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Minutes Board of Directors Meeting: January 14, 2011

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Minutes for the Meeting of January 14, 2011

DaVinci Institute Board

President Von Underwood called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and pronounced a quorum present. Present were Jill Jones, Corey Moore, Kyle Dahlem, Mary Brodnax, Diane Carroll, Felix Aquino, Ramona Paul, Jean Hendrickson and, by phone, Ed Huckleby, Martha Parrott, Audrey Schmitz, and Juanita Krittenbrink.

Minutes: Felix moved that we approve the November and December minutes as presented. Kyle seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Linda was not able to be here but sent her Treasurer's report (attached). Finances are in good shape. In the last month scholar Jaqueline Mahan was paid \$3,000.00 and we received our grant to fund the Executive Director position. Felix moved we file the report for audit. Ramona seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Spring Banquet--Diane and Kyle brought us up to date on banquet plans. Kyle will be sending invitations instead of letters this year; she showed us a sample invitation from 2004. Diane reported that the menu will be tossed green salad, grilled tenderloin, chicken cordon bleu, roasted new potatoes, veggies, rolls and both chocolate and Italian crème cake. The cost of the meal is \$29.95. The cash bar will be open for an hour. If we don't get a donation of table wine, we will have to include that in our budget wine. Diane has paid the \$1,000 deposit to the caterer and \$1,500 to reserve the History Center. We will use the same pricing as last year, individual tickets \$75, table for members \$500, and table for non-members \$600. All public and private colleges and universities will be invited and all board members. Discussion followed on the caterer's requirement that payment be made the day before the event. We are using Nate's Catering, as we did last year. There were no objections to making this payment, and Kyle will get their money to them as prescribed by the contract. Diane pointed out that we will need to submit attendance numbers before we can pay. RSVPs will come into the DaVinci email at davinci@osrhe.edu.

As for Scholars and Fellows deadlines, applications have to be in by Jan. 28. All need to check with their schools to make sure applications are received in the proper office in time to meet that deadline, so the internal deadline at each institution should be earlier than the 28th. Martha asked about any restrictions on the \$3,000 Scholar prize. Does the service learning project have to have been utilized? The response was no, either a project already done or one planned for the future is acceptable.

New Business:

Think Tank Series: Out of our retreat last year came the idea to develop think tank forums around the state focused on different topics. The idea is to invite 12-15 faculty to debate an issue that confronts higher education. Related to that plan was the idea of bringing DaVinci Fellows together to spark ideas. Kyle suggested we look at the ArtScience Prize and how a similar program might work for higher ed. Oklahoma City, Boston, and Paris have developed the ArtScience Prize to involve high school students in creative projects which combine science and art. Their theme this year is water resources. Teams of high school students meet after school to work with experts to develop a project which they then present in the competition. Winners get some prize money and a trip to Paris to work with the school there. Kyle would like us to consider taking the idea of interdisciplinary, collaborative work to higher ed by using our Fellows. We could have a day-long program where we ask the director of the ArtScience program to come describe the project (Nancy Norts or Carey Fitzsimmons) and then have the Fellows take the afternoon to see how we develop a similar program in higher ed. If we choose water as our theme, Felix suggested we hold the event at a boat house on the river. Getting the Fellows together may be a challenge. Felix recommended the week after most commencements in May as a good possibility. Jean described the A+ schools' involvement in the ArtScience project. Sophomores and juniors volunteered to participate and the project will continue into next year. Felix made a motion that we start trying to get a think tank organized and get this project together as roughly outlined above. Jill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion followed on future think tank plans. Mary suggested we start with one and increase to two the next year if all works well. After this first one using the Fellows, we may need to ask other experts, who are not Fellows, to discuss such an issue as immigration.

Old Business Continued:

We are committed to our current webmaster for another quarter. It was agreed that we need more direct interaction with the web person. We would like information about the number of hits and on the possibility of incorporating more links and adding video capability. Board members were asked to offer suggestions and solutions to our website problems.

Corey asked about the applications for Fellows and Scholars Awards, and Von told him letters had been sent to Presidents and other administrators encouraging applications. Each board member needs to check on the status of the applications on his/her campus.

Von reminded all of the Speakers' Bureau. Two requests have been made and he hopes more will take advantage of this offering.

Adjournment: Ed made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Jones, Secretary