

Minutes of the Center for Communal Studies Advisory Board Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday, May 9, 2018 – 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
USI Performance Center Lobby

Members Present: Wendy Bredhold, Gregory Brown, Jason Hardgrave, Casey Harison, Marna Hostetler, Carol Medicott, Graham Perry, Donald Pitzer, Silvia Rode, Leslie Townsend

Members Absent: James Beeby, Jennifer Greene, Don Janzen, Jane Johansen, Joshua Lockyer, Susan Matarese, Michael Strezewski

Guests: Abby Alexander (USI World Languages and Cultures), Amanda Bryden (New Harmony State Historic Site), Michael Dixon (Associate Dean of USI College of Liberal Arts) substituting for James Beeby, Katie Ehlman (USI Gerontology and Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness)

Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Thielman

1. Greeting and Introductions: Director Casey Harison greeted all, noting those who traveled a distance to attend. Harison introduced guests Abby Alexander, Amanda Bryden, Michael Dixon and Katie Ehlman.

2. Minutes from Fall 2017 Board Meeting: Harison called for corrections or additions to the Minutes from the Fall 2017 Board meeting. Graham Perry moved that the Minutes be accepted; seconded by Silvia Rode; all in favor. The revised Minutes will be posted on the Center's website.

3. Reports

a. Ehlman reported on the MAGIC Project, which is an experimental housing and inter-generational initiative of the university done in conjunction with AARP and Dr. Bill Thomas, who is an expert on the topic. This is a unique and innovative project. Ehlman brought posters depicting possible Minka constructions, described the Project and answered questions. The compact "Minka"-style housing has similarities to other intentional housing developments. *Communities Magazine* published by the Fellowship of Intentional Communities is a good resource for comparable communal housing initiatives, and Deborah Altus at Washburn University is a scholar in the field. Tom Berkshire's newsletter "Generations of Hope" could be a helpful reference. Harison attended informational and participatory MAGIC sessions in spring 2018 and will work with Ehlman on ways that the Center can contribute to the Project – these might include a panel at a future meeting of the Communal Studies Association, an article to be submitted to the journal *Communal Societies* and inclusion of Minka-related courses in the Communal Studies minor.

b. Brown reported on the History Relevance project, which seeks to raise public awareness and support for historical literacy and education. Additional information may be found at the organization's website (www.historyrelevance.com). Guest Amanda Bryden supported the History Relevance project. Motion by Brown for the Center to support the History Relevance project; seconded by Rode; all in favor. Harison will endorse the project on behalf of the Center and will place a link to the History Relevance website on the Resources link of the Center's website.

c. Harison reported on the Communal Studies Minor Proposal, approved as a Motion from the Board of Advisors at the Spring 2017 meeting. The process for creating the minor included soliciting information and comments from Board members, interested faculty and through the H-Communal Societies online discussion forum; consulting the files related to the creation of a master's in Communal Studies undertaken by founding director Donald Pitzer in 2005; and meeting with the Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. As part of the minor, a required introductory course (HIST 222, "Roots of Communalism") has been initiated. Both the minor and the new course proposal was approved by History Department faculty and chair (the minor, like the Center for Communal Studies, will be housed in the History department), the College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee and Chairs Council, the University Curriculum Committee and the Provost's office. The proposal is now at the University Registrar's office. The minor should be available in fall 2019. Discussion followed: Leslie Townsend noted the availability of temporary housing for visiting scholars at New Harmony; it will be important to publicize the minor and attract students; there will be more discussion of potential courses for the minor at future Board meetings. Motion by Pitzer to thank Harison for his work on the minor; seconded by Perry; all in favor.

Lunch

4. Approval of 2018 Undergraduate and Graduate Prizes, and Research Travel

Grant: 2018 judges are Susan Matarese (University of Louisville) and David Swartz (Asbury University) for the Undergraduate Prize; Matt Grow (Church of Latter Day Saints) and Mike Strezewski (USI) for Graduate Prize; Silvia Rode (USI) and Jennifer Greene (USI) for Research Travel Grant. We received eleven (11) submissions for the Graduate Prize (this may be the highest number ever). Two (2) submissions were received for the Undergraduate Prize and two (2) applications for the Research Travel Grant. The Center Prizes and Travel Grant remain useful instruments for publicizing the Center and the field of Communal Studies. Motion from Brown to approve Prizes and to approve forthcoming decision on Travel Grant; seconded by Medicott; all in favor. Current winning papers are on display at the Center. For the future, we may want to post papers (or abstracts) on the Center's website.

5. Other Items

- The Center's Annual Report was sent as an email attachment; there was no discussion.
- Guest Amanda Bryden briefly described activities at New Harmony Historic Site, including the official designation of the Indiana state insect, which is the *firefly*.
- Copies of the revised Center brochure were made available, along with hard copies of the collection development report from Greene.
- Pitzer updated the Board on his bibliography of the theory of Developmental Communalism; the bibliography is available on the Resources link of the Center's website. Pitzer also passed out paper copies of the bibliography.
- Brown has published textbooks for the classroom.

- Perry described recent developments at Tennessee State Museum in Nashville, where he is Curator for Social History, and at the nearby Fort Negley Historic Site.
- The next annual meeting of the Communal Studies Association will be at Bishop Hill, Illinois in October 2018.

Harison thanked all who were able to come to today's Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey Harison, Director
Marilyn Thielman, Administrative Assistant