

Morningstar Mystery School Board of Directors February Meeting Minutes

2/13/21

Present: Katie, Laura, Louise, Sandra, Ealasaïd, Tony (for Teaching)

Facilitator: Sandra

Started at: 10:06am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.
- Brief checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting – Ealasaïd is concerned about too much detail, Louise is happy, don't need to cut anything. Katie agrees. Sandra and Laura haven't spent time with it; Sandra wants to spend more time with it. Laura: approve by email? General: Yes.
- Pillar and other standing reports
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Tony)
 - Elements: has to check in with Laura and Jenn.
 - Finishing this round of advanced classes, after that will continue with Demon Work for Katie and whoever else is interested, probably in April.
 - Other classes: two offerings approved
 - Starr and Jenn: Ancestors class. Open to Mstar and the public.
 - Interest in mysteries this year.
 - Laura and Cedar: Gods of Morningstar class! 4Mo, June-September.
 - Open to more offerings and suggestions.
 - Happy to be getting offerings, people contributing!
 - One change: Tony needs to step back from the Pillar, will talk with them and work with them for the transition.
 - Are looking at Elements curriculum and idea of making it modular. What pieces need to be taught in each, what pieces are unique to each element, etc.
 - Laura: Spring newsletter coming soon, if you have stuff, please send to Lyssa.
 - Tony signed off.
 - Research & Alumni Pillar (Katie)

- Haven't met. In a bit of a holding pattern. Not sure what they could be doing? Last thing working on was figuring out rituals for someone joining or leaving the school, but w/o alumni movement, nobody is asking for research help.
- Sandra: How about the blog?
 - Have posted about it in the newsletter and on the forum and gotten nothing.
- Sandra: People doing things outside the curriculum, how can we support them other than just the tech part? How support them in growth beyond the curriculum? The pillar is connected outside the curriculum, it's the growth edge of the school in a lot of ways. Teaching & Curriculum is the core, R&A is the school going into places it hasn't been before. Is there a way the R&A pillar can support Teaching in classes and stuff, maybe a partnership there?
- Laura: working on classes and a history of Mstar, doesn't have a sense of what to ask R&A about other than asking to contact an alumni.
- Laura: has needed help with engagement in classes herself, sounds like pillar needs help with school engagement.
- Sandra: The other pillars have found their feet, sounds like R&A doesn't have its core, hasn't found its feet. No mission/direction. Would like there to be more there for people. Original vision for the research part was it's for people who don't feel their work w/Morningstar is complete but who don't feel called to teach. There's still a role for those folks, there's still work to be done w/in Morningstar, what does that look like?
- Louise: bringing things together, interest in talking with pillar about stuff. Class might come out of it, not sure.
- Sandra: original idea was for R&A to support mentor relationships, accountability, emotional support, etc. Supporting the research isn't necessarily doing the research, it's giving you the resources so you can do it. Maybe something where people share their expertise outside of a class structure.
- Laura: hunting down mission statements, worried about scope creep.
 - Mission: The Research & Alumni Pillar oversees and executes the School's programs for and interaction with alumni. The Pillar also offers research and support for independent study and publishes a public-facing blog
- Laura: would like more but we must be careful not to override the pillar
- Sandra: the mission is pretty broad; seems like the pillar is focused more on the first part than the second. Understands frustration about sending out calls and getting nothing, but that just means you have to go beyond calls. Sandra is super busy and overwhelmed, hasn't seen any of the calls. Bring it up at the chats, where people can't miss it, maybe. Need a few people to set precedent, show how it goes, then other people will step up. Or, maybe we don't need the research side, just the alumni side. But, feels it's important to have a growing edge. Engagement isn't the mission of one of the pillars, it's the job of all of us. We do the work for ourselves and for our colleagues. Doesn't want to ask anyone

to do something they don't want to do or aren't comfortable to do. Does want to grasp what is missing, what needs doing, how can we fix it? Can't just stop at "well, it's not working." How can we engage? Maybe come up with a format of what we want a blog post to look like, and post that. Ping a few people directly, ask a teacher to write a post about what they're teaching, etc.

- Laura: When Teaching was in a rough spot, we helped them with it – figured out the issue and then helped – in that case they needed meeting facilitation. For R&A we as a board have an assumption that pillars have regular meeting/output/something, we need to figure out what the pillar needs to get there?
- Louise: it slipped my mind that there *is* a blog. If we could line up some blog posts, announce it at the monthly chats, that might be a way to get involved again. Thinks we should discuss among the pillar.
- Sandra: so, the pillar feels there's no work to be done right now, nothing needed? Is there a point in *having* the pillar? Is it doing any work?
- Katie: Not doing any work right now. If we come with a task, it gets focused on and accomplished, but that's it.
- Laura: Sounds like where the Teaching pillar was a while back. Tough spot.
- Louise: there's inertia in the pillar somewhere. Being tasked to create something the school doesn't have yet. Not sure if they need board direction, doesn't want to disempower the pillar.
- Katie: Maybe email, how can we support the Teaching pillar in their transition with Tony stepping down?
- Laura: Also, support Tony *and* pick his brain. Is there things to glean from him? Things the pillar should be tasked with to thank him? Etc. all the ways the R&A pillar could gather those bits and pieces.
- Sandra: whatever the board can do to help the pillar feel energized, we want to do. School is a three legged stool, reworked from a five-legged stool. Maybe we need to change it again, maybe there isn't a research side. Doesn't like having a dead spot, an agenda item that is "we didn't do anything" every month. T&T can manage FB page, nobody's posting to the blog. We could just post the newsletter to the blog, if R&A doesn't matter. But, thinks they do matter, we need a dynamic edge. Okay to say, "we don't have bandwidth for this right now" and revisit in 6mo. When should we have the pillar on the agenda? Not decided.
- Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
 - Are going to post an ask for info to put in the newsletter. Pretty anemic last quarter, if there's anything you want to put in, that'd be cool. We can help zhoozh the language if needed.
 - Idea for Spring Equinox ritual, posted about it. Interested in ideas for the ritual!
- Retreat Committee (Laura)
 - Nothing to do.

- Sandra: Would love it if we could do some kind of virtual retreat.
 - Laura: Will be hard to get engagement. Working on virtual events for work, doesn't want to sink a lot of work in and have nobody show. Would be really, really bad.
 - Sandra: Good feedback. Wondering how many people we usually get for retreats in person, what programs we do. In person retreat has been a great catalyst for engagement. Thinking we could draw from that to increase engagement. It's the stepping outside our day-to-day lives that drives that, how can we do that virtually?
 - Laura: Looking at how many people attended and at how many programs, that's pretty easy. Just gotta check notes. Gotta check in with the rest of the pillar to gauge engagement.
- IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
 - Nothing to report. Stuff will be coming. Taxes due next month.
- Registrar (Louise)
 - Need to meet with Louise and John. New quarter/semester will be starting soon.
- Treasurer (John)
 - Was going to share screen; nobody joined as the school, though, and it's disabled.
 - Paypal dues: \$125 in Jan; checks for \$200, donations \$40. PayPal cut was \$6.92. transferred 600 to bank account, that's about it. \$11,374.47 total balance.
 - Sandra still hasn't cashed her check, maybe will just PayPal .
 - Laura: Board wants treasurer to send money to anybody with uncashed checks.
 - Expense coming: zoom gets paid, soon dreamhost will need payments. Will make sure there's enough in Paypal to cover.
 - Taxes and annual report will be done next month. Yay.
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Need to pull board election together! Time is running short.
 - Laura
 - Google doc for New Moon and All-School chat signups. DONE! The rest
 - Email each pillar, send written report for next month.
 - Registrar info set up with Louise and John
 - Fee calendar (with John)
 - Sandra
 - Ping Tony about Guardian/elemental work
 - Update minute book
 - Bylaws amendments
 - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance
- New Business
 - Laura: we just had a group finish the curriculum (self-possession), maybe a forum post like a graduation walk?

- Sandra: Run by the Teaching pillar first, but not opposed.
- Also: Cords and classes and whatnot.
- Action Items
 - All:
 - Spend some time with minutes from January, approve via email.
 - Laura:
 - Recheck board election timeline.
 - Will email Louise and John about registrar stuff.
 -
 - Fee calendar (with John)
 - Sandra:
 - Ping Tony about Guardian/elemental work
 - Update minute book
 - Bylaws amendments
 - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance
- Confirm next month's call – March 13, 2021. Yep.
- Checkout
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at 11:45