

# Steering Committee

## 4/22/18 12:30pm Pacific

Facilitator: Nancy. Ari will do next time.

Notes: Ealasaid

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

1. Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
2. Approve minutes from previous meeting
  - a) Jenn moves to approve, Sandra seconds. Unanimous approval.
3. Updates on action items from the previous meeting
  - a) Nancy: draft communication guideline for Ari and Laura's ongoing work on the orientation doc
    - i. Hasn't done it yet.
  - b) Jenn: will contact Ryan re: Teaching & Curriculum Pillar, we need them to take concrete action in the next month or give us an explanation why that's not happening.
    - i. Yes, the talked on the phone and Ryan will talk more about this in the pillar report.
  - c) Ealasaid: will post student application process.
    - i. Done, it's here:  
<http://www.morningstarmysteryschool.org/moodle/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=3105#p34792>
  - d) Temple & Tech Pillar will handle: to get an itemized list of all financial and contractual obligations (including contract end dates) from Solar Cross, and the extraction of any needed data from Moodle in no less than six months
    - i. Financial work has been pushed back by planning the retreat and looking at the bank account / incorporation situation.
    - ii. Communications with Solar Cross have been dominated by that, especially the latter.
    - iii. John did email Robert recently and has not heard back yet.
    - iv. Highlights the need for having our own bank account and entity.
    - v. Moodle data extraction is rolled into the project setting up the new doc repository
    - vi. Ryan suggests we copy all stuff from Moodle into the Google docs for now
    - vii. Sandra: what is and is not being archived?

- viii. Ealasaid: not discussions, just major stuff. May wade through archives to get good stuff but will ask posters before copying it to the archive.
- ix. Sandra: we need a policy for archiving material, so folks know that the discussions for modules (for example) won't be archived. We should talk with teachers and get input from people to get this sorted - "how long do you want to be able to get to this?"
- x. Nancy: should we draft that now?
- xi. Sandra: inclined to do it when we are setting up the new place
- xii. Nancy: E, put something in the notes so we don't lose this.
- e) Temple & Tech Pillar: set up Slacks for the pillars.
  - i. Sandra put one together for Steering
  - ii. Needs email addresses to set up further stuff, will work with Pillar anchors.
- f) Sandra: get in touch with Katie
  - i. Pinged her recently but has been putting it off because of these discussions.
  - ii. Did manage to reach Sarah and get Katie access to the Hearthfire.
  - iii. Leni applied but hasn't been approved
    - 1. Ari moves to approve Leni, unanimous approval.
    - 2. Sandra will ping her and get her access.
- 4. Ari: has been working on the orientation packet but wants to step back
  - a) Jenn and Sandra will work on that
  - b) Nancy will send conflict resolution stuff to them.
  - c) Sandra will set up a work group
  - d) Ari to upload whatever she has so far
  - e) Discussion: concern about waiting until everything is perfect or setting up too large a structure and burning out.
    - i. We want the school to continue.
    - ii. We need to pull back to what *is* working, assess what isn't, and look at what we need to continue.
    - iii. Might be good to revisit the mission statement as a school, it's pretty big/vague. Specifics are good. e.g., what Sandra wants from Morningstar is a place to reach for adeptness. That's a specific kind of liberation. Not everyone in the world can or even wants to be liberated or an adept. We're a place for the specific people who do want this.
    - iv. Ari would like to continue discussions, especially around what adeptness means.
- 5. Pillar and other standing reports
  - a) Research & Alumni Pillar – Jenn
    - i. Not much going on there. Did post an ask for writing/art/etc. For the R&A blog. Has been working on the website but needs content.

- ii. Sandra suggests finding good posts on Moodle and pinging those people; also talking to people who might share blog posts they're already writing with the Morningstar blog.
- iii. Jenn likes these ideas, also wants visual material and would like to have some folks writing regularly for it.

b) Teaching & Curriculum Pillar – Ryan

- i. Finding times to meet is very difficult as some members are in Europe.
- ii. Want to get new modules started for the new people.
- iii. Discussing a new run of Elements, not sure how to find students without Thorn's existing web presence.
- iv. Concerned about teacher reviews, don't have a good system yet and it's not being followed anyway.
- v. People aren't volunteering to teach, welcomes conversations about what would help people stand up to teach. Discussion around this; there's not enough support for teachers, teachers aren't being paid by the school.
- vi. We have to recruit people to be teachers and support them, not expect them to volunteer to do a lot of work alone and for free. We may have been too ambitious.
- vii. Someday in the future we might be so highly acclaimed that everyone wants to teach for us, but even Harvard has to recruit.
- viii. Discussion around mentors and what they are in relation to teachers; which do students need?
- ix. Paying teachers brings employment concerns, need to figure out how to do this. Possibly discount/free tuition or similar?
- x. We are small, we don't need a ton of structure. It'll become necessary if we grow.
- xi. Nancy: We need to balance wanting a good reputation with making it too difficult to step up to teach. Need to find a happy medium between the two. Also wants to say there's a difference between being a teacher and being a mentor. Any of the advanced classes can be mentored instead of taught. The curriculum is there. Just wanted a sounding board. That's mentoring. Teaching is being present and offering students step-by-step pieces, which is vital in Elements. That's different from mentoring.
- xii. Jenn: wondering if we don't go through a period where we're mentoring each other that then flows into teaching. Maybe we need to go through that process with each other before going out to get new students. It doesn't feel natural to focus on teaching in the wider community. Does feel natural to commit to mentoring each other.

