



**Executive Committee Meeting  
Southern Regional Honors Council  
Committee met Online via Zoom  
Monday, May 24, 2021  
10:15am-11:15am (EDT)**

**Call to Order**

SRHC President Kathy Cooke called the meeting to order at 10:15am (EDT). Present were the following Executive Committee members and invited guests: Kathy Cooke (President, University of South Alabama); Rusty Rushton (Past-President, UAB); Kirsten Bartels (Past-President); Aaron Hanlin (Vice President, Seminole State University); Jon Blandford (Secretary, Bellarmine University); David Coleman (Treasurer, Eastern Kentucky University); Heather Waldroup (Faculty/Staff At-Large, Appalachian State University); Steven Elliott-Gower (Faculty /Staff At-Large, Georgia College and State University); Karen Jackson (Faculty /Staff At-Large, North Carolina Central University); Hayley King (Student Vice President, Morehead State); Patrick Jacobs (Student At-Large, North Carolina Central University); Mason Hand (Student At-Large, The Citadel) Greg Tomso (Webmaster, University of West Florida); Tom Jones (Parliamentarian, Gardner Webb University)

**Approval of Agenda**

Rusty called for the approval of the meeting agenda disseminated in advance over email to Executive Committee members. *David so moved. Kirsten seconded. Motion unanimously approved.*

**Approval of Minutes**

Jon shared minutes from April 9 meeting by sharing screen. Minutes approved pending minor editorial changes.

**Introduction of Members**

Members present all introduced themselves. Welcome to new members. Tom reminded us to begin recording meeting on Zoom.

**Treasurer's Report**

David shared treasurer's report by sharing his screen and explained he does not anticipate any new activity between now and end of the fiscal year on June 30.

As a follow-up to a question raised at our previous meeting, David explained that in order to pause Grenadine (the software we use for conference registration), we would in fact have to close it and re-open. If we were to do that, we would lose records of past conferences. We spend \$1,236 per year on this subscription. The other advantage of keeping the service year-round is that state-level orgs could use it. Have only had one state level org take us up on that.

If we were to stop paying year-round and just use it for a few months, it would save us around \$700-\$800 a year.

Kirsten asked about the possibility of splitting costs with other regions. Mentioned previous SRHC Webmaster Paul Fitzgerald had lots of reasons for wanting year-round (one of which, David pointed out, was it allowed him to access old templates)

Discussion of cost of printing. Aaron mentioned that this was a significant expense for a conference he organized; Jon concurred.

Jon asked if we are about keeping a copy of the program somewhere in case people want to cite it for documentation of their participation in the conference? Does Grenadine create a downloadable or printable program accessible to conference participants after the fact? David reminded us that we need to have old copies of our program up on our webpage - including last two years (which aren't currently there)/

Steven suggested we could do more to let state coordinators we have Grenadine and are willing to share it with them. David pointed out that we do not have an ongoing list of state level orgs – can we make this an agenda item for the future? Steven elaborated that it is worth thinking about the relationship between regional and state-level orgs – this is an opportunity to strengthen those relationships by offering something that could benefit the state-level orgs.

Kathy brought up where we know if NCHC can share their Grenadine with us – David asked the national office about this, but got no response.

Kathy pointed out this is a relatively small piece of our budget (equivalent to another PITP scholarship)

David summarized that the consensus seems to be we need to find out if NCHC can /will share with us and also if Grenadine creates a downloadable artifact. We will then revisit after learning this info at our next meeting in the fall.

Kirsten observed that Grenadine was a pre-COVID platform. What if our students were tasked with investigating other, possibly other options that have emerged post-COVID? Students were willing to take on this task, and David agreed to send them our Grenadine login details.

Moving on to another budget-related issue, David explained that we used to take portion of the treasury and invest in a CD every year. Haven't done that in recent years because interest rates were functionally zero. NCHC does invest part of its money in low-risk money markets. Would we want to do the same?

Kathy said she thinks not a bad idea but not a high priority given the low returns.

We are trying to get to around \$120,000 in savings (which would allow us to survive a cancelled conference)

Call for a motion to accept treasurer's report. *Steven so moved. Rusty seconded. Motion passed.*

Kathy would like to see what has happened to budget over time for our next meeting.

## **Scholarships**

Kathy noted PITP scholarships probably not going out anytime soon.

David added that we offer 10-12 scholarships for students to attend PITP programs - \$700 per student. 12 \$700 in last pre-COVID budget cycle. No more than two per institution.

When might PITP relaunch? Might do a winter program, but 2022 summer next full slate. Virtual ones NCHC is doing now are free.

## **Updates on Birmingham 2022 and Charlotte 2023**

We are in for Birmingham Sheraton next March 30 through April 2 - contract is signed, Mike Sloane of UAB is handling local arrangements.

Aaron Hanlin has stepped up to serve as program organizer. Aaron reached out to Paul F, but has yet to receive a reply. Greg, David, Aaron are planning to have a preliminary organizational meeting

Have Charlotte locked in for 2023— contract is signed and have paid \$6,000 deposit.

## **Other Business**

Kathy wants us to think about how we are conceptualizing our work going forward. Tomorrow marks one year since the murder of George Floyd - how do we make our commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion more visible and help create change?

Steven introduced the possibility of a special symposium.

Jon mentioned collaborating with NCHC diversity committee, chaired by David Jones of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and featuring several members from SRHC institutions.

Karen asked about scholarships, and raised the question of how we make sure HBCU institutions are welcome and invited.

Jon mentioned NCHC's Freddy Davey scholarship, but that just covers travel to the annual conference.

Jon pointed out most HBCUs in this region.

Karen shared personal outreach has been effective in other organization with which she is involved in increasing HBCU representation

Kathy would like to form an ad hoc committee to explore these issues – also HSIs and tribal colleges

Discussion of when to hold next meeting. Aiming for September, week after the week of labor day.

*Call for motion to adjourn. David so moved. Steven seconded.*

**Meeting adjourned at 11:16pm (EDT).**