

FINAL Minutes for IGDA Board Meeting 10 April 2014

Present: Dustin, Ed, Jon, Justin, Luke, Sheri Graner Ray (SGR), Sheri Rubin (SR), Tom

Staff: Diann, Kate, Tristin

Tardy: Anne

Brief Announcements

- Upcoming Board Meetings: 8 May 2014 at 13:00 CT

Meeting called to order at 13:06 CT

Officer Elections

- Dustin talked about how we have 3 positions to fill: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer and nominations only for Chair and Treasurer
- Dustin said let's start with the hard one and described some of the roles and tasks of the Secretary including minutes, working with Executive Committee
- Dustin asked who would love to throw their name in the ring.
- There was discussion about nominating Anne but several people talked about how she had expressed no desire to be Secretary at this time.
- Jon talked about how Tom had talked to him but he was worried about his travel and new position might mean a lackluster performance
- Tom talked about how he expects everyone to have issues and how we can appoint later on
- Tom mentioned how Sheri has done an extraordinary job and he doesn't expect anyone to hit that level but that everyone is different
- Tom talked about how there are some different levels and he's been on the board where people have just said "we need to do better" versus Sheri's detailed notes and attachments on all the activities of the organization and there's something to be said for how great that level of transparency is
- Jon is just hesitant about how he's worried about note taking meaning he's more focused on that versus participating and it is his first time on the board
- Tom said how he approached Jon because he thinks he could do a great job and would be great to have on the Executive Committee which is an emergency strike team.
- Jon accepted his nomination with the proviso that he will want to step down if he feels he is not doing a great job.
- Talked about shadowing current officers to prepare for transitions; Justin agreed to shadow Ed to learn the Treasurer role.
- Dustin talked about how the roles transfer immediately and has passed the baton on to Tom to lead the rest of the meeting.

Dustin nominated Tom for Chair position; Justin seconds.

Tom Buscaglia was elected to the position of Chair; election was unanimous.

Tom nominated Jon for Secretary position; Sheri seconds.
Jon Grande was elected to the position of Secretary; election was unanimous.

Sheri nominated Ed for Treasurer position; Justin seconds.
Ed Fries was elected to the position of Treasurer; election was unanimous.

Dustin relinquished meeting gavel to new chair.

Review Of Board Meeting Minutes For Approval

- March's meeting minutes and any adjustments were reviewed
- Dustin pointed out to the new board members that the link is sent out post-meeting and the initials are important to show they were reviewed. He also mentioned that it is standard for board members to abstain for meetings they were not in attendance from.

Dustin motions to approve the March meeting minutes; Luke seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

- Diann led the financial update and showed us the current financials and showed year over year our cash balance is down but we're still waiting for some receivables to come in but not enough to make the difference.
- We have approximately the same amount of deferred revenue from Membership but with a slight increase and that is a good sign.
- For budget versus actuals you'll see the membership numbers are right on target with the budget on an accrual basis; corporate membership is higher but that is mainly due to the change in how that is being reported
- For GDC revenue we got in approximately 33K compared to the 16K budgeted and that was a significant positive for the month.
- The GUR SIG items are included in the sheet but are set aside and not accounted for in the regular parts of the budget
- Revenue is over by 55K and more than half of that is related to the GUR SIG Summit revenue coming in
- Expense wise the lodging was significantly higher than expected and so was catering, overall the total expenses are over budget by 40K but the majority of that was part of GUR Summit expenses which are handled differently.
- Current projection is down from 4K over budget to only 2K for the year
- Almost all membership cash revenue are up over last year but Studio and Two-Year Membership is down.
- Talked about the two studios that were lapsed and reasons why and who contacts them. Talked about it is a coordination from the Membership team at Talley plus Kate after that. Jon asked for more information as to why they might not have renewed yet and Diann said a lot of times it is just timing and getting them to see/respond to the emails.
- Kate said she didn't even know that the two studios had lapsed and so she hadn't noticed

it and it's not that she couldn't know it she just wasn't paying attention but felt that they would be easy to regain as studios

- Tom talked about how with the one company it's normally just a matter of invoicing them and they'll respond.
- Ed said we're still looking for a sponsor for the Membership cards, NVIDIA has been a sponsor in the past and so we need that.
- Ed also said we need the money from ECGC and he's looking to Dustin to make sure they pay up this year. Ed also said we have an E3 party coming up and we still need a sponsor for that so either we'll need to cancel the party or find a sponsor.

