



ASIACONNECT

Illinois State University

AsiaConnect Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 4, 2024

Members Present:

Sue Jung Lawrence Lair Miranda Lin

Agenda Items

- Approval of 10-17-23 and 1-17-23 minutes.
- Suejung moves to approve. Lawrence seconds.
 - Approved.

Planning on revising by-laws

- To be decided by Suejung if/when she is elected president.
- Suejung: wondering if we want to add EDI component as part of the mission, we may want to explicitly add it to the By-Law.
 - Constitution committee members: TY will retire. Ali will assist.
 - Some board members want to emphasize the EDI goals, initial rationale for not including it explicitly is that this group wanted to avoid being political.
 - Preferred it as more of a cultural stance.
- If we intend to continue to build community partnerships, we may need to rewrite the bylaws by including them on the executive board.

Discuss Byron's request about Affinity Group Futures

- Summarized Byron's corporate model
 - Likely that affinity groups will be under the Office of Equity and Inclusion
 - Accountability for the budget
 - Apply for funds through a form from the Office of Equity and Inclusion
 - Adherence to the strategic plan will strengthen these applications.
 - Byron intends to increase the money that affinity groups get.
 - We don't know what the future of the office looks like and if there will be staff that can support affinity groups.
- Ideas for AsiaConnect adherence to strategic plan
 - Professional development workshops to train faculty/staff on cultural competency
 - Social/cultural events that help with faculty/staff retention and sense of belonging.
 - How do we rationalize "advancing the views of Asian faculty/staff" and remain in compliance. Perhaps this can be shared governance?
 - Community members have voiced mostly only interest in cultural/social events.
 - Want to respect the initial founding goals of AsiaConnect to be "nonpolitical."
 - Anti-Racism Working Group was established for this reason.
 - Mayuko may be too busy to continue to run this. Perhaps Lawrence can run something.

- Suejung suggests that we make the efforts of the ad-hoc working group as part of AsiaConnects main goals. Not sure how this officially looks. Could be an official subcommittee? Will need a vote on changes in the bylaws. Maybe dismiss the working group and reinstate a new ad hoc committee for EDI?
 - Mayuko is not doing an event this year as she is Japan.
 - Could start with a film screening of Bad Axe plus a speaker and reach out to other departments to offer their students extra credit (Swank charges \$225 for the movie rights/rental)
- Perhaps we gear one of our monthly events towards faculty/staff professional development.
- Have a newsletter to make us more visible.
 - ILSTU news posts compiled together into a Newsletter using WordPress
 - Lawrence would be best equipped to do but is an hourly employee with many other responsibilities.
 - Could propose a GA in the Office of Equity and Inclusion for support.
- Building relationships with the community is part of the strategic plan.
 - Plans for international partnerships with refugees and asylum seekers?
 - Check in with the immigrant project?
 - Translation, bilingual services