



**NASPA Region I Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, September 21, 2018  
RingCentral**

**PRESENT:** Atkins, Brochu, Cabal, Carroll, Cooper, DeBurro, Devine, Dababneh, Fienman, Gifford, D Golden, K Golden, Goodwin, Heiser, Holmes-Hope, Horne, Kao, Long, Maitino, Masterson, Meinke, Moriarty, Nabors, Provitalis, Rocco, Sidelko, Stanley, Taberski, Troiano

**ABSENT:** Abrahamson, Davis, Devonshire, Fernandez, Glanton Costello, Golden-Battle, Hay, McCaffrey, Panzella, Piepock, Perkins, Regan, Zito

**I. Call to Order**

DeBurro called the meeting to order at 10:06am

**II. Approval of the Minutes from 6/20/18 Zoom Call**

Motion to approve by Nabors, second by Kao. Motion passed unanimously

**III. Regional Director Update**

DeBurro shared some background regarding her journey to the Regional Director role as well as some additional communication she is hoping to have with the Board and membership moving forward.

**IV. 2018 Regional Conference/Ubuntu Institute Updates**

Cabal shared the following updates regarding the upcoming regional conference as well as the Ubuntu Institute:

- We have 305 folks registered for the programs – this is an increase from last year at this time.
- 101 programs will be offered in various formats outside of the traditional session – i.e. roundtables, research highlights, etc.
- We have 11 sponsors confirmed and several are in the works
- SALT application is live. We currently have 11 applications.
- UBUNTU has received 25 applications so far including from NASPA members outside of our region. Last year there were 43 participants.
- We have 30 silent auction items so far. Please submit your [form](#) ASAP! We are looking for "big ticket" items such as weekend getaways, sporting event tickets, signed items, etc.
- The conference will have a Transgender, Non-Binary, and Gender-Nonconforming Community Space.
- State awards winners have been selected. The regional award winners will be meeting soon to select those winners. Nominees have been notified. Winners are announced during the Awards Banquet.
- We are collaborating with Jill Bassett once again to bring a Wellness Space/Wellness Programming to the conference.
- We are working on providing presenters with ADA compliance information to encourage them to create more inclusive presentations.
- We are working with the Indigenous Peoples National Knowledge Community to bring land acknowledgement to the conference.
- Our "No Host Dinner" locations have been finalized. We will be reaching out to RAB to see if anyone wants to be there as a RAB representative.
- Working on additional promotion of Pre-Conference Workshops as registration numbers are lower than expected at this time.

Some questions and discussion arose regarding the conference.

Nabors will be speaking with Kyndra Johnston from the Conference Committee to coordinate the Institute receptions.

Moriarty will connect with Cabal and DeBurro following the call to discuss the Past Regional Director reception.

DeBurro plans to stop into all the State Meetings and encouraged Board Members to be present at the Business meeting if they are able.

## **V. National Updates**

DeBurro attended the national board retreat in Los Angeles, CA in July. While the group was not able to see the exact conference location, they explored the nearby area and were very excited. Last year's conference in Philadelphia, PA was the largest attended National Conference to date. Deadline to submit national program proposals was September 4<sup>th</sup> and programs will be selected in October.

At the national Board meeting, there was significant discussion on both regional governance and finance. As a national organization that continues to grow, great initiatives are underway, but as NASPA has gotten larger (membership is over 18,000) there is a need to create new policies and ways to building consistency between regions in a way that best serves membership across the nation. There is not a desire to standardize everything, but perhaps things such as roles and role descriptions. There may be opportunities in side meetings to share input. DeBurro will reach out to individuals as needed. Additionally, there have been several new position hired in the National Office – several being grant-funded. There are definitely growing pains and there has been feedback that the responsiveness from the National Office has not been consistent. If Board members have specific examples, they should be shared with DeBurro so that they can be shared with Kevin Kruger.