Anne arrived at 13:36 CT.

Executive Director General Org Update

- Kate mentioned for the new board members that she's been sending this out for the last few months and if there's anything we have questions on or things we want to see presented please let her know. This is a chance to get a high level view of what's going on with the org.
- Total member numbers dropped due to the two studios who expired but we expect that to get renewed and go back up
- The GDC members joined/renewed was less than last year and part of that is believed to be due to the late signing of the GDC membership drive and the differences in the types of promotions compared to last year.
- Tom talked about how he thought part of that was because they weren't walking away with anything and that having a distributable helps, like with the MOGA drive.
- Kate talked about how that was the plan until they realized the scope of things.
- Jon talked about how there's lots of ways to handle that like everyone gets a pair but 10 per day are given out live.
- Luke asked if the promotion was for new or renews too. Kate said it included both and Luke said that GDC was two weeks earlier so people might not have been noting they were up for renewal.
- Tom said that was a good point.
- Jon said he wanted to talk offline about ideas on how to handle membership promotions and finding ways to increase membership numbers and Kate said it sounds like he should be on the Membership Committee.
- Tom mentioned that we'll tackle a lot of those issues at the offsite as well.
- Kate said she did update the engagement spreadsheet and will add the new board members today that goes over the studios, who she contacts, and when and any information from other board members as well.
- Multiview revenue currently is 15K and we get 20% of that. Tom asked if we've actually seen any revenue come in from that and Diann said that was 4K.
- As Ed mentioned we are actively looking for sponsors for E3; discussed how Intel and Microsoft were great sponsors at GDC and we really appreciate their help and support
- Still working on the UKIE contract and Luke said he would ping them again to keep that

moving forward

- Kate has had two discussions start back up with software providers and is looking to try and get discounts for IGDA members there as well
- Chapters - Emerging: 27, Established: 70, Empowered: 14, Academic: 11
- Hope to launch the Chapter Handbook this month.
- Talked about the definition of Empowered and for informational purposes which ones are US and non-US and Kate said she'd call out the numbers in the future. Tom said it would be good to focus on the non-US numbers increasing and thought maybe Montreal would be next.
- Kate talked about how Montreal is still interested, Japan is interested, Georgia, and others are interested and in process.
- For SIGs there was a lot of great activity at GDC with many reporting standing room only in their meetings which Kate hopes will convince GDC to keep giving us those rooms.
- There is now a bi-weekly staff meeting that's been initiated with Diann, Daniel, Kate and Tristin
- There has been a process started to look for interns, Kate has interviewed several candidates and is having one person in Seattle start soon.
- Kate has also been talking to the university where she had her non-profit leadership training as they said they have many who are looking for projects/internships soon
- Events: We have ECGC and E3 coming up soon (with some money left over for Scholars use there). Talked about how there was some confusion last year between the IGDA LA event and the IGDA event and so there was talks about maybe combining them, especially if we do it at the Fig again. Kate has a sponsorship form available for that and will pass that around
- We did secure Scholars passes for GDC Europe/Gamescom and so we'll have 8 scholars and 2 chaperones covered there
- For SIEGE in October we did an experimental Leadership Track that Keith Fuller organized and they are interested in doing it again this year and she thinks this is a good idea and thought we'll have a better run this year due to more lead time
- Research Survey: It's running for two more weeks and Kate is still planning to release a high-level summary by E3 and is already planning press interviews around it for E3.
- We only have ~1200 right now but encouraged everyone to get the word out, but we'd like to get as many people involved as well. We already have enough to be statistically valid but we want to get those numbers up.
- There was not a lot of time to localize it which is hampering it but IGDA Japan has already said they'll localize it for us.
- Tom suggested we send out a dedicated email and Kate said they are planning on sending out a couple emails.
- Kate went over her upcoming travel including her upcoming vacation attached next to her talk in France and then back for MomoCon and then E3.
- Justin mentioned about how it was really helpful to see that in advance of the call and Kate said she'll try and get it out earlier next time.
- Tom asked for an update/insight on the leadership training at NELI.

