegate

Bryce Scanlan, SCSY Secretary General

Natalie Kotkin, YMUN Secretary General

Jharrett Bryantt, UNCSY Secretary General

Elizabeth Breit, Outreach Chair

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**2. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

- Jared explained these had been submitted by Bryan as per usual. He asked whether any Board member wished to make changes.
- Rachel asked if it was possible that the minutes distinguish between herself and Rachel Fabi, who had presented at the last meeting; Bryan said he would revise this.
- Jharrett asked if minutes were uploaded to the website; Bryan and Jared explained that the website was still in transition and Bryan would begin uploading minutes as soon as possible.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- Jared asked whether there were any questions regarding the department updates.
- Natalie reported that the number of delegates registered for YMUN had reached 1,025.
- Jared asked what the registration numbers were for SCSY. Bryce explained that there were about 350 delegates registered, and that although one school had withdrawn, another had added the number of delegates it was sending.
- Bryce further added that for the withdrawing school, SCSY would charge 50% of delegate fees.

#### **4. PRESENTATION OF YIRA'S FINANCIAL HISTORY**

- Fil explained that YIRA's Chase bank account had statements tracking the amount of money in the bank account for every month for the last several years. He explained he created a graph to track the value in the account over the last 3 years.
- The graph showed break-downs of the value of YIRA's bank account from month-to-month.
- Jared commented that this graph was a useful tool to have at this point.
- Fil commented that the statements went far back, but that the graph he had produced only included statements from the last 3 years.

#### **5. SPRING BREAK INTERNATIONAL TRIP PRESENTATION**

- Fil explained that he had received two applications to lead Spring Break international trips; one had been submitted by Edgar and Zharna to the Middle East (Syria, Turkey, Lebanon), and the other had been submitted by Deb and Sonia Gupta to India. The Middle East trip would focus on youth policy, while the India trip would focus on NGOs and development.
- Fil explained he was happy about the quality of the trips, and that the interviews had turned out well; he also explained that while Deb and Sonia had not been active YIRA members in the past, they were enthusiastic about staffing the conferences this year.
- Rachel commented she thought the low number of applications may have resulted from the economic climate, as it was now difficult to fundraise outside of YIRA from residential colleges and the MacMillan Center; she suggested, however, that a good idea in future to attract more trip applications might be to have a "matching system" to match prospective trip leaders.
- Natalie said a good way to do this might be to have preliminary applications in the same way as YMUN had for dais teams, and then to bring people together.
- Jared said he thought the trips we had looked like high-quality trips, and what the Board needed to do was to formally approve these trips.
- Jared said one thing that was interesting was that Sonia would be leading a trip to Panama over Winter Break, so she would have the necessary experience by the time the Spring Break trip came around.
- Jared said the plan moving forward was to introduce the Spring Break trips after the SCSY All-Staff Preconference Meeting on Monday, Oct. 26th. A bulletin reminder would be sent out regarding this meeting.
- Fil explained what the group numbers for each trip would look like; he explained that because the Middle East trip would be moving around a lot, there would be no more than 10 people, although the India trip might be able to accommodate as many as 15 YIRA members.
- On the subject of trip participants, Natalie asked whether it would be possible to know who had been accepted to the Honduras Fall International Trip; Fil showed these on the screen.
- Fil asked what the Board thought were appropriate steps moving forward. Lizzie said a good idea might be to speak with trip leaders again to finalize arrangements; Jared said this was fine, and the "point of no return" on approving the trips was mid-November.
- Jared said one final question was how to define membership – for instance, one question was whether a member of Outreach need to staff YMUN and SCSY to gain the trip subsidy. The Board agreed that such members were still considered YIRA members, but the trip subsidy was contingent upon conference staffing.

#### **6. ALUMNI EVENT PRESENTATION**

- Fil explained that he had been in contact with David Gerschhoff and JT Kennedy regarding an event at Hot Tomato's during the Yale-Harvard Game.
- The idea was that YIRA members would have bracelets providing for up to \$500 worth of drinks altogether.
- Natalie said asked whether Fil would contact YIRA alumni before. Fil said he would, and that Shosh had passed onto him a list of known alumni going back as far as 30 years. Rachel said she also had a list of MUNTU alumni.

- Rachel asked where the money for the event would come from, as alumni events were not budgeted for. Jared said it would be budgeted for additionally.
- The Board unanimously approved the event.

