

Association for Theatre in Higher Education: Minutes approved at Conference in Chicago, August 2006

### **ATHE Governing Council and Operations Committee Actions**

The ATHE Governing Council and Operations Committee unanimously approved the following motions between January 13 and July 17, 2006.

#### **Operations Committee Mid-year meeting, January 13, 2006**

MOTION: from Melanie Blood to approve Operations Committee Minutes from September 8 through November 4, 2005.

MOTION: from Bill Doan to approve two Programs and Projects Grants, from 2005-06 budget, as follows

- 1) from Anne Elizabeth Armstrong and Catherine Jewell for \$3250 to fund book *Feminist Pedagogies and Practice*. The book will have ATHE as beneficiary, not WTP or LGBT.
- 2) from Bonnie Vorenberg, to attend a conference on aging on behalf of STRP for \$750.

#### **Governing Council Mid-year meeting, January 15, 2006**

MOTION to approve the Consent agenda items as follows:

- I) Approval for Lionel Walsh to take over as Vice President for Awards
- II) Approval of Governing Council Minutes from September 8 through November 4, 2005, as submitted by Melanie Blood
- III) Approval of ATHE Bylaws changes as follows
  - 1) Article 2: change "1954" to "1986"
  - 2) Article 3: delete the final sentence "The initial registered agent and office..."
  - 3) Article 4: change " such organizations or other organizations classified as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS of the US." to "appropriate 501(c)(3) entities, as determined by the Governing Council."
  - 4) Article 5, section 2: Members' rights, privileges, and dues. Add a clause to the end: delete the period and add "and detailed in the Operations Manual."
  - 5) Article 10, section 1: Add "Focus Group Representatives are elected from the focus group's membership to serve two year terms, during which time they represent their focus groups to the Governing Council, including but not limited to the submission of mid-year and annual reports on the activities of their focus groups and service on a standing committee."
- IV) Approval of \$300 Co-Sponsorship of Arts Advocacy Day, as submitted by Deborah Martin

MOTION from Bill Doan to approve the 2006-07 ATHE budget.

MOTION from Michael Ellison to approve spending up to \$10,000 for production and distribution of an ATHE 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video. Approved with 1 abstention.

MOTION from Melanie Blood to approve the web site redesign proposal by Bolderwomen, option 1a at a cost of \$9700. Funding is in the 2005-06 budget and the web site will be unveiled for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference.

MOTION from Deborah Martin to approve the Position Paper on Partner Benefits.

MOTION from Bill Doan to approve a joint conference with AATE in New York City in 2009.

MOTION from Jenny Spencer to approve David Saltz as Editor of Theatre Journal.

**Operations Committee electronic vote, February 24, 2006**

MOTION from Jim Hatfield, MAL for Outreach, to approve \$250 for travel support allowing Bill Doan to attend the annual NAST meeting as ATHE's ambassador in advance of our upcoming ATHE summit.

**Operations Committee electronic vote, March 20, 2006**

MOTION: Bill Doan, Treasurer, to approve the following three Focus Group grant awards as recommended by the Finance Committee.

1) Performance Studies

Award: \$2,000

Four people will be representing PSFG and ATHE at the PSI (Performance Studies International) Conference in London. They will be represented in a booth. It was suggested that we ask them to bring basic ATHE information (Learning for a Lifetime, Advocacy brochure, 2006 Conference brochure, 2007 proposal) to the conference for distribution. Some type of documentation about the results/outcomes from the conferences attended would be helpful (in addition to the final report). Members suggested that the attendees solicit potential members with email and then send them membership materials as well as talk to people regarding future conference session proposals. This gathering of PSFG officers will also provide the officers with the opportunity to engage in strategic planning.

2) Acting Program Conference calls (\$350)

Discussion about positive aspects of "meeting" throughout the year via conference calls.

It could be an economical way of keeping "on task" throughout the year.

Fully Funded.

3) Acting Program Journal (*Player's Journal*) (\$2,000)

Partial funding of the initial journal. David Kaye shared the insights and input from the January GC meeting. This journal would be a good way to introduce the artist to publishing and would add, not detract, from *Theatre Topics*. TT is in favor of the journal.

