

# Summary, Minutes, and Notes From the October 29, 2016 Steering Committee Zoom Meeting

## Summary

- Pillar Anchors and Liaisons to the Steering Committee can be one person or two; it's up to the Pillar to decide.
- Ryan joined the Steering Committee
- Temple & Tech Pillar to present a proposal for publishing school documents, at the December Steering meeting (Ari)
- Ryan to discuss his proposed timeline (see below) with the Teaching & Curriculum Pillar and present a proposal at the December Steering meeting.
- Alumni & Research Pillar (Jenn) to set up and maintain a database of who has which cords.
- Alumni & Research Pillar (Jenn) to write up a clear policy on cords, to be presented to Steering for approval.
- Ealasaid will add various notes to future agendas (see below)

## Schedule for Next Meetings

- 10 am Pacific, Saturday November 12, 2016, Temple & Tech Pillar
- 10 am Pacific, Saturday December 10, 2016: Research & Alumni Pillar

## Minutes

Meeting began 10:05am

Present at 10:05am: Nancy, Ealasaid, Tony, Ari, Ryan, Sandra, John, Starr

Facilitator: Tony

- Facilitator led breathing and prayer to open the call.
- **Nancy's Document (attached)**
  - This is complicated material, Starr would like to add a day to the next retreat, either before or after, for Steering to meet in person. Will discuss in February.
  - Much discussion about the merits of Google Docs, Moodle, and wikis.
  - Temple & Tech to make a proposal in two months (December meeting) for handling publication. Until then, it's up to Nancy, who's been doing the most doc work. Ari to talk to Sarah about publication options on Moodle.
- **Teaching & Curriculum Topics**
  - Discussion about Pillar Anchors vs. Pillar Liaisons to Steering – one person or two? Conclusion: Every Pillar needs a Liaison to Steering. Can be the Anchor or not, it is up to each Pillar to decide. For now:
    - Ari is Liaison to Steering for Temple & Tech
    - Nancy and Ryan are Liaisons to Steering for Teaching & Curriculum
    - Jenn is Liaison to Steering for Alumni & Research
  - Tony moved to have Ryan join the Steering Committee, with all the rights & privileges thereof.

- Starr seconded the motion.
- All in favor: Unanimous.
- 5 minute break
- **2017 Teaching Calendar**
  - Ryan suggested a Triple Soul class in Spring, then Crafting a Daily Practice over the Summer, leading into a new Elementals course starting in the Fall.
  - Starr moved that Ryan discuss his timeline with the Teaching & Curriculum Pillar and present a proposal at the December meeting.
  - Ari seconded the motion.
  - All in favor: all.
- **Cords Discussion**
  - Starr moved that the Alumni & Research Pillar set up and maintain a database of who has which cords.
  - Tony seconded the motion.
  - All in favor: Unanimous.
  - Starr moved for Alumni & Research Pillar to write up details on the cord system in a clear policy, to be brought before the Steering Committee for approval.
  - Interruption, motion not formally approved. However, Jenn will talk with Fortuna and see what they can come up with.
- **Robert's Rules of Order**
  - Was on agenda, but Ealasaid moved that we discuss it over email and at the next Steering meeting.
  - Ryan seconded the motion.
  - We will ask Starr for her thoughts via email.
- Nancy asked for a formal appreciation for people who are stepping down to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- **Schedule for Next Meetings**
  - 10 am Pacific, Saturday November 12, 2016, Temple & Tech Pillar
  - 10 am Pacific, Saturday December 10, 2016: Research & Alumni Pillar
- Confirmed
- John asked for a discussion at the next meeting about having a formal liaison from Solar Cross to Steering.
- Tony closed the meeting.