- Kate said it was a fantastic experience and there are very few people they accept and she was excited to be accepted into the training. She was the odd man out because she was the only membership organization and a global organization as the rest were charities and local/regional.
- They were divided into groups and created consulting groups of 4-5 people and stayed together the entire week and worked on those challenges and then presented at the end of the week one person's challenge and how they felt it could be solved.
- One of the great benefits is she now has access to the UofW's resources and 29 other colleagues to reach out to who understand the challenges of running a nonprofit including fundraising, sales, managing volunteers, etc.
- Kate hopes to share a lot more for us at the offsite next month as she took a lot of notes and there was a lot of eye-opening stuff and hopes to have a chance to distill it and present it at the offsite.
- Tom and Kate agreed it was money well spent.

Appointment of Foundation Trustees and Chair

- Tom mentioned the IGDA Foundation is a sister organization and is a 501(c)(3) and is a charity and been in existence for 8 years and been fairly humble in its operations but consistently providing scholarship funds for the Eric Dybsand AI winner as well as working with Full Sail for an undergraduate degree
- The Foundation also does grants to internal and external organizations for the industry.
- The budget is small and so has the work but could be do a lot better.
- Tom has been the Chair since its inception and although he doesn't think there's anything blocking it but doesn't want to be Chair of the Foundation.
- 5 Trustees, 2 are at-large, including Neil Kirby and Ed Magnin who is the Treasurer and the other 3 have to be sitting IGDA board members at the time of their appointment. Tom has 1 year left on his term and due to a clerical error Brian served one extra year.
- So under the bylaws of the Foundation the IGDA Board needs to appoint two trustee members to the IGDA Foundation board members.
- We need to appoint one board member to the Foundation for a two year term and one for three year to get us back on track. Then we need to appoint someone as Chair - Tom prefers it to not be him.
- There is no official nomination process and he knows Luke and Ed have expressed interest and there was potentially interest from Anne who said she was.
- Tom said the other thing you need to be cognizant of is that you need to be a board member of the Board when appointed to the Foundation trustees board but don't have to be a board member during your entire term at the Foundation.
- Dustin said he was not interested but asked if a Chair Emeritus could be appointed and Tom doesn't think that would be a problem due to him being an official voting member.
- Tom mentioned we have 3 people interested in 2 seats and so we need to figure out how to handle this and so really the question is who wants to wait a year as a seat opens up each year. Anne said she could wait a year. From there we'll have one person up for a seat each year, e.g. Tom will step down next time.

- Tom wanted to know if either Luke or Ed had a preference for length of term. Luke said he's happy to go for longer and Ed is happy to go for 2 years.
- Once Luke and Ed were appointed one of them needed to be appointed as Chair as Tom did not want to be Chair.
- Dustin asked Tom to share his query to Hugh Webster about a legal issue having a non-US citizen Chair or participate in the organization of a 501(c)(3) and Tom said Hugh had no concerns and so that should not prevent us. There was talk about how that was a good question but our legal counsel came back with approval.

Sheri motions to appoint Luke Dicken to the Board of Trustees for the IGDA Foundation for a 3-year term. Dustin seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheri motions to appoint Ed Fries to the Board of Trustees for the IGDA Foundation for 2-year term. Justin seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheri motions to appoint Luke Dicken as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the IGDA Foundation for a 1-year term. Tom seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed left the meeting at ~14:13 CT

Meeting Minutes Appendix Discussion

- Sheri asked the Events group about GDC Europe/Gamescom presence because Kate has asked about that for awhile now and if we'll do anything there besides Scholars.
- Dustin said there was no real discussion but now that things are settled down they will look at that again.
- Tom talked about how there was talk originally on trying to find ways to bring local chapters in to help manage these events but that is still ongoing to find ways to help facilitate that.
- Tom talked about how GDC caused many updates, like with Sponsorships and Sales that were lost due to the bandwidth and Events has not met yet.
- Tom mentioned that the monthly webinars on 3 different topics was set to launch this month but that there was a underestimating on the bandwidth GDC would take up and so that has been delayed.

