

Epsilon Sigma Phi
Conference Call
August 21, 2007; 10:00 a.m.

The Conference Call meeting was called to order by President, Connie Hoch, shortly after 10:00 a.m. Those in attendance included: Andrea Schmidt, Connie Hoch, Stacey Warner, Pat Murphy, Pam VanHorn, Karen Blakeslee, Laurie Chandler, Dan Rogers, Mary Lou Odle, Trudy Rice, Sandra Wick, Les Frazier, Jan Stephens, Jennifer Wilson, Linda Walter, Angela Abts, Charlotte Olsen and Dave Schafer.

Connie started with introductions and thanked all for coming. Is there anything anyone would like to add? Les wanted to know if he would still continue to receive the newsletter via the mail. This was assured. The minutes were reviewed next. No additions or corrections were brought forward; they were approved.

Stacey gave the Treasurer's report. Stacey sent the budget and a current statement of accounts. Stacey reported the total assets of \$30,511.27. A check was recently received for \$705 from the United Association meeting. The checking account balance is \$23,663.09 and our Landmark National Bank CD amount is \$5,262.38.

Connie gave some reminders about upcoming conferences. JCEP is February 20-22, 2008; PILD is April 28-30, 2008 and Galaxy will be held September 14-17, 2008

Andrea did not have a report. Sandra did not have a report. Karen reminded everyone to send newsletter info to her soon. If any of the grant/endowment awards did their programs, folks are encouraged to send reports of those in. Karen will be sending this newsletter edition out by September 1. Thanks to Jan and Danny already sending items!

Stacey announced that the Secretary prepares the annual meeting report. All officers should send items in to Andrea. Connie continued through the agenda asking for reports. Mary Lou, Angela, Jan, Linda, and Danny did not have reports.

An Awards committee report was given by Danny. He solicited nominations in the Tuesday Letter and notified other extension entities through a systemwide email. Connie encouraged the council directors from each area to nominate qualified people.

A Professionalism committee report was given by Sandra. The info about the travel grant/loan will be out soon, and it is due September 15.

A Recognition committee report was given by Mary Lou. Five members will receive 25 year awards, 4 members will receive 30 year awards; 3 will receive 35 year awards and there are not any 40 year award recipients this year.

Pam provided a report on the Memorial committee. Pam has current list on those who became deceased this year. She asked if Extension Forestry is included. Stacey recommended that the list include forestry.

A Recruitment and Retention committee report was given next. Stacey reported for Anna that letters went out last Friday to the new hires since January 1 of 2005. Stacey also sent a letter to the council directors of who those received these letters each area. Stacey encouraged directors to please follow up with a phone call or an email.

A Resource Management committee report was offered by Pat. The main issue is our dues situation. Currently our dues are at \$50. Thirty dollars goes to national and \$20 remains with our local chapter. There will be a dues increase of \$10 nationally this year.

A Retiree report was provided by Les. The retiree event will occur the 17th during annual conference. Connie will provide a welcome. Humorous extension experiences will be provided by Glenn Busset. Folks will have time to socialize and share their current life happenings.

A Nominations committee report was given by Trudy. She will begin work on this project. Please send names to her that can be contacted as a potential officer. The Newsletter Editor and Treasurer do not have term limits. Karen and Stacey will serve again. The Metro Council Director will not be up for election. The position will end this year. NW, SW & State council directors will be elected in odd numbered years. The chapter must also elect a president-elect from state or area staff this year.

A Global Relations committee report was given by Charlotte. Debra Bolten has presented about her trip to Mexico. Donna Martinson and Mary Sullivan have also promoted and shared experiences within their own communities.

Jennifer provided an Annual Meeting committee report. The meal will be catered by Brookville Hotel. The meal cost will be under \$20. Steve Fisher will do the decorations. Karen will work on the program. Jennifer asked who is heading up the silent auction. Trudy said this will be handled by the ESP endowment (herself and Ann Domsch). The Alumni Association is reserved for the banquet. It will be held October 16.

Laurie did not have a report. Trudy gave an endowment report. She will send a newsletter article to Karen regarding a grant report. She will also send one on behalf of Donna Martinson.

One Old Business item was taken from the previous minutes: Scholarships for the ESP dues. \$200 is available to help with dues, especially for new folks. Need to determine how this will be distributed. Connie recommended to leave this as old business and touch base with the committee regarding how this will be used at a later date.

Dues Increase was the first new business item. National dues are increasing from \$30-\$40. Stacey proposed several options. We could raise our current dues from \$50 to \$60. If we want to raise the local amount, now would be a good time to do that as well. We only have \$1,000 to send the President and President elect to officer meetings. We always run out of money. Under loans, we have \$1,500 for loans and \$500 for grants. We haven't had any loan applicants since 2003. Take away the loan program. Move this amount to the officer travel. Maybe increase the grant to \$1,000 and move the other \$1,000 to Officer Travel. The cost for officers depends upon where the meeting is at. Sandra agreed that the travel grant should be increased. The loan interest rate of 5% will be charged when the study is completed. Scholarships (Endowment) would be a good recruitment tool. The travel grant could be part of professional development if it was specified more. Maybe combine with endowment? Mary Lou asked about unpaid loans? Stacey said she sends a letter to remind recipients.

Stacey asked about associate member dues. Should this be left at \$20? There are 13 associate members currently. Stacey moved that we increase annual member dues from \$50 to \$60 which only reflects the national increase and leave associate member dues at \$20. Les seconded. Motion carried. This will be taken as a recommendation to the annual meeting for all members to vote on.

Stacey moved to eliminate the loan program, increase the travel grant line item from \$500-\$1,000 and increase officer travel by \$,1000. Pat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dave proved a report on retirement equity. This was an ESP initiative that began 15 years ago. This was created when changes occurred in the regent's system retirement. Extra money was placed aside to be matched by extension funds. Dave recommended that we ask the membership what their wishes are regarding this program.

Trudy provided a report on the auction. Ideas are needed from the group. If the board wishes it to continue, she will do so. Pam felt that the auction provides a fun atmosphere. Jennifer asked if it would be better to do a silent auction in a location where everyone could be. This would generate more dollars. Jan moved and Pam seconded that we continue the silent auction. Motion carried.

The national ESP meeting will be in Charleston, SC Spetember 10-14. Connie reported that seven Kansas delegates will be attending.

Connie also stated that a new link to the professional association is available. It can be found by accessing the employee resource link.

The ESP endowment fund was discussed next. Trudy thanked Dave. We met our first goal of \$100,000. Jim Lindquist helped us learn a lot. Endowment board members had a meeting. The Endowment board is a part of Alpha Rho. Trudy recommended that a fundraising committee be appointed to initiate a campaign which would support professional development when Daryl Buchholz's dollars no longer exist. The Fundraising committee would consist of Fred Delano, Diane Mack and Jodi Besthorn, Dave Schafer, Jim Lindquist, Ann Domsch, Carl Garten, and (Trudy Rice and Connie Hoch will be advisors as Past-President and current President). If we go under the university campaign, there will not be as much cost. Trudy moved that the Alpha Rho Chapter of ESP support the endowment board to initiate a campaign and appoint the above members to that board. Les seconded. Motion carried. Dave said that the committee should start immediately in order to be ready by annual conference.

Jan moved that we recommend using the \$200 scholarship for dues support, when associate members become eligible for annual membership. Jennifer seconded. Motion carried. Connie will send this recommendation to Anna.

The next meeting will be held October 15 at annual conference. Connie encouraged all to watch for the time and location. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Andrea L. Schmidt
Epsilon Sigma Phi Secretary