

The Illinois Club Minutes, February 18, 2019

The Illinois Club Board met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 18, 2019, in the Enterprise Works conference room. The meeting was rescheduled from January 28, 2019 due to weather. Attending were Kathy Valdés, Ann Campbell, Pat Cardenas, Linda Lopez, Lori Choquette, Mary Hodson, Kathleen Weibel, Sharon Grogan, Judith Robinson, Helen Valentine, Jane Myer, Libby Johnston, Julia Schmidt, Mike Haney, Sandy Camargo, and Cathy Jackson.

Board Reports

President, Kathy Valdés

Kathy called the meeting to order and welcomed the board. She announced that the prior minutes were approved via e-mail.

She discussed the issue of revising the constitution, which was old business from the last meeting. At this point she feels it is not necessary to form a committee to revise the constitution.

Kathy contacted several past presidents about the TIC Constitution and had conversations or email exchanges with them. The summary of that is as follows:

“Our status as a 501 c7 organization, which requires that our membership be limited, most definitely means that we must have some kind of parameters on membership. The approval of non-university members accomplishes this. This was studied (and we paid a consultant to look at this) about a decade ago. It was made clear then that we need to keep the membership requirements as they currently are.” from Susan Haney

Per constitution, non-University members are to be approved by the Executive Board [Executive committee consists of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President.] To make this easier, it was suggested that approvals be made by email chain among Executive Board rather than doing approvals at board meetings.

4-year Term limits: varying views, can be good for refreshing the board
Appointed positions not impacted.

Retention Issues: suggestions included

- Combining board member roles
- Reducing workload by reducing or simplifying expectations
- Examples:
 - Make the secretary a single position
 - Have Newcomers serving as point person but work with Tours rather than doing tours/events independently,
 - Reducing frequency and scope of email communications
 - Simplifying holiday party on the off years (not at the President’s house)

The issue of term limits can be revisited if it becomes an issue, but the consensus seemed to be that it has not been an issue up to this point.

The All Employee Expo was not very successful for recruiting new members. The New Employee Expo has been successful for recruiting members in the past, but we were disinvited from participating in that due to space considerations. It was suggested that Newcomers might contact the Athletic Association, because there is frequent turnover of coaches and some spouses may be interested in joining TIC.

This was informational, no changes were recommended at this time.

Vice President, reported by Helen Valentine

The nominating committee has filled a slate of nominees for next year. That slate has been published in the e-news and in a separate electronic mailing.

Dr. Julia Whittington, of the College of Veterinary Medicine, will be the speaker at the Spring Luncheon.

Meetings and Events, reported by Jane Myer

The Holiday Party was held at the President's House and was a success. The next event is the Scholarship Brunch, and it has been organized.

Upcoming events for the remainder of the year are:

Scholarship Brunch – Saturday, March 2, 2019 iHotel, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Spring Luncheon – Saturday, May 4, 2019, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Hyatt Place Hotel, downtown Champaign

Treasurer and Budget, submitted by Allan Penwell and reported by Kathy Valdés

Allen submitted the December financials.

Balance Sheet

- Our account balances are \$1,800 less than a year ago. There is a budgeted loss for this year, so this is a trend although not worrisome since there is adequate cash on hand.
- The PayPal balance of \$968.95 is in the process of being transferred to our checking account.
- The University Account of \$1,848.94 is awaiting payment of the holiday party catering costs of \$1,891.00. I will be transferring additional funds to that account on Monday to cover the costs plus February printing costs which will be pending.
- The catering costs are shown on the balance sheet as an accrued liability and will be wiped out when this bill is paid in the next few days. Revenue & Expense

- Dues income is slightly less than budget.
- The holiday party had a loss of (\$283.43) vs. budgeted loss of (\$225.00).
- Printing and mailing costs are \$954.84 this year vs. \$839.79 last year. Supposedly we are now paying taxes on printing, but they are not broken on our bill. This may be part of the reason for the increased costs.

Account Register

- This report shows the debits and credits in our checking account and University Account. This shows activity since the last report to the board which was in October.

There are no significant other issues with the TIC financials.

Kathy mentioned that the amount we are charging for events is no longer covering as much of the actual cost of events, so we may need to increase the charge for events in future years.

Scholarships, reported by Sandy Camargo

Sandy thanked the members of the Scholarship Committee—Ann Campbell, Sharon Grogan, Anne Heiles, Ann Long, Jenny Kim, Patricia Simpson, and Ann Webbink—for their hard work, patience, and good fellowship over this past year. There is always room for new members on the committee, if anyone would like to join in this very worthwhile effort.

