



Safety Education & Instruction Council (SEIC) Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2016
Location: Go-To-Meeting & Teleconference

In attendance were

SEIC Members and guests: John Browning, Rusty Cooper, Molly Gurien, Josh Hall, Chris Hipgrave, Steve Hutton, Jerry McAward, Becky Molina, Sean Morley, Robin Pope, John Radel, Helen Todd, TJ Turner, Beth Weigandt, C. C. Williams, Dale Williams

Liaisons: Keith Christopher, BSA; Don Goff (USCG Auxiliary)

Office Staff: Kelsey Bracewell, Chris Stec

Chris Stec facilitated an opening roll call, allowing phone-in only attendees to be introduced and identified.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05p.m. EDT by Chair Steve Hutton. He described the purpose of this meeting: to bridge an informational gap between the regular February and November meetings.

Steve proceeded directly to the meeting agenda.

SEIC Bylaw Revision Project

Chris reviewed the project timeline and rationale.

- In October 2015, the ACA Board of Directors discussed Chris Stec's report to SEIC regarding potential concerns regarding SEIC bylaws. Those concerns, which had been discussed at the October SEIC meeting, included
 - Discipline committees were getting bogged down in their own governance
 - Inconsistencies across disciplines with regard to membership, elections, terms, meetings
 - The floundering DIF system.
- The ACA Board endorsed his suggestions and strongly supported term limits, simple common committee charters, and a clear plan for representation by DIFs.
- The objective: one set of guidelines that will allow Discipline Committees to do discipline business and not work through governance issues.
- Will also help with DIF program

Chris then described three categories of changes represented in the current (August 2016) draft bylaws.

1. Housekeeping issues, which should not elicit much debate. These changes make SEIC consistent with ACA national bylaws.

2. Minor modifications. Examples include: Terminology of committees, and making the SEIC Policy Manual consistent with Bylaws. SEI staff will suggest changes for the group to address.
3. Significant modifications: Examples include:
 - Restructuring DIF system and Instructional committee.
 - Removing current Discipline Committee charters and integrating Discipline Committee bylaws into a general, consistent section within SEIC bylaws.
 - Consistent Discipline Committee officers and elections across disciplines.
 - Changes in SEIC membership, including non-voting affiliate members.

Chris admitted that the original timeline for this project has been delayed, and that there is still much work to do and much to discuss. He presented a new timeline:

Fall 2016

- Revisions continue

November 10, 2016

- Final discussion at SEIC Meeting

March 2017

- SEIC votes to approve changes to SEIC Bylaws
- ACA Board of Directors votes to approve revised SEIC Bylaws
- Revised SEIC Bylaws go into effect

Dale complimented the work accomplished thus far.

Online meeting participants viewed a draft markup of the new SEIC Bylaws. There was a lot of red text. Chris pointed out that some changes are cosmetic, others more major. He also noted

- The attempt with this draft is to give some guidance. Much needs to be discussed.
- Some procedures not previously described are now spelled out, for example: nominations, elections, how to get rid of a member, etc.
- Elections can occur via the ACA website, and a record will automatically be saved.
- There is an intent toward increased transparency.
- Consistency is suggested with discipline committee meetings, quorums, especially on curriculum changes.
- Discipline committee jurisdiction/oversight may change.
- Clear procedures are included for development new disciplines.

Discussion followed.

- John Browning asked how SEIC affiliate members would be appointed.
- Chris replied that how they are elected is open for discussion, but that the SEIC Chair should be able to appoint them, too. In the current draft, affiliate members would only get to vote for officers.
- Beth asked how is this process being tasked for preparation at the November meeting.
- Chris: sometime in October there will be a Go To Meeting dedicated to bylaws revision. In November the SEIC meeting agenda will include a significant block of time to debate sticking points.
- The SEIC cannot vote for final version in November, but discussions will move the process forward. Staff can tweak again over winter so that SEIC can vote in March 2017.

Steve Hutton thanked Chris for his work on bylaws.

Intro to Paddling Committee Update

Steve gave an update on changes in the Introduction to Paddling discipline committee.

- Ben Lawry has been named as the new chair, having replaced Mike Aronoff. This transition was approved by the ACA Board president. Steve thanked Mike for his past service and Ben for his willingness to step up.
- The scope of this committee is changing, with a proposal to limit its purview to L1 and below. This change would give jurisdiction over L2 courses wholly back to respective discipline committees. This motion is up for voting in November.
- John Browning was in favor of this change, citing issues with the L2 /L3 transition, and the need for consistency.
- Steve said best way to accomplish the change is to have consensus across disciplines.
- Chris Stec asked John Browning to write the motion 45 days in advance of the November meeting.

Touring/Freestyle Canoeing Update

Steve welcomed Molly Gurien, the new chair of the Touring/Freestyle Canoe Committee.

- Molly reported that the T/FSC just completed thorough and exhaustive bylaws revisions.
- Chris told Molly he will look to include all current discipline committee bylaws in the uber version.
- SEIC staff proposed curriculum level revisions to T/FSC. Molly explained the current structure (L3 Touring Canoe includes all of Freestyle body of skills) and the proposal:
 - Change L3 to Introduction to Freestyle and include the onside forward quadrant only.
 - Separate the other 3 quadrants into a new course called L4: Freestyle.
 - Molly will make this proposal at the next T/FSC meeting September 11. The outlook is generally favorable, but FSC may want more symmetry, for example: leave both forward quadrants as L3 and rename the reverse quadrants as L4.
 - The FSC recognizes that this change would bring FS course structure more inline with other discipline committee structures.
- Chris thanked Molly for taking over as committee Chair. He noted that it may have been a challenging time, but that the discipline will emerge stronger. He also expressed thanks for bringing up the curriculum change to the FSC. Freestyle is a very small discipline committee. Canoeing in general is much larger. Such a change in structure would make it easier for many canoe instructors to gain L3 skills as a next step.

Potential New Endorsements for Adaptive Paddling

- Many questions have come to staff about paddling programs for students with various disabilities, including cognitive, visual, auditory. The current adaptive program has been focused on paddlers who are amputees or have paralysis.
- The Adaptive Committee is considering different endorsements for different disabilities.

Surf Ski Presentation

Chris Hipgrave made a case for consideration of a new surf ski discipline.

- In his work at NOC, he has seen the positive impact of ACA curriculum on learning and program delivery to guests.
- As a surf ski paddler, he feels that the craft does not have much structure limiting its potential.

- He described surf skis as fast, tippy, long (21-22'), narrow (17"), high performance SOTs.
- In the 20th century, surf skis have great rescue potential.
- They are very versatile: used for racing in surf, open oceans, and lakes. Also used for pure fitness and recreation.
- Surf skis have been widely popular in South Africa, Hawaii, and are experiencing quick growth also in the continental US.
- The craft is popular with a middle-aged, male, active demographic on the coasts, mid-Atlantic region, and recently in middle states also. For example, in Hood River, OR this summer, a surf ski event sold out at 300 participants and has plans to expand next year to accommodate 450.
- Surf skis share many features with similar craft: leashes are used, they are paddled mostly with wing paddles, cannot be rolled (must re-enter), typically they are ruddered, and they require surf zone skills.
- The surf ski doesn't fit neatly into any one existing SEIC discipline committee.
- Several enthusiasts are now willing to pull together to create a safe, effective curriculum.
- The entry threshold for the craft is rather high now due to expense of boats, but plastic manufacture is making it lower and therefore more accessible. More people, probably younger, will grow the sport.
- New users display a massive gap of knowledge about leashes, PFDs, and offshore safety.
- An ACA surf ski program could increase safety of beginners.

Discussion followed.

- Sean Morley offered help. He is buddies with Kenny Howell, a sales rep for Epic Kayaks, who is passionate and wants to assist with planning a program.
- Chris Hipgrave said many have expressed interest.
- Dale felt this development is long overdue. The Sea Kayak Georgia Tybee race used to be just sea kayaks, now it is over 95% surf skis. Locally many are experimenting with the craft. He sees it as a growing portion of market.
- Chris Hipgrave thanked Dale for support, and added that growth is not just on coasts, for example, there are many surf skis on Lake Fontana.
- John Browning noted surf skis also present on Great Lakes, not just in warmer waters. He added that the CKC has considered a surf ski skills course, but a new discipline committee (DC) might be the way to go.
- Chris Hipgrave and Ben Lawry have discussed whether it should be a separate DC. They concluded that it should be, because of its borrowing from many disciplines. Chris thanked John for reaffirming.
- Steve asked if for simplicity, why not incorporate surf ski into CKC? He expressed concern about administrative complexity of new discipline.
- Chris Hipgrave replied: it's a collection of crossover skills. Little subtleties moved me away from a skills course within a discipline toward a separate DC.
- Sean Morley suggested: at least it should be somewhere. If not its own DC, perhaps within CKC.
- Dale suggested that a skills course should be the beginning of the process either way.
- Beth suggested that the first surf ski program begin as a CK endorsement

- Dale said that previous CK endorsements have included a specific skill set that supports the general sea kayak skill set. But surf skis are different enough to warrant a separate discipline.
- Sean added that the surf ski has more in common with ICF K1/'K2 than with sea kayaks. He asked if the ACA/USACK merger had any relevance to new program development.
- Chris Hipgrave replied that Olympians are everywhere in surf ski events. Surf ski is not a USACK event, but the craft is recognized by ICF.
- Chris Stec answered Sean's question, saying that there's no specific role of the ACA/USACK merger in developing a new SEI skills program. But USACK does support an ocean racing discipline.
- John Radel suggested a focus on entry-level surf ski users due to recreational manufacture explosion.
- Becky asked which is better administratively: starting a new DC or as a skill course within a DC?
- Chris Stec replied that it's challenging for staff to administer skills programs as a subset of another program. Making a new DC (like SUP and prone kayaking) would allow a bridge from CK.
- John Radel asked if discipline development should be coordinated with ICF so as not to set up a competition between ACA and them.
- Chris Hipgrave said that the ICF is working with someone in South Africa on safety criteria for surf ski. A new ACA program would be aligned with development in ICF.
- John Radel asked if an ACA surf ski program could include be a feeder program for USACK coaches, or a more general skills education.
- Chris Hipgrave replied that for now the focus would be on general skills instruction.
- Chris Stec added that in the future surf ski could fit with the broader ACA coaching education program. He has also been in communication with ICF program in South Africa.

SEIC Officer Elections

Robin Pope reported on SEIC officer vacancies and upcoming elections.

- Elections for SEIC officers will take place at the November meeting.
- All current officers would like to move on and encourage others to step up, but they are all willing to serve again if needed.
- Steve has served as Chair for two cycles, Rusty as Vice Chair and Becky as Secretary each for one.
- Anyone interested in SEIC leadership please contact Robin.
- Steve explained that we have a little more pressure than in the past. ACA bylaws say that officers need to be in place one month before the November conference.
- Chris Stec added that the ACA Board changed its election process, with votes now taking place ahead of their annual meeting so that the new Board is seated at the meeting. The ACA Board includes the SEIC chair and and SEIC appointee.
- Technically, we need to elect new officers by October 3, but we can work around that if needed.

Coastal Kayak Day Trip Leader Assessment

- Steve reported that the CK Day Trip Leader Assessment is our only assessment that has a written evaluation tool. Despite best efforts, it falls short in being effective.

- There will be a motion in November to strike the written exam, with a suggestion that instructors, ITs, and ITEs create their own written instrument if they feel it is appropriate.
- John Browning noted that River Kayak has an exam which is clearly stated as “optional.” Many find the CKTL exam flawed. Complaints have been coming from instructors.
- Steve said he had never heard from any instructors who want to keep the assessment tool.

Traditional Skills Endorsement Criteria

John Browning reported on this.

- A subcommittee of the CKC has been looking at the CK Traditional Skills program.
- There is a new proposed sample skills course and new instructor endorsement criteria. Instructor criteria for this endorsement have been individually created by ITs without anything official, so this is needed. The subcommittee has developed criteria.
- The CKC committee will vote next week on the package: new course outline and instructor criteria.
- The SEIC will vote in November.

Old Business:

- ITE Revision Process Update : Steve had no progress to report. He asked for an update on workgroup participation, and expressed hope for an update in November.
- Paddlesport Facilitator Review & Evaluation (PSF): A report and program evaluation on this recently launched effort will be presented in November.
- 2017 Grants Overview: Chris Stec pointed out grant information on the SEIC Intranet.
 - Currently administering over \$1 million in 12 grants, including 3 Adaptive Paddling initiatives and 5 USCG grants.
 - Staff will report to SEIC when grants are completed.
 - Chris also pointed to a report on grants pending and not received.
- USACK/ACA merger: Chris gave an update.
 - Boards of the two bodies have agreed to merge, having worked out lots of fine print.
 - Negotiations were on hold until after the Olympics.
 - Now ACA board and USACK board are working on bylaws.
 - Some USACK practices are not practical for ACA, e.g. having an athlete representative on every committee.
 - Organizations will become one in the future.
 - Bill Endicott has developed a coaching program that, once fully developed, will augment what USACK has. Coaching and instructing overlap but they have differences.
 - For now, the ACA is managing USACK. There is one director, and ACA membership is keeping USACK alive.
- Book Project Update: Kelsey Bracewell
 - The ACA office has begun a large-scale project creating skills manuals to accompany courses.
 - This resource will serve multiple uses.
 - Discipline committee-affiliated teams have made great strides.

- Some groups have delayed drafting, but all groups have made some progress.
- 6 photo shoots have been organized to create photos to accompany content.
- Target completion: spring 2017. The process may take longer, but it is still moving.

New Business:

CC Williams reminded everyone about the ACA L1-L2 Update and Symposium coming up next weekend in Rock Hill, SC.

- 22-23 instructors plan on attending, mostly from Dixie division, some from outside.
- The Symposium is a joint effort between SEI staff, various ACA ITs, and the City of Rock Hill.

Upcoming SEIC Meetings

- November 9-10, 2016 in Sausalito, CA
 - Discipline Committee meetings on Wednesday.
 - SEIC meeting Thursday.
 - Discipline chairs were asked to submit meeting needs to SEI staff.
- Friday, March 3, 2017 in Fredericksburg, VA at the ACA national office
- Final SEIC meeting of 2017 will be at NOC in October.

Plus / Delta for Meeting

Steve Hutton asked everyone to send feedback directly to him.

Beth moved to adjourn. John Browning seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.