Governning Council Meeting  
Agenda – July 23, 2014 – 1:00 pm– 3 pm– Sonoran Room  
Lunch bags

I. Welcome and call meeting to order
   Henry Bial

II. Consent Agenda
   A. Minutes

III. Action Items Passed by GC (see additional pages below)
   A. Eligibility for Outstanding Teaching Award
      Bob Schanke
   B. New Draft Policy on Site Selection
      Chase Bringardner
   C. ATHE Leadership Institute ® Co-Directors Transition
      Jim Peck

IV. Reports/Updates
   A. Treasurer’s Updates
      Nina Le Noir
   B. VP for 2014 Conference
      Sonja Kufinec
      * Formalizing Post-Conference Debrief
   C. VP for 2015 Conference
      Lionel Walsh
   D. President’s Update
      Henry Bial

V. Discussion Items
   A. Organizational Membership
      David Kaye
   B. Communications
      Shaun Franklin-Sewell
   C. ATHE and relationship to Focus Groups
      Henry Bial, Alicia Tafoya
   D. Conference Improvements
      Henry Bial, Barbara Parisi
      1. How to address overall costs of attendance/participation, esp. for
      2. Conference Scheduling
      3. Ongoing issues for Committee on Conferences?
   E. Data Collection Priorities (time permitting)
      Henry Bial

VI. Strategic Planning Breakouts
   Patricia Ybarra

VII. New Business
VII. Adjournment

Action Item Detail

A. Eligibility for Outstanding Teaching Award

Resolved: That the description of the Oscar Brockett Outstanding Teacher of Theatre in Higher Education Award be revised to read as follows (new/changed text in bold):

The **Oscar Brockett** Outstanding Teacher of Theatre in Higher Education award honors a college-level faculty member whose superiority as a teacher of theatre is recognized by students and colleagues, who **has provided** inspiration through instruction in theatre to students and teachers of theatre, who **has promulgated and practiced** high standards of teaching and theatre, and who **has created**
strong and effective interpersonal communication in studios, shops, rehearsal halls, and/or classrooms through advising, mentoring and all aspects of the student/teacher relationship. **The awardee need not be a current faculty member.**

**Rationale:** The GC recently revised this description in an attempt to clarify the question of whether retired or emeritus faculty are eligible for the award. In so clarifying, the GC indicated that retired or emeritus faculty are NOT eligible, which contradicts our actual past practice. This further revision would clarify that retired or emeritus faculty ARE eligible for the Brockett Award.

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**B. New Draft Policy on Site Selection**

**Resolved:** That the GC make the attached policy on conference site selection available to the membership not more than 30 days after the adoption of this resolution for a period of public comment of at least 30 days.

**Draft Policy:**

**Conference Site Policy**

Recognizing that choosing the site of the ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) Annual Conference is a potentially contentious issue and a frequently misunderstood process, ATHE has decided to set out a selection policy that outlines the necessities and considerations the organization's leadership attends to when making this important decision on behalf of the membership.

ATHE typically holds its Annual Conference from Thursday to Sunday in late July or early August. The meeting currently attracts approximately 800-1200 attendees who travel from across the United States and the world; a significant portion are graduate students. Pre- and Post-Conferences hosted by ATHE's committees and focus groups regularly occur on the Wednesday before or final Sunday after the general conference meeting days.

After the selection of a conference site, ATHE's membership elects a Vice President of Conference to organize the Annual Conference and serve on the Governing Council. The VP assembles a conference committee reflective of the diversity of ATHE's membership; the following year's VP joins the committee to gain experience and create continuity. Following the Governing Council's approval of the committee selection, the VP and her/his committee generate a conference theme and subsequent programming that engages the conference location and addresses the needs and desires of the organization's membership. While ATHE cannot predict the political realities of any given conference location two years in advance, it intentionally gives the VP and their committee freedom to engage the membership in programming that intervenes in various political dialogues.
ATHE will consider the following **logistical needs** when selecting a conference location:

The Conference requires...
- A large hotel that can accommodate the meeting and bid competitively.
- Affordability of hotel guest room rates and contractual terms and fees.
- Availability/Affordability of air service and transportation infrastructure.

ATHE will consider the following **membership needs** when selecting a conference location:

In light of the needs of our membership, we strive to select locations...
- That demonstrate geographic diversity of meeting sites over time, in both the short and long term.
- That offer a variety of extra-conference opportunities including nearby performance venues, restaurants, and sites of interest to our members.
- That are economically feasible for a broad cross-section of ATHE members, with particular sensitivity to the financial constraints of graduate students, independent scholars/artists, and non-tenure track professors.

ATHE will consider the following **advocacy concerns** when selecting a conference location:

ATHE gives strong preference to:
- Hotels whose staff is represented by a union.
- Hotels with active sustainability policies and programs.
- Locales that have demonstrated a commitment to providing service to all people equally.
- Locales that engage with the issues outlined above through local activist performance/theatre initiatives.
- Locales that offer the conference a chance to support local theatrical communities or companies.

In selecting dates for an Annual Conference, ATHE attempts to avoid conflicts with organizations of similar interests and audiences such as The American Society of Theatre Research (ASTR), International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR/FIRT), Performance Studies international (PSi), The Hemispheric Institute, American Studies Association (ASA), Congress on Research in Dance (CORD), and National Communications Association (NCA).

**Rationale:** In response to member concerns about recent choices of conference site, the GC charged an ad hoc Committee on Conferences with developing a policy to guide the Association in selecting future conference sites. The GC considered and rejected an earlier draft at our previous meeting. This draft represents an attempt by the
Committee on Conferences to address the GC's concerns. It is expected that following the public comment period, the Committee on Conferences may be asked to make additional revisions to the policy prior to submitting it for GC approval.

C. ATHE Leadership Institute ® Co-Directors Transition

Resolved: That the GC authorize Barbara Korner and Mark Heckler, the current co-directors of the Leadership Institute, to begin the process of searching for new co-directors. This search process shall be conducted in consultation with the VP for Professional Development with the advice and counsel of the Professional Development Committee and the Operations Committee as needed.

Rationale: The current co-directors of the LI have announced their intention to step down following the 2015 conference. The hope is that new co-directors can be identified by Spring 2015, so the incoming team can “shadow” Bobbi and Mark at LI 2015, prior to taking over the Institute in 2016.