Morningstar Steering Committee Conference Call 10/8/16

Takeaways and Tasks:

1. We may need to hire someone to take over for Sarah as the Moodle backend person.
2. We are in dire need of process documentation – <mark>Nancy</mark> will put together an outline.
3. We decided to publish regular minutes after a short comment period, but we don't have a good place to post them.
4. We will wait to set a general calendar for the school until we hear from the Teaching Pillar.
5. We will meet again before the next call - <mark>Ealasaid</mark> will post Doodle poll for it.

Agenda

1. Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to open the call
2. Confirmation that 2nd Saturdays at 10am Pacific works for people, checking in about remaining dates for 2016
3. Update from Starr on speaking with Ryan about the Temple & Tech pillar
4. Nancy's thoughts around the nature of the school (fraternal vs. teaching)
5. Ealasaid's section summaries for the big doc (which I haven't sent y'all yet but am doing! My health has been for shit the last couple weeks)
6. Update on Teaching pillar - tentative Triple Soul class in spring, any updates?
7. Discussion of a possible teacher bios page on Morningstar website (came up briefly last month)
8. Discussion of confidentiality and minutes (Nancy)
   Note: The structure doc says agendas are to be posted publicly before each meeting. See page 3.
9. Setting a tentative calendar for the year (classes offered, retreat dates and point person, etc.) and making this process a standard thing we do in the late summer/fall (Jenn)
10. Discussion of having cords prepared for the next ceremony (Starr)
11. Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close the call

Present

- Ealasaid, Nancy, John, Sandra, Fortuna, Jenn Herbert, Ari
- Facilitator: Ari

Notes

Planned duration: 1 hr (so, ending at 11:05am)

1. Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to open the call

2. Confirmation that 2nd Saturdays at 10am Pacific works for people, checking in about remaining dates for 2016
   a) Ealasaid is. Ari and Ryan may have to take the call from on the road. Ryan is anchoring the teaching pillar and may want to join the Steering Committee
   b) Sandra: originally we were going to have an anchor person from each Pillar on the Steering Committee but that isn't what seems to have happened with the new recruits
   c) Nancy: I'm on the teaching pillar! (so, we do have a rep)
3. Update from Starr on speaking with Ryan about the Temple & Tech pillar
   a) However, Starr is not here, so skipping.
      i. Ari: Sarah needs someone with more Linux experience than Ryan actually has.
      ii. We need to sort this out, Moodle's backend is complicated enough that nobody knows enough to run it than Sarah
      iii. Sandra: We may need to hire someone, which can cause budget issues. Plus, the Moodle is held on the Solar Cross server, so things are bigger than just us.
      iv. John: we did decide to keep the pillar structure, right? (general assent) Sandra's the anchor for the Maintenance Pillar but hasn't been talked to about who's taking her place. Is that how we're doig things? Whaa?
      v. Ealasaid: This is how things wind up when everybody is a volunteer. :) This is our first rollover, so we are hitting bumps. We need a coordinator or something.
      vi. Ari: do we need to document some processes? (general assent)
      vii. Nancy: we definitely need a way to have all of this laid out. The documents are a bit unclear, we need the minutes and docs to be indexed and easy to navigate.
4. Nancy's thoughts around the nature of the school (fraternal vs. teaching)
   a) We have two documents that aren't really in sync – a mission statement from March 2015, and then there was at the retreat, and then Sandra drafted the vision doc. The vision doc seems like Mstar is a support doc; the mission statement says we're going to be both support *and* teaching. We need to connect these two documents in one place and draft a connecting statement about our intentions.
   b) Nancy's suggested draft connection:
      i. "In order to fulfill the mission of MS Mystery School, we undertake support of existing members, teaching the current course of study and the expansion of the body of knowledge and practices that undergird our mission to illuminate each person's True Will. There follows the Vision that we have to accomplish our mission."
   c) Teaching pillar needs to clarify at what part of the program people become part of the mystery school.
   d) Nancy is happy to work on the docs – may not be able to finish by next call. We need to get everything organized. Who's on what pillar, who's a teacher, etc. Where do we have that record?
   e) Nancy: "In the effort to be democratic, we have not been sufficiently concise."
   f) Ari: would it be useful to make an outline of what we need and where it should go?

(general assent) That will help with talking to Sarah.

    g) ==Nancy will do the outline==.

5. Nancy: Confidentiality of minutes – people say different things when it's just us vs. to the school
   a) Sandra: in the original doc, the SC would review the minutes and request redactions from the minuteskeeper (presumably Ealasaid). Doesn't think it was fully addressed.
   b) John: always liked the idea that the agendas are published – folks can see and comment.
   c) Nancy: Having to request redactions is a hassle and a process, may be hard to make it happen.
   d) Sandra: idea is that minutes are available upon request, not just posted.
   e) Ari: transparency is really important, regular minutes should just go out. Conflict resolution and stuff, obviously not. But regular minutes, have a period of time to comment and then post so people don't have to ask.
   f) Nancy: agrees transparency is important, it will help reduce angst as Thorn pulls back. Easy way to send things out and/or post things is necessary!
   g) John: isn't it easy to set up a free wiki?
   h) Ealasaid: yeah, but we need password protection, so... maybe not.

6. Ealasaid's section summaries for the big doc
   a) Ealasaid wants feedback; not everybody has read.

7. Ari: Jennifer and Fortuna have been quiet, what's up?
   a) Jenn: appreciates the summaries and Nancy's push toward organization. Doesn't have much else to say otherwise.
   b) Fortuna: ditto. :) Appreciates the consistency of the docs; is hard to see the package being handed off to the new committee.
   c) Who *is* the new committee? Ealasaid, Ari, Fortuna, Jenn, Nancy.
   d) Sandra was planning to pull back, but we need someone from Temple & Tech. Will stay if we don't have anybody otherwise.
   e) Ari: very interested in that pillar; Sandra will connect with her
   f) John: year of overwhelm, is willing to stay if people are willing to accept that he's got some limitations.
   g) Nancy: Just don't take on anything you can't do. :)

8. Starr has arrived!

9. Update on Teaching pillar - tentative Triple Soul class in spring, any updates?
   a) Ari: we reeeeeally need to overcommunicate that people are welcome, otherwise folks don't grok it.
   b) Starr: would love an annual posting that the Teaching Pillar is taking applications for teachers, what we're looking for, etc. Plus tapping people we think would be good teachers.
   c) John: Do we have any cleared people for anything besides Elemental class? Not totally sure what's involved.

d) Sandra: Thorn has cleared all the old folks from Morningstar 3 and 4 (and earlier) who have been doing all the work. She always says to start with triple soul.

e) Ari: We need to have it laid out, what is included in a triple soul class???

f) General musing: Elemental Witchcraft material?

g) Ari: wasn't Thorn going to send Tony teaching notes? Did that happen?

h) Nancy: Thorn has been hesitant to hand off notes, does she have any? Should we just use the book? Will ask the teaching pillar, we need to develop a template for the various core content curriculi.

i) Starr: Mstar evolved out of Feri, which was an oral tradition, so there *aren't* notes. We might not want actual written out stuff, just an outline saying what needs to be included. Doesn't want to see the teaching pillar signing off on people's articulations/beliefs.

j) Nancy: has worked off outline material. Guidelines – what's included, how long it'll take, etc. Then let people run with it. Just make sure they know the content.

k) John: didn't we decide to have a teaching pillar to sort out the teaching and the curriculum to sort out writing but it got mushy and we smooshed them together.

l) Ari: the teaching pillar was talking about advanced work and curriculum was talking about Elements. Wants to hold space – knowing the content, having the tools to teach, and being able to communicate is what we need. Thorn has a particular skillset and style, and we want to bring in our own stuff to it, to broaden things.

m) Starr: Can we request a report from the teaching and curriculum pillar about what their work is for this quarter. It seems like we ask a lot of questions but don't get them answered.

n) Nancy: is on teaching pillar, thinks nothing's been done.

o) Sandra was on curriculum, things are a bit confusing, Tony is pulling out, we have a new anchor, etc. Tony left things in good shape to write such a report, his last email included his thoughts about where he saw the work of the pillar going.

p) Ari: Ryan says he's getting ready for a big trip and will be posting and stuff when he gets back

q) Starr: On the last call, didn't Thorn say Tony and Sarah are the only people teaching? Other people could, but they currently are. In her experience the steering committee tells other subgroups to do things rahter than doing it for them. For example, we could tell the teaching and curric pillar to sort out the requirements and other teaching stuff. We need to ask them the right questions rather than do it all ourselves. Re: teacher bios, people in the closet usually teach under a magical name with no photos, that's easy.

r) Sandra: we keep being told that web stuff is in the works but it hasn't happened. We need to keep this in mind when giving goals to the pillars, it's complicated.

s) John: we have leaned away from a hierarchical model, also makes things complicated.

10. Setting a tentative calendar for the year (classes offered, retreat dates and point

person, etc.) and making this process a standard thing we do in the late summer/fall (Jenn)

11. Ari: We're running out of time, want to contract to run longer?
    a) Ealasaid can go longer, Nancy can't.
    b) Starr: likes the idea of setting goals, using goal language. We oversee things and make sure it all works together. When we have our own meetings, let's think about good goals and discuss that.
12. John: we can only do so much in an hour, should we decide to do stuff via email? Meet more often?
    a) Nancy: we could meet for 90 minutes with a break in the middle, that might help.
    b) Ari: there's a lot where we need to talk to the pillars and get info back. 90 minutes for future meetings sounds good.
    c) Starr: while we're sorting this process stuff out, let's talk more, maybe do a meeting about each pillar? Meet more often? Let's strike while the iron is hot, people are wanting to teach, so let's get things sorted out so they can do so. The teaching pillar hasn't gotten much done, we've heard from two people. Let's set 'em goals and get feedback.
    d) Sandra: email from Tony about the curriculum status.
    e) Starr: let's ask the teaching pillar what they think they could have ready for spring? Anything? Do they need more time?
    f) Jenn: would love it if we planned the year around this time as part of our process. A goal we can do. Every other group she's with plans for the year, and then Mstar gets what's left.
    g) Nancy: if we're going to meet before our next standard meeting, we need a Doodle up tomorrow. Are we going to meet in two weeks? General assent. ==Ealasaid will put a poll together.==
13. Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close the call.