

Mid-America Theatre Conference 2018
Milwaukee, WI – March 15-18, 2018
Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday, March 17, 2:00-3:00
Prepared by Jennifer Goff, Secretary

Peter convened the meeting at 2:04

I. Approval of the 2017 minutes – it was moved and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with no discussion.

Peter called for a motion to change the agenda. John moved to space out the elections in order to give more time for counting. The motion was approved unanimously with no discussion.

II. Election – Associate Conference Planner

- Beth took the podium to introduce the nominees for Associate Conference Planner: Tom Robson, Travis Stern, La Donna Forsgren. Beth explained the trajectory of the position as it moves up through the ranks eventually to president.
- Beth reminds the meeting that there is no voting by proxy. Only those present may vote.
- La Donna Forsgren made the first introduction. She spoke of her interest in fostering more mentorship opportunities through MATC (having been part of Emerging Scholars), especially of early career faculty. She would also like more conversations about the state of the profession – perhaps via town hall meetings.
- Tom Robson made the second introduction. He outlined his participation over the several years and through many symposia. He values the personal relationships within this conference.
- Travis Stern made the third introduction. The discovery that scholars are human and approachable has been part of the value of this organization. He has co-chaired the Pedagogy symposium. He values the humanity of the place.
- Peter requested that the ballots not be folded, and ballot collection begins.

III. Treasurer's Report – Outgoing treasurer Treasurer, Travis A. Smith

- The final report will be posted on the website after final conference costs are resolved, but he referenced a draft that was distributed to the membership.
- The organization is in good financial health.
- Tyler opened the floor for questions – there were no questions.
- Movement to approve the report was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with no discussion.
- Brian Cook now formally takes the position of Treasurer

IV. *Theatre History Studies* report

- Brian, Rob, and Lisa make the report in Sara Freeman's absence.
- Volume 37 – 16 Submissions for the special section – 8 accepted; 8 submissions for the general section – 4 accepted – will also include Noe Montez's Schanke-winning article
- Volume 38 – Special section notifications are in progress for publication in fall 2019
- Lisa Jackson-Schebetta is stepping in as Editor of *THS* as of Volume 39
 - Current plan is to continue with four part structure and rolling submissions
 - Special section will be hemispheric historiography – CFP will be circulating soon

- Rob Shimko will be continuing as book review editor – still commissioning reviews for the 2019 issue
 - ABD submissions should have faculty mentorship
 - Independent scholar submissions are also accepted
- Movement and second to accept *THS* report is accepted without discussion.

II (cont). Election

- Beth announces La Donna Forsgren has been elected as the new Associate Conference Planner
- Beth announces election for the position of webmaster – seeking nominations from the floor.
 - Patrick Konesko self-nominates from the floor
 - He explains his interest in open source technologies in his own classrooms and looks forward to ways to share resources.
 - Mark Mallett nominates Travis Stern and he accepts the nomination from the floor
 - Opportunity for MATC to make a larger footprint online and include people who are unable to be here in person. He speaks of his live tweeting of the conference so far.
- Beth makes clear that we only need to write in the name of the person for whom we are voting, rather than writing out both. Ballot collection begins.

V. *Theatre Practice* – Peter will report in Jennifer Schleuter’s absence

- Volume 7 will be available in April
- Volume 7 will be Jennifer’s last as editor, so we will be doing a search this summer for a new editor
- Over 500 views and 400 unique visitors of the current issue – this has been going up each year
- Movement and second to accept the report was approved unanimously without discussion.

VI. Graduate Liaison Report – Sean Barkley

- 71 graduate students present at this conference
 - 9 of whom are presenting in multiple symposia
- 12 applications for grad assistance fund this year
- Thanks to the co-chairs for sending the names of graduate students – this was extremely helpful.
- Two candidates for Graduate Liaison
- Julia has been working in the past two years to increase web presence. Grad student facebook page has almost tripled.
- Julia also created the grad student mascot MATSY – in Cleveland, we may be seeing MATSY as an electric guitar.
- Thanks to Julia Moriarty (outgoing liaison) for her guidance and energy.
- Movement and second to accept the report was approved unanimously without discussion.

II (cont). Elections

- Beth returns with the announcement of Travis Stern as the new webmaster.
- Beth announces our third and final election for members-at-large of the nominations and appointments committee.
 - Shirley Huston Findley
 - Catalina Florescue

- No additional nominations were made from the floor, so Beth called for an election by acclimation to approve Shirley and Catalina. They were elected unanimously by acclimation.

VII. Announcements

- a. Incoming symposia co-chairs
 - Theatre History – Heidi Nees
 - Pedagogy – Karen Dabney
 - Practice/Production – Wes Pearce
 - Playwriting – Justin Maxwell
 - Emerging Scholars – Dan Benny
 - Articles in Progress/Pitch Your Book – Ariel Nereson
- b. Graduate student liaison
 - Graduate Liaison – Shelby Lunderman
- c. Beth issued thanks to the members of the nominations & appointments committee – In her new role as President-Elect, Chris Woodworth will be convening this committee again this summer.
- d. Fellows
 - Peter presents two fellows to come forward to discuss initiative to build an endowment/contingency fund. But they have decided to establish a keynote speaker fellows fund with the goal to raise enough money to subsidize the current cost that MATC is paying for the keynotes, freeing up funds for other purposes. The fellows will be approached at first, followed by the general membership.
- e. 2019 Conference
 - Shawna took to the podium to announce the 2019 conference – Invention. And we look forward to seeing you in Cleveland (Mar 7-10, 2019).

VIII. Transfer of leadership

- Peter Campbell ends his tenure as president and Beth Osborne begins her tenure as president.
 - Chris Woodworth becomes President-Elect
 - Shawna Mefferd Kelty becomes Conference Planner
 - La Donna Forsgren becomes Associate Conference Planner
- Beth takes the stage. Her first order of business is to thank Peter for his excellent work

Beth asks for motion to adjourn. Adjournment is moved and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously without discussion.

3:47pm