

AS1 Annual Governing Meeting--10/22/22

Present:

Hal Basdekis, Val Basdekis, Cathy Bertasi, Katy Biron, Andrew Bristol, April Castoldi, Ray Castoldi, Joy Close, Debby Cohen, Matthew Cohen, Michele Cohen, Stafford Cohen, Stan Corfman, Chris Gimpel, Bill Gimpel, Lisa Gresser, Theo Griffin, Jane Griffiths, Tom Griffiths, Holly Hunnicutt, Paul Jennings, Lois Kitz, Keith Knox, Jill Loewer, Susan O'Loughlin, Carla Osgood, David Osgood, Jill Loewer, Dug Miller, Scotia Miller, Nuria Pastor, Jocelyn Pierce, Pam Pierce, Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Janice Prochaska, Caroline Quijada, Cyndy Sims, Marlene Smurzynski, Ben Soule, Annie Stewart, Dale Stewart, Scott Stewart, Deb Walton, Tom Walton, Ali Walton, Joe Watts, Deb Weiner, Louise Williams, Nancy Wood, Wanda Wood, David Yermack, Elizabeth Yermack, Larry Yermack

Call to Order (Keith Knox)

Opening Words (Nancy Wood)

Milestones

Consent Agenda/Acceptance of Reports A – I, below: Unanimous approval, no comments or questions

Approval of Sept 2021 and July 2022 Minutes (Katy Biron) – [A – Governing Council Annual Meeting — September 25, 2021](#), [B – Governing Council on-island Meeting — July 6, 2022](#)

Registration (Susan O'Loughlin) – [C – 2022 Registrar's Report](#)

2022 Chairs' Report (Jeff and Jill Loewer) – [D – 2022 Chairs' Report](#)

2023 Chairs' Report (April and Ray Castoldi) – [E – 2023 Chairs' Status Report](#)

Star Island Corporation Report (Caroline Quijada) – [F – 2022 Star Island Corporation Report](#)

Star Island Annual Fund update (Louise Williams) – [G – 2022 Annual Fund Progress Report](#)

Council of Conferences Report (Ann Etter) – [H – 2022 Council of Conferences Report](#)

Conference Evaluations (April and Ray Castoldi) – [I – 2022 Conference Evaluations](#)

Star Island Status and Future Plans (Joe Watts)

2022 Challenges: combination of several factors, including--COVID 19 (had a few outbreaks during open up and then 45 positive tests during the summer (30 conferees); 40% happened in the last week of the season (when it was colder and masks were not required); state of the world; staffing issues--especially EOS (and they are currently down 2 year round employees); service issues; issues w/ how people are interacting with each other.

Lots of strong opinions about policies for masking, day visitors, vaccination.

They anticipate falling short on the budget due to lowered room & board income (cancellations), but Annual Fund fundraising is on track.

2023 plans:

- conferences will have a Sunday to Sunday schedule.
- 2023 covid policies--in development; trying to shift the narrative to putting the responsibility on individuals to keep each other safe

- staffing--They are reviewing the staffing structure, looking at all positions (roles & responsibilities), gaps in coverage, staffing models & assumptions, compensation. Goal is to ensure proper staffing
- Services (includes types/quality)--acknowledged issues with 2022 housekeeping & food quality, looking toward concrete improvements. May offer some meals with table service.
- lift up Beloved Community--how we interact with one another--and live our values of kindness, understanding, respect & open/direct communication.
- Conferee limit will likely be in the 260-280 range
- Want to keep offering financial aid and make the island accessible, but inflation and other factors are a challenge

Highlights of the 2022 Conference (Jeff and Jill Loewer)

Conference went well overall. Sunday to Sunday schedule made chapel planning a bit harder but otherwise had little impact. The speaker and his family were very engaged in the 2022 conference.

Jean Rohe & Liam Robinson also loved their time there and put on a great workshop & conference

Great weather was a help.

2023 Conference Planning Status (April and Ray Castoldi)

Planning is going well!

Theme will be 'A Mid Sommer's Night Day Dream'.

Speaker is Earl Showerman, April's uncle, expert on the Shakespeare authorship question.

New AS1 2023 social media accounts have been created on Instagram & TikTok, and April using those as well as the Facebook page

Ratify Actions of Executive Committee, Oct 2021 to Oct 2022 – [J – 2022 Actions by Executive Committee \(1\)](#)

Below actions were unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Actions, October 2021 – September 2022

1. Complaint about Accessible Rooms: A complaint, caused by confusion on how accessible rooms are assigned, was directed to Healing & Reconciliation for gathering data. The decision was made to have the 2022 Chairs include a statement to the conference attendees, and applicants, that “Star Island gives priority access to accessible rooms to those that with self-identified medical needs and who request to be assigned to accessible rooms.”

2. Registration Cutoff Date: The Executive Committee decided to return the cutoff for “on time” registration to the standard date of March 10.

3. Annual Fund Representative: Cory Easter stepped down as the Annual Fund Representative to SIC. The Executive Committee asked Louise Williams to step into that role, which she agreed to do.

4. Council of Conferences Representatives: The Executive Committee asked Katy Biron and Beth Corsa to continue to represent All Star I at the Council of Conferences meetings.

5. Nominating Exception: The Nominating Committee wished to add a member to the Nominating Committee that was also an Elected member of the Governing Council. This addition would not fulfill the Nominating Committee’s requirement to have at least two members that are not also members of the Governing Council. Since the Elected member’s term ends next year, the Executive Committee decided to allow an exception to the two-non-Governing-Council-member rule for one year. The exception to the rule will end itself as the Elected member leaves the Governing Council next year.

Elections – [K – 2022 Annual Nominating Committee Report](#)

Report was presented by Lisa Gresser; approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report and Budget (David Yermack) – [L – 2022 Treasurer’s Report](#)

Typically we try to have a balanced budget just from the conference, and use the auction to give back to SIC

But the past two years we have had a deficit. This year we had a 6900K deficit but made 20K on the auction.

David proposed that we use the auction money to balance the budget and then give 13K to the Annual Fund.

For next year, the budget is a moving target, due to questions about attendance and likely increases to room/board fees.

In the long run--we need to recover the full enrollment, and we may want to consider increasing registration fees but he does not see a need to do that now.

Financial aid fund--we are not using as much of this fund in recent years--end balance is at 8K; he would like to transfer 2K out of unrestricted to bring the balance to about 10K

Interest in electronic payments has continued to grow--we pay just over 200/year in transaction fees, which is minimal

Venmo is now allowing nonprofit accts so we hope to have that option in place for next summer

Motion: make a gift of 13K to the Annual Fund and to transfer 2K to the Financial Aid fund--motion approved and seconded

Discussion: None

Approved with 33 Yes votes.

All Star I Financial Aid Policy Proposal (Susan O'Loughlin) –[M – All Star I Financial Aid Policy Proposal](#)

Susan presented proposed updates to the financial aid policy. Policy was reviewed to make sure that it reflects the values of the conference as an open and welcoming community. We want to expand the focus to include promoting economic diversity within the ASI community (new and returning shoalers); and to recognize that some folks may need ongoing assistance, not just for one or two years, in order to participate.

A motion to accept the policy was made & seconded.

Discussion included some suggestions for minor language changes, which were approved and will be made.

New proposal approved with 32 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Closing Words

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron