

EXCO Teleconference
July 24, 2010 at 15:00 GMT
Minutes
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NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2010 AT 15:00 GMT

Actions are identified in Italics and Underline

Attendees: Gary, Pramod, Mirek, Pablo, Penny

1. Greetings, quick updates, comments
 - We have not heard from Kim for quite a while, and Pramod has been trying to contact him.
 - *Action: Pramod will continue to try to contact Kim and find out how his health is, and also how he wants to proceed with his role as SI Peace Secretary.*
 - Gary described important items:
 - As noted in the internal audit report, planning should begin for the GA 2012 with a call for expressions of interest to host it
 - SI registration (see 7c.)
 - ServasOnLine (see 7b.)
 - Youth
 - Distant Vote and polls – review and usage
 - Strategic implementation of GA decisions
 - Servas charter and principles (see 6d.)
 - Penny commented that many of these topics would be most effectively discussed at a face-to-face meeting where there is plenty of time
2. Review and agree on the agenda
 - Added 5e. 2009 Audit committee report, 5f. letter from DVA
3. Review of notes from meeting of July 1, 2010
 - Penny noted that she had not yet assembled the list of area meetings
4. Email EXCO decisions made since last meeting
 - a. Order 2011 SI stamps from India through LVS
 - b. 10 free stamps to VP for Distant Interviews
 - c. email to all NSs re: permission to email host lists to travellers
5. Items needing a decision:
 - a. EXCO face-to-face meeting
 - Discussed analysis of options which were circulated
 - Least expensive place with sufficient hosts to provide accommodation seems to be Western Europe
 - Agreed that it would be useful to meet with ServasOnLine team for two days in the middle of the EXCO meeting
 - Therefore, France or Belgium (or London) would be good choices to consider
 - Agreed need 5 days for the EXCO meeting itself
 - Agreed on mid-November 2010 timeframe
 - *Action: Penny to send draft agenda to EXCO for comments*

- b. EXCO representation at Brazil meeting
 - Gary indicated that he would like to attend, and do a ServasOnLine presentation
 - DECISION: Gary would investigate costs further, and a decision about EXCO representation at the Brazil meeting will be made by email.
 - c. Next steps re: email from one Nepal group
 - Discussed the strong language used in the letter that was forwarded to many national groups, and that it does not fit in a peace organization
 - Discussed that face to face mediation by a person respected and trusted by both groups would be ideal, and that Chris and Marian Slader had attempted this in 2007
 - Action: **Penny** to draft a reply to the letter
 - d. South West Asia announced election
 - The agenda from Nepal includes an agenda item for an area coordinator election
 - Action: **Pramod** will update and circulate the Area Coordinator guidelines.
 - e. 2009 Audit committee report
 - The Audit Committee submitted the 2009 Internal Audit report to EXCO
 - Action: **Mirek** will review it and send his comments and recommendations to EXCO
 - Mirek reported that the 2009 External Audit is underway, and that the External Auditor has received a copy of the 2009 Internal Audit report. The 2009 External Report is expected in several weeks, in enough to time for it to be taken to the November 2010 Distant Vote
 - It was noted that the 2008 External Audit was not received until after the 2009 GA, and so it will be put in the November 2010 DV.
 - Both internal and external audit reports will be made available to all National Secretaries
 - It was noted that the 2009 accounting and audit timetable is good, and should be the model for the future.
 - f. Letter from DVA
 - The Distant Vote Administrator has sent a plan for the details for the Nov 2010 DV
 - Action: **Penny** to review and reply to the letter
6. Other important items:
- a. Budgets for 2010 and 2011 - 2012 for Distant Vote
 - The situation was clarified
 - 2010 budget was approved at the 2009 GA. Because it is a deficit budget, EXCO has been operating using a more prudent operational budget.
 - 2011 and 2012 budgets will be taken to the Nov 2010 DV with no changes from the ones approved at the 2009 GA
 - The newly appointed Budget Committee will participate in the preparation of the 2011 operational budget, and also review the 2012 budget for a vote in a future DV
 - b. Status of newsletter item drafted by Gary that was sent around for comments
 - Gary sent an SI update to the SI News team
 - Action: **Gary** will send a copy of it to EXCO
 - c. Confirm if Vice President main contact for ACs
 - It was confirmed that the Vice President is the main contacts for ACs

- d. Committee re: election rules
 - This topic was not directly discussed
 - However, it led to discussion of the need for Servas principles and charter, to strengthen the network of national groups
 - Action: Gary will work on a Servas Charter in advance of the face-to-face meeting
- e. Action Chart
 - No updates; it was reiterated that this is a useful document

7. Updates

- a. Host List Reliability
 - Pablo will have a clearer idea of the status at the next EXCO meeting
- b. ServasOnLine
 - The technical design team are working hard under the leadership of Claudio Pacchiega; they met in France and are making good progress
 - Plans now call for
 - a technical design in the next couple of weeks
 - a task list for development which can be managed by one or more ‘dispatchers’
 - a prototype by the end of September
 - BeVolunteer programmers will also be participating
 - Money functions will not be in the prototype, but will be included in the technical design
 - Testing will include
 - testing that the system works
 - checking that the system suits the requirements of Servas users, by having some national groups act as early adopters; several countries have indicated that they will be involved in this process
- c. SI Registration
 - It was agreed that we no longer need the services of the current lawyer
 - It was agreed that there is a need for Servas to have a legal audit, to determine the legal status of Servas in Switzerland. This legal audit will produce a report and indication of what needs to be done
 - Action: Gary will contact Bea Mantel and others, to try to find a suitable person to do the legal audit
- d. UNESCO - Servas South America
 - It was noted that the UNESCO South America Peace Project is led by Servas Colombia, El Bosque University with Servas Brazil and other South American Servas member groups as agreed by El Bosque University. It is a Southern-led project.
 - It was noted that SI has no operating commitment to the UNESCO project
- e. Budget Committee See 6a.

- 8. Concerns, successes or comments from EXCO members NOT DISCUSSED
- 9. Other business NONE
- 10. Next meeting date **SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2010 AT 15:00 GMT**