

The DREAM Program Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting
August 18, 2005

Present: Lisa Christie, Jan Backus, Brianna Dusseault, Mike Foote, Jon Harris

Staff: Jon Potter, Mike Loner, Leah Threate (phone)

Absent: Sarah Siegel, Ed Willenbacker

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Lisa Christie called the meeting to order at 5:45.

II. SETTING UP THE BOARD'S MONTHLY SCHEDULE

The Board approved a weekly policy monitoring schedule that outlines the process of monitoring and recording policy changes.

The Board elected to hold monthly meetings that meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Board will hold monthly online meetings the first Wednesday of each month from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

III. CONVERSATION WITH ALUMNI ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT

The Board spoke over the phone with Leah Threate, who outlined the Alumni Organization's goals and needs. She agreed to draft bylaws for the Alumni Organization and send them to the Board for discussion.

Alumni Organization Goals

- Get alumni re-involved with DREAM, through their old partners or new ones
- Financial stability: raise money to give grants to DREAM programs
- Speak to everyone on the alumni list, preferably by phone
 - Discuss donations with alums
 - Create a database of contact information
 - Find alumnae to be career counselors to new mentees
 - Try to find a place in the alumni organization for all alumnae interested
 - Create network of alumni resources that DREAM can utilize
 - Give all interested alumnae a DREAM pen pal

Alumni Organization Needs

- Coordinate with the Board to contact alumni to prevent sending duplicate emails/letters

- Get help from the DREAM staff regarding: finding alumni contact info for the database, staying connected to the new programs, getting technical help, assistance in contacting alumni for the Alumni Appeal
- Define the relationship between the Board and the Alumni Organization
 - The Alumni organization sees itself as an umbrella group whose focus is to raise money to support DREAM programs. They will communicate with DREAM when they give out grants to programs/individuals.

IV. DISCUSSION OF BOARD'S 2005-2006 LONG TERM GOALS

Ends 4: Alumni Issues

The Board's primary concern is how to hold the Alumni Organization accountable without hindering their progress. Mike Foote will research how other nonprofits interact with their alumni groups and present a report on the issue at the September meeting.

Ends 5: Community

Several questions arrived regarding this End. Jon Harris will hold conversations with Board members, staff members, and anyone else he thinks will be helpful in answering some of these questions. He will present a report to the Board at the September or October meeting.

- **How do we define community?**
- The Board should consider rewriting the language so the wording does not imply what we expect the community to do for DREAM, but rather what effects DREAM is having on the community.
- Specific Ends have not been developed for Ends 5. Is it a lower priority than the other Ends?
- Is there data that relates to this End that we can reference? How do we incorporate survey data in assessing this End?
- What have we done so far to address this End?

Long Term Sustainability

This conversation focused on next year's budgeting priorities. Mike Loner will prepare the 2006-07 budget and the 2005-06 projected and actual budgets for the September meeting. Jan Backus suggested DREAM look into a free consulting group at Tuck Business School to help analyze the projections made in next year's budget.

Questions raised by the Board

- What are the projected costs for camp expansion next year?
- How will the budget reflect DREAM's plans to address maintaining excitement in older programs?
- What costs are associated with new evaluation and training programs?
- How does DREAM plan to address new storage and transportation costs?

Maintaining DREAM Values

Mike Loner reported on how the DREAM is keeping its energy and values alive in new staff members and programs.

- The new staff, which will be fully in place next week, is very knowledgeable of DREAM and brings a lot of energy to it.
- DREAMstock plans are underway.
- D-Unit, the summer intern program, was remarkably enthusiastic and its retiring interns plan to hold multi-program events and infuse their own programs with new energy.
- The Barre program will be a challenge to maintain now that the public housing funding has been cut.

V. BOARD RECRUITMENT

The Board is thrilled to receive its newest member Jon Harris, who will be taking over Secretary responsibilities in September.

Lisa Christie will be passing some of her responsibilities on to Mike Foote (agenda planning, document oversight) and Jan Backus (Board meeting taskmaster) as she has restricted time allowances. Mike Foote is in contact with two to three more potential Board members and will keep the group updated.

VI. BOARD OF ADVISORS

Mike Loner will start to recruit potential members for the new Board of Advisors.

VII. POLICY MONITORING

These policies were monitored and voted on in the Board's June online meeting.

Approved policies

1. Policy changes

EL 5.8, EL 9.7

2. Re-monitored policies

EL 6.1 – 6.5, 6.7

3. New monitoring policies

EL 5.1 – 5.9, EL 6, EL 8.1 – 8.5, EL 9.2 – 9.6, Ends 4.1, Ends 5.1

Remaining business

1. Approved policies with request for more information

EL 5.8

EL 9.5

Ends 5.1: how do you plan to collect data or do evaluations?

2. Approved policies that need to set a deadline

EL 9.4: evaluation tool

EL 9.6: getting program leaders involved in their evaluation

3. Rejected policies with request for more information

EL 9.1

Mike Loner will report back on these policies in the September meeting.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Board will hold its next online meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 8:00 pm.

The Board will hold its next in-person meeting on Wednesday, Sept 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the DREAM office.