**July 8, 2017**

**Board Meeting following Annual Membership Meeting**

**University of Evansville**

**Present (9):**

Elizabeth Efroymson-Brooks (President)

Emilie Grondin (President-Elect)

Maria Mastropaolo (Co-Treasurer)

Sarah Pearce (Co-Treasurer)

Emily Thompson (Secretary)

Joyce Davis (present via FaceTime)

Rachel Gries (new board member)

Carol Dallinger (honorary board member)

Diane Schroeder (honorary board member)

**Not present (5):**

Diana Hummel

Dawn Evans

Elisabeth Ohly-Davis (new board member)

Rachel Osterhouse (new board member)

Ann Sloan

**Meeting Agenda**

The main focus of the meeting was to clarify and amend the by-law requirements concerning the Board of Directors. The board also discussed immediate action items going into the new membership year.

**Amendments to the by-laws regarding board members: Discussion**

The first main question was whether officers of the board must already have been members of the board, and for how long.

Carol Dallinger’s first response during the annual meeting elections that morning was that the officers should have at least two years on the board. Joyce Davis said in the board meeting that it takes six months just to get oriented to the board. The eventual decision was to require one year of serving on the board in the official by-laws; as this is a relatively young/small organization, the board wished to avoid overly restricting itself for future situations.

The second question was whether there should be a minimum or maximum number of board members. Jillian Chrisman had stepped off the board following her term as secretary, but Elisabeth Ohly-Davis, Rachel Osterhouse, and Rachel Gries had been elected to the board. Next year, Elizabeth Efroymson will be leaving the board as required of the end of the president’s term. The concern is to maintain a healthy number of board members to participate in the work of leadership, as well as to provide future officers.

Carol Dallinger and Diane Schroeder agreed that there should be a minimum number of board members, but that we did not have to set a maximum number.

Third, the board discussed participation requirements for board members. As there are only four meetings required per year, and three of the meetings may be attended remotely via Skype, it was deemed reasonable to require, as a minimum, attendance for at least half of the board meetings during the year.

These three amendments were approved:

**By-law amendments**

Minimum number of board members: Joyce Davis moved that we have a minimum of seven members of the board of directors, including officers, Sarah Pearce seconded the motion, vote passed unanimously.

Minimum time on the board before being elected as an officer: Emilie Grondin moved that we require a minimum of one year, Maria Mastropaolo seconded, passed unaminously.

Board member required participation: Rachel Gries moved that board members must attend minimum of 50% of meetings, Maria Mastropaolo second it. Vote passed unanimously.

[These amendments will have to be put into proper wording to be added to a revised edition of the by-laws by Dawn Evans.]

**Other business for officers**

Emily Thompson will change the mailing address immediately to her own address to receive membership forms and payments. The payment checks will be forwarded to Maria Mastropaolo; Sarah Pearce will set up Paypal to receive electronic payments. (Emily Thompson will add the payment button to the website.) Some members will continue to prefer to mail physical checks, but allowing for Paypal payments (which do not require individuals to have a Paypal account) will add convenience for others to can pay immediately and receive an email receipt.

Liz will email all board members about changes and updates.

Liz will coordinate efforts to honor and send an official letter on behalf of the SAI honoring Jillian Chrisman for her years of service as the secretary of the SAI from 2010­­­-2017.

Also, Liz will contact Ann Sloan so that Emily can get a copy of the vector file of the SAI logo that is being used for the t-shirt printing.

**Future Meetings**

The next annual meeting will be July 7, 2018 in Indianapolis. The Indianapolis Suzuki Academy will host, and we will discuss possible speakers or having a teacher roundtable again.

For the rest of the board meetings this year, Elizabeth Efroymson will send out suggested dates to meet on Sundays, at 8pm Eastern (7 pm Central). These meetings will take place in:

October

January

April

**Nominating Committee:**

Emily Thompson brought up the issue that we need a nominating committee according to the bylaws to put together a list of candidates for officer elections. The bylaws require that the president should appoint voting members who can gather nominations from the general membership.

Liz pointed out that since the officers are now required to serve on the board for at least one year, the next president-elect will have to be elected from the current board. Diane Schroeder and Carol Dallinger emphasized that the nominating committee should also be members of the board, and they should continue to seek out nominees for new board members to be elected who can serve the organization with their particular skills and interests, which may include lawyers, business people and people with skills such as Emily Thompson’s web services.

Board members may be parents who would be a good fit to serve on the board. These parents would become associate members and then get involved on the board. Diane Schroeder pointed out that this is how she became the president of the SAA board, after being nominated for the board by Carol Dallinger.

Liz will nominate two board members to serve as the nominating committee this year. Members of the SAI who are interested in serving will be able to contact these two people. The nominating committee will work to bring a list of nominees to the annual meeting for the board elections.