

UUSJ Executive Committee Meeting February 9, 2022

Present: Charlotte Jones-Carroll, Beyssa Buil, Mariano Vera, Pablo De Jesus

Absent: Chloe Emily Ockey

1. Financial Statements: Mariano had just shared the January statements with the Board. Charlotte noted that our bookkeeper seems not to have incorporated the revisions to this FY's budget, approved in December. Thus, the comparisons of actuals to budget are not correct (as in line item for income from new grant which we decided not to seek). Charlotte will ask Tom Hutton to incorporate revisions.
2. Budget proposal for FY22-23: A draft proposal needs to be presented to the board for comment in March. For the first time, the initial budget draft is being prepared by Pablo, based on his work plan. He shared an early draft, after discussions with Charlotte who had prepared the last couple of budgets. The draft incorporates a communications consultant to support UUSJ national outreach and increased use of social media, along with a modest staff salary increase. He is piloting a more consolidated format for the board, per Rev. Joseph's comments, although it is based on a detailed version for his own use. Mariano asked about adequacy of the financial management line item (bookkeeping and audit). Pablo clarified that, while the proposed amount is not enough for a full audit, given our budget size, UUSJ only needs to do a financial review. He is hoping to identify a volunteer CPA like we used to have.
3. Decisions on Membership Committee and Policy Priorities: Charlotte noted two "executive decisions" made and shared with the board already. Based on Rev. Peggy's departure from chairing Membership committee, her participation at the last EC meeting and conversations with Membership Team lead John Peterson, Pablo and Development Committee chair Rev. Eleanor, the Membership Committee will not be re-staffed. There are too few board members and too many other committees that have urgent work to do, while goals of the Membership committee – defining who can be members and setting dues – have been accomplished. EC members were in agreement. On policy priorities, since Serena had presented an options paper at three board meetings, without clear conclusions on options, Pablo will assume the task of incorporating racial justice in a more explicit way and continuing or adjusting ongoing priorities.
4. Nominating Committee: The continued absence and lack of communication since mid-December of Chloe Ockey, who had volunteered to chair this committee and begun outreach, has created an urgent need for an alternative plan. Charlotte, Pablo and Beyssa had tried multiple times to reach out to Chloe, who was facing some personal challenges, with only one actual chat by Pablo. While the EC is concerned for Chloe's well-being, the work of nominating five new or incumbent board members is of such urgency that Charlotte and Pablo will seek alternative committee members, at least one of which should be a current board member. This new membership would need to be approved by the board in March. Meanwhile, UUSJ has begun to advertise the opportunity to join the board and responses are beginning to come in. [Update: Chloe emailed Pablo and Charlotte on 2/14 to get Nominations back on track.]
5. Topics for March board meeting: Pablo's revised work plan, a draft budget for next fiscal year and composition of Nominating committee are proposed topics. EC members were encouraged to suggest further topics.

Charlotte Jones-Carroll, acting note-taker