

# Morningstar Steering Committee

2/10/18 10am Pacific

Present: Nancy, Ealasaid, Sandra, Ryan, Ari, Jenn

Facilitator: Ryan

Notes: Ealasaid

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Approve minutes from previous meeting
  - ◆ Ari moves to approve, unanimous. Minutes approved.
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
  - ◆ Ealasaid
    - Post minutes – not yet, will do right after this meeting
    - Look into getting discussion guidelines posted – unable to figure it out, will piggy back on T&T Moodle stuff
    - Resend roles and responsibilities list (for discussion next month) - done
    - Check on whether app process was posted, post if not – Sandra took this one
    - WP site for R&A - done
    - Remove Solar Cross from agenda template - done
  - ◆ Ryan
    - Get budget proposal from Teaching & Curriculum Pillar – no meeting yet, so no budget. Working to set it all up.
    - Send Jenn login to Mstar Google - done
    - Boost call for teachers by reposting it (with Ealasaid's Gmail address) – done but forgot Ealasaid's email, will add that in.
  - ◆ Ari
    - Take point on orientation packet creation - will get orientation contacts and an outline (probably) prepared for next meeting Has started, it's taking a different form, something like an orientation class/call, with the packet as a take-home
  - ◆ Jenn

- Talk with Starr about gathering teacher/student/alumni information (who took/taught what, etc.) - briefly checked in with Starr, wasn't able to meet because Starr has a bunch going on right now.
- ◆ Sandra
  - Get budget proposal from Temple & Tech Pillar – has a proposal, will send it around.
    - ➔ Hosting, pro Zoom account (\$15/mo, Nancy says it's \$100/yr), etc. total of \$250-500/mo.
    - ➔ Also looking at using Slack as a way to communicate among the pillars. Looking at paid vs free versions, but doesn't think we need the paid version.
    - ➔ Ari: free version doesn't archive beyond the previous X lines, need paid account to get an ongoing archive. But we may not use it that much.
    - ➔ Ryan: Might be good to use a Google group to archive things. Happy to try whatever, though.
    - ➔ Sandra: Paid version of Slack is a per-use fee, while it's less for nonprofits like us it's still quite a bit, so we're not planning to do it now.
  - Wasn't able to do the application process task, will take care of it this time around.
  - Ryan: Do we want to move Steering onto Slack?
    - ➔ Sandra: We can set one up and see how we like it. Slack isn't a replacement for the Zoom calls, it would operate the way email does between meetings. Email can get really overwhelming for some folks. Having a separate application for a separate organization can help reduce email traffic. It's also more mobile-friendly if you use its app.
    - ➔ Ryan: Tends to forget about Mstar stuff between calls, having a more ongoing presence might be helpful.
    - ➔ Nancy: interested in trying Slack
    - ➔ Sandra: Laura is looking at Asana, a project management tool to manage tasks and timelines and she's looking at one that interfaces with Slack. Will report back on what Laura finds.

- Ryan: Has used Trello and likes it. Has free version, etc. Isn't sure how it interacts with Slack (if it does). We do have a lot of options.
- Sandra: T&T is also talking about Slack for use between Pillars as a way to work together on something.

◆ Jenn

- Wrap up Google Calendar (look at sharing, can we invite folks as read-only) – posted it this morning. All new moons, all-school chats, retreat.
- Post about dates and options for MStar retreat – the poll gave us the end of July. Leaving a call for people to join the retreat committee for a week. Looking for likely houses, will talk to John about money and how to handle it.
- Get budget proposal from Research & Alumni Pillar – Really wants to talk to Starr about it (she's the only other person on the pillar) but couldn't, will try to do it for next month.
- Ryan: We also don't have a budget for the retreat
- Jenn: will be talking with John about money. Will have answers at next meeting.

◆ Everybody

- Think about possible events for MStar to have a presence at, what we might do. Discuss next time / in March.
  - There are many, many possible events.
  - First we need to know what we are trying to get out of showing up at events as a school. Raise awareness that we exist? Get new students?
  - Ari: If we want to change Mstar's demographics, marketing is a big part of that.
  - Discussion of who would be responsible for marketing. Settled on a committee with members from each pillar.
  - Discussion that as more people know about us, more folks will get angry about what we're teaching.
  - Jenn: we need an elevator pitch for that so folks aren't caught flat footed.
  - Need to discuss and settle on the tradition question.

- Nancy: Thorn didn't teach us a tradition, she taught us a method of self-integration that works with other traditions. We don't want to be dogmatic about This is What We Believe – we believe in a process of integration, that's what we're about.
- We need to have each other's backs around the public getting mad at us.
- Nancy: We need to be really careful how we're using our energy. We need to use it to support one another, to find minimal structures/tech that will support what we want to do. We need to say to ourselves and each other who we are. There's only so much energy to go around! We need to spend it wisely, here in Steering, in the Pillars.
- Pillar and other standing reports
  - ◆ Research and Alumni
    - Ealasaid set up a WP blog and Laura is helping with security. Now is considering content.
    - Sandra moves that the R&A pillar be empowered to set down what gets posted and by whom. If something comes up, we can bring it up to the pillar. Nancy seconds, unanimous, passes.
  - ◆ Teaching and Curriculum
    - Ryan: we didn't meet last month. Have two big items: identify selection process for advanced teachers, and figure out the process for teacher feedback.
  - ◆ Temple and Tech
    - Sandra: already talked about the web budget proposal, that's been our major focus this last month. Looking at a better system to get Temple and all-school-chat volunteers lined up. Have been unsuccessful getting a response from Sarah, are still trying.
    - General agreement that we need Sarah and Ambar's input on the migration.
    - Next month T&T will report on their use of Slack.
  - ◆ Retreat – covered above
- Any new business?
  - ◆ New student applications – we got one new student application.

- ◆ We don't have a formal conflict resolution policy for things smaller than the formal mediation process. Need to design this policy to make sure everyone gets heard, including folks who don't get heard in the overculture.
  - Discussion around vibes watchers and moderators for discussion areas in the new setup.
  - Nancy will draft a communication outline for conflicts.
  - It's important we have someone people know they can go to if things get heated/out of hand. Thorn isn't around to do this anymore.
- ◆ Do we want to act on the application we got now, or punt? If we punt, need to let the student know.
  - Nancy moves that we accept Katie as a new member and someone volunteer to orient her no later than April 1 so she can become part of the Moodle. Jenn seconds, passes unanimously. Sandra will be contact. Ealasaid will let Katie know
- Go over everyone's action items for next time
  - ◆ Nancy
    - Draft communication outline for Ari & Laura in their norms doc.
  - ◆ Jenn
    - Talk w/Starr about info gathered at retreat re teacher/student/alumn, who took/taught what, etc.
    - R&A budget
    - Talk to John for retreat budget
  - ◆ Ealasaid
    - Post minutes
    - Let Katie know she's in, Sandra will be her contact getting integrated into the school and getting Moodle access, etc.
  - ◆ Ari
    - Orientation packet/class/call
  - ◆ Sandra
    - Check that the student application process has been posted
    - Be Katie's contact person

- General agenda items:
  - ◆ Marketing - what are we trying to do with it? to whom are we marketing? How do we want to assemble a committee for this?
  - ◆ "vibes watchers" / moderation policy. Ari and Laura working on this, need to sort it out.
  - ◆ Payments?
- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close