There was discussion of comparative journals (VASTA). This journal will be peer-reviewed, and its long - term goal is to become a self-funding journal. Bill Doan discussed the possibility of being sure that the OC approves the funding of this project so that a precedent isn't set that may not be appropriate. It was suggested that we add to the guidelines that any start-up project may only be funded once, not on an ongoing basis. ATHE will not consider an annual application for funding of an ongoing project such as a journal. There was discussion about the future possibility of the making the journal online instead of a paper copy.

#### **Operations Committee electronic vote, April 8, 2006**

MOTION: from Bill Doan, Treasurer, to approve the following two Focus Group grant awards as recommended by the Finance Committee.

##### 1) Religion and Theatre

Award \$1000

for a strategic planning meeting prior to ATHE/Chicago.

The focus of the meeting is to continue developing R&T in relationship to ATHE's strategic plan and to prepare for a pre-con in 2007. The committee was supportive, but want to remain consistent with ATHE practices in terms of hotel stays and room reimbursement. The amount recommended provides for 1/2 of the room cost per participant.

##### 2) Dramaturgy

Award: \$3,000

for a Professional Development Workshop, Minneapolis, July 2006.

While participating in the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas conference, this grant will allow members of ATHE's Dramaturgy Focus Group to invite two British professional dramaturgs to participate in an exchange about dramaturgical process in the US, Canada, the UK. The amount recommended is less than requested. The committee is very supportive but hopes that the Dramaturgy FG will also seek other sources of funding to supplement.

#### **Operations Committee electronic vote, April 10, 2006**

MOTION: from Michael Wright, Vice President for Conference 2007, to approve the following Conference 2007 Committee Members as follows:

Jennifer Parker-Starbuck (Performance Studies)

John Fletcher (Theory and Criticism)

Lisa Merrill (Women and Theatre)

Jen Danby (LGBT)

Harvey Young (Black Theatre Association)  
Les Wade (LSU - has a number of excellent theatre and performance contacts in New Orleans)

**Operations Committee electronic vote, April 22, 2006**

MOTION: from Bill Doan, Treasurer, to pay Shaun Sewell a fee of \$3,500 for Public Relations services to ATHE.

Rationale: The fee covers services for pre-conference, during conference, and post conference follow up. This fee would be for the next fiscal year. Since we have 1 1/2 months before the end of this fiscal year, we would expend no more that \$1,000 during this fiscal year.

**Governing Council electronic vote, April 25, 2006**

MOTION: from Bill Doan, Treasurer, to approve the ATHE-AATE Contract for our NY Joint Conference 2009 attached.

Rationale: The GC has previously voted to approve an ATHE-AATE Joint Conference for NY 2009. Now we are approving the contract. The contract is very close to the successful contract used last time ATHE and AATE held a joint conference.

**Governing Council electronic vote, May 2, 2006**

MOTION: from Lionel Walsh, Vice President for Awards, to approve Harry J. Elam, Jr. as the recipient of the 2006 Excellence in Editing Award, to approve Diana Mady Kelly as the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Teacher Award, and to approve Carrie Sandahl and Phil Auslander for Bodies in Commotion: Disability and Performance (U of Michigan Press, 2006) for the Research Award for Outstanding Book for 2006.

Rationale

Harry J. Elam, Jr. is the Olive Holbrook Palmer Professor in the Humanities, Robert and Ruth Halperin University Fellow for Undergraduate Education, and a Professor of Drama at Stanford University. He was the co-editor of Theatre Journal from 2001 to 2003 and sole editor from 2003 to 2005. He has also sat on the editorial boards of Comparative Drama, Modern Drama, and Theatre Survey. He is the editor or co-editor of several award-winning volumes on African-American theatre, including Colored Contradictions: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Drama (Co-edited with Robert Alexander, New York: Penguin Press, 1996), A Critical Reader on African American Performance and Theatre History (Co-edited with David Krasner, Yale University, Oxford: Oxford University Press, January 2001), The Fire This Time!: A New Anthology of Contemporary African American Drama (Co-edited with Robert Alexander, New York: Theatre Communications Group Press, 2004) and Black Cultural Traffic: Crossroads in Black Performance and Black Popular Culture (Co-edited with Kennell Jackson, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, December 2005). He has contributed to many anthologies, journals and conferences. His most recent book, The Past as Present in the Drama of August Wilson, was published by University of Michigan Press.

