

UVJC Board of Trustees meeting Minutes
March 4, 2014
7:00 pm – Roth Center for Jewish Life , Library

Present: Richard Abel, Felixa Estey, Devora Gronauer, Gloria Finkelstein, Lori Hirshfield (by teleconferