

## PLATO Board of Directors Meeting Approved Minutes

August 12, 2022

9:30 a.m. via Google Meet

Kathy Brown, JK Cheema, Dory Christenson, Sue Ellingson, Patricia Herrling , Mike Kernats, Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, MaryJo MacSwain, Jack Mitchell, Tim Otis

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**Welcome and Introductions** – The Board members all introduced themselves and welcomed the new members.

**Approval of June 2022 Board Minutes** – Motion made to approve and motion passed

**Update on MOA with UW DCS** – Rod, Scott and Kathy met with the Dean Russell and Hope Simon to discuss the new Memo of Agreement (MOA) between PLATO and DCS. There was a question about PLATO using their bulk mail, but was looked into and confirmed as possible for PLATO to use. The MOA was then signed.

Since new board members were not familiar with the MOA with DCS, there were some questions about our relationship with DCS, particularly with the PLATO Fund. Tim Otis was able to answer these questions. The PLATO Fund does provide money to two DCS programs: scholarships to support continuing adult education and the Odyssey Project, and that is currently our main connection with DCS.

**Treasurer's Report** – Cheema went over the current financial balances of PLATO. She and Stephanie will be creating a flow chart of approval when funds are requested.

### **Committee Updates**

Curriculum report: Kathie Burman was not able to be present but asked Kathy Brown to report for her. There will be 38 courses this Fall, 16 virtual, 17 in-person and 5 that will be a hybrid. Classes will open registration August 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the first classes starting September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Membership: Hedy reported that they are profiling various members experiences with PLATO in the PLATO email blast. This is in an effort to reconnect those people who may have stopped attending PLATO due to the pandemic. Hedy, Stephanie and Edie will be attending the *Institute on Aging Colloquium* on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide information about PLATO. A question was asked about a PLATO Facebook page. Hedy reported that we do have a Facebook page, but many people were uncomfortable with having their pictures on that page. Edie is PLATO's Facebook administrator. Several people reported that it has

been hard to find this Facebook page, so Hedy will check with Edie about the status. Keeping up-to-date with Facebook does mean extra work for the person in charge of this, and if it is not updated it is not really worth the effort. This whole issue will be explored.

This led to a discussion about what measures we are taking in recruiting new members to PLATO. Hedy shared that we are not aggressively doing this and this will be an item of discussion for the Membership/Communication committee.

Technology: Scott reported that the committee will be looking at ways of using technology to encourage membership activities.

Fund Development: Tim reported that due to the current financial market, we did lose money from these investments. Funds have been dispersed to the various programs PLATO supports. Tim will be meeting soon with Stephanie about various ways for members about donating to the PLATO Fund. There will be a more detailed report for the October board meeting.

Policies working group: Kathy Brown, JK Cheema, Mike Kernats met last month to review PLATO policies and will be meeting next week as well. They looked at which ones required minor or major revision, as well as any new policies that needed to be added. A preliminary report will be ready for the September Executive Committee meeting.

### **Other Topics:**

Discuss planning for PLATO's future – What is PLATO now and how will we need to change to address the needs of the next generations of members? What will attract them to participate? We want to be a growing organization. Hedy shared that we need to learn more about the next generations. What motivates them? What are their values concerning continuing education? What courses and events would appeal to them? The average age of our current members is 75. Do we know what the average age is of new members joining PLATO? Might people be retiring later in the future? These are all things we as an organization need to be exploring. The Executive committee will be considering how we address these issues.

**Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned.

**Next Board meeting: October 14, 2022**