

TASC Meeting Minutes

ATHE 2017 Las Vegas

August 3, 2017

INTRODUCTION

Chris Krejci welcomed the group and introduced himself as the outgoing TASC Representative. He outlined today's agenda as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Update from Pre-conference
3. General Council
4. Elections
5. Discussion

Chris Krejci read a statement recognizing that we were standing on First Nation lands, as a way to show respect to the past and present of tribes Paiute and Shoshone.

The group then introduced themselves individually going in a circle. List of those present is attached. Due to the early date of the meeting, we had less members than usual.

Beliza Torres Narváez was introduced as the incoming Rep for TASC.

Chris thanked Theresa, Peter, Brooke and Michael, Courtney and Gabby the grad reps, Karen, Michele and Annalisa as Members at Large for their service in the past year.

Last year's minutes were approved.

CALL FOR PAPERS: Lisa Bremmer passed out a call for submissions for the "Theatre and Protest" issue of Theatre Topics.

for more info: <https://jhuptheatre.org/theatre-topics/cfp-theatre-topics-special-issue-theatre-and-protest>

OLD BUSINESS:

1. TASC SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD: Last year there was an inquiry into reviving the tradition of giving a TASC Social Justice Award to an organization in the community where the ATHE's conference was held. This non-monetary award is an honor WHICH the organization could list in their grant applications, their promotional material, etc. At the Governing Council and FG Rep meeting Chris submitted a motion to reinstate the award. The motion was amended and approved to include all the recipients of Focus Group's awards in the printed program of the Conference Award Ceremony. However, the TASC award will be presented to the organization on a separate date at their venue and in front of their board and/or community .

The focus group (FG) would like to appoint someone to be in charge of identifying the award recipient in Boston for next year's conference. The recipient must be in the host city of the conference, but does not necessarily have to be a theatre organization. It can be an organization that focuses on social justice.

Lisa suggested that Dani Snyder-Young is in Boston and might be interested in helping with this.

2. PRE-CONFERENCE: Every other year TASC does a pre-conference. The pre-con typically starts on Wednesday and goes through Thursday morning. It may have different formats, for example, it can be a two-day workshop or have panels, etc., and it can be held sometimes offsite or onsite. Two years ago we partnered with the interactive subgroup. We can also do it in collaboration with another Focus group. There is also pre-conference grant money available through ATHE.

The question was put to the group if they would like to do a pre-conference and a majority of members agreed that they enjoy the pre-conference and would like to continue with it.

3. ATHE BYLAWS: Chris defined the Government Council Members at Large (MAL) positions. ATHE will send a ballot by email asking for a vote to change the bylaws on how MALs are elected. Currently, three MALs are chosen by the FG Reps. Members can choose to keep it this way or to have 3 MALs chosen by all ATHE members, and a fourth MAL chosen by the FG Reps.

Another change that is going to happen, in order to give focus groups more voice they are going to change the composition of the nominations committee to two reps from each focus groups. Also, past presidents will serve two years, instead of one year.

4. TASC FACEBOOK PAGE: There has been an effort to identify the administrators of the focus group Facebook page. It was discovered that there is a Page (226 Followers) and a Group (47 members). Peter Harrigan announced that he, Kelly Howe and Lee Foster-Shanning are the admins for the Group, but we still need to find out who is/are the admin for the FB web page. It was decided that the admin should be the Focus Group Rep in order to keep it more active. Theresa will locate the admin for the page and send out a link.

5. TASC BYLAWS: Last year there was a discussion on bylaws. Chris did not receive emails from last year's discussion on bylaws. The current officers will work together to formulate new bylaws. A committee might be created for this so that we may have them in place by next year's conference.

TODAY'S BUSINESS

1. TASC ELECTIONS: Today we need to select a new conference planner, secretary, grad reps, MALs, coordinator of the games we play panel, and the debut panel as well as someone to organize the pre-conference.

The **Conference planner** position is a three-year commitment. The first year starts as a silent follower (following Theresa). Theresa explained that after the shadowing in September you put out the call for proposals and send it out. Once the proposals come in the CP sends out ranking on a spreadsheet. CP sends out to MAL and get the rankings back. CP really shapes what the conference looks like. Talking to the ATHE conference planner throughout the spring. On top of changes to panels. Helps put panels together. Matchmaking.

The **Secretary** is a two-year commitment. If there are funds for the pre-conference the Secretary would be in charge of that. Secretary takes the minutes at the ATHE meeting and submits it to the Rep.

We can have as many **Grad Reps** and **MALs** as we want.