There are task forces looking at the overall national budget – how money is spent, allotted, reserve dollars, etc. While NASPA as an organization has quite a bit of money, regions report struggling with their financial allotment. There is also a subcommittee looking at the organizations bylaws with outside legal council. Once their work is complete, they will be brought forward for Board approval and a National vote.

DeBurro shared that the national board meeting included a conversation on the candidates for the National Board Chair-elect position. There are currently no new proposals regarding how the slate of candidates is assembled. There has not been a National Board Chair from Region I in about 20 years. Moriarty shared that part of the issue seemed to be that individuals in our Region would were choosing not to put their name in because they did not want to compete with certain other professionals in their the organization. Fienman felt that we did not have professionals in the region that were interested in National positions yet, but that the NASPA SERVE Academy would be a good feeder for these types of positions.

The next Board meeting will be at the end of November and DeBurro will share updates at that time.

DeBurro has continued to experience challenges regarding the Knowledge Community representative process. The current system of the National Chairs appointing the Regional representatives has only been in place for a few months and National believes that the process will correct itself in time. There are currently 11 KC vacancies in Region I. Stanley shared that part of the growing pains of this new process is that regional representatives are being appointed and the regional KC co-coordinators are not being told. Stanley also shared that because several of the KC representative positions are for identity-based KCs, many members who do not share that identity believe that they are not appropriate to fill those roles. We have individuals doing great work on their campuses regardless of their identity, so it would be better to have someone in the position to provide a voice for that group.

DeBurro shared that the National office is utilizing several external firms to assess practices such as a full staff salary analysis as well as assessing onboarding and policies in the organization. The National Office has outgrown its current office space, so there are many folks working remotely. The majority of the building where the National Office is located is owned by a single developer, and that developer want to buy the space the National Office is currently in. The offer the developer made does not make it worth it to sell the space.

## **VI. Knowledge Community Updates**

### **Stanley/Rocco**

Stanley shared that we have 11 KC representative vacancies of our 35 total KCs. There are two new KCs being explored at the national level – mindfulness and off-campus and commuter services.

Stanley also shared that there is an upcoming drive-in at Central Connecticut State University entitled "Learning to Lead – Strategies for Student Affairs Professional of Color" co-sponsored by the Latino/a/x KC and Asian Pacific Islander KC.

DeBurro shared that in a recent discussion with KC chairs, they expressed that they feel distant from the Advisory Board. DeBurro is interested in improving communication with the regional representatives. They currently are invited to the June retreat, the November board meeting at the Conference and DeBurro is looking for other ways to keep them connected and harness the energy from that group. DeBurro wondered if they should be invited to all Board meetings, however there was mixed feelings from the Advisory Board. Board members agreed that it was nice to have them present to connect, however there were reservations around the logistics of facilitating a meeting – particularly virtual ones – with such a large number of individuals. Discussion continued around possible ways to group the KCs so that less folks are needed to be at meetings. Stanley shared that that had been done years ago and they were split by functional area KCs and identity-based KCs, but with such a large number of KCs, folks still felt like they were in a vacuum and it created more divisiveness.

Discussion circled back to the challenge of the current system for having the KC representatives appointed by National. A challenge being that the KCs do not officially “report” to the Region, they report to National. DeBurro is looking for ways that the Advisory Board can be more connected with KC representatives and in a way that is not undermining the national work. DeBurro proposed that we allow – but not require - KC representatives to sit-in on Board meetings despite not being voting members.

Moriarty shared that there had been a two-year project headed by past National KC co-Chair Pauline Dobrowski that involved significant research and culminated in the change to the current KC representative appointment system. Moriarty & Fienman shared the Task Force Report with the Board following the meeting.

Sidelko shared that she was a KC co-coordinator previously and communication has always been an issue. She inquired as to whether there may software that could facilitate communication. Moriarty confirmed that KCs can also use Board Effect and the co-coordinators are able to set it up for that group.

Brochu and Horne agreed that the Board continue to promote KC work as well as vacancies through the Regional Newsletter as well as social media.

Stanley shared that none of the recommendations for appointments that have been sent have been declined, however there has been little response from some of the National chairs which will require greater accountability at that level.

Stanley and Rocco will connect with DeBurro on how to best include the Regional KC representatives with minimal financial and logistical impact.

## **VII. Membership Update**

DeBurro shared that the institutional renewal process was very successful. Davis has done an excellent job working to engage institutional contacts. There was previously a six-month grace period to renew membership, and that has changed to three months.

Maitino shared the following member ship update for Davis

- Regional numbers
  - Total: 1607
- Members by State
  - MA: 792
  - CT: 239
  - RI: 127
  - NH: 92
  - ME: 83
  - VT: 82
  - Other: 34
  - NL: 5
  - NS: 5
  - QC: 4
- Update on institutional membership renewal
  - NASPA National and NRI reached out to all NRI institutions to encourage their renewal of their institutional membership.
  - Efforts are ongoing.

DeBurro shared that the National office is creating a Global Task Force to explore questions regarding where we are as a global organization. Some international partners wonder if our US-based organization can truly serve our international partners.

Masterson inquired about how international members will be represented on the Task Force. He noted the financial challenges of international travel for partners coming to the US as well as the logistical issues regarding currency exchange when working with the National office.

DeBurro shared that there had been discussion of how international schools are organized. Currently countries are split up throughout different regions and there is discussion of creating one international region, with the exception of Canadian schools.

DeBurro shared that the group has not been formed yet. Masterson shared his willingness to be a part of the group.

### **VIII. Dublin Summit Update**

Masterson shared that 9 members from outside of Ireland joined 500-600 higher education professionals from Ireland. Feedback from the event was positive. The event ran over budget (due to lower than expected numbers), but University College Dublin was able to cover the additional cost. They hope to do a similar event in the future and learned a lot from this experience regarding how far in advance an event such as this would need to be organized with the National Office.

DeBurro thanked Masterson for all of this work and acknowledged the challenges in working with the National office on the registration component.

Gifford and Masterson will connect after the meeting regarding some outstanding budget reconciliation from the event.

**Meeting broke for lunch at 11:55am**

**Meeting resumed at 1:02pm**

### **IX. Budget Update**

Gifford shared that there has not been a tremendous amount of activity as it is early in the year and the bulk of the conference spending has not hit the budget yet. Gifford is hoping to send the Board a monthly budget update.

### **X. NPMI Update**

Kao shared that the committee has selected dates and locations for the 2019 Institute:

2/1 – Connecticut

3/1 – Worcester, MA

4/5 - New Hampshire

5/3 – Springfield, MA

These sessions will be supplemented by virtual sessions in between in-person meetings. Applications are live as of October 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline to apply is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Some institutions want a certificate of insurance that we are able to get through the National Office.

### **XI. Nominations Update**

Moriarty shared that there were 21 individuals who expressed interest in serving on the nominations committee and 8 were selected to serve:

Allison Davis – Southern Vermont College

Kevin Forti – Rhode Island School of Design

Carole Hughes – Boston College

Max Koskoff – University of Hartford

Kelly Levine – Lasell College

Issac Newsome – Boston University

Ricardo Purita – Dartmouth College

Timeline for the process is as follows:

- Nominations closed on 9/14
- Committee is in the process of contacted nominated candidates

- RD-elect 18
- Maine 1
- NH 4
- RI 4
- November 1st nomination packets are due
- November at Conference Committee meet to decide on candidates
- Nov 16 final candidates info submitted to NASPA
- January Ballots to membership
- February. Candidates notified, results shared
- March - Candidates begin their term

Moriarty thanked everyone who submitted a nomination. All those nominated will have a preliminary phone conversation to gauge their interest. November 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to accept the nomination and submit the nomination packet.

## **XII. Volunteer Update**

Devine reminded Board members to push colleagues toward Volunteer Central to see open positions – especially folks in Connecticut as they have several positions open on their State board. The 2019 Conference Chair position will be posted following the Board meeting.

