

PLATO Board of Directors Meeting, February 9, 2024

Approved on April 12, 2024

Board Present: Mike Kernats, Kathy Brown, Jatinder Cheema, Tim Otis, Steve Sparks, Jack Mitchell, MaryJo MacSwain, Marian Fisher, Kathie Burman, Gail Bergman, Edie Urness-Pondillo. PLATO Administration: Stephanie Steigerwaldt

1) **Approval of Draft Board Meeting Minutes** from December 8, 2023 – Motion made to approve and passed.

2) **Treasurer's Update:** Treasurer Jatinder Cheema reported that grants were reimbursed by UW for the Fund Development scholarships awarded in 2023. There will be no change in the accrual v. cash-based method of accounting until the next fiscal year. She also noted the taxes for 2023 have been paid and insurance policies renewed.

3) **Committee Items**

Curriculum Committee: Kathie Burman reported the committee will discuss whether or not ongoing courses that meet between sessions should be listed in the curriculum calendar. She also sought board ideas for courses that are always filled and recommended a waiting list be implemented.

Diversity Committee: MaryJo MacSwain said her committee added a new member and are working on cleaning up their PLATO webpage. The group plans to offer a course in the fall and more lectures reflecting PLATO members' interests in diversity.

Fund Development: Tim Otis reported at this time there were 72 donors with a total of \$17,540 made to the fund. He said the committee feels summarizing the funded organizations and providing more information to PLATO members may increase donations. Otis also said the idea that donations to PLATO (not Fund Development) is still confusing, and guidelines need to be written to simplify the process.

Membership & Communications: Steve Sparks reported 525 emails were sent to former PLATO members with minimal response. Most members who did not renew in 2023 cited reasons that were personal (moving, health, transportation) to them. The committee is working on making a broad appeal through current members and developing other tactics for recruiting new members. PLATO has 806 members as of Feb. 9, 2024.

Executive Committee Recap: Mike Kernats reported on an issue dealt with in December of the inadvertent use of art on the PLATO website in 2018. The art was taken down and a penalty was paid to solve the problem. More care will be taken in future to avoid such incidences.

4) **Ad Hoc Items:**

Nominating Committee – Kathy Brown, MaryJo MacSwain, and Mike Kernats will have a full slate of nominees by the April 12, 2024 meeting for approval by the board. On April 16, bios for the candidates will be released and from April 24-May 8 members will vote online. The announcement of the new board will be made at the May 14 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation at Brassworks Building in the Goodman Community Complex.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.

The next PLATO board meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2024.