## Full Notes

### Agenda:

1. Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to open the call
2. Material from 10/8 call:
  - a) Process doc outline from Nancy (which she attached in the previous message)
  - b) Have we heard from the Teaching Pillar around setting the 2017 calendar?
  - c) Discussion of having cords prepared for the next ceremony
  - d) Next steps toward publishing agendas and minutes
3. More general Teaching & Curriculum Pillar discussion

4. Ealasaid is going to aim for more formal minutes this time around. Do we want to aim for Roberts Rules of Order procedures?
5. Confirm future meetings dates, times, and material
6. Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close the call

## Notes

Present at 10:05am: Nancy, Ealasaid, Tony, Ari, Ryan, Sandra, John, Starr  
Facilitator: Tony

- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to open the call
- Nancy's Process Document
  - Nancy gave intro: doc came out of her wanting more detailed info and not being sure where to find things. Doc sent out at the top of the thread, will append to message with minutes.
  - Starr: found doc super helpful. However: we do have a TON of work to do. Would like to add a day to the retreat before or after. Let's talk about it at the February meeting. Ealasaid will put reminder on meeting reminder.
  - Nancy: put things in red that she felt we need to fix. One issue is who exactly is on and off, who is representing which pillars. Another is figuring out how docs fiddled with via email connect to Moodle.
  - Ealasaid: We've talked about where to put docs but haven't made final decision. Need something with security.
  - Tony: Teaching & Curriculum work has been in Google Docs/email, but that's not formal.
  - Starr: need a working space for docs that are in progress. Steering Comm needs a working space for sure. Need docs in a central place so we can collaborate. Is anybody willing to set up a wiki?
  - Ari: will talk to Sarah. A password-protected Wordpress site might work fine.
  - Ryan: Google docs can be shared with specific people.
  - Ealasaid: Google docs aren't private, especially from Google.
  - Sandra: There are startups using Google docs, they have some kind of security. We need good collaboration, which is built in with Google docs.
  - Starr: When we're using people's names, we have to be super careful. Maybe we can agree to just use initials or something? Might make E more comfortable.
  - Ealasaid: That would make me more comfy.
  - John: Reminder that all online accounts are identifiable, eventually. Doesn't even take very long.
  - Tony: Google might be good as a working location, then have a space for formally-published documentation, probably on the Moodle. Ari, would you work with Sarah on setting up a space on Moodle to publish docs?
  - Nancy: We have a bunch of stuff posted on Moodle, do we need another place?
  - Ari: Another reason interested in the wiki is that our lessons will eventually stop being "Thorn said these things" and she wants a place to start accumulating that.
  - Ryan: Wikis in specific can be kind of hard to use. Both Google docs and wikis are designed to be collaborative, but Google has a lot more options for discussion. Wiki can be user-unfriendly.
  - Ealasaid: aren't we talking about using Google for collaboration and wiki for publishing?
  - Starr: let's leave the publishing question to Temple & Tech, wait for a proposal from them.

- Nancy is the one working on docs right now, let's do whatever is easiest for her.
- Tony: cool, can we leave things here?
- General agreement
- Sandra: Appreciates distinguishing between stuff for steering to do and stuff for the pillars. We need a way to communicate with the pillars, though. This is Sandra's last call, but she's still anchoring T&T.
- Starr: Let's ask the T&T folks to make a proposal two months from now. Sound good?
- General agreement.
- Teaching & Curriculum Topics
  - Ryan wants to attend Steering Comm meetings in advisory role on behalf of Teaching & Curriculum.
  - Nancy: Angry. She volunteered to be on the steering committee and is acting as liaison to Teaching & Curriculum. Maybe people think she's not doing that?
  - Tony: We originally planned to have a person from each pillar on the committee.
  - Sandra: There's confusion around all of this stuff. Originally, the pillars themselves decided who was going to be the rep on the steering comm, but that isn't how we've handled it. How we're handling the changeover isn't how it was written up either. We don't have the communication lines set up, it's easy to feel adrift. We need to iron this out before we go much further.
  - Tony: part of what's happening is Tony has been updating Ryan on info about Teaching pillar, but there hasn't been a lot of clarity.
  - Starr: came on understanding Nancy was the Teaching person, Ari was temple & tech person, etc. Steering Comm may be making liaison and anchor muddy. Maybe we need to tell the pillars that we didn't follow process and ask them to identify the anchor and liaison to the SC.
  - Ryan: Not meaning disrespect to anybody. Is wanting to have communication between the pillars, which hasn't been happening. He's anchoring the pillar and doesn't want to be governed by decisions he has no say in making. Concerned around that.
  - Starr: that makes sense. Being accountable without being involved in decision-making is something she understands.
  - Tony: let's take a breath. Ryan's proposal (for him to join the SC) still on table. Objections?
  - Nancy: no objection
  - Starr: objects to having the comm being open all the time – procedural objection, not objection to Ryan.
  - Tony: you'd want Ryan to be a full member rather than coming on as an advisor?
  - Ryan: fine with either, didn't want to ask for more than the minimum needed. Happy to come on as a full member.
  - Tony: does seem like a good idea to have two Teaching people on the comm, since a huge amount of the school's point is Teaching. Are we good? Can we move on?
  - John: we need to figure out how the pillars and steering committee communicate. We're probably always going to have more than one person from each pillar on the committee, but isn't there one designated liaison type member?
  - Nancy: is good with stepping back and being more of an at-large member.
  - Starr: it makes sense for there to be just one representative from each pillar – it's important to know who's accountable for communication with the pillar. It's within our purview to say, this is the direction we'd like you to go this year – and that will work better if the pillar feels like it was part of the decision. As the steering comm, we're supposed to be steering the

direction of the school, we need to build trust between comm and pillars. If we do want to add Ryan, we should do that formally.

- John: when it comes to pillars, do they go through steering to publish things?
- Starr: no interest in overmanaging people. We do need coordination though.
- John: how do people when new find out about pillars? How do people come and go from pillars?
- Ari: we seriously need to over-communicate.
- Nancy: are we setting a precedent of having anchors be the liaison to steering?
- Tony: we originally figured the anchor would also be the liaison, but we have split those. Every pillar needs a liaison, it doesn't have to be the anchor. Ryan wants to be on the comm, so that's what we're looking at. Ari is Temple & Tech liaison, Jenn is the Alumni & Research liaison.
- Nancy: do those pillars have anchors?
- Sandra: Understands Jenn is the anchor for that pillar; has been anchor for Temple & Tech, but is hoping to step back a bit on commitments. Would prefer not to be both anchor AND on steering.
- Starr: Teaching & Curriculum is unique in wanting the Anchor to be on the comm – their stuff is very intellectual and big. Temple & Tech is much more clear, less info needed on steering discussion details. Ari is willing to be liaison, but pillar needs to decide if they need the anchor to be it.
- Ari: is happy to sort this out.
- John: T&T is a bit unclear – isn't that the pillar that is supposed to handle the structure of the school and comm?
- Sandra: it was originally the Maintenance pillar, focused on maintaining all things in the school. Not just IT & temple. But the steering comm pretty much runs itself – in that sense, the steering comm is part of that pillar. :)
- Tony: this is a good question, there's a strong argument for anchor and liaison being the same person, but T&T needs to figure that out.
- Tony moves to have Ryan join the comm, with all the rights & privileges thereof.
- Starr Seconds
- all in favor: yes.
- Breaktime! 5Min
- Starr: Jenn sent email, she's stuck at a work emergency and can't be here.
- Back from break.
- Tony: Let's talk about the 2017 calendar teaching thing.
- Nancy: we've talked it around. Is it reasonable/possible to get things together to do some entry level teaching on the ground in several locations?
- Tony: the dream was to have a few triple-soul classes leading into a multi-site elements course that shares a Moodle.
- Starr: yeah, Thorn specifically talked about doing that, with triple soul classes in three parts of the country.
- Ryan: that sounds great – but isn't triple soul on of the classes where we have no notes from Thorn?
- Starr: yes, but it's just teaching stuff we know. We've all done that material a bunch of times. Is hard pressed to think of anybody who isn't able to teach it.
- Ryan: we'd need to decide what exactly makes up the class – specific exercises, etc. Need to have the teachers compare notes before and after, a collaborative syllabus and place for

teachers to discuss.