Entered Executive Session at 14:17 CT

Exited Executive Session at 14:30 CT

Action Items:

- Jon to work with Sheri to transition the Secretary role.
- Justin to start shadowing Ed for the Treasurer duties.
- Dustin to transition Chair items to Tom
- Tristin/Sheri to prepare transition on email lists, board aliases, etc. and Sheri to work on press release for new officer and new board member announcements.

- Jon to connect with the Membership group on ways to help out with promotions, membership drives, and overall member number increases.
- Justin to talk with Kate about potential E3 and membership card sponsor support
- Luke to ping UKIE about the contract process
- Kate to call out on the ED PPT the # of Empowered Chapters who are US vs non-US
- ALL: Promote the research survey to try and get those numbers up
- Kate to distill her non-profit executive leadership training notes into something we can all discuss at our May offsite
- Tom, Luke, and Ed to work on completing the appointments and Chair change to the IGDA Foundation Board of Trustees
- Events group to continue the discussion on GDC Europe and Gamescom and our presence there as well as re-looking at the potential for facilitating local groups to help us out at these events based on our guidance.
- Tom to work on getting the webinars launched for our membership.
- Sheri to follow up on locations for the board offsite

Additional Discussion:

- Before we adjourned the meeting, Tom wanted to thank Dustin Clingman for his two years serving as Chair of the Board of Directors as well as for the period of time where he was the interim Executive Director as well and moved this organization through a very treacherous time.
- Tom mentioned Sheri has also been there the whole time doing the same thing and he doesn't think that the organization would exist today if it were not for the two of them and cannot thank them enough.
- Dustin and Sheri thanked Tom for the kind words and he said it was nothing and very little because he cannot imagine the org existing without us and asked everyone to give Dustin and Sheri a round of applause.

Dustin moves to adjourn meeting.

Luke seconds.

Meeting Adjourned at 14:35 CT

APPENDIX TO MINUTES Pre-Meeting Updates

Group/Main Updates

Chair: (Dustin)

No updated provided

Driving Sponsorships/Sales: (Dustin/Ed/Tom)

No update provided

Events: (Dustin/Tom - with potential help from Luke on a Virtual Event)

No update provided

Finance: (Ed)

No update provided

International Growth/Formalization: (Dustin/Luke)

Status of Group Still Pending

Membership Group: (Kate/Ed/Sheri Rubin/Talley/Tristin)

- *Status of Group Still Pending But Currently Still Meeting* - Activity Includes:
- Finish 1st year member mails: Still with Kate/Trisitn/Talley for implementation
- Meet 2x/months: Still going!
- Value proposition development: Working on additional tangible member benefits with several software, engine, and platform companies
- Increase individual membership numbers: Continued reconciliation of membership database records
- Completed GDC membership drive with Gunnar Optiks

Processes/Roles: (Kate/Tristin/Sheri Graner Ray/Sheri Rubin)

- Consolidating physical assets, still trying to get additional documents from Gordon
- Investigating potential shared back-up solutions; including implementing our own form of a drop box.
- Began discussions around the Volunteer Management Program; Kate pursuing potential use of graduate student interns to help

SIGs and Chapters: (Luke/Kate/Sheri Rubin/Tristin)

Chapters

- During GDC we had a lot of very positive engagement with chapter leaders from around the world, both informally at the SCLAD and more formally at the multiple roundtable meetings held throughout the week. These covered both general chapter issues as well as targeting specific topics such as formalization and region-specific sessions for Europe, Asia/Pacific and Latin America. Kate has

been in touch with several people regarding opening/relaunching chapters in areas not currently served. During GDC we were able to communicate a rough timeline both for the release of the Chapter Handbook as well as for Chapter-specific areas of the website being launched. Overall, the past month has shown a really positive outcome to a lot of the outreach being undertaken by staff!

