

MINUTES OF THE NAFA EXECUTIVE BOARD
January 13, 2005

The meeting, in the form of a conference call, was called to order at 11:00 a.m. EST by President Suzanne McCray. Also present were Beth Powers (Vice-President), John Richardson (Treasurer), and Board Members Mark Bauer, Bill Beesting, James Duban, Mary Engel, Cheryl Foster, Mona Pitre-Collins, Besty Vardaman, Steve Wainscott, Vivienne Wildes, and Debra Young.

GENERAL ITEMS

Budget Report (John)

NAFA membership has grown to between 240 and 250 individuals and institutions (up from 218 last year). All but 14 of last year's members renewed.

A \$105,000 balance exists in the main account; a separate account exists for the \$7,700 remaining from the 2003 Denver conference. This second account will provide seed money for the upcoming Louisville meeting.

A motion carried to set the Louisville conference fees as follows:

- NAFA members: \$300 (for registrations made through May 1) and \$350 (registrations made between May 2 and July 1).
- Non-members: \$375 through May 1 and \$425 after May 2.

The fee covers registration, conference materials, and meals.

Nomination Committee (Suzanne)

A new Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and five Executive Board Members will be elected at the Louisville conference. A motion carried to create the following committee to determine the ballot: Monique Bourque, Ann Brown, Sharon Chambers-Gordon, Craig Cobane, Jim Duban, Paula Goldsmid, Lori Goodman, John Richardson, Mary Tolar, and Betsy Vardaman. Suzanne McCray will preside over this committee.

Proper Use of the NAFA Listserv (Paula)

Some members have voiced concern about the volume of listserv postings by advisors eager to learn whether their candidates have been selected for regional interviews for Rhodes, Marshall, etc. We will take the following steps to address this:

- Develop guidelines for listserv postings
- Explore new ways to make this information available to members (such as posting it on the electronic bulletin board rather than the listserv)
- Provide members with options for managing information sent over the listserv.

Advertising of Scholarships on the NAFA Web site (Paula)

Program officers are beginning to request permission to advertise their scholarships on our listserv and Web site. Some of these scholarships are not portable, and we debated whether we should make information about them available to our members. We agreed to table this discussion until the Louisville conference, where we will have more time to explore the pros and cons. Beth and Vivienne will frame questions to serve as the basis for discussion.

Job Advertisements (Suzanne)

We discussed the appropriateness of announcing relevant job openings to our members. The Board agreed that this was a good service to provide and Suzanne will contact the NAFA Webmaster to request modifications to our Website to allow for this.

Editor of the NAFA Newsletter (Suzanne)

A motion carried to appoint the following members to the Publications Committee: Don Andrew, Mark Bauer, Craig Cobane, Jim Duban, Suzanne McCray, Tom Nagel (NAFA Webmaster), Mona Pitre-Collins, Mary Tolar, and Betsy Vardaman. Bill Beesting will serve as an informal advisor for the newsletter.

Suzanne requested suggestions for newsletter authors and articles. Vivienne volunteered to submit; Eliot Gerson will be approached about a possible piece on changes to the Rhodes Scholarship selection process; and coordinators of last year's regional workshops will be asked to propose topics that arose from their meetings.

Additional Meetings Prior to the Biannual Conference in Louisville (Suzanne)

The Board will hold a second conference call to discuss the Louisville conference on January 27th at 11:00 a.m. EST.

BIANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LOUISVILLE, JULY, 2005 (Beth)

Working Title

The working title for the conference is: "Serving Students and the Public Good: Contexts for Fellowships Advising".

Resource Fair

Conference Itinerary

The following conference features will be new:

- A call for proposals for papers and presentations. The Executive Board will select proposals and determine their position in the conference lineup.

- A brief panel presentation on alternatives to service-oriented fellowships (Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.), followed by a related Resource Fair.
- A new format for presentations by scholarship foundations. Presentations will be shorter and they will be grouped thematically (public service awards, science awards, etc.).
- A panel presentation on fellowships that restrict participation to selected universities (Luce, Churchill, etc.). This will run concurrently with sessions on the Marshall Scholarship's new on-line application and scholarship opportunities for international students.

Keynote Speaker

The proposed keynote speaker is Richard Light, Walter H. Gale Professor of Education at Harvard and author of Making the Most of College. New York Times journalist David Brooks and David Gergen, author of Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership Nixon to Clinton, were suggested as alternatives.

Volunteers and Current Progress

Beth has a solid list of volunteers for the Program, Facilities, and Conference Proceedings Committees. She welcomes contact from others who would like to take part in planning and implementing the biannual meeting.

LIVE TO LEARN (a new on-line program to assist students through the scholarship application process).

A former Rhodes Scholar, Rachel Yould, will be a lunchtime speaker at the Louisville conference. She will present her Web-based initiative, Live to Learn, under development with funding from EduCap. Her objective is to promote equal access to merit-based scholarships. Planned resources for her site include sample successful essays and a chat room that provides access to Rhodes Scholars.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of endorsing her project, as she requests, and agreed not to do so sight unseen. We will ask her for her timeline for rolling out her Web site and help her to assemble a task force that includes fellowship advisors.

Suzanne adjourned the meeting at 1 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Warrick