- Nancy: a template for how to organize curriculum so teachers adding stuff do it in a uniform way.
- Ryan: one of the most daunting parts of teaching is deciding on the curriculum.
- Ari: we need to leave space for iteration.
- Starr: Ryan, do you think it's possible for the Teaching pillar to set up for us to have this class in, say, April, and then Elements ready to go in May, fed from the Soul class? Is that reasonable?
- Ryan: will be out of the country from Nov 1-13.
- Tony: Elements curric is complete.
- Nancy: Spring is optimistic, next fall is more reasonable. Looking at the curric docs, what we have is an outline of the weeks and focus, and we need more supportive docs for teachers to be using. Need auxilliary docs for the teachers.
- Tony: the questions about the docs in the curriculum are is more a thing for the Pillar to sort out. As it pertains to the time line, we can talk about it here. The curriculum for Elements, Iron, Pearl, etc., Are all ready to go. Thinks late spring is doable for triple-soul but wouldn't want to do elements til late summer/early fall.
- John: triple soul in person? (yes) Elements? (hybrid – local in person class but all together on the Moodle.
- Starr: Feels like she could do a triple soul class tomorrow if everything were lined up. That's not the issue. We need to figure out how to stagger the classes (triple-soul → elements) in a way that makes sense.
- Ryan: we might want to do a spring triple-soul class, then crafting the daily practice over the summer, then go into elements in fall. That way people get eased in from one-day commitment to several-days over time commitment, to two year commitment.
- Sandra: we need to figure out what exactly is required prerequisites for everything.
- Tony: we are running out of time, so let's wrap this up and have the teaching pillar figure this stuff out.
- Starr: moves that we ask Ryan to take this idea (timeline he proposed) to pillar, come back to the next meeting with a proposal?
- Ryan: can't make the next committee meeting, let's do it in two months.
- Star: adjusted motion!
- Ari: seconds!
- All in favor: all.
- Cords discussion.
  - Starr: having cords pre-dyed for the next retreat. Lyssa and Rynn seemed willing to spin / dye the material for the cords so they're extra juicy. Also we reeally ran out of cord at the last retreat, should we need to have them make enough cords to replace everybody's? We need someone to ask them if that's doable. People think it's a good idea?
  - Lots of nodding.
  - Jenn: was supposed to ask Lyssa but didn't. Can offer to do that discussion, and suggests that the Alumni pillar get a database of who has what cords.
  - Starr: moves that research and alumni pillar keep database of cords
  - Tony: seconded
  - All in favor: all
  - John: is there info up about the cords and what the deal is?

- Starr: there's some on the moodle, but not the braided cord, and Thorn said that's what she's aimed at. When Starr asked what that entails, she said “we'll find out!”
- Tony: one of the things we talked about was having the cord meaning doc with requirements, and you talk to peers about whether you qualify before claiming, which happens at retreats.
- Nancy: if someone will write an intro a paragraph, will add cords stuff to the doc
- Starr: moves for alumni and research pillar to write up details on what the deal is with cords – develop a clear policy and bring to the steering comm for approval
- Jenn: Sounds good. Will talk with Fortuna, who's said before she's interested.
- (starr has to go)
- Robert's Rules of Order -
  - E moves that we put that off to next time – add to agenda for next time
  - Ryan seconds
  - Let's ask Starr for her thoughts via email.
- Nancy: a formal appreciation for people stepping down added to next time's agenda
- Schedules and plans
  - 10 am Pacific, Saturday November 12, 2016, Temple & Tech Pillar
  - 10 am Pacific, Saturday December 10, 2016: Research & Alumni Pillar
  - Confirmed.
- John: we need to discuss a liaison with Solar cross, add to agenda for temple and tech meeting.
- Tony: closing.