SIGs

Status of SIGs part still pending

Tangible Benefits: (Brian/Dustin/Ed)

No update provided

Individual Updates

Brian:

No update provided

Dustin:

No update provided

Ed:

No update provided

Kate:

See Meeting Minutes; Kate Reported She Was Asked To Prepare PPT For Meeting

Luke:

Board

- Usual calls and emails (with the exception of the informal board call this month due to unavoidable scheduling)
- Additional board commitments due to GDC
 - Booth hours, "official" attendance at IGDA Party, MVP Lunch, AGM etc
- Various additional conversations with volunteers and others during GDC
- Co-chaired (with Tristin) Chapter and SIG Leader Roundtable sessions

Scotland

- Missed Board Meeting due to unavoidable scheduling conflict
- High-level support of other Board Members
- Working with several figures to discuss potential chapter meeting content
- General outreach etc on behalf of chapter

Scholars

- High-level assistance with program during GDC
- Chaired Postmortem session after GDC
- Distributed E3 Applications to judges

AI SIG

- Met with Steering Committee during GDC
- Chaired AI SIG Roundtable at GDC
- Follow-up on issues arising from the Roundtable

Sheri Graner Ray:

No update provided

Sheri Rubin:

Board

- Attended monthly board meeting and board-only call
- Worked with Chair and Bohle to start preparing press release about new board members and officer elections
- Prepared, got approved, and published several board blog posts and worked with Tristin to prepare copy for social media and IGDA Insider promotion
- Got several blog posts approved and posted in regards to Board talk, election results, and several board updates/recaps
- Participated in several threads regarding GDC, board elections and appointments, DSS, committees, updates, etc.
- Participated in several IGDA at GDC related activities as a board member including VIP Luncheon, Annual Meeting, 20th Anniversary Celebration, etc.
- Chapters Group
 - On hold due to staff bandwidth issues
- Finance Committee
 - Attended bi-weekly calls (except for one directly after GDC)
 - Reviewed financial statements and reports; making inquiries as needed
- Membership Group
 - Attended bi-weekly calls (except for one directly after GDC)
 - Reviewed dashboards; making inquiries as needed
 - Followed-up again on request to make changes to dashboard to provide us some additional info necessary to keep track of potential fluctuation in numbers and member expiration numbers
- Processes/Roles Group
 - Participated in second call with group
 - Provided initial outline for design and development of VMP to group and discussed potential steps forward and will proceed with the staff's desires for moving forward
 - Provided curated results of Production SIG answers to virtual office solutions and discussed those options as well as others with the group as

we work to find a solution to replace WebEx office and potentially handle additional items

- Met with Tristin at GDC to go over the files transferred/curated so far, what they are, how they were used, etc.
- Discussed with Tristin old setups and background of various operations pieces based on inquiries from the file discussions
- Working with Tristin on getting transfer setup restarted and will continue curation/transfer
- Secretary Items
 - Created calendar appointments, meeting setups, etc. for April board meetings and calls for new board members
 - Prepared pre-meeting report for board review of April meeting
 - Created placeholder minutes stating that no official minutes were taken during December; added Minutes Appendix; and gave to Tristin for posting on website
 - Worked with Tristin to update/create board pages, email lists, etc. for board transition (Brian outgoing; Anne, Jon, Justin incoming)
 - Worked with new board members to create and test aliases, email list posts, get bios and headshots
 - Worked with Tristin to get bios and headshots up on board pages
 - Updated various Secretary records in preparation for transition to new incoming Secretary

IGDA Chicago Chapter

- Attended weekly meetings (where possible)
- Continued moving things forward in planning for our April workshop, May meeting, potential May board game event, etc.
- Passed reins of April workshop on to others on the board for final stretch; coordinating the transfer of snacks/drinks and other items to bring to the workshop
- Continued discussions with other potential speakers and workshop facilitators to assist us in the planning of the year's events
- Continued to log ideas as we look to expand and grow our work in the community
- Continued work to prepare sustainability chapter-wise and transition to more advisory role personal-wise
- Other miscellaneous board duties as needed