## **XIII. Signature Initiatives Project Update**

Moriarty shared that the group looking at the Signature initiatives are:  
 Peter Fowler (Past MLI Chair)  
 Catie Abrahamson (Past NPMI Chair)  
 Cathy Holbrook (Past Assessment & Evaluation KC Chair)  
 Matt Goodwin (Current research Coordinator)

SSAO Institute is not being considered with this initiative as it is a different type of institute.

Looking at the larger question of what do we want to learn from the SALT, NPMI, MLI and UBUNTU Institutes? The groups reached out to the current and two previous institute directors with a short survey which yielded a lot of information. The committee learned that each director had a different answer regarding the goals and objectives for the institute. This may be where the issue stems from.

There will be a focus group session at the Regional Conference for graduates of any of the institutes to attend. The group is also sending a survey out to SSAOs at different institutions to see what they know of the institutes and whether they have supported staff to attend in the past. After gathering general information the group will look to focus on each institute separately (starting with SALT and NPMI) through surveying institute graduates and the data will be analyzed and shared with the Board. This will create a template to look at the other institutes. The working group is only a one-year commitment, so a new group will need to complete the task.

## **XIV. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Updates**

Fienman shared that the History Committee has put together a display for the regional and national conferences. Also, follow Fienman on Twitter for updates.

## **XV. State Updates**

### **a. Massachusetts**

Golden shared that MA NASPA partnered with the Enrollment Management KC to host a very successful Drive-In at Regis College. There were 60 participants and enough revenue was generated that the next event will be free of charge.

Events coming up include:

- Entry-Level Workshop in conjunction with BACHA and NECPA – 10/6 at Bentley University
- October Drive-In on Free Speech –tentatively 10/25 at Becker College

Golden mentioned that NECPA had asked MA-NASPA to sign an MOU about how co-sponsored events are run. Gifford shared that National has said that they are not able to pay certain things without an MOU.

### **b. Maine**

Sidelko shared that they are co-sponsoring a threat assessment drive-in at University of Southern Maine in conjunction with ASCA.

Additionally, there is a drive-in on 10/19 and evening social coinciding with the overnight ME state leadership conference for undergraduate students.

**c. Connecticut**

Maitino shared that Holmes-Hope is current working to create a State Board, however it has been challenging. Look for openings in CT on Volunteer Central.

DeBurro mentioned that Devine could assist with outreach to potential volunteers who may have expressed interest in other positions previously.

**XVI. Regional Priorities Update**

DeBurro will be reaching out to specific individuals to create some small working groups. The groups will be asked to explore the following:

- Opportunities for individuals who may have expressed interest in getting involved but have not yet found an opportunity.
- Examine what we currently do in NASPA to address the issues that we have identified from our retreat
- Outreach to other organizations to see what they may be doing – this may also create opportunities for co-sponsorship
- Invite these groups to make some recommendations for us
- Invite some folks to come to our Board meetings to do some education for us

**XVII. Digital Community Engagement Discussion**

Meinke shared that he restarted the NASPA Region I Facebook page. It had not been updated since 12/2013 and will be a way for the Region to send out branded messages. The group can still be used as a discussion board. The page has the ability to sponsor groups to pull all of our branded content into one place. The KCs could each develop a group that could be connected to the page.

DeBurro shared that's she is hoping to conduct some Facebook Life sessions as a way to generate some discussions around the regional priorities.

Brochu shared the plans to highlight different individuals, divisions, and graduate programs for Careers in Student Affairs Month

**XVIII. Foundation Update**

Carroll shared that applications for the Rhatigan Foundation Scholarship are due 10/15 and winners will be announced on 10/25.

Additional information about this year's Pillars of the Profession group is forthcoming and this year is a large class. There will also be additional information coming out about the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Foundation now has a marketing team.

**XIX. Other Announcements**

Maitino reminded the group about upcoming meetings and the expectation that all members be available for those dates and times.

**XX. Adjourn**

Motion by Carroll. Second by Goodwin.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57pm

**Next Meeting: Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Regional Conference in Providence, RI**