## 7. ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Jared explained that the impetus for this discussion had come from Bryan's suggestion to revitalize the position of Technology Chair; he said one suggestion had also been for an Alumni Coordinator.
- Jared asked what Board members thought of these positions.
- Bryan asked how people fulfilling these roles with interact with Board members; Jared explained that the best approach was to have those fulfilling these roles interact with specific Board members; for instance, the Technology Chair would work with the Secretary and the Vice President.
- Jharrett said one concern was how to keep the Alumni Coordinator involved since YIRA existingly did not have alumni events or outreach; he said it would have to be envisioned that YIRA would have more events and outreach throughout the year.
- Jared asked whether Board members thought any additional leadership positions might be possible.
- Jharrett said one idea might be for an Events Coordinator who would coordinate all events including the Banquets.
- Natalie explained a good idea might be to have freshmen liaisons, as there were at the Women's Leadership Initiative, who would be helpful for advocating to freshmen to staff SCSY and YMUN.
- Fil asked what freshmen liaisons did; Natalie explained that these liaisons would sit in on Board meetings and report back to those in their class.
- Rachel said she would frame such an idea as a "representative" of each class; she also said it might not be a good idea to have freshmen liaisons come to all Board meetings.
- Rachel said she did not want to create more positions for the sake of creating such positions, as this might draw away from the pool of applicants for Secretariat positions, or potentially lead to a burnout situation where YIRA members were involved in too many positions in YIRA.
- Jared replied that there were many people in YIRA who wanted to be involved in leadership positions but did not have the opportunity to do so, and this might help ease this situation.
- Natalie also said that many YIRA members served both on the Secretariat and Board and did not necessarily "burn out".
- Fil said he thought that more leadership positions were a good idea, because fewer positions led to lower commitment and higher attrition.
- Jared explained that YIRA had relatively few leadership positions, and that conference secretariats only provided opportunities for 15 – 20 sophomores of each class.
- Jared asked whether there were any more suggestions for other positions or functions; Natalie said she agreed with Jharrett that an Events Coordinator may be a good idea, since events were currently handled by multiple Board members in a decentralized way.
- Jharrett commented that it might be a good idea to develop further leadership positions within constituent departments, such as the Speakers Committee.
- Natalie said her thoughts on the Alumni Coordinator position were that the Board should wait until the Yale-Harvard Game alumni event, and see whether there was demand for alumni services.
- Jared asked Rachel what she had thought of the "Deputy Head Delegate" idea that had been attempted at MUNTY the previous year; Rachel said she thought this was a good idea, but to formalize such an idea might not be helpful, and she liked the idea of asking to get help on an ad-hoc basis.
- It was agreed that the Technology Chair position would be developed by Bryan vis-à-vis specific responsibilities and necessary skills and requirements; Bryan would then circulate these to Bryce, Natalie and Sam for consultation. Interviews would then occur during the Game, when Sam would be in town to assist with the interviews.

## 8. INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COOPERATION BRAINSTORM

- Jared explained that the next brainstorm he wished to have was regarding cooperation with external organizations, something that had been brought up by the discussion regarding International Week at the last Board meeting.
- Jharrett said he thought that the YPU had a large membership and their events were both well-publicized and well-attended; he said he thought cooperation with the YPU was a good idea.
- Natalie said it might be helpful to have conversations with organizations to see how cooperation might take place – for instance, if MUNTY and another organization were traveling to the same college, they might be able to pool resources. She said she was adopting this philosophy of cooperation for YMUN with other Model UN conferences along the East Coast.
- Bryan asked what Board members thought of having dais team exchange programs, whereby we would designate committees at conferences that could be run and staffed by members of other organizations. He further elaborated one idea might be to get in touch with specific cultural groups, such as the South Asian Society, who could form dais teams for particular regional organizations or topics.
- Jared said he thought external organizations were tremendous resources, and the Board should assign different organizations to different Board members, whose responsibility it would be to get in touch with these organizations, learn about them and find out ways YIRA and the organization could cooperate.
- The following organizations were assigned to the following board members:
  - Reach Out, AIESEC: Fil.
  - YDA: Natalie.
  - YMC: Jharrett.
  - YPU: Jared, Jharrett.
  - ISO: Bryan.
  - Reach Out: Natalie, Fil.
  - Yale Globalist: Fil, Jared, Lizzie.
- Fil said he would send this list out to Board members subsequent to the meeting.

## 9. SCSY STATUS REPORT

- Bryce explained that the major item the Secretariat was working on was conference materials; he explained the order for placards had been placed last night, props were being ordered the night after, and delegate guides had been ordered with a two-day turn-around time.
- He explained that with registration numbers, SCSY had lost two schools, but that the Stanford delegation had increased their delegate count by 8, offsetting this.
- He explained that Rachel Fabi (USG Admin & Services) had organized advertising for the Delegate Guide, including advertising placements from the Bush School.
- Bryce further explained that the Secretariat had contacted Gillian Sorensen regarding her preference for a restaurant or a Yale dining hall, and she had expressed preference for a restaurant. He said he had sent out an email to all dais teams and staffers, and that mostly freshmen had replied.
- Bryce further said Fil and he had sorted out room assignments for the conference, and that only 5 committees would have to move locations throughout the course of the weekend.
- He explained all topic briefs had been posted online.
- He explained that SCSY would have a mandatory Preconference Meeting on Monday, Oct. 26th, and that all Board members should help by ensuring their department members turned up.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.