

To: ACHE Great Plains Regional Members  
From: Charlee Lanis, Great Plains Region Secretary  
Topic: Minutes from the Great Plains Region Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri,  
February 29, 2008  
Date: March 19, 2008  
CC: Irene Barrineau

Eric Cunningham called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Financial statements and previous meeting minutes were distributed for review.

**Officer Election:** The secretarial position was discussed and ballots for the position were distributed. Eric acknowledged that anyone who was present could vote on the candidate. Introductions of the three candidates were made by Davida Mahoney (University of Oklahoma), Marthann Schulte (Park University), April Paschall (University of Nebraska) before voting.

While the votes were being made, Charles Hickox acknowledged how wonderful it is to have such great candidates, as there have been times in the past when only one person was listed on the ballot. Melba Acheson suggested that the organization consider putting together a nomination committee for future positions which is great recognition to how far this region has come.

Eric reminded everyone that the executive board member term is a long commitment with two years for each position except for treasurer which is a permanent position for consistency. Though life changes are recognized, this term means a person will serve on the executive committee for 6 years. This was changed a few years ago from one year term to two year terms to allow more time for members to learn their position.

Eric asked everyone to fold their ballots and asked Melba Acheson and Paula Hogard to pick up and tally the votes. While the votes were being counted, Eric stated that those not selected would have other opportunities to serve and to help the organization.

Paula Hogard announced that while it was a close race, Davida Mahoney won the secretarial position for the ACHE Great Plains Region. The other two candidates were encouraged to keep the organizational needs in mind for the future.

**Membership:** Eric reminded us that membership was crucial to the continued success of the organization and volunteered to encourage participation from those institutions in the Dakotas and Minesota if someone had contact information to share with him. Before leaving, Eric was able to secure a contact name in the Dakotas and he agreed to use this name to follow up. He encourages us all to invite other organizations to attend, especially the large institutions.

July Appollis from Park University was introduced as a new member by Melba.

Glenda Holder was instrumental in getting a mail list of all the Great Plains Continuing Education programs to include tribal that will be pay big dividends for our organization in the future.

Eric reported that membership is still increasing from both credit and non credit programs and believes that this organization serves these organization by providing them with good practices and sharing programs that can be emulated at their own institution without causing problems for the institution who created it. Eric stated that he would be happy to share anything he knows and not to hesitate to call him should anyone need assistance.

A member asked if a roster of people registered could be sent prior to attending the conference and Charlee and Paula acknowledged that they could do this.

**Future Conferences:** Eric reminded everyone to come to Nashville November 8-11, 2008 and to bring a friend and colleague for the national ACHE conference. He would like see Jr. Colleges/Community Colleges more involved in the organization.

Next year's regional conference will be held in Oklahoma and will be a collaborated effort by many Oklahoma universities and the Oklahoma Regents. Davida Mahoney, who will be the main host for the conference mentioned ideas on location (Oklahoma City Brick Town or Norman) for the conference and is taking suggestions of where members would prefer staying. Eric did suggest that we keep the date the same as in the past (last week of February) and to let members know soon if the date would need to be changed.

While Eric stated that his institution at Columbia College would host again if needed, he asked if there was anyone in the room that would be interested in hosting the conference for 2010 and acknowledged that whatever an institution provides us in terms of accommodations, transportation will help our organization off set the costs of professional presenters.

University of Central Missouri stated they would be interested in hosting the 2010 conference so that members will be in Oklahoma next year (2009) and back in Missouri in 2010 for the conference.

Paula has already begun collecting topic ideas for the conference and encourages everyone to send her your ideas and presenter suggestions. Paula also volunteered to send out a survey asking for conference topics and facility preferences. Paula will get this information to Charlee since she will be the one working on this year's conference.

Michael West was suggested as one of the presenters but it was recommended we reserve him now if we want him to present in February.

**Other news:** Other comments included acknowledgement and appreciation of the wonderful facilities provided to us by Park University and how impressive the content and presenters were.

Melba Acheson distributed handouts on the presentation that used U Tube, but asked colleagues within the same institution to share since she only had 20 copies. She did offer to send additional copies electronically.

Eric Cunningham presented Paula Hogard to be the first recipient of the Fisher gavel which was purchased to remember our dear friend and past President who succumbed to cancer a couple of years ago.

Eric also acknowledged and thanked Charles Hickox for his leadership and notified everyone that Charles will be changing regions due to a job change. Finally Eric thanked Paula, Melba and Charlee for all their help.

Using the Fisher gavel, Eric adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

**Treasurer's Report:** After adjournment but before the members left, Jim Pappas moved to accept the treasurer's report that was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Misty Rhodes made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved and there were no oppositions.