

Steering Committee Call 12/10/16

Present: John, Ealasaïd, Jenn, Ryan, Ari, Thorn, Nancy (late)

Action Items:

- **Ari** to take point on any announcements we want to add to the Solar Cross newsletter (Thorn is contact person)
- **Ari** will talk to Sandra about Temple & Tech handling finances/budgeting
- **Ealasaïd** will draft edited Roberts Rules of Order for Steering
- **Ealasaïd** will talk to Sarah about getting Steering material onto Moodle.
- **Jenn** is overseeing cord stuff/interfaces with Lyssa
- **Jenn** is taking point on retreat. Current questions: go back to 2016 site? What about a travel fund?
- **Jenn** will start a thread on Moodle about research projects.
- **Nancy** is gathering info about who's on which pillar.
- Temple & Tech (so, **Ari**?) will look into doing a regular link roundup or an index of forum discussions or something to help people find cool info
- **Thorn** will review Nancy's work, may need someone to remind her – **Ryan** is probably the lead on that.

Minutes

1. Thorn was available for the first part of the meeting
 - I. How does the Steering Committee interface with Thorn and Solar Cross?
 - i. It's best for Morningstar to stay under Solar Cross's umbrella.
 - ii. We need someone to handle information management on the Solar Cross/ Morningstar websites
 - iii. SC and Morningstar finances are intermingled, we need someone to be financial contact person to interact with Robert when we need financial info/action.
 - iv. Temple & Tech are the ones to handle money. Ari will talk to Sandra about it.
 - v. Thorn is the contact person for the website, and is okay with having regular meetings with the Temple & Tech Pillar about that.
 - vi. Thorn invites us to add announcements to the SC newsletter. Ari will take point on that.
 - II. Ryan talked about the work Nancy has been doing, wants Thorn to review it. She will but might need to be reminded as things are busy for her right now.
 - III. In general, Thorn wants to be kept informed but only invited to calls when we really need her.
2. Followups from 11/12/16 call
 - I. Roberts Rules of Order: how formal do we want to get?
 - i. Much discussion.
 - ii. Ultimate decision: the full RRO is way too detailed. Ealasaïd will draft a heavily edited version for us.
 - II. Update on Cords (Jenn)
 - i. Lyssa has agreed to make them.
 - ii. Plan is to get a bunch made so those with cords now can get a set of what they have, plus more for future cord earning

- iii. Lyssa will use something not-sheep since we have at least one person with a wool allergy (Ealasaid)
 - III. Temple & Tech Pillar Update (Ari)
 - i. How's work on the proposal going? Action items have been set but haven't moved forward with them all yet.
 - IV. Teaching & Curriculum Pillar Update (Ryan)
 - i. Met last week. Can do a Springtime Triple Soul/Summer Daily Practice/Fall Elements schedule for 2017.
 - ii. Want to make sure teachers don't just come from Steering, want to bring people in from the wider school
 - iii. Long discussion of marketing. Marketing also falls to Temple & Tech.
 - iv. Discussion about creating a simple Morningstar website for now and merging when the Solar Cross site is done.
 - v. We need to start looking at budgeting – another Temple & Tech thing.
 - vi. Nancy wants us to remember that we are teaching because this material has to get out to as many people as possible, *not* because we want to grow the school.
 - V. Research & Alumni Pillar Update (Jenn)
 - i. Not much to report. Much discussion around people who are already doing research projects but not posting about it.
 - ii. Jenn will start a thread on the Moodle about this.
 - iii. Suggestion to do a link roundup of interesting posts regularly or have an index with links to threads, *something* to help people find useful info more quickly. Temple & Tech will look into this.
- 3. 2017 Retreat!
 - I. Jenn is taking point.
 - II. Need to figure out:
 - i. Return to 2016 location? Somewhere else?
 - ii. Travel fund?
- 4. Double-check dates for first half of 2017:
 - I. Saturday 1/14/17, 10am Pacific
 - II. Saturday 2/11/17, 10am Pacific (is the weekend before Pantheacon)
 - III. Saturday 3/11/17, 10am Pacific
 - IV. Saturday 4/8/17, 10am Pacific
 - V. Saturday 5/13/17, 10am Pacific
 - VI. Saturday 6/10/17, 10am Pacific
- 5. Discussion: Is there a good place for people to find out what's going on with Steering?
 - I. No. Nancy moves that we place the agenda and an edited form of the minutes on Moodle. John seconds, all in favor.
 - II. Ealasaid will talk to Sara about getting a spot set up on the Moodle and will ask about how we put things so they show up in the news box.
 - III. Minutes will be sent to Steering for review before posting.
 - IV. Would be good to get a real listing of who's in/on each pillar. Nancy is trying to gather that information.

Full Notes

- Select facilitator.
 - Jenn was last one, John volunteered
- Facilitator leads breathing & Holy Mother prayer.
- Should we do Thorn's stuff first? Yes, general consensus.
- Thorn: how do we interface with you and Solar Cross?
 - Thorn: best for Mstar to stay under Solar Cross – energetically good and helpful, also financially expedient and tech expedient, etc.
 - Adam is redesigning Thorn's stuff to be Thorn-only and pull all SC stuff. Website is borked, Ambar is working on it.
 - Side Note: we really need backup for Ambar and Sarah.
 - Wants to transfer Mstar and SC stuff to Mstar and have that be a site with more Mstar presence
 - Need someone to handle managing that information.
 - Finances: SC and Mstar money are all intermingled because she's been supporting the whole thing for a long time. Can provide us with that info.
 - Robert is the bank account guy, would like one point person from Mstar to deal with him. He is very slow with email, his dayjob is away from a computer. Point person could email him and then text him so he knows to check it.
 - John: temple & Tech are the ones to handle it, so Sandra will probably be the contact person. Ari will talk to Sandra about it (*rather than having John run messages)
 - Thorn is contact person for the website, is good with having regular meets with temple & tech
 - Thorn: if Mstar ever wants to start adding an announcement in the SC newsletter, that is totally doable, just let Thorn know. That would be great, Ari will be point.
 - Nancy is here!
 - Ryan: Nancy has been doing a lot of great work, would like Thorn to look at it. Thorn is good with that, just might be slow and need to be reminded. Lots going on.
 - Concern about outlines and info not being available
 - Thorn: yeah, because the outline is in the books, and the rest is usually intuitive/in her head. Nancy will get in touch with Thorn about pulling info from Thorn's head into the curric.
 - Ryan: Ancillary stuff – poems, quotes, etc. would like to find a way to pull those resources into the curric records.
 - John: how do we make sure to keep you involved as much as you want to be without pulling too much of Thorn's time / turning her into a bottleneck
 - Thorn really doesn't want to be a bottleneck, recognizes that this is a huge transition she hasn't trained any of us for except for our internal work.
 - Thorn sent a list of core things that really matter, but really we know from the curriculum what matters, wants us to use our autonomy.
 - John: so, keep you informed, send minutes and stuff, but not bring you into every call?

- Thorn: yeah, doesn't want to be here all the time making us all nervous. :D
- General consensus.
- Thorn: if theres' something we really want her to look at, just let her know.
- John: we do need to have a Temple/LUX conversation, but now's not that time.
- Anything to add to agenda?
 - John is concerned that he can't always tell when he's doing Steering stuff and when doing pillar stuff, how do those roles shake out. Ari feels same.
- Followups from November 12th Meeting
 - Robert's Rules of Order discussion - how formal do we want to get?
 - Starr sent out email.
 - Ealasaid – likes Robert's Rules.
 - Jenn – thinks with such a small group, RR is probably fine. If we have an issue with anything, we'd just bring it up. Not as worried about the stuff Starr brought up as concerns.
 - Ari – wondering if we need someone periodically making sure everyone is heard. Not quite ombudsman, something like that?
 - Ryan – vibes watcher?
 - General amusement
 - John – likes Robert's Rules, but when read them all, it's HUGE, felt big and rigid. Appreciates what it addresses, but Thorn has always had a kind of anarchy vibe, so it might not fit – but then, consensus isn't Thorn's style either. Used to use a process called Peer Circle, where we're all peers and working together, as long as we have that, we're probably good.
 - Nancy: hasn't read Starr's stuff, likes consensus better than voting. RR is useful in that we need to know what's a quorum and that kind of thing, but the full RR seems like overkill.
 - Ealasaid: we can always pull out what we like and leave the rest.
 - Ryan: lot of mixed feelings. Tends to view RR as a mechanism for adversaries to avoid bloodshed. Seems complicated and procedural to the point that people can study it closely to game the system. Doesn't like that. Voting can have a lot of charge to it, power over, etc. There's a ton in the details that can be really adversarial and aggressive. Can we get the good points without all the game theory.
 - Nancy: audio issues. Pause while we try to sort that out.
 - Yay, sorted!
 - Nancy: suggests that someone, maybe Ealasaid, take RR and pull out the essential stuff, and send it around. We can add stuff when we need to, etc.
 - Ealasaid: yep, I can do that.
 - Ryan: has someone created a RR-style thing for groups like us?
 - Ealasaid: probably!
 - John: so, action item: Ealasaid will do stuff.
 - Update on cords from Jenn
 - Jenn: Lyssa agreed to make 'em and has a fancy new spinner that makes cord! Is now researching dye lots to make sure she has the right colors. Will talk with

