

**MiALA Board Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, April 4 2024 at 1:00pm**

Present: Darlene Johnson-Bignotti, Katrina Rouan, Carin Graves, Mies Martin, Aaron Kilgore, Jennifer Mikesell, Lori DeBie, Sheila Garcia Mazari, Ed Eckel, Veronica Bielat, Denise Leyton, Kalyn Huson

Absent: Rebecca Tull

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:04pm.

**Board Business Meeting:**

1. Approval of Agenda - Garcia Mazari made a motion to approve the agenda. Eckel seconded. The motion passed.
2. Approval of [Board meeting Minutes from March](#) - Martin made a motion to approve the March Board Meeting Notes. Garcia Mazari seconded. The motion passed.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda: - Leyton made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Graves seconded. The motion passed.
  - a. Committee reports
    - i. Advocacy – No report (committee dormant) - (Ed)
    - ii. Awards – Submission page has been updated and the ALOTY award is being promoted on the MiALA home page and through the newsletter. Now all we need are nominations! Darlene will pull together a selection committee after the deadline has closed. (Darlene)
    - iii. Conference Planning– (Mies)
      1. Over 65 paid registrations
      2. Pre-conference workshop is open
      3. 14 poster presentations accepted (64% acceptance rate)
      4. Keynote confirmed
      5. Room layouts determined
      6. Student Jazz Trio will be performing
      7. Student designed conference logo
    - iv. Communications and Marketing – No updates (Rebecca)
    - v. Executive – No meeting/report. (Darlene)
    - vi. IDEA – Maha Kumaran webinar event (April 19) funding request submitted 4/3/24 - \$250
    - vii. Membership – They launched a mentoring program. Everyone should sign up! (Denise)
    - viii. Nominating – Opening nominations on April 8th. Election Central website has been updated. See new business.(Carin)
    - ix. Ad-Hoc Committees:  
Strategic Planning Workgroup – [moved to Old Business]

- b. Partner Reports- None. (Darlene)
- c. Treasurer's Report – We approved the FY25 budget over email, hooray! (Denise)
- d. Interest Group Coordinating Council – Planning a survey at MiALA Annual to solicit potential future IGs. Will try over the summer to facilitate connecting like-minded individuals to develop new IGs. (Ed)
- e. Board Actions via Email:
  - 1) Motion: To sponsor the Great Lakes Science Boot Camp at the Bronze (\$1000) level. **Passed 3/14/24**. Darlene has reached out to Thom Gerrish; he will coordinate invoicing and other details with Kalyn.
  - 2) Motion: To accept and approve the 2024-25 budget. **Passed 3/21/24**. Denise distributed a copy of the final budget via email on 3/21/24.

### Old Business

- 1. Media Policy (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - Tull suggested a policy be drafted by the Communications Committee. [Board agrees.] I will let them know they can proceed with a draft.
- 2. Strategic Planning Workgroup (Denise)

Leyton - We sent out a [proposal to contract with consultants](#) to [NEW](#), [Spartina](#) and [MCLS](#). We did consultations with each of them and are awaiting proposals, we gave a deadline of April 8. Our team is set to meet April 10 to talk over the proposals. Through our communications with all three groups, we shared that we are open to a more extended timeline of introductions and planning from May-August, research and engagement work in September-October, compile results in November and report back to us in December-January. This came up because MCLS said they didn't have capacity to do the work in our accelerated timeline. It didn't seem to be a concern for NEW or Spartina.

Once we talk through the proposals, we will plan to share back with the Board our recommendation. We have given the consulting agencies a verbal budget of 10k-20k as a ballpark range of what we are willing to spend for this work. As a Board, we will make the final determination of what to do and how much to spend. This will come over email.

### New Business

- 1. Agenda for Annual Membership Meeting (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - In addition to introducing the strategic planning consultants, we will have Committee Chairs give reports at the Annual Membership Meeting. Potential introduction of the ALOTY award.

Rouan - Can we ask speakers to share notes ahead of time?

Johnson-Bignotti will email speakers and ask them to share slides and notes ahead of the conference.
- 2. Ad-hoc Partnerships Committee (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - We discussed having some internal guidelines drawn up re how we partner with other professional associations/groups. This process should not be arbitrary. Can we have some volunteers for a working group?

Volunteers - Ed Eckel, Mies Martin, Katrina Rouan

3. June Meeting Date (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - If we can move the June meeting, I would really appreciate it. I will send out a poll to identify an alternative day/time.

4. IDEA Funding request (Katrina)

Leyton - I will write them back and let them know they are good to go.

5. Nominations officially opens April 8th (Carin)

Graves - The official call for nominations will be sent out Monday, April 8th.

Motion to adjourn - Mikesell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eckel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:34pm.

**Issue Bin / Future Agenda Items:**

1. Student Liaison Position

**Upcoming Board Meetings:** First Thursdays at 1pm unless otherwise noted.

- May 2
- May 17- Annual Membership Meeting (during Annual Conference)
- June TBD

**Next Executive Officer's Meetings:**

TBD (convenes as needed)

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