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The
Spiral

JUNE, 2020

SPECIAL COVID-19 UPDATE ISSUE

A Note From The Editor

LIFE WITHOUT THE ACADEMY?

How has the abrupt shut down of all Academy Activities due to Covid-19 affected you? For me, all the immediate concerns over dealing with the new coronavirus situation took over and put the Academy out of my mind. But as routine settled in I quickly realize how much I was really missing the Academy activities that had become an important part of my life.

Looking ahead produced a sobering thought: *What if the Academy is not able to resume in the fall?* The doses of learning and social interaction I normally enjoy so much from participating in the Academy would leave a big hole if they couldn't return. Then some even worse thoughts: *What if the Academy went away for good? What would I do then?*

The University provides the facilities and support staff for the Academy, but nothing the Academy does takes place without volunteers stepping up to plan the operation and make it happen. Without a dedicated group of volunteers the Academy would dry up and blow away. If the Academy is a big part of *your* life as well, isn't it worth some of your time to help assure it can continue?

Most volunteers are members of the Curriculum Committee. They help plan the courses at Committee meetings, serve as liaisons to manage the communication between their assigned instructors and the Academy, gather the needed information for the catalog, and introduce the instructors to their classes. All the procedures are well established and easy, but they DO require people to do them. The Committee can always use more members to help spread the load, and "new blood" is

always welcome to bring new ideas and perspectives.

Next year, David Tavernier will advance from his current Curriculum Chair-Elect position to replace Kathy Rachick as Curriculum Committee Chair, leaving a vacancy in David's old position. The Chair-Elect helps the Chair run the committee while learning the ropes for taking over the Chairmanship the following year. Both Curriculum Chair and Chair-Elect also serve on the Academy Board.

There is a similar vacancy in the President-Elect position, to serve on the Board and take over as President next year.

The Academy hopes to hit the ground running as soon as conditions permit. If you would like to help assure the continuing operation of the Academy by serving on the Curriculum Committee, or by volunteering to fill either the Curriculum Chair-Elect or President-Elect position, please contact the Academy President at pres@aikenlearning.org.

Doug Wilson
Editor of *The Spiral* / Academy Webmaster

THE SPRING SHUT DOWN

The Covid-19 pandemic caught the world by surprise as it exploded this spring. "Social Distancing" became the buzzword as businesses, institutions, and social activities all ground to a halt while everyone was advised to "Stay In Place". A large percentage of the populace are now "bandit chic" as they sport masks when they do go out on necessary errands.

The demographics of the Academy member rolls make our group particularly susceptible to Covid-19 complications, and the University and the Academy are taking this very seriously.

UofSC Aiken discontinued all face-to-face classes in mid-March, effectively canceling the remainder of the Academy Spring semester and postponing the annual Kauffman Award Luncheon.

The University eventually resumed operation using internet-based remote instruction for the last several weeks of the semester, but it was not possible to include the Academy in this effort.

In the interim, Curriculum Chair Kathy Rachick and the members of the Committee continued working from home to complete planning of the course offerings for next semester and putting final touches on the Fall 2020 Academy catalog of courses and events, all in the hope that we will be able to resume operation come September.

FALL PLANS COMING TOGETHER

As this is being written in early June, Federal, state, and local proclamations and guidelines dealing with this pandemic are changing weekly, if not daily. With this rapidly changing landscape only recently has the University been able announce its plans for reopening for the Fall.

University classes will resume with a condensed schedule that ends face-to-face classroom sessions by Thanksgiving. The balance of the semester will be carried out via remote instruction.

An Academy class schedule is being put together to comply with these guidelines. In actuality, the Fall Academy schedule normally ends by Thanksgiving to accommodate the busy Holiday season. Details (effect on allowable class sizes, hygiene considerations, etc.) are still being worked out.

Although circumstances may change between now and then, tentative plans are for catalog availability in early August, registration beginning August 18, and classes starting after Labor Day on September 8.

The 2020 Kauffman Recognition Luncheon which was postponed in May will be rescheduled for October.

As updated information becomes available it will be communicated by email and on the Academy's website, aikenlearning.org

ACADEMY OFFICERS FOR 2020-21

The Covid-19 shutdown prevented the 2020 Kauffman Recognition Luncheon and the Member meeting that follows it from being held, so a new slate of officers could not be elected in May. According to our bylaws, Board vacancies that occur between member meetings can be filled by a vote of the remaining Board members. Accordingly the Board has taken action to

install the following slate of officers for the 2020-21 academic year, with terms begin July 1:

President	Harriet Haynes (incumbent)
Secretary	Ellen Wood
Treasurer	Katie Cromer (USCA - incumbent)
Publicity Chair	Nancy Hughes
Webmaster	Doug Wilson (incumbent)

In addition, David Tavernier is automatically progressing from Curriculum Chair-Elect to Curriculum Chair. Jan Van Slyke will remain as Past President.

This leaves vacancies in the President-Elect and Curriculum Chair-Elect positions.

February 28 Board Meeting

[Note: February was the last Board meeting before the Covid-19 shutdown. As there have been no subsequent Board meetings to date, these minutes were approved via an email vote in June.]

