

2016 MATC EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Present: John Fletcher, Peter Campbell, Beth Osbourne, Chris Woodworth, Tyler Smith, Kate Roark, Scott Magelsson.

1. **Approval of 2015 Minutes.** Scott moved to accept the 2015 Executive Meeting minutes as amended, Sara seconded, unanimously approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Following a brief rundown of the state of MATC finance, discussion focused on how to reduce costs, particularly food and beverage minimums at hotels and service costs. MATC gets no tax exemption in Minnesota. Is the Hyatt too expensive for MATC? We raised the conference rates and have the unpredictable press royalty this year, so though we are ending with a greater balance than last year, we're still spending more than we're taking in. Peter suggested hiring a professional company to negotiate our hotel deals. The negotiating fee is built into the hotel fee so we wouldn't pay extra for this service. Discussed possibly finding a company that could also do something like Nancy Ericson did for ATHE, taking care of room assignments and conflicts, but decided that sorting out the rooms should remain the duty of the conference planners to maintain the intimate feeling of the conference. Peter, with Beth's assistance, will investigate finding a company to negotiate hotel contracts.
3. **THS Report.** Vol. 34 is out. Vol. 35 for 2016 has gone to press and it looks good for an early fall mailing to membership. It is a substantial issue. Vol. 35 and subsequent volumes going forward under Sara's editorship will include 4 sections: general submission articles, a curated special section of articles on a specific theme, work generated at the conference including the Shanke paper and possibly the keynote address, and a final section of book reviews. THS gets more submissions to theme focused calls. The Shanke award paper is published as an exemplary conference paper, not a full length article. Sara has moved to rolling submissions instead of one fixed submission deadline. Work on Vol. 36 is underway and it will go to press September/October of 2016. For the 2018 issue, Vol. 37, the plan is to issue a special call in May of this year, probably on politics and theatre.
4. **Theatre/Practice Report.** Peter reported for Jen who was unable to attend this year's conference. Vol. 5 will be live April 1, 2016. Ohio State has underwritten a student assistant for the online journal. Vol. 5 will include the transcript of the Bill Rauch/Sonja Kufinek interview from 5 years ago, plus 5 essays and one play. Plans for Vol. 6 include expanding the scope of the journal to include Pedagogy in addition to Practice/Production and Playwriting, and to offer a recording Gülgün Kayim's keynote. Jen would like to have more video or other content to utilize the online format of the journal. Jen also has librarians at OSU working on getting the journal an ISBN number to allow the journal content to be searchable through EBSCO. Peter will investigate changing the Theatre/Practice website tagline to read "A Journal of the MidAmerica Theater Conference," a more inclusive title reflecting the journal's new inclusion of work from the Playwriting and Pedagogy symposiums.

5. **Elections.** Reviewed the candidates and ballot for Associate Conference Planner, Secretary, and Members-at-Large. The Grad Student Liaison election process was discussed. The consensus was that the Grad Student Liaisons were like symposia co-chairs, and should continue to determine incoming Liaisons independently of the Executive Committee or a formal vote at the Business Meeting. We support the Grad Student Liaisons intentions to adjust the selection process to allow the announcement of the new Grad Student Liaison at the business meeting.