H-NET COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING
JULY 1, 2015
MINUTES

The meeting was Called to Order at 9:10AM EDST. Attending were: President Randolph Hollingsworth; Past President Jean Stuntz; Vice President Networks Patrick Cox; Vice President Research and Publications Robert Cassanello; Executive Director Peter Knupfer; Associate Director Jesse Draper; Associate Director Yelena Kalinsky; Scott N. Hendrix, Secretary-Treasurer; Jeff Strickland; Dan Fandino; Avrum Goodblatt; Charles Reed, Kevin DeJesus. A quorum was present.

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Vice President Research and Publication Robert Cassanello reported:
E-Review is up and running. A podcast entitled The Art of the Review is now available. This Podcast project is intended to highlight the H-Net Review program. Robert proposes the creation of an H-Podcast Network with blogs, discussion and so on. Robert suggest that H-Net consider the possibility of some involvement with HASTAC and possibly meet at their conference.

Vice President Networks Patrick Cox reported:
He has attempted to engage with other conferences and other organization. Patrick has engaged in extensive email communicating with network editors.

Executive Director Peter Knupfer then made his report:
Peter feels that two items need attention:
1) There has been a drop in postings to Jobguide and he is not sure to what to attribute this drop. Overall the finances are still in good shape with a very large reserve of about $99,000.00 dollars on hand.
   Peter notes that our System Administrator is very overworked.
2) There are several policy issues the Council needs to address:
   a) It is necessary to look at redefining the roles of editors;
   b) It is necessary to deal with the Jobguide situation in Germany (see below);
   c) The Council needs to consider H-Net relationships with affiliates, in some case they have effectively taken over the allied networks.

Associate Director Yelena Kalinsky reported:
Much hard work with H-Review has been accomplished; many networks have stepped up and doing more. Recruiting has been very successful, there are about fifteen new review editors. Yelena hopes to raise the status of H-Net Reviews and hopes to work with the Open Access movement. The proposed Book Channel, which hopes to pull together book news from various parts of H-Net is coming along, the core service will launch in September. Yelena hopes that there will be potential revenue streams here in the form of publisher sponsorships; and, she is in conversation with various academic presses. She hopes that the Book Channel will also help raise Jobguide awareness.
**Associate Director Jesse Draper** reported:
The home office staff has been professionalizing: there is much more content creation, and they are trying to create intern-type positions that offer professional advantages. The office is moving into social media, Facebook and Twitter and so on, to raise awareness of H-Net and bring people back to the commons. A huge migration of H-Diplo archives has been completed. A new training module has been completed, it should be a considerable improvement over what is currently available -- a full demo version should be available next week. New teaching resources are under development, and Jesse suggested that we might want to consider creating a separate Teaching Editor category. Three Hubs have launched: Digital Humanities, Gender, and Race and Ethnicity. The Commons front page is being revised to be more attractive and user friendly. Looking further out, online publishing is under consideration.

**OLD BUSINESS:**
Strategic Plan: A draft strategic plan will be completed within a short period of time.

Transitioning to a new Executive Director: There is no new progress to report -- the principle issue remains the status of H-Net vis-a-vis Michigan State University. Negotiations are ongoing. Peter Knupfer is worried that, under a worse case scenario, H-Net might be left without an executive director in place and he urges the Council to expedite this process.

**NEW BUSINESS:**
The question of posts advertising non-credit positions that seem to be for profit making institutions was raised. This issue was referred to the Editorial Affairs Committee.

The question of Networks without functioning Advisory Boards was raised. After discussing the possibility of a "Super Advisory Board" for networks without advisory boards was rejected. Executive Director Peter Knupfer argued that there was a real danger of one person with a strong personality in effect gaining control of a network. This issue was referred to the Editorial Affairs Committee and the VP Networks who would offer help to networks without Advisory Boards. On a related topic it was agreed that it would be desirable for there to be a formal announcement when a new editor completed training and was certified. Associate Director Jesse Draper stated that he would make an announcement on H-Staff.

Fall Elections are on track using the normal schedule. There was a request that we attempt to recruit new people.

Decommissioning Lists: A motion to decommission the following lists was passed: H-Mac; H-Info; H-ECAI; H-SOLCHA; moreover H-Iowa; H-Illinois; H-Indiana; H-Michigan; and H-Ohio will be decommissioned and merged into an H-Midwest.

The question of European networks posting job notices that do not appear in the Jobguide was then raised and triggered an extensive discussion. It was agreed that these networks could not be made exempt from this requirement. It was moved and passed that Executive Director Peter Knupfer would write and explain that this requirement would not be waved. If these posting continued VP Networks would begin to inform editors that they are out of compliance with H-Net policy.
The meeting was Adjourned at 12:25PM EDST.

Faithfully recorded,
Scott N. Hendrix
H-Net Council Secretary