

UUA Board Governance Working Group Agenda
October 15, 2008, Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Members: Blevins, Burke, Greene, Shanti, Wooldridge

1. Welcome guests
2. Check-in
3. Opening Reading
4. Selection of Process Observer
5. Review details of plans for the coming weekend of meetings
6. Clarify all assignments
Monitoring training at Jan 2009 Meeting?
 - a. Who to deliver it? Get consultants on the schedule.
7. Early plans for April 2009 Meeting
 - a. Adopt draft ENDS for publication, and for staff to use to write their interpretations.
 - b. Training for Trustees. What? By whom?
8. GA 2009.
 - a. Review plans for 2009 UU University. Impact on our plans?
 - b. Plans for governance workshop?
9. Developing synergy and collaboration between the **Commission on Appraisal's work to review our Principles and Purposes**, and the ENDS work on which the Board is embarked. As President Sinkford notes in his email to us dated 17 Sept 2008: "I have been preaching for years that our by-law statement of purpose needed revision. It is our most important statement of religious mission. I don't see how revised language can be crafted, however, without at least being informed by the "Ends" work the Board will attempt in October."
How can we and shall we approach this?
10. Preparing all trustees to do their "owner linkage" work on our draft ENDS over the winter months. What do we need to get in their hands as resources? Is Persony ready to use?
11. Prepare for revised Policy review with Board during the Board Meeting Saturday or Sunday. Show on projector, discuss.
12. Plans to develop the "annual calendar". Jackie reports.
13. Review topics for possible full Board discussion:

- a. Speaking with one voice about our strategy for policies that are or may be in conflict with current Bylaws. See draft language at end of this Agenda.
14. Develop our Report to the Board for delivery on Saturday the 18th (or sooner).
Likely topics are:
- a. Plans for finalizing the initial Annual Calendar
 - b. Plans for continuing governance training of the Trustees
 - i. Monitoring training in January?
 - c. District President's interest in governance training (an Institute).
 - d. Policy Issues for discussion.
15. Other business?
16. Closing

Appendix to Governance Working Group Agenda for Oct 2008

Speaking with one voice about our strategy for policies that are, or may be, in conflict with current Bylaws.

Our strategy:

1. The Board will do its best to establish governance policies that are correct for the organization as it exists today, and in so far as possible will be consistent with the principles of Carver's Policy Governance model.
2. When a Policy is adopted that is or may be in conflict with current UUA Bylaws, the Board will acknowledge this in our Minutes, and consider our situation as an exception to Bylaws, until the differences can be reconciled.
3. The Board will review this plan with our legal counsel.
4. After a suitable period of time (estimated at one to three years) and we have obtained meaningful experience operating with the new Policies, the Board will then develop and present Bylaw amendments to reconcile our Policies with our binding legal documents.
5. We recognize that during this "implementation period" we will probably identify changes in our initial policies that we will make. This is reason not to be too hasty about pursuing Bylaw changes in the midst of the transition.