Diana Mady Kelly is Professor Emeritus at the School of Dramatic Art, University of Windsor, where she has taught Acting, Improvisation, Scene Study, Character Study, and directed

numerous mainstage productions since 1970. She played a major role in shaping the BFA in Acting programme, the first at a Canadian university, and as Director of the School from 1993 until 2002, demonstrated academic leadership for all five programmes at the School. She has taught, directed, and served as mentor to many of Canada's most successful actors, including seven time Dora Mavor Moore Award-winner, Stephen Ouimette; Stratford Executive Director, Antoni Cimolino; Stratford actors Kyle Blair, Tom McCamus; Barbara March Brigit Wilson, Maria Vacratsis, Laura Condlin; Shaw Festival actors Mike Shara; Leah Oster; Shawna Service; as well as Laura Robinson, Eric Keenlyside, Amanda Tapping, F. Braun McAsh who have had extensive careers in television and film; directors Jim Warren, Marianne MacIssaac, Jim Biros, Steven White. Countless others have gone on to teach at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary level. Professor Mady Kelly is the winner of an Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Excellence in Teaching Award and a 3-M Teaching Award. Throughout her career, she has maintained teaching scores that placed her at the top 5% at the University of Windsor.

Carrie Sandahl and Phil Auslander's anthology on Disability and Performance, the committee agreed, was potentially ground-breaking. It brings together a number of perspectives from both theatre and disability studies more generally, and provides a way of looking at the body in performance that is potentially paradigm shifting. The award has rarely (if ever?) gone to an anthology; there is an implicit assumption here that the work of putting together an anthology and writing an important book are on entirely different scales. The committee would like to challenge that notion, somewhat, with this award. This year the other major contenders did not appear to be as universally useful in terms of our pedagogy. (As one committee member said--this is a book that I will actually use in my classes.) The award is to go to a book written in area of theatre and pedagogy (or, we assume, in theatre but useful to our teaching). The decision of the committee was unanimous, both in our "top four" selections and in the final vote.

**Operations Committee electronic vote, May 16, 2006**

MOTION from Steve Peters, Chair Nominations Committee, to approve the slate of nominees for the Spring 2006 elections.

2006 Slate of Nominees:

SECRETARY  
Judith Sebesta  
Becky Prophet

TREASURER  
Bill Doan  
Mike Tick

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER  
Bud Coleman  
Richard Runkel

VP MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING  
Julie Pratt

VP FOR CONFERENCE 2008  
David Kaye  
Fred Rubeck

VP RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS  
Ric Knowles  
Lisa Merrill

**Governing Council electronic vote, May 23, 2006**

MOTION: from Lionel Walsh, Vice President for Awards, to award the Career Achievement Award in Educational Theatre to Sue Ann Park and to award the Career Achievement Award in Professional Theatre to Christopher Newton.

Ms. Park is Senior Master Teacher at the Lessac Training and Research Institute and was nominated by Arthur Lessac.

Mr. Newton was Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival of Canada for 23 years before his retirement 2002. Mr. Newton continues to be associated with the festival and works as a professional independent director.

**Operations Committee electronic vote, June 17, 2006**

MOTION: from Lionel Walsh, Vice President for Awards, to approve Margaret Werry's "'The Greatest Show on Earth': Political Spectacle, Spectacular Politics, and the American Pacific" for the best essay award. This article was published in Theatre Journal. She is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota in Theatre Arts and Dance.

**Operations Committee electronic vote, June 24, 2006**

MOTION: from Melanie Blood, Chair Electronic Technology Committee, to approve the adoption of the attached new logo and tagline, selected by a subcommittee of the GC and Shaun Sewell, as the new logo for ATHE.

**Operations Committee electronic vote, July 17, 2006**

MOTION: from Melanie Blood, Chair Electronic Technology Committee, to approve the Editorial and Review Boards of MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching at <http://www.merlot.org/Home.po>) as follows:

Editorial Board:

Gary Maciag (ETC) maciag@siena.edu  
Melanie Blood (ETC) blood@geneseo.edu  
Steve Schrum (ETC) stephenschrum@verizon.net  
Travis Malone (PDC) tmalone@vwc.edu  
Andrew Ryder (PDC) aryder@spu.edu  
Kathleen Ryan (R&P) kohearnr@wvu.edu  
Jenny Spencer (R&P) jspencer@english.umass.edu

Review Board:

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C. David Frankel frankel@arts.usf.edu  
Jay Edelnant Jay.Edelnant@uni.edu  
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Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Blood, ATHE Secretary