

USHAA Meeting 9/10/2022-Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Case Spaulding, Suzie DuVal, Andy Hunsaker, Jason Campbell, Meggan Steffensen Bucher, Elinda Nedreberg, Penny Caywood, Kayla Martin, Jan Shelton Hunsaker, Krishelle Hansen, Stewart Shelley, Mindy Curtis, David Sidwell

Not in Attendance: Kjersti Parkes, Russ Saxton, Erica Heiner, Kayla Vernon, and Melanie Day not in attendance

1. UHSAA Updates

- a. UHSAA Theatre Committee Meeting on Monday, September 12th at 3:00pm at the UHSAA office in Midvale. Topics discussed will be qualifying standards for state competition, judges fees, arbiter system usage, updating the handbook, and other general concerns. It has been proposed that the presentation requirements be added to the tech ballots as General Rules to mirror the individual events ballots. Suzie showed a draft of the scene design ballot with the addition of a checklist for judges following the ballot. Suggestion was made for Suzie, Giselle, and Kjerstie to clarify what is a rule violation and what is not.

2. UACTT College Members

- a. Wendy Saunders, the Theatre Ed person at SUU, has proposed giving theatre college students the opportunity to join UACTT at a reduced student rate. The board has approved a \$25 student UACTT rate that would give students access to the Facebook group and other UACTT benefits. Board will discuss a reduced student rate for the UACTT conference. Wendy will join the board as the college student representative.

3. Conference Feedback and Planning for next year

- a. Next year's conference is scheduled at SUU July 13-15. Stewart Shelley reported that it will be in the Student Center again because Hunter Conference Center is already booked for those dates. Request has been made for 2024 move back to the Hunter Conference Center.
- b. Stewart Shelley reported that the way play ticketing was handled for the UACTT group was difficult for the USF box office because of the amount of ticket changes, additions and cancellations. He proposed that next year USF would like to set up individual ticket accounts for UACTT Conference Attendees and add the UACTT play discount/package to their account as a drop down option. This will allow Conference Attendees to book their own tickets and make their own changes. UACTT would need to provide

the box office with names, addresses and phone numbers of Conference Attendees so the box office can create the accounts. This process was agreed to for next year's conference.

- c. Meggan Steffensen Bucher shared feedback from the conference participant survey. Most successful was the format with the USF ticketing and conference. Teachers liked having access to the shows and having shows count as PD and felt the balance of shows and workshops was good. Some people didn't like the overlap of matinees and PLCs. Format will be the same next year so hopefully people will be expecting that and we can make sure we are clear that if you choose matinees you are missing PLCs. People appreciated the tee shirts, bags, pens, etc. Being treated as special.
- d. Meggan and Jan reported that there were some problems with the food that they know how to address for next year. Jan's contribution was amazing. The conference planning team will work to improve food issues with SUU Catering. Will need to raise the conference cost to cover the charge from SUU for using conference spaces and for SUU Catering.
- e. Meggan reported that some people loved the self-care block and some people wanted more workshops. It was specific to our theme this year so we may not revisit it next year. The keynote speaker Matt was a good fit for this year as a presenter and brought a lot of value to the conference. He is interested in coming back and we are interested in having him come back.
- f. Next year's theme will be Work Smarter, Not Harder. Melanie is interested in building on topics that were addressed at this year's conference. Jan added that making things easier for teachers is also self-help.
- g. The conference planning team will be Meggan Steffensen Bucher continuing the coordinating work she has been doing for the last several years long-distance. She will not be on site at the conference. Melanie Day and Amanda Swanson will be conference coordinators working onsite. Jan Hunsaker will focus on just food. Team may ask Megan Bishop to come back as a conference assistant. The team has requested to book an AirBnB during the conference so they will have access to a kitchen and meeting space for the team.
- h. Suggestions for a keynote speaker were discussed as well as some possible speakers. The following suggestions were made: a business person, a production manager or a stage manager from USF, speakers from the SUU MFA program with a focus on how to administrate your own program. It was also discussed to look at moving away from a keynote

speaker and starting with a different all member event such as a performance.

- i. Other workshop ideas were: looking to the membership to find presenters (Andy Hunsaker to teach a workshop on how to create a parent board, Zac Curtis to teach a workshop on 24-hour theatre festivals), improv workshop last year was great-it was helpful that they performed and then taught, move devised theatre, shorter time commitment, or non-traditional ways of doing theatre.
 - j. Budget-We have \$9,000 in budget. We are fine but we need the conference fees to cover the cost of the conference next year. Meggan has suggested raising the teacher price to \$150. We may offer a reduced rate for college students.
4. UACTT Newsletter
- a. Russ is looking for ideas for the November newsletter. Case reported it got a good response from the members. Board decided to focus the November newsletter on the benefits of UACTT and how to access the benefits since many members don't know about them.
5. Google Drive/Canvas
- a. Jason reported that the link to the Google Drive just got posted on Facebook. Scott will be over that and we will repost once a month. Jason will download it and put it into Canvas. Hopefully that gets going and members start contributing. A success was a curriculum dumping time at the conference. Planning on doing another dumping party at the conference next summer. Jason plans to do specific requests each month for curriculum themed around theatre topics.
6. Utah Theatre Association Meeting
- a. At the UTA meeting they voted that UACTT will have a seat on the UTA board to ensure better communication between the two organizations. Case has agreed to this and the UACTT President will start attending UTA meetings.
 - b. At the UACTT meeting during the UTA conference in January we will plan to do a check-in with members, vote on President-Elect, a conference update, and then a curriculum dumping party.
7. Creating an Updated and Live List of Utah Theatre Teachers
- a. UACTT, UTA and USF all have a need to have an updated and live list of Utah theatre teachers. The three organizations have agree to work together to create a shared list. Case will be sending out tasks to create parts of the list to individual board members to add to the shared list. We

will also ask members to help update the list at the conference in the summer.

8. Membership Updates and Postcards

- a. An email will be sent out to notify people that their memberships will expire October 1st and members will be deleted from the Facebook group if not paid. UACTT will do a combined postcard for the conference and membership drive in January. A second membership drive postcard will be sent in August.

9. Advocacy Report

- a. Penny will send out updates from the AATE conference.

10. Professional Development Scholarship Application Review

- a. Russ Saxton as applied for \$500 to attend EDTA. Russ has offered to share what he learns through a workshop or other means. Russ is the first person to apply for a PD scholarship since the program was created two years ago.
- b. Board voted to approve the request from Russ.
- c. The board will continue to review PD scholarship requests when applications are made and PD money will be granted when it is demonstrated to have a benefit to the membership and money allows.
- d. Mindy is now in charge of PDs. She reported that the stage combat PD only had three participants although more people signed up. It was decided that in person PDs will no longer be offered for the membership. Any member can apply for funding to host a PD at their school as long as they record it and share it with the membership.

11. UACTT President Elect

- a. Elinda was nominated to be the UACTT President Elect by the board. Elinda has accepted the nomination and is willing to serve if there is a supportive board. Elinda Nedreberg's nomination will be voted on at the UACTT Member meeting at UTA in January.

12. A reminder from Stewart that Shakespeare Competition Registration closes on Wednesday. USF is minimizing workshops due to constraints of space and staff and focusing on larger group events such as play talk backs.

13. Next meeting December 10th 2pm in Draper.