Doctoral Theatre Students’ Association

# Board Meeting Minutes

# 2/27/2015

## Opening

The regular meeting of the Doctoral Theatre Students’ Association was called to order at 2:04 on 2/27/2015 in 5489 by Stephanie Vella.

## Present:

Pamela Thielman (President), Jared Pike (Secretary), Ryan Donovan (Curriculum & Exams Representative), Stephanie Vella (DSC Representative), Bess Rowen (1st Vice President), Shiraz Biggie (Alumni Representative), M. Shane Breaux (Admissions & Awards),

**Absent**:  
James Armstrong (Professionalization Representative) Manuel Simons (Treasurer), Joseph Paul Hill (2nd Vice President)

## Approval of Agenda

BR motioned to approve the agenda. RD seconded.  
The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

## Approval of Minutes

MSB motioned to approve the minutes. SB seconded.  
Minutes were approved with emendations.

## Reports & Business

**Pamela Thielman, President**

The Search Committee will meet on March 3; a candidate may or may not be selected at that point. No names will be announced until the candidate has accepted and all negotiations are finished. On Monday from 11:30-1:30 there will be a student town hall as an open forum for students to express their opinions on the candidates for the new hire.

DTSA events for the coming semester that we need to plan are: trivia, the Booth Award, a student meeting on GTFs, and a student meeting on exams. MSB suggests that the student meeting on GTFs should be opened up to all students who are working as adjuncts, not just GTFs. There will also be an event for accepted students to visit campus.

I have purchased coffee supplies and would like to agree on a purchasing policy for the rest of the semester. The DTSA will provide a set amount of coffee/tea at the beginning of the semester and will replenish a set amount every month.

**Bess Rowen, First Vice President**

The voting for the theatre outing has ended. The winner of the vote is *‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore*. The next issue of the Green Room will be the next item for me to do, but there’s a bit of time before then. I also ask that we leave the meeting Friday with a definite date for trivia, so that the President and I can start writing and compiling questions.

Discussion about trivia ensued and it was determined that trivia will be held on Wednesday, April 22, starting at 6:30pm at a location still to be determined.

**Joseph Paul Hill, Second Vice President**

[Not present] After meeting with the President and Vice-President, we determined that the best course of action for the Booth Award ceremony would be proposing a date to the E.O. and MESTC for a small in-house gathering. Discussion with both the E.O. and METSC led to some further consideration about the date and time of the award ceremony. After some negotiation, a date has been agreed upon. Pending final e-mail approval in the upcoming hours or days, the official announcement of the Booth Award winner will go out to the DTSA-L along with a note to save the date (April 23 at 4:15pm, and the ceremony is to last absolutely no more than an hour and a half so that those wishing to attend the MESTC event in the Segal Theatre at 6:30pm will be able to do so). Those DTSA members who nominated and/or were early voters for our award winner have already been successfully contacted to begin planning arrangements for an in-person visit to the recipient prior to the award ceremony. After the official announcement is sent to the DTSA-L, all are encouraged to contact me about involvement in the ceremony.

**Shiraz Biggie, Representative to Graduate Council & Alumni Engagement Rep.**

We are not putting in a proposal for funds for trivia for the DSC. I am in discussion about sending out another alumni appeal that would come from the DTSA. There is confusion about when it should happen that I am working on clearing up. Also we still need to get a hold of the donated money from last spring that is in the DSC funds.

**James Armstrong, Professionalization Representative**

[Not present] We had our first professionalization event of the semester on February 5th. The session went well, though attendance was light. We’ve had to put further events on hold due to the candidates coming. Our next event will be on March 5th. We are currently stocked with tea, and I have cookies for next week, but in the future I will be making small requests for reimbursements for refreshments, as the money is no longer coming from the department.

**Manuel Simons, Treasurer**

[Not Present] Nothing to Report

**Ryan Donovan, Curriculum and Exams Committee Representative**

Next meeting is in March. No new business until after that.

**Stephanie Vella, DSC Representative**

Nothing new to report. My report for the DSO for the last DSC Plenary will be ready soon.

**M. Shane Breaux, Admissions and Awards**

The committee has met and discussed all the applications, and acceptance letters have been distributed. Those who have been accepted into the program have until April 15 to decide whether or not they will join us. I have been in touch with several of the prospective students and have fielded questions about fellowships, financial concerns, NYC concerns, and more. Jean Graham-Jones and I are currently planning a one-day campus visit for all those who have been accepted--more details will follow shortly after the plans have been settled. Now, it is tentatively set for Monday, March 30, and the plan is to host a student luncheon in the dining commons on the 8th floor (as we did last year), and current students will be encouraged to stop by and share their thoughts and experiences in our program. Those visiting us will also be invited to sit in on a class that day, and I am working on a social event that evening off campus. This is all still TBD.

**Jared R. Pike, Secretary**

Nothing to report.

## Old Business

## New Business

* Meeting Schedule
  + We will try to find one day in which the entire board can meet. In the meantime, we will schedule a meeting for March to loop in members who have not been able to attend.
* Possible constitutional changes
  + PT will look into the possibility of making constitutional changes to combine the positions of Secretary and Treasurer in order to alleviate some of the scheduling issues.
  + SV recommended that we appoint one of the officers to serve as an election representative to oversee and review elections. BR suggests that it becomes part of the responsibilities of the First Vice President.
* Student library
  + PT will present the DTSA position in favor of the creation of a student library to the executive committee.

**Announcements**

* PT reminded the board to promote the town hall meeting on Monday.
* SV reminded people to nominate candidates to the DSC.

## Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:09pm by Stephanie Vella. The next meeting will be at TBD on TBD, in TBD.

Minutes submitted by: Jared R. Pike, Secretary.