- xiii. We won't have a big influx of students until another round of Elements, and that won't be for a bit.
  - xiv. Concern that Evolutionary Witchcraft is a very Feri book and we won't necessarily have Feri initiates teaching that material. Needs to be discussed.
  - xv. There are folks put off by the teaching requirements who would otherwise be volunteering to teach. Need to simplify.
  - xvi. Ryan: Feels it's important to hold people to ethical standards, but we have a kind of boogeyman of someone who wants to teach and should be stopped. Can't think of anybody with the school right now who he'd say no to if they want to teach. As long as people are interested in teaching we should let them. Agrees there's Feri stuff in Elements, but it's also our lineage. Would like to see MStar established as a separate lineage with multiple influences (including Feri). Nobody complains about Reclaiming teaching Iron and Pearl.
  - xvii. Sandra: doesn't think we should not teach from anything in Evolutionary Witchcraft, just that it shouldn't be the only source. It says on the cover that it's Feri. One thing people got upset over the book about is the idea of folks not Feri initiates teaching Feri stuff. We're saying we aren't Feri, but we need more. Also, we need to distinguish ourselves from Thorn. We aren't Feri any more than we are Luciferian or anything else. We are a school that encompasses many traditions. Thorn said everyone has her blessing to teach triple soul, daily practice, and alignment *years* ago.
  - xviii. Nancy: The issue is teaching it under MStar name or not. We can't keep people from using the published materials to teach a class, even if they're MStar members. But that's different from teaching in the name.
  - xix. Teaching pillar to talk about ways we can support and recruit teachers.
- c) Temple & Tech Pillar – Sandra (since Laura isn't here)
- i. Sandra missed the last meeting. Impression is that things have stalled out a bit due to health issues and scheduling issues. Also the entity and bank account situation need resolution – getting those sorted will help open up other activities. Until then we're kind of stuck.
- d) Retreat Committee - Jenn
- i. We have 8 people signed up.
  - ii. Need to reserve a rental house, will get one that offers a little space if more people join at the last minute.
  - iii. Next steps: been in touch with John, will rent a house, then will have first Committee meeting.
- e) Solar Cross/nonprofit status

- i. We don't appear to have a choice, we have to incorporate. We need a bank account, which means we have to get a number from the Feds.
- ii. Will check if Solar Cross is in good standing and can help us simplify the process, there's an easier form we could use.
- iii. Concern around insurance for the board of directors, may be tricky to set up.
- iv. Thorn has stated she wants us to get our own 501(c)3.
- v. Nancy moves that we do the necessary research and also ask John to get information from Solar Cross for our setting up own account under their auspices.
- vi. Jenn seconds, unanimous.
- vii. Sandra looking into incorporation. Ryan looking into insurance. Will accumulate all info in a Steering Committee Slack channel for the project.
- viii. This is paperwork to recognize what is already the case, that we are our own entity. This is not a big energetic shift.

The rest of the agenda gets pushed to next time. Ealasaid will send out email re: scheduling next time.

#### 6. Tasks for next time

- a) Nancy: draft communication guideline for Ari and Laura's ongoing work on the orientation doc
- b) For future discussion: We need a retention policy when we set up our new place
- c) Sandra:
  - i. Email Leni, get her hooked up with the Hearthfire
  - ii. Work on orientation packet (with Jenn and Laura)
- d) Jenn: Work on orientation packet (with Sandra and Laura)
- e) Ari: Upload orientation packet work so far
- f) Ealasaid:
  - i. Start copying info from Moodle to Steering's Google Drive. Email re: scheduling.
  - ii. Add the following to the agenda for next time:
    1. Where are we spending tuition money, and what are students getting from it? [need better way to say this]
    2. We need a conflict resolution process. It's specified in the existing docs, a 3-person committee with members who receive training for this work.
- g) Ryan: Teaching pillar to address supporting and recruiting teachers, continue current discussions, will try to meet and bring back some summary statements.

#### 7. Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close