The **Pre-Conference Planner(s)** coordinates with the preconference.

Coordination for the Debut Panel: Peter Harrigan has done it for seven years. Peter explained the process thus: for the November 1st deadline the panel is proposed. Then respondents are found. A notice is sent in December with a deadline in January. It's logistical work to facilitate presentations by emerging scholars presenting for the first time at ATHE, or on a TASC subject.

Calls were made for **Conference Planner** volunteers. **Michelle Hayford** volunteered and accepted the role of Conference Planner.

Calls were made for **Secretary** position. **Inga Meieri** volunteered.

Christine Iaderosa, Andrew Gaines volunteered to be **MALs**.

Theresa nominated **Jacqueline Viskup** in absence, who later accepted the position as **MAL**.

Simonita Simkins volunteered as **Grad Student Rep.**. An email will go out for more grad reps. Andrew nominated Chelsea Hackett.

Michael Mufson nominated himself in absence as **Pre-Conference Organizer. (We need another person)**

Inga Meieri volunteered for **Debut Panel Coordinator**.

Games we Play – practice based section. **Christine Iaderosa** volunteered to lead this session. (This may be done by one person or more)

2. INCOMING TASC FG REP

Chris passed the invisible scepter to Beliza who continued facilitating the meeting.

3. TECHNOLOGY: Beliza announced that wifi is ATHE2017, password 2017ATHE.

Beliza announced that AV cost is a big part of the expenses of the conference and it's a big part of what you pay in fees. She wants to share that when you check the AV box, you are raising the price. So, if you are not sure if you need it for your presentation, please don't check it. Also, as members are interested in lowering registration fees, we as ATHE need to consider is we should find creative ways to share information rather than using AV, like posting Powerpoints or pictures on a webpage or youtube that everyone access on their own devices.

4. UPCOMING CONFERENCE VENUES: Next year's conference in 2018 is in Boston, Orlando in 2019, and Detroit in 2020. Boston's theme is "Theatre of Revolution: Performance, Pedagogy and Protest". Can we brainstorm what panels we might want to see under that rubric.

Chris, suggested next year asking for an offsite social event listed in the planner. Like TASC night at the bar to have more time for discussion.

5. BRAINSTORM for NEXT YEAR CONFERENCE

Theresa, suggested e-mail of further proposal ideas. If you could not attend the meeting, but wish to contribute, please e-mail Theresa.

IDEAS:

Work people are doing with law enforcement.

Are people doing TO work with police departments?

Rebellion vs. Riots: Who gets to say which is which?

Detroit riots vs. Boston resistance – what does it mean to be revolutionary?

Graduate students & Instructors fighting for their Rights (TA, GAs, etc.)

Activism happening around issues of Race and D&I. (Concerned Students 1950 at Mizzou)

Something along the lines of Protests and Town Halls since Trump's taken office.

Pedagogical perspective students politicized by Brexit and Trump

Ghost Light Project

Where do we find the theatricality in protest? How does theatre serve as a form of protest?

A lot of art has arisen in Puerto Rico because of the current colonial situation, using theatre as a way of resistance in the long term. Art as a response to political crisis. (Gentrification, Giving up Space) Colonizing.

Idea and challenge of who the audience really is. If the audience is only people of the same opinion, how do we open the dialogue to change minds. How do we get to a place of civil discourse when it's easy to be entrenched in our positions. Not closing off the dialogue for who we are resisting. Humanizing the oppressor.

Devolving of Civil Discourse. Words fail us, but images often don't.

Non-binary Us vs. Them (Using Theatre to erase the binary in oppression)

Theatre of the Oppressor, what are theatre artists doing to centering, leveraging voices of marginalized communities

If someone wants to contribute another idea, they can email it to the TASC Conference Planner: Therese Dudeck: trdudeck@gmail.com

FURTHER BUSINESS

1. CONFERENCE COSTS: It was pointed out that in pre-conference planning grad students limited financial resources be taken into account and that the organizer should have clear instructions and aid in how to get to off-site places, cheaply.

2. MEMORIALS: Beliza asked if anyone knew of anyone who had passed away in the field of Social Justice for the memorials.

Sue Ann Park (February 27, 2016) was suggested.

3. 2018 CONFERENCE: Ann Shanahan came by to talk about next year's conference. The call for papers is in the conference program p 16-17, looking at Boston as a place for historical revolution, contemporary revolution.

http://www.athe.org/page/18_home

4. RECOGNITION: Beliza, on behalf of TASC, thanked Christopher for his three years of service.

Attending the ATHE 2017 TASC focus group meeting:

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