

APA International Affairs Division- Monthly Minutes

Wednesday, February 2, 2021

7:30pm EST

Attendees:

Lyndsey Deaton

Kate Holmquist

Michael Kolber

Raissah Kouame

Bruce Stiftel

Sean Tapia

Michelle Tullo

Tim Van Epp

Carter Williams

Jing Zhang

Mental Health Check-in with everyone – Michael:

Michael acknowledged how tough this time has been and wanted everyone to know to reach out if they're feeling pressure from any Division work.

NPC - Do we want to try to do a reception? - Kate/Michael

Kate asked if we feel open to a reception. So far, we have about two people on the call who are planning on going in person, with possibly a few more. Michael says he doesn't think it makes sense to pay for a real reception but since we might have a very small group to instead plan a night that we will informally going out for dinner and individually pay.

Lyndsey asked if we're open to sponsorships and Michael said our attendance is probably too low for that but if someone wants to contribute that's a possibility. Tim said he made a contribution to the team from his firm and wanted a follow-up if that made it. Michael will follow-up with Joanna.

Regarding the Business Meeting, Michael is open to whether it should be virtual or in-person. Kate said she thought a virtual Business Meeting made sense, and then maybe an informal night out for networking. Michael said the vision for an in-conference business meeting though was that we could do something more informal.

The APA Requirement is to do one business meeting a year. We changed our bylaws to do one in the spring and one in the fall. The fall one is when we do our main work but the spring one is very flexible to what we do. Some options for the “business” meeting would be presentations by our members or student grantees. Michael is open to what we might want to do.

Bruce said it could be a chance for non-office holding members to bring proposals forward.

Attendance-wise, we should do a business meeting of some sort and one evening of networking. Kate said she is okay finding a location for the networking and to make a draft of the events for the Business Meeting. Kate said a lot of it will be generated by the members, but it’s also an opportunity for office-holders to report out. She doesn’t want to mandate that but encourages the Executive Board to consider what they might want to present quickly for themselves.

Bruce said it would be good to converse with the SPURS Fellows and see if they want to have a presence in this.

Division Calendar – Kate

Kate looked into some options like Google Calendar or other apps. She thinks it’s easiest to integrate into our own calendars. Kate said she prefers that we make the effort to use our division email to maintain a calendar in that and share with everyone. She volunteered to be one of the Executive Committee members who updates the calendar. Jing and Michael currently have access. Kate thinks that if they plus her have access and Antonella and Michelle also have access. We’d like to have one place to see division dates and so this came up with Antonella. Kate thinks it would be useful for Michelle to have access to the calendar. This would be for internal use. Membership would still view things on the Upcoming Events page on the website.

Tim said that his local New Jersey Green Team was able to overlay their team’s calendars on their personal calendars. However, Tim noted that if he deletes something from his calendar it deletes for everyone. Kate said this is similar to what we’ll do.

Kate said we can talk about this offline. Jing said we have Gmail.

Division Council – Michael

We have a meeting this week. Hopefully we will get more guidance on what to do without Maggie. Michelle asked if Michael can ask about the WTPD videos.

Tim said Michael should consider running for Division Council Executive leadership.

Michael is going to ask about the Election Cycle for this year for us to think about. Michael said Jing may be termed-limited for his current position.

Michael will ask about the click rate of other groups’ publications.

Sustainability and Resilience Update - Tim/Bruce

Kate has been onboarding Antonella as the new Webinar Coordinator. Antonella is coordinating three webinars for this year. The first one is with Sustainability and Resilience Group.

Bruce said they're looking at the authors of the Local Climate Action Planning Textbook to see if they can bring them in. They want to know what date in March and what platform to use.

Kate said the goal is to use the APA Ohio Platform. If there's a specific date or range of dates then we can check with Ohio to see if they have a date available. Ohio tries to do these Friday at noon. But since they want a global audience, the noon time doesn't work for the Pacific Rim region. Michael said we can also ask APA for their platform or use it on our own Zoom, which would have to happen when Michael is available. Carter said our Zoom participant cap is 100. Bruce thinks this is sufficient.

Tim said the Ohio platform brings a large audience. Kate says that coordinating with them brings free membership for their organization. Kate thinks this content would be interesting to a large audience and thinks we should try for that if that works for the Working Group's Schedule.

Let's try to make Ohio work and see if they're flexible. If not, we can either write off the Pacific Rim or look to the other platforms.

Bruce also wanted to share that Tim submitted a proposal for the group on an event on Disruptors in Climate Change. The idea mimics a game show with the contestants being different planning organizations with the attendees being the audience.

Bruce also said that the World Urban Forum (WUF) will have conversations about planners and climate action, so they're thinking about planning for resettlement. That conversation is ongoing and Bruce hopes if this works out then our group could provide speakers. Lyndsey has had speakers on this topic. Bruce said that WUF is in Katowice and that WUF has the highest amount of enthusiasm for planners out of things he has attended and Kate agreed. Registration is free. WUF is organized by UN Habitat. Habitat 3 was organized by the UN Secretariat.

Communications and Planifiquemos Update – Jing

We don't have anything active right now. Jing tried to develop a website for the Japanese Planning Group. We reached about ten students and tried to match them with their Japanese peers.

For *Interplan*, the click rate of PDFs has been low- maybe 5% of people read it. One of Jing's goals is to recycle articles we had before and add them to the website to be more accessible.

The website is set up for *Planifiquemos*. The structure is there but we're waiting for the content except it still needs to be optimized for mobile. Michael reminded that we have to use the grant money by the end of this fiscal year, September 30.

Michael has some e-Blast items and asked for other items. Lyndsey asked if we can announce the Student Grant winners in this, and Michael said yes.

The goal for the next Interplan is April. Lyndsey would like to put in an article in by early March.

Other?

APA is restarting their International Task Force. They have asked Michael to be on it and he will advocate for others from the Division to be on it. There is no other info from them other than that they're going to do the Knowledge Base Paper. This is big for us- yay!