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by President Harriet Haynes.

Present: Jan Van Slyke, Harriet Haynes, Doug Wilson, Kathy Rachick, David Tavernier, Jeanmarie Bronson

Guest: Katie Cromer

MINUTES

January minutes were approved with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Katie Cromer

Doug Wilson asked Katie how much money do we have pending to faculty. Katie is unsure and will send the board a report of additional finances information. Some instructors have been paid.

Partnership account is lower because of scholarship expenditures.

Kathy mentioned Tim Lintner needs to be updated on current salary paid to faculty and other Academy information as it changes. HR processes faculty payment documentation, which varies per instructor. Tim should be referred to Katie for an explanation of how salary can be transferred to a specific department. Jan will follow through with updating Tim.

Discussion followed regarding whether the Academy wants to donate to Vicki Collins' scholarship that is being created. The board approved the idea but needs more information.

Judy Waters, our contact in the Advancement Department, has been replaced by Vernita Dicks.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – Kathy Rachick

Over 268 students have registered for Spring semester. There have been little or no drops in attendance to date.

Jeanmarie is proposing a new course on health topics. The curriculum committee will review and make a selection.

Tiajuana Cochnauer has asked us to copy a colored sheet for her Indians class. The board rejected the request to ensure we

continue to follow our “no copies” rule. Doug will try to put the page on our website. We also need to continue to watch copyright laws. Liaisons should give the instructor handout to the instructor for each course.

RACK CARDS - The rack card stands have been ordered. The paper we want may have to be ordered via Amazon. Katie will look into this. We will wait for further McGrath merger information before making the expenditure for specialized paper and revised rack cards.

A side discussion followed regarding fee structure for merged programs. The plan is to discuss fees at the merger meeting on March 3. We have received no specific deadlines for merger.

It was moved, seconded and passed to reimburse Chuck Braun for the video he purchased for the upcoming *Great Descissions* class. The school cannot buy a textbook that will not be returned to the school.

PUBLICITY – Jeanmarie

The demographics for *Bella* magazine, which is being considered as an advertising medium, is the 25-49 age group. Jeanmarie will follow up on this option. The three best advertising mediums for the Academy so far are the *Aiken Standard*, Cedar Creek, and Woodside.

OLD BUSINESS

The question arose about changing the “for ‘mature’ adults” verbiage in our catalog. This decision must be made before final merger with McGrath is complete. Required decisions are charging fees for dropping classes and future fee structure in general.

Enrollment does not appear to be dropping as much as in the past. Board felt our request to notify us if missing a class was being heard.

Consolidation of email lists is progressing.

There is no additional cost to obtaining a USCA decal. This fact needs to be inserted into the catalog.

The canopy will cost about \$100.

NEW BUSINESS

A scholarship is being established to honor Vicki Collins, who passed away recently. Katie will investigate and report back to us. We may give a one-time donation to this scholarship.

Bylaws currently do not require you be a member of the Academy to be a liaison. Doug will prepare amendment to the bylaws with regard to the Policies and the Procedures documents for review by the Board and eventual approval by the membership to be approved at the Kauffman luncheon. Committee members must be current members to serve as liaison per policies and procedures.

Name tags for Board and Committee members. We agree we need name tags but will wait till merger for permanent name tags.

Kauffman luncheon status. The recipient of the Kauffman award for this year was moved, seconded, and passed. Doug did extensive research on the recipient for us. Tim Lintner will be guest speaker, and Mayor Osbon will offer the blessing for the luncheon. Jan will solicit suggestions for a short tribute to the recipient to be printed on the award plaque.

Proposed slate of officers to be voted on at Kauffman luncheon:

Curriculum Chair – David Tavernier
 Curriculum Chair-Elect – Vacant
 Web Master – Doug Wilson
 President – Vacant
 President-Elect – Vacant? (Harriet?)
 Past President – Vacant
 Secretary – Vacant
 Publicity - Vacant

We are in dire need for volunteers for our curriculum committee and board. Although we have made several pleas for help, we have had very little response. Doug is going to publish a strong request for curriculum committee and board members in *The Spiral*. We may wish to have Katie send this out as a followup later. We may try to recruit faculty.

Give Harriet feedback on class evaluation sheets.

The proposal to buy the ballet Instructors’ projector was tabled till next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. The next meeting will be Friday, March 27, at 1 p.m. in B&E 102.



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 Apparel and other items with the
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www.cafepress.com/A4LLL

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Academy Officers: President: Harriet Haynes; Past President: Jan Van Slyke; President Elect: (vacant); Secretary: (vacant); Treasurer: Katie Cromer (UofSC Aiken), Web Master: Doug Wilson

Committee Chairpersons: Curriculum Chair; Kathy Rachick; Curriculum Chair-Elect: David Tavernier; Publicity Chair: JeanMarie Bronson

Ex-officio Members: Faculty Liaison: Dr. Tim Lintner; Director Office of External Programs: Karen Edgington

Academy on the Web: aikenlearning.org