her more about timing. Would like to get a list of everybody who has cords and get a bunch made so you'd have a new set that matches. Then, going forward we'd use the new stuff. Deadline really depends on next retreat scheduling. Lyssa is donating her time to the school, will give us a list of material costs.

- Ealasaid: did you talk to her about no sheep?
- Jenn: yes, she can do that.
- Temple & Tech Pillar Update - how's work on the proposal going?
 - Ari: has not yet sent the email, no real update. Has a good list of action items set.
- Pillar Check-Ins (I suggest we make this a regular item, even if the checkins are basically a single sentence. -E)
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar
 - Ryan:" meeting last week that was really productive. Springtime triple soul, summer Daily Practice, fall Elements start works. Everybody is behind that and behind doing in person teaching supplemented with Moodle bringing everybody together. This will help line people up to progress toward the school proper. Discussion around partitioning the Moodle so that Elements students can't get to the other areas. Location-wise, we've had a lot of interest – back east, midwest, etc. Do NOT want to limit teachers to steering comm or teaching pillar, wants to pull other folks in. Discussion around how to advertise/market this and how much draw will rely on teacher rep in local communities vs. school reputation in general. Concern about Mstar folks who don't have a teaching rep in their communities, how do we get draw for them? Network or something?
 - Jenn: for the marketing, mstar website is crucial, getting teacher bios up there so folks know who will be teaching and can get info beyond what's in a flyer. She and Starr have talked about pulling from the community in their area, folks who are interested in Thorn and her work. We can go to whoever the local communities are and seeing if we can drum up interest.
 - Ryan: that makes sense. Also, every area is going to be different. Some places have cliques that don't trust each other. If we have any national/international presence that we can draw on, that would be awesome.
 - Ari: centralized Mstar marketing is probably under Temple & Tech
 - Nancy: we could get ads in things like Pantheacon's booklet and other similar events' booklets, we just gotta get everything together in time.
 - Jenn: if we have something at pantheacon, that'd be great, but we have to have the website ready to go, even if it's just something really simple. Setting up a simple wordpress site would be quick, maybe we could put up something of our own and not have to wait on Solar Cross? Temple & tech need to look at this.
 - Ryan: what thorn said about mstar being under solar cross, from a legal non-profit accounting standpoint, for SURE, do NOT want to have to deal with our ownnonprofit stuff. But that doesn't mean we have to have our web presence

be under them. We can have our own website while still being under them financially.

- Ealasaid: if Adam is doing the sites, he does wordpress, it'd be easy to migrate if we want to.
- Nancy: we need to start thinking about budget. Which pillar is in charge of that? Need to start figuring this out .
- John: that's Temple & Tech, and it sounds like things are pretty blurry.
- Jenn: we need to find one person to be the point person and talk to Robert, like Thorn said. We can figure out the rest from there.
- Is that everything?
- Ryan: one more thing re: Teaching, a lot of stuff is happening around curriculum docs. We're looking at putting things up on Google docs rather than emailing things around. Want to get feedback by solstice so Nancy can keep going. Also, just realized – advanced students stuff. Temple & Tech are focusing on local stuff, entry-level stuff. Are advanced students kind of running themselves? If we want to do this ambitious entry level stuff, won't have a lot of bandwidth to support more advanced work.
- Ari: well, the demon work module is active. People are doing advanced work.
- Ryan: last thing, Nancy had some important points.
- Nancy: if we teach in order to maintain the school, we're done for. If we teach because we have something really important to share with the wider community, we're good. There isn't really much to discuss about that, but it's a charge to the teachign pillar and to the steering committee. Teaching the elements isn't a recruiting tool so we can have a bigger school. Has been part of orgs who did that, and the quality really dropped. This is important, Nancy will keep reminding us.
- General approval.
- John: yeah, in other groups has met people who just wante toi teach, they didn't care WHAT they taught, and that was no good.
- Nancy: yeah, and that's part of why curriculum is so important, we have to figure out how to have teacher accountability and that just knowing the material isn't enough to be a teacher, we gotta have top-flight people . Not just the knowhow, need to have teaching ability.
- Research & Alumni Pillar
 - Jenn: not too much to report. A couple people she's talked to are doing things that are research that are really interesting, but they're not talking about it on Moodle. Would really love to find a way to highlight this stuff and get people to talk about it. Would be great to include on the theoretical Mstar website. Not a ton of support is needed for projects.
 - John: in monthly checkins, we have "project' as an area, is that supposed to be the same kind of project?
 - Jenn: yeah, but it's not formal or uniform. One reason wanted to be on this pillar is lifting up people's work and how it manifests. People aren't talking about it as formally as she'd like, wants to figure that out.