IGDA Scholars Program

- Provided onsite coverage as a chaperone/coordinator for GDC including Meet and Greet, Scholars-Mentors Lunch, Studio Tours, etc.
- Participated in Scholars GDC Post-Mortem meeting and related follow-ups
- Participated in several committee threads and activities

Miscellaneous

- Reviewed copy for several ACSI Committee responses as time permitted
- Continued to help proofread various communications for Staff as time permitted
- Participated in several other SIG and Chapter events/groups
- Worked with current QA SIG SC to talk about future plans, efforts, and support needs
- Finished my term serving on the Global Game Jam board in the IGDA's seat
- I voted in the IGDA Board of Director election!
- A whole host of other items similar to what I do in most months that aren't part of my normal duties.

Talley Management Group - Submitted by Diann via Kate:

- General membership account assistance
 - Creating account
 - Importing account
 - Password reset
 - Expiration date correction
- Continued maintenance on old studio affiliates
- General Studio assistance
 - General communication
 - Creating invoice
 - Attachment/detachment of subaccounts
 - Import of current studio employees
- GUR SIG Sponsorship processing
- GDC Sponsorship Processing
- Monthly renewal reminder email
- Monthly IGDA Membership Card Export
- Bi-weekly Cash Report
- Bi-weekly Membership Dashboard
- Communication with IRS regarding group exemption status
- Completion of 2013 annual review and tax return preparation

Tom:

No update provided

Tristin:

Overview: March was a heavy GDC and BoD election related tasks month as well as GDC itself.

GDC

- coordination with UBM, GES, and various vendors and sponsors for on time delivery of GDC materials (booth, carpet, electric, signs, prizes, etc) and event coordination

- coordination with various Chapter/SIG/Committee leaders and Staff/Board members on a variety of week-of related activities
- coordination with GUR SIG re: GUR Summit and their registration/report needs in California for pre-event set up, GDC itself, and post-event breakdown/wrap up 15 - 23 March

Election

- Managed election through finish; answering inquiries re: credentials, etc
- Generated lists for 7 day, 3 day, and 24 hour voting reminders; sent reminders
- Collected results; provided to ED

Website

- Various content updates throughout site

General

- Mass mail re: IGDA Developer Satisfaction Survey
- IGDA Insiders for the month
- Answering of member and non-member inquiries
- Prep for incoming board members - email aliases, mailing lists, etc (w/ Sheri R.)
- Membership verification on a handful of crowdfunding projects
- Catch up from being out of office week of GDC

Chapter/SIG Administration

General:

- No major updates
- Successful Chapter and SIG Leader dinner @ GDC (~65 attendees)
- Co-led Chapter and SIG Leader Roundtable @ GDC w/ Luke

Academic:

- See update below.

Non-Board Group Updates

Academic Chapter Coordinators Update - Submitted by Tristin:

- No update provided
- Working to add new volunteers to team; met a couple interested parties at GDC and working to follow up

Anti-Censorship and Social Issues Committee Update - Submitted by Daniel Greenberg:

1) Steering Committee

Interviews with new candidates for ACSI steering committee. Final membership to be set by mid-May 2014. Important roles include media outreach to gaming press and major media, seeking to place ACSI advocacy articles. Plan agenda

and chart strategy for 2014-2015.

Action: Work with Rob and Bohle to get stories into gaming press.

2) GDC Follow-up

The GDC ACSI meeting was a success. New members and new directions.

Follow up on connections and sources and volunteers, including networking with the Game Industry Services group and numerous international game groups that do anti-censorship and advocacy work.

3) Leeland Yee Article

Hypocrisy of Yee (Irony of Yee)

Action: Revise and get the article placed in California media.

4) Article: The Fall of the Censors

Article comparing the fall of the three most prominent anti-video game censors in history: Leland Yee, Joe Lieberman, and Jack Thompson, all fallen from grace from utterly self-inflicted wounds. Is there something about supporting censorship that leads to self-immolation?

