

Morningstar Mystery School

Board of Directors

October 2023 Meeting

Minutes

10/14/23

Present: Breven (for teaching), Laura, Sandra, Jennifer, Ealasaïd

Facilitator: Sandra

Called to Order at 10:04am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
 - Experiment: Invite Lux! Jenn performed the invitation.
- Brief checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting – approved.
- Pillar and other standing reports
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Breven)
 - Elements has started.
 - Figured out process for removing old class forums! Have decided after 6mo from the end date of the class, we can remove the forums. Will inform the students that the forum will be going away, and inform Temple & Tech that the forum can be removed.
 - Research & Alumni Pillar (Jenn)
 - Nothing new to report.
 - Have emailed with Louise about the Registrar material handoff, still need to close that loop.
 - Posted about getting the retreat back together, wants to spearhead an event for 2024. No replies yet
 - E: The emails for forum posts weren't going out properly, that might be why.
 - Jenn: will repost.
 - Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
 - Last meeting was just John & Laura but got a few things done
 - Working w/E to get more redundancy around things like forum maintenance
 - In the current arc of chats, the last one is this month.
 - It's been about a year since we started experimenting with arcs, the engagement improvement has been good

- Sandra: wondering how people feel about who should be facilitating the monthly chats. It's currently Temple & Tech, and it seems like Temple & Tech is doing all the things that Teaching isn't doing. Maybe we are consolidating power too much?
- Laura: Temple & Tech are the ones who make sure the room is set up and people can find it, not running the program. However, it's kind of fallen to the same folks to make sure the event is happening.
- Sandra: Right. Wanting to make sure we have the right structure. Interested to hear what Jenn thinks since she's the only one here who's not on Temple & Tech
- Jenn: led an arc, felt like it came up naturally. Doesn't see gatekeeping happening. Don't we ask people to volunteer for school chats? [general assent]. Don't know what we could do to make it feel more open. Doesn't feel like a closed thing. We post asking for volunteers
- Sandra: which entity should be posting the ask tho?
- Jenn: we only have so many people. Laura usually does the ask, and while she's in multiple committees it doesn't seem off.
- Sandra: really it's a structural question, which committee should be doing it?
- Laura: likes when the conversation about who wants to lead the next arc and what it should be happens in the chats themselves. It doesn't happen reliably yet. Like, it's the work of the school to have ownership of the process.
- E: likes idea of the convo happening in the chat, if we figure it out then, the folks who show up are the ones who figure it out. If we say "ok we'll figure it out on the forum, bye" then it never happens, we lose momentum.
- Sandra: in each chat we figure out what we want to do, and we discuss what we're going to do next time. Wants to make space for deeper work, some things need more time before the next step. Sometimes "let's discuss it on the forum" means "this needs more discussion but I am done talking about it right now".
- Retreat Committee (Jenn)
 - Jenn wants to make it happen! Hoping to find some other people to help plan.
 - Looking for location ideas, thinking West Coast
- IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
 - Talked with John about things and it's all paid up and on track.
 - End of fiscal year at end of this month. Doesn't have any immediate effect because our finances are so simple still.
- Registrar
 - No updates
- Treasurer – via email
 - He sent it out, any questions? no.
 - Do we prefer PDF or .rtf? PDF.

- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Everybody:
 - Think about the scholarship thing and what our concerns are
 - Look over Jenn's draft – Jenn just sent it right before this meeting.
 - Jenn: need to figure out things like what range people can ask for, and what the decision making window should be. Draft has some rough numbers but are they okay? Biggest thing, need to look at and update the mission statement. The form should have the mission statement and reflect it.
 - Sandra: not sure we should include a range. If we want to sponsor someone to go to a conference on the other side of the country, we might want to pay for their airfare, which is outside the range. Don't want people to have to send a bunch of little requests. This is probably for a big ask rather than registration fees? Everything has to be considered individually. Also, we may want more categorization – would give folks the idea of what kinds of things they can ask for money to cover.
 - Laura: Don't apologize for getting something done! OK it got sent out right before. Live editing things is useful, can be hard to circle back with things in email. Does think it's useful to have some kind of cap so we can balance how much we're spending and can help multiple people over the course of the year rather than one at the start and then nobody.
 - Sandra: so, we have three points to solidify. Funding amounts and distribution, categories, and criteria to align with the mission statement.
 - Jenn: agrees about the budget, we could put something like "if your request is over the cap, go ahead and ask. We might not give you all of it but you can ask." Used in grants stuff. Maybe it's near the end of the year and we have a big pot of money still available.
 - Sandra: yeah, or it might be something that's expensive but it's something great we never thought about.
 - Laura: categories: teaching opportunities, learning opportunities, networking/promotional opportunities, internal scholarships (like help getting to a retreat), and other.
 - Look at and think about our mission statement
 - Laura shared screen and we edited it together.
 - "The mission of Morningstar Mystery School is the illumination and liberation of each person's true will. Our work is to nurture spiritual integration through our magic, wisdom, and mysteries. We strive for solidarity with all beings in this work of liberation."
 - Maybe post to forum and discuss in the Nov school chat?
 - Laura to post.
 - Discussion around all school chats and rescheduling. E to post.
 - Ealasaid

- Put registrar check of who's inactive and reaching out onto in September onto template - done
 - Add inviting Lux in next month to agenda, as experiment - done
 - Connect social media accounts – not yet
- Jenn
 - Send draft of scholarship/spending req around - done
 - Meet with Louise re: registrar stuff – not yet
- Laura
 - Reach out to Doneby to circle back about joining board – done, emailed today
 - Look at org documents for budget stuff, recommended surplus etc. - not yet
- Sandra
 - Check with John about annual fees - done
 - D&O Insurance – not yet
 - Basic budget - monthly and annual surplus, etc. - not yet
- New Business
 - Thoughts on inviting Lux
 - Laura: We did get a bunch done! Don't want to give them all the credit, but we sat with discomfort and updated the mission statement.
 - General consensus it went well, Jenn: let's do it next time too.
- Action Items
 - Ealasaid
 - Connect social media accounts
 - Post re: rescheduling November and December all-school chats
 - Jenn
 - Meet with Louise re: registrar stuff
 - Laura
 - Look at org documents for budget stuff, recommended surplus etc.
 - Post proposed mission statement update to forum for feedback
 - Sandra
 - D&O Insurance
 - Basic budget - monthly and annual surplus, etc.
- Confirm next month's call – 11/11/23 10am Pacific
- Thank Lux
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at 11:30am