- Ari: in terms of what the projects are intended to be, remembers it as being something related to your life, or a longer-term thing you're working on. Also mabye the work of this god, an intersection of all three. Also remembers someone commenting that they didn't feel like there was a place to talk about their projects. Might be good to have a particular space for that, or even just encouraging folks to start threads about their projects. Should we have someone putting up a thread every month?
- John: which pillar is this?
- Jenn: Research and Alumni. Can start a thread to talk about this on Moodle. Will do so. Some confusion about where, Jenn will figure it out.
- John: there's so much good stuff buried in threads, we gotta figure out how to pull that up.
- Ryan: remembers the project stuff being something Thorn asked people to do after the apprenticeship courses.
- Jenn: has chatted with a few people who are doing cool stuff but not posting about it, doesn't want to call anybody out. :) However! The proposal on Moodle does say that the project is supposed to be something toward the work of this god. Not everybody is cut out to be a teacher, projects are a way to do advanced work that's not teaching. It's okay to be advanced and NOT TEACH.
- Nancy: sounds like we need someone who looks over Moodle once a month to see what's up and find things that are sort of lost. Moodle doesn't run itself, we need someone to oversee it.
- Ealasaid: on another paid community where every Friday there's a roundup of interesting stuff. Maybe we could do it for Moodle once a month or something. We just need to appoint a rounder-up
- John: or someone could set up an index website with links to the threads!
- Ealasaid: do we want to appoint a pillar to sort this out?
- Ari: temple & tech!
- Retreat Check-In - do we know who's heading this up? Where do we currently stand?
 - Jenn: posted about whether to do it. Some folks are interested in helping, wants to touch base with them and see. Needs to get Thorn's availability and needs travel-wise. Is taking lead on the retreat.
 - Nancy: what are the chances of going back to the place from last year?
 - Jenn if we decide we want to, we could definitely go back.
 - John: there's been talk about balancing locations
 - Jenn: yeah, or we could do a travel fund so that people coming from further away don't have to pay as much. Will have to figure that out with the retreat planning committee.
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- Saturday 6/10/17, 10am Pacific
- Nancy: got 'em on calendar, glad to have them in advance.
- Everybody is good with them. Yay!
- John: is there a place for people to find out what's going on with the steering comm?
 - Ealasaid: we've talked about posting the minutes somewhere
 - Nancy formally moves that we place the agenda and a form of the minutes on moodle, John seconds, unanimous in favor, no objections
 - Ealasaid will talk to Sarah about getting a new spot for it. Also will ask for info on the News box, how can we post stuff to that.
 - John: let's send the minutes to the comm first for approval, then post. Just the short form, not the blow-by-blow
 - Ryan: we have had people leave the pillars, but not jump on, might be good to put out a call so people have the opportunity to join if they want to.
 - Nancy: maybe put at the end of the minutes?
 - Ryan: would like a more formal call. Do we even know for sure who's on all the pillars?
 - Nancy: that's why I'm looking to put that list together! Some websites have a blurb location with news/call-out stuff, could we do that? News box, see above
 - Temple & Tech are to look into what Sarah and Ambar need and how to get people.
- Anything else?
 - John: something I like at the end of meetings to do is to review the action items.
 - Ealasaid: four pages of notes, will pull them out when do the minutes
 - John: will take notes of action items next time
- Facilitator leads breathing & prayer to close the call.