

Report of District President's Association Observer at UUA Board of Trustees Meeting
Kathy Burek, President, District President's Association
July 26, 2012

The transition process from the current large, primarily district-elected Board of Trustees to a smaller, at-large elected Board involves a number of highly interdependent steps to be carried out in a short time. The primary agenda item for this teleconference meeting of the UUA Board of Trustees was discussion of the criteria the Board would use in appointing four current Board members to 2-year terms, beginning in June 2013. The Board needs to determine its criteria by August 15, so that Board members who wish to apply to the Nominating Committee can meet the Committee's deadlines.

Following the June 26, meeting in Phoenix, Board members submitted their suggestions for criteria to a small working group chaired by Caleb Raible-Clark. The working group includes Natalia Averett, David Friedman, and Joan Lund. This group analyzed the suggested criteria and grouped them by categories. As board members reviewed the list, they concluded that some skills might be needed by all board members (e.g., financial acumen, commitment to Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, and Multiculturalism), while criteria might be applicable to the board as a whole, but not by every member (e.g., depth of experience with Policy Governance[®]). Board members also emphasized their commitment to having a Board that is diverse across personal characteristics such as culture, income, race, or age. It was noted that while it is important that Trustees be able to do the work of the board, the workload might act to prevent those who are working, low income people, or parents of young children from serving on the Board. The hope was expressed that the board's work would eventually not take as much time as it currently does.

Moderator Courter summarized the discussion and next steps (I was having trouble hearing at times, so these steps and dates should be confirmed against the official minutes of the meeting):

- August 3—Working group will come up with a shorter list of criteria
- August 5—Working group will send out a Survey Monkey poll to all board members
- August 8—Board members will complete the survey
- August 9-10—Working group will compile the results and report back to the Board
- By August 15—Any Board member who wishes to continue serving will need to submit a paragraph to board indicating how they meet the ranked criteria, and providing the names of references
- By August 15—Any Board member wishing to also go through the Nominating Committee process will need to submit written references to the Committee, along with the paragraph stating how they meet the criteria

Other business dealt with by the Board:

- Reminder to complete monitoring reports
- Reminder to complete World Café notes
- Reminder to complete UU Futures notes (some confusion about whether this and the above item are the same or different)

- Update on “Gathered Here” appreciative inquiry activity will be provided at the October meeting.

Moderator Courier asked for agenda items for the October Meeting.

Observer's Comments: As noted in the Process Observation by Trustee Michael Tino, there was some confusion on the part of some Board members about how to use the AnyMeeting features to ask questions. A short introduction to main features at the start of a call might help. The board did a good job of paying attention to how their decisions about criteria for Trustees would impact representation of people from historically marginalized groups.

Several people commented about the difficulty in hearing the conversation. As someone with a hearing impairment, I would emphasize the need for participants to mute their phones when not speaking.

Acronyms should be explained the first time they are used. (E.g., there was a reference to “COCO” meetings—I’m assuming COCO refers to the Committee on Committees.)