The process this year was a bit unusual. Normally, interviews are held in January over the first two Saturdays in the Spring Term. But this year, there was an unusually large number of applicants who were going to be studying abroad during the Spring Term, so the committee took the unusual step of scheduling interviews in December. Seven students were seen then.

The second set of interviews had been scheduled for January 19th (the first Saturday of the Spring Term), but those interviews were pushed back to February 2 because the forecast for the 19th, which turned out to be wrong, was calling for a massive snowstorm. The committee saw the second set of six applicants as scheduled on January 26 and the rescheduled eight candidates on February 2nd. They made final decisions immediately afterward. A total of 21 applicants were interviewed.

TIC will be awarding 8 scholarships of \$3,000 each, apportioned among the Global Focus, Humanities, Purnell Education, and five Make-a-Difference awards. We will also award the Fine Arts award sponsored by Judy Ikenberry, which this year is \$5,500. Sandy sent Judy a note introducing the young woman we've selected to receive the Ikenberry award and got the nicest note back. Judy said our winner, Xochtil Cisneros, is exactly the kind of person that she designed the award for, and she was so moved by Xochi's investment in her art that she has sent a supplemental check to give Xochi at the Brunch.

Since three of our winners cannot be with us—one is in Costa Rica; one is in Pavia, Italy; and one is in Dakar Senegal—we may see if there isn't some way for them to be with us via video (not Skype, just a video message).

Sandy hopes all will come to the Scholarship Brunch on March 2 to meet our winners. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, February 20th. The speaker will be Mariselle Meléndez, head of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Kathleen Weibel mentioned that the President's House paid for those scholarship winners who attended the TIC Holiday Party. It was a positive experience and a networking opportunity for the scholarship winners.

Membership, reported by Judith Robinson

The supplement to the TIC Directory has gone out. We have few newcomers. There are 265 members now, and membership numbers have been as high as 400 in the past. There are 2 newcomers since the last report.

The membership numbers are as follows: 64 returning couples, 2 new couples, 118 returning individuals, and 2 new individuals.

Newcomers, reported by Sharon Grogan

7 newcomers are signed up for the event at Riggs Brewery, and 11 others are also signed up. Registration is now closed.

Interest Groups, reported by Julia Schmidt

All Interest Group chairs have been called to remind them to let any non-members know that after two visits to an interest group, they must officially join TIC and pay dues. There is at least one case where the wife is a member and both she and the husband attend.

Julia plans to send a follow up email to remind chairmen to mention it again. All chairmen were reminded to plan ahead by 1) finding a chair for next year 2) decide if they will meet over the summer and 3) that an end of year report is due by the end of May.

No one has been able to host the Friendship Group at Krannert for a number of months due to illness. Two suggestions were made for a new chair, but neither was able to do it. Current chairman, Nancy McGlathery, suggested that the foreign students who attend typically see people they know (that is why they were going in the first place), and they sit together and attract others, so the need of helping new attendees to fit in is already being accomplished. Nancy suggested to eliminate the group as an interest group. I emailed Christine Meyer, since she had been the originator, to get her feelings on the matter.

Julia also emailed Christina regarding the continuation of Saturday Morning Tea as an interest group and wondered if she might attract more TIC members if we put an announcement in the weekly e-letter a week prior to the meetings. She will let the Board know when she hears back from Christina.

Tours, reported by Pat Cardenas

On April 5, there is a tour of the National Museum of Ship Models and Sea History in Sadorus, organized by Annette Buckmaster. Cost is \$5.

There will be a tour of the Wildlife Clinic with an optional lunch. The tour is an hour, and there will be a charge which will be donated to the Wildlife Clinic. The date has not been scheduled yet. This tour is organized by Pat Cardenas.

Communications, reported by Libby Johnston

The February newsletter went out a little late because Document Services took longer than usual to handle it. The April mailer is to be in the mail the first week of April, with a March 22 deadline for information that is to go into the mailer.

Historian, reported by Mary Hodson

Kathleen Weibel has e-mailed the University archivist about digitizing our archives. So far, she has not gotten a response.

Corresponding Secretary, e-mailed by Alice Taylor

Sympathy cards were sent to the Guiher, Espiritu and Cole families.

Webmaster, reported by Mike Haney

If there is an event not on the webpage, let Mike know so it can be put on the web. Our web hosting renewal is due.

Old Business

None (constitution committee deferred to some future date; see discussion under President).

New Business

There was a discussion of changes to the e-news schedule, proposed by Helen Valentine. The e-news is effective for spurring signups for events. Several options for possible changes to the e-news were discussed.

The next Board meeting will be March 25 at 5:30 p.m. at Enterprise Works.

Linda Lopez motioned to adjourn, seconded by Sandy Camargo. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by the president at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Jackson, Recording Secretary

