World Affairs Conference  
Executive Planning Council Meeting  
Wednesday, November 20, 2013  
3:30 PM, COE B155

MINUTES

Present: Bonnie Payne, Matt Mims, Megan Hartman, Toni Hill, Will Aviles, Megan Forgey, Stephen Amundson, Barbara Amundson

Absent: Maria Gutierrez, David Wiebe, Lorma Wiebe

I. Theme and Keynote for 2014 Conference
   a. The meeting opened with committee members discussing the speakers who stood out to them among the suggestions Payne forwarded from different agencies, including:
      i. Tom Clynes, photojournalist with National Geographic. Focuses presentations on stimulating action and involvement by sharing achievements of world-changing heroes in order to help audience members believe in their boldest dreams and realize anything is possible.
      ii. Jake Harriman, former Marine who started an organization focused on isolating and demolishing the factors that contribute to extreme poverty in rural communities worldwide.
      iii. Srdja Popovic, formed Otpor!, a youth movement using street theater, pranks, and simple, powerful messages as the chosen form of protest. Credited with inspiring Arab Spring protestors directly and indirectly.
      iv. Charlayne Hunter-Gault, former Journalist with CNN and PBS, known for her role in the civil rights movement as the first black woman to be admitted to the University of Georgia.
      v. Nontombi Naomi Tutu, daughter of Desmond Tutu, vast experience in consulting and mediation related to race and gender issues, as well as teaching at several universities.
   b. Committee discussed several ideas for conference themes.
      i. The 2014 conference will be the 50th Anniversary. The theme in 1964 was “Our Shrinking World.” There was discussion about using this theme, or looking back 50 years and forward 50 years by finding a futurist to speak. All the futurists seemed to be too narrowly focused though, mostly just business, or just education.
      ii. A speaker at this year’s conference suggested a theme that dealt with different countries collaborating in humanitarian efforts, eliminating human rights violations, etc. This discussion, plus the biographies and speaking topics of the above suggested speakers led the committee to the theme, “Positive Engagement in the Global Community”. Tom Clynes seems to be the speaker who best fits this theme.
c. Next Steps
   i. Committee discussed trying to use UNK Alums who have made a significant impact for a group or community around the world (a Mahabir Pun, a Dusty Reynolds who lived in Africa and designed and sold t-shirts that used local materials and workforce to help a poverty stricken community, etc.) to make presentations about their humanitarian efforts during the conference.
   ii. Payne will make contact with Deans to start the process of identifying potential candidates for this.
   iii. Other presentation ideas included
      1. stories similar to the one out of Latin America where orchestra instruments were made out of materials from the landfill, and as the story caught on, individuals and organizations from around the world started donating musical instruments to the children.
      2. Individuals who have used music, literature, poetry, etc. to make a difference in the world.
      3. Organizations providing “after-care” for victims who have been rescued out of trafficking situations.
      4. Still plan to invite diplomats to participate in panels.
   iv. Need to determine what we will have for funding for 2014.

II. Other things to improve for 2014 Conference
   a. Continue to use Art Department (DPI Graphics) to do poster/program design. Committee was extremely impressed with the design this year.
   b. See if it is possible to use a Journalism student to do the photography for the conference.
   c. To encourage more community participation, announce available parking in the new parking lot west of COE and provide a shuttle service back and forth from that location to the Nebraskan.
   d. Issues during this year’s conference were Chartwells not having the beverages ready for us in the presentation rooms or lounge for speakers. Also no signage on the Fireplace Lounge door.
   e. There was no television coverage during the conference.
   f. Introducer did not push survey enough. Need to have a committee member do that. Also, would it be possible to make it an electronic survey that when completed would enter the student in a drawing for a prize?