5) Violence Report: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

We emailed Pennsylvania state government to ask for the report to be updated to reflect the facts as listed in the ACSI editorial in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. No answer. We may follow up by postal mail. We are also letting them know that we are available to be part of any other report into video games, and we can make local PA devs available.

Action: Follow up w PA govt

Action: Look into ways to promote these kinds of editorials in the gaming press. Can Bohle press release when we have a story out there?

6) Net Neutrality Article

Revised story for late-breaking information.

Action: Place story in major media. Update the story online with the latest information from Sheri in which predictions in the story appear partly vindicated by actions of the ISPs.

Longer Term Issues:

7) Update Website

Add old material back into the website, including resources for devs to fight back

when challenged.

8) Tracking Tax Credits

We track the national and state legislation that withholds tax credits and other incentives on the basis of First Amendment-protected content.

9) Gamasutra article on Game Research

Followed up in a letter to Mike Rose of Gamasutra, pointing out how his article made inaccurate conclusions not supported by his sources and contradicted by me in his article. Mike responded, claiming that he has more quotes from his sources that support him, but he didn't print them. The situation is at an impasse, though I note that Gamasutra did not run my letter.

Action: Decide whether to pursue the issue, decide whether to press Gamasutra to publish my dissent from his article.

10) "Immorality" Anti-Game Research

Coordinated with Action: Continue to coordinate with Columbia University professor Liel Leibovitz on countering the "games make kids immoral" claims. Use "God in the Machine: Video Games as Spiritual Pursuit" against those claims.

11) Banning Handheld Devices

Quick evaluation of the call to ban handheld devices. We rate this a very low threat and easily debunked. It is not likely to gain traction. If it does, we have material on where it fails and how to debunk it.

12) ACSI Statement on Gaming in Australia

Future Action: Work more closely with IGEA: joint statements, coordinated strategy. Keep up pressure on Australia. Follow up statement with additional details. Also, check SA gambling website in Feb-Mar to make certain they have scrubbed objectionable and misleading anti-game language.

13) China

ACSI response to new Chinese actions on video games praising the lifting of the console ban but criticizing other bans and calling for freedom for Chinese game developers and gamers.

Action: release statement to IGDA website.

14) Laws of War and Video Games: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Action: follow up with ICRC in and invite them to GDC for brief presentation at roundtable.

15) NYT Op Ed:

Reaching out to other NY and national news outlets with criticism for media psychiatrists to run the story the NYT passed on. Making one more contact with NYT to find out what kind of OP-Eds they are looking for on games.

16) Challenging Media Psychiatrist Credentials:

Looking for game developer and players willing to make a challenge to Dr. Keith Ablow's board certification and medical license for violation of medical ethics. Massachusetts residents preferred, but all are acceptable. The basis would be Ablow's apparent violation of medical ethics by publicly diagnosing patients he has not treated, like mass shooters, in order to unfairly attack video games, game developers, and gamers.

Scholars Committee - Submitted by Luke and Sheri Rubin:

The Scholars team delivered another great installment of the program at GDC this month, with 16 Scholars present. Highlights included tours of Double Fine and Three Rings, Q&A sessions with Warren Spector, Jenova Chen and Don Daglow. As always, thanks must be made to the judges who select the Scholars, the mentors who assist them through the conference and the various studios and figures who give up their time during the conference to support the program. Our onsite team, Heather Decker-Davis, Rebecca Fernandez, Molly Proffitt and Sheri Rubin did a first class job as expected. Special thanks to Rackspace for sponsoring the Scholars and Mentors Lunch, and to Obsidian Entertainment for sponsoring other aspects of the program. Subsequent to GDC, the onsite team and Luke met for a postmortem session, and although no major problems were encountered, there are a couple of areas for potential improvement.

E3 applications closed with more applicants than in 2013. Applications have been passed to the judging panel and the hope is to get notifications of acceptance out before the end of April. Kate has also confirmed with UBM that they are willing to support the program at GDC Europe, so applications for this will be opening shortly.