



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.
Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting
March 16, 2002

At the home of Kathleen McAdam. Armin called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

Attending: Cathy Bertics, Coletta & Armin Busse, Jo & Bruce Hamilton, Marianna & Alex Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Sheena MacQueen, Kathleen McAdam, Connie Muir, Pat O'Brien, David & Avril Quarrie, Alan Twigg

Regrets: Lin Pettengill, Ron Wallace, Gary Thomas, Lori Howard, Trina Merriman, Ailya Rose, Gene Bissell.

Armin asks that people send regrets as early as possible. If we find that we will have too few people to hold a meeting, for example, it is nice to know soon enough to be able to cancel it.

Old Business

1 Minutes of January 12, 2002

Correction: Sara Gratiot had sent regrets. **Moved** (Jo/Alan) to accept the minutes as amended. **Carried.**

2 Report on Registry for Teachers

A reminder: HQ is creating a database of teachers. They are asking us for the info, probably as a way of making sure it is correct, and requiring our signatures because UK law requires written consent to put personal information into a database. Armin faxed to HQ the forms that we filled out at the last meeting, and those sent to him later. He subsequently learned there was a deadline of Feb. 14 for submitting this stuff. We speculated on the need for this deadline.

3 TAC Summer School

Kathleen reported that SF will not be doing the summer school in 2003 because we were not able to make satisfactory arrangements with SF State. The committee is still on the lookout for suitable sites for a future event, and will meet in September to consolidate their findings. Send suggestions of sites with large and/or multiple dance spaces to Kathleen, who is back on email at <Dancermcadam@aol.com>.

4 Guidelines for Young People

The history of this thing is complex. HQ issued a draft policy (call it A) and told each branch to adjust it for their own local conditions. The BC did that, issuing a localized policy (call it B). The TC found that both documents need adapting to our local situation and laws, and drafted a fuller and more explicit version of B (call it C). That is what we reviewed last time. Meanwhile, HQ has issued a final version of A (call it D), again telling branches to adjust it for local conditions. The

subcommittee hopes that their revised guidelines (call these E) will suffice for that localized version, and will not need to make their own localization. B is attached.

We had discussed C last time, made some suggestions, and asked the Branch Committee what force they wanted it to have. They left that to us. The committee working on the policy brought E to us today. We discussed it at some length and made a few changes of wording. This version will go to the BC for approval. Until it is approved, the committee does not want it circulated; thus no copy is attached, and these minutes do not describe the changes or discussion.

5 Party Programs

5.1 Beginners at the Oct & Nov parties

Bruce Herbold, wearing his program coordinator's hat, asked how many people send their beginners to the Oct and Nov parties. A variety of answers: I send them but they don't go. Some classes are really enthusiastic, and do everything. It depends on the party program. It depends on the distance to the dance. Parties help hook new dancers, even if they only do 2 or 3 dances. Waiting to send them to parties makes the parties seem more scary. Bruce thanked us for the responses.

5.2 Due date for Jean Patrick Memorial Dance

This deadline used to be 3/15, but an earlier decision by the TC moved it to 4/15. No one could remember the reason for that discussion. Larry Wakeman, acting as the chair for this event, explained the reasons for moving is dance's due date back to. The reasons had to do with getting the information to various people and places. It was pointed out that he (or anyone in his role) can ask the committee to move up their deadline, and that those committees are willing, and have been willing to do that. He said that was not sufficient, that he wanted the deadline permanently changed. There is an existing recommendation that the JPM program consist of already-familiar dances; a counter is that new dancers are not familiar with familiar dances. There was concern with deadlines creeping earlier and earlier: besides feeling compulsive about this, we worried that programs made early can't take advantage of dances which become popular between the program and the event. **Moved** (Susie/Avril) that the deadline for the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance be set at March 15. **Carried.**

