

## **Members-At-Large**

### Business Meeting Report 2011

#### **General Duties:**

Members at Large (MALs) are general executive committee positions responsible for tasks or projects outside the scope of other executive positions. Due to the flexible nature of MAL positions, duties can be reassigned from year to year depending on the needs of the Association. The focus of each MAL for this calendar year is listed below.

#### **State Liaisons:**

Tina Sheppard and Patrick Heise were responsible for member recruitment and communications. Sheppard focused on the southern tier states in our region and Heise focused on the northern tier states and Manitoba. They communicated via email, directing members to the website, and also through the Member-At-Large newsletter. Their efforts included the continued recruitment of schools in the UMR-ACUHO region, continued refinement of the contact list for all states, and the continued encouragement of member schools to update their directory listings.

#### **Technology and Sustainability Coordinator:**

Rian Nostrum worked with Visionary, Inc to design and launch our new website. Visionary had bought out our previous provider, Diligent, and offered more robust services. The redesign began in April and concluded in September. The new website allowed for better flexibility in making changes, adding pages, and included a newsfeed. The new site included four web modules allowing for collection of data and assessing fees. They were Conference Program Proposals, Corporate Partner Registration, Membership Application/Renewal, and Conference Registration. Assessment of appropriate fees was handled through a third party credit card receiving company linked from our website. The new site also distinguishes between multiple membership types. This allows UMR ACUHO to designate different levels of access to materials and services based on institutionally defined roles. Finally, the new site distinguishes better between members and non-members allowing the Association to push out more services while limiting viewing to members only.

Rian worked with Host 2012 to ensure appropriate recycling opportunities are made available to conference participants. The Business Meeting will continue to rely less on paper and utilize better online tools to provide the information directly to the membership. With the new website, Business Meeting materials will be grouped together for easy access. Finally, a review of the Host Bid Preparation Guidelines were reviewed and additional language was suggested encourage future hosts to examine sustainability efforts at the individual hotels and convention spaces.

#### **Inclusion and Equity Coordinator:**

This is a new position appointed to the MAL role by the current president. Because of this being a brand new position, much has been up in the air about what this position entails. Concretely, Mickey Fitch has served as the liaison with the Social Justice Committee, and has helped the committee to expand the Social Justice Café to a more current, multimedia format of interest to members. With the support of host, the SJC has also moved to partner with a local historical museum highlighting the Brown vs. Board of Education case. This MAL also served as a “big

picture” representative to the organization looking at issues of physical access in the conference location, creating gender neutral restroom facilities, as well as addressing current social justice needs within the organization. After annual conference, the MAL will also be undergoing a review process of our corporate partners similar to the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index. This process will ensure that our corporate partners align with our organizational values of equity and inclusion.

**Committee Liaisons:**

Each MAL served as a liaison to an UMR committee. In this role the MAL provided support to the chair and committee members, assisted with direction or advice to the committee, received feedback on issues pertaining to the organization and structure, and communicated information in an efficient way from the executive board to the committees. The Member-At-Large liaison to committees was as follows:

Patrick Heise - Professional Development and Training Committee

Tina Sheppard - Sponsors & Exhibits Committee

Rian Nostrum - Assessment and Information Committee

Mickey Fitch - Social Justice Committee

**Further Contributions:**

Together the Members-At-Large have represented their constituents and have contributed to the Executive Committee and Association goals. MALs also contributed to the discussions in the areas of budgeting during the current economic situation and how this may affect institutions. Mickey Fitch also forged a partnership with Guidebook App, which is a mobile conferencing app that UMR-ACUHO will be using for the first time at fall conference. This will help cut down on the number of program booklets that need to be printed, as well as serve the needs of an increasingly digital participant group.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Patrick Heise, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Tina Sheppard, Missouri University of Science & Technology

Rian Nostrum, North Dakota State University

Mickey Fitch, University of Wisconsin-Superior