World Affairs Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 30, 1:30 p.m.
COE B155

MINUTES

PRESENT: Stephen Amundson, Barbara Amundson, Toni Hill, Carol Lilly, Will Aviles, Megan Hartman, Megan Forgey

ABSENT: Matt Mims, Shahla Alavi, Pooja Shrestha, David Wiebe, Lorma Wiebe

I. Speakers
   a. Confirmed
      i. Mahabir Pun, Team Leader of Nepal Wireless, and founder of the Himanchal Education Foundation. Two issues were discussed.
         1. It was recommended to Payne that we not pay Mahabir an honorarium because of how complicated the paperwork is to make this possible. Committee feels we need to be willing to go through that process or figure out another way to pay him an honorarium.
         2. Mahabir is uncomfortable with Rotary paying his airfare because Rotary has already done so much for him. Toni Hill, a Rotarian, noted that it is common for Rotary to financially support conferences. The donation from Rotary is a sponsorship of a session as a donation to the conference, not strictly a reimbursement for Mahabir. It was also noted that Bill Ballou with the Noon Rotary wants to do this.
      ii. Xpanxion, LLC – Abbie Davis will be putting together presentation for them.
      iii. Dakota State University – Hacker Lab. Mims/Payne will send follow up email to finalize arrangements with them.
      iv. Microsoft – Matt Mims brother-in-law. He has confirmed his ability to attend. Mims/Payne will send follow up email to finalize arrangements.
      v. Dr. Joseph Siegle – Payne sent follow up email to finalize arrangements.
      vi. Dr. Michael Adams, Assoc. Professor of English, Indiana University – Payne sent follow up email to finalize arrangements.
      vii. Embassy of El Salvador, Embassy of Republic of Lithuania, Embassy of Austria, Embassy of Brazil, Consulate General of Germany, Consulate General of Ecuador – follow up emails have been sent by Payne.
   b. Contacted
      i. Shahla Alavi, The Buckle – no word yet on progress made.
      ii. IIE is trying to identify a couple of Fulbright Scholars for us. Will be in touch very last minute with options. Our financial obligation is meals and lodging.
      iii. Will Aviles has made contact with three potential speakers specializing in the Middle East and social media. Lilly gave him information on a fourth specialist.
   c. Will Contact
      i. Matt Mims was absent, so no report on progress in finding someone who could speak on micro-lending
      ii. Stephen Amundson will make contact with Global Voices Online to see what resources may be available.

II. Budget
a. There was discussion about the need to be careful about not committing too much more money to travel expenses or honorariums for speakers.
b. Committee discussed ways of reducing expenses in order to fund more speakers.
   i. It was decided that we would discontinue sending postcards or purchasing advertisements from the Hub, as based on survey results, those did not seem to impact attendance. Will continue the Kearney Chamber eBlast advertisement and all free forms of publicity, i.e. Talk of the Town, Good Morning Nebraska, The Good Life, Hub articles, etc.
   ii. Payne will talk to Morris Press about cost of programs and see what we can do to reduce the cost. Committee discussed putting bios on web only and putting QR code in program and on room signage for people to access bios. Another question is if it is the size of the program or the cover on the program that makes it expensive.
c. Payne asked Morris Printing Group about donating airline miles again. Scott feels it has become too complicated to give away, especially due to the last minute arrangements that are often made to get speakers here. Therefore he does not want to donate miles anymore.

III. Other

a. Poster – Bonnie is meeting with student designer from Art Department Monday morning to discuss concept for poster/program cover design.
b. Documentary – Carol Lilly and Megan Forgey found two documentaries that would be very well suited for the conference. One is not out yet. Megan will forward information to Payne about the BBC documentary that is available. Payne will then contact Toni Mendoza in the Library about purchasing the DVD.
c. Vehicles/Drivers – Sherry Morrow, who has coordinated transportation the last few years has expressed concern about how difficult it is becoming to find enough drivers for the conference. There is a vendor in town that is willing to rent vans to us. Obstacles to overcome are liability for drivers, and if there would be difficulty in requisitioning payment of the rent and fuel.
d. Stephen Amundson asked what the timeline should be for having all of our speakers in place. It was decided that by the end of June, we should have all speakers confirmed.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 26, 1:30 p.m. in COE B155.