5.3 Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball

Moved (Marianna/Paula) that the deadline for this program be moved to March 1. This is because the Friday night dances are chosen after the Ball program has been set, and Marianna wants to include the dances for the Ball and the Friday dance in the initial "Application to attend Asilomar." This document goes to the printer mid-March for distribution April 1. Working backward, printing is mid March, devising the Friday program early March, so the Ball needs to be finalized by March 1 at the latest. This wasn't on the agenda, but the reasons were compelling. **Carried.**

5.4 – 5.7 Other programs

Dance	Committee	Due
Kim McGarrity		Done
Pleasanton		Done

Dance	Committee	Due
Valentine's Ball	Pat, Coletta and Cathy	Aug. 15, 2002
Dec/Jan	Bruce Herbold, David, Susie	Oct 1, 2002
May/June 2003	Bruce Herbold, Alan, Paula	Feb. 1, 2003

6 Teacher's Workshop Plans (November 9, 2002)

Armin reported that All Saints' (our planned site) is not available the first 3 weekends in November. Kathleen reported that the Lafayette hall is available until 4:30 pm Ailya suggested Adobe House in Mountain View. Alex Harvey will investigate it and St. Mark's. A straw vote for Lafayette vs. Mountain View, just from a travel perspective, was a tie. Your chairman and secretary will choose a place from among those. It was suggested that we book the musicians early (and your chairman has begun).

7 Tutor's job description

Bruce Hamilton reported that the BC had done general wordsmithing on the document, which improved it without changing its meaning. The BC also added two points: that preference in selection of the tutor be given to the existing tutor if he/she has taught fewer than 3 consecutive classes, and that preference be given to others if he/she has taught more than three.

Paula expressed concern with allowing the tutor to dismiss a candidate simply because he/she had fallen behind or was not making sufficient progress. Roughly, the pros are that the tutor is not *required* to dismiss such a candidate, and is explicitly advised to get other opinions; the candidate can re-take the course another place and/or time; and there are times when a candidate's rate of progress is reasonable grounds for dismissal. The con is that a candidate can fall far behind and/or seem to be making no progress, then suddenly shape up and do well; such a candidate should be kept on in case that should happen. **Moved** (Bruce Herbold/Coletta) that we accept the job description as amended by the BC. **Carried**. The document is attached.

New Business

8 Teacher trainer selection

Armin has had no volunteers. Bruce Herbold and Ellen Aaron had agreed to run an earlier class in case Ron should be unable. Ron has taught the last four candidate classes. We do not need to run a candidate class, though there are people who would like to take one. **Moved** (Bruce Herbold/Sheena) that the Secretary put a note in the next R&S, saying that there might be a candidate class and asking anyone interested to tell Armin before June 15. That we place the decision about whether to hold a class, and the choice of tutor, on the agenda for our June meeting. **Carried**.

9 Other business

9.1 Ball/Party guidelines

Would ball and party program committees please tell Alan whether you found the new program guidelines useful, annoying, etc. We will discuss this at our next meeting. Bruce Herbold submitted a draft survey to help with this evaluation. A version [in which your secretary has made some unapproved edits] is attached.

9.2 Information brochure

Teachers and class managers please send Susie information about your summer plans and your fall starting date. She will put out a new brochure within a couple of weeks.

9.3 Resources

Armin asks for people who have resources useful to teachers (old records, specialized knowledge, a spare boom box, etc.) to tell him, so he (actually the office of TC chair) can maintain a list.

9.4 Improving the meetings

Armin asks for feedback on the meetings. If you've been to them, how can we make them more useful to you. If you haven't, what can we do that would get you to come?

10 Date and location for next meetings

- **Note change:** the June 22 meeting is moved to June 29, Bruce and Jo's house, 2:00 pm.
- September 21, 2002 at Paula Jacobson's, 1:00 pm (note the time). Dance party afterwards.
- January 18, 2003.

The secretary has sent these dates to Dotty.

Adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton