**Society for Disability Studies**

**Board Meeting**

**May 16, 2016**

**In Attendance:** Funmi Akinpelu,Juliann Anesi,Brenda Brueggemann,Mel Chen,Ibby Grace,Helen Meekosha,Mallory Kay Nelson, Sami Schalk, Phil Smith,Joanne Woiak

**Absent:** Frank Wyman

**Regrets:**

**April Minutes:** Phil motions to approve minutes from the April 22, 2016 Board meeting. Funmi seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Phil motions we move into executive session. Joanne seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Executive Session Notes available by request of board members only.

**Town Hall Meeting:** Brenda lets us know the format will be Adobe Connect and it will be sponsored by The Ohio State University, Office of the ADA Coordinator (Scott Lissner). This format has four frames--one main frame, one below it with captioning and one on the side with the chat and on smaller one with the technical person—Scott—so we have a direct line to him. Brenda recommends we arrive a half hour early (4pm Eastern Time) so we become comfortable with it. In terms of running the meeting, unless people are signed up they will not be able to enter the meeting, so Brenda will send a reminder and give everyone until Friday to sign up because Scott has to manually add everyone into the connection and send a single mass e-mail. Scott suggests that we need a notetaker, we will also have CART and we can clean that up and make it available. We will also need someone watching the chat room. Brenda thinks the meeting will start with twenty to thirty minutes of the board rehearsing some of these major questions—with chat open—and then allow for questions and comments. Sami suggests having multiple people watch chat and likely not speak much in the board presentation. Ibby, Mallory and Juliann volunteer and Ibby says they should have a backchannel mechanism to communicate with each other on. Brenda says we’re approaching 100 people, so Scott as the technical person will mute and unmute people. Ibby asks if Scott can also be on the chat backchannel. Brenda will try to let us know if there is a time to preview, but will prioritize a time that works for the captioner. No matter what try to get there 30 minutes early on the day of the meeting itself (Wed. May 25) Brenda would like to go through the list and get volunteers to speak on various issues. Helen wonders what happens if people ask about the previous executive director, Brenda says we should just repeat the text of Mike Rembis’ resignation e-mail. Below is the list of the topics/questions and who volunteers to speak on these issues. Brenda really wants multiple voices on this. Sami feels strongly that the questions of debt and restructuring need to be spoken on by executive committee members.

* How did SDS get in the current situation that lead to the cancellation of its 2016 conference in Phoenix? (Brenda)
* What has the Board been doing since they first learned of the significant debt coming out of the Atlanta 2015 conference? (Brenda)
* What is happening now regarding negotiations with the Atlanta Hyatt (2015 conference) hotel and the Phoenix Hyatt 2016 conference hotel on our settlement offers to them? (Phil)
* What is a timeline for restructuring/rebuilding SDS coming out of this situation?
	+ `Will there be a call for new SDS Board members? (Sami—yes!)
	+ Will there be an annual SDS membership meeting? (Sami—end of August)
	+ What are the plans for an Executive Office/r for SDS in the future? (Helen)
	+ What might our new membership with the Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO), where SDS is chartered, mean for the organization and its Board? (Joanne)
* Will there be future SDS conferences? If so, when? And what might be expected of these conferences? (Ibby)
* How can SDS meet its budget AND ALSO grow its income and fundraising? (Mallory)
* What does the exponential growth of our field (Disability Studies) and our conference (SDS) mean for all of us? (Brenda)
* How can we shift our narratives and conversations regarding the “costs” of our annual conference? (Brenda)
* What other questions or comments do any of you have? What would you like to talk about? Help your organization/field with? Know more about? (Brenda)

Phil moves that we create an electronic vote for Devva as an interim executive director. Ibby seconds. Sami will send out a voting request, please respond within one week (Monday May 23). Motion passes unanimously.

During the week of May 16, the board voted on and passed the following:

**Approving Devva as interim executive director for 6 months**

**Yes:**Sami Schalk, Helen Meekosha,Juliann Anesi, Ibby Grace,Phil Smith, Funmi Akinpelu,Brenda Brueggemann,Mallory Kay Nelson, Mel Chen,Frank Wyman

**No:**

**Abstain:**Joanne Woiak,

**Missing:**

**Paying the Settlement to the Atlanta Hyatt**

**Yes:**Sami Schalk, Brenda Brueggemann,Mel Chen,Ibby Grace, Mallory Kay Nelson,Phil Smith, Joanne Woiak, Funmi Akinpelu, Frank Wyman, Juliann Anesi,

**No:**

**Abstain:**

**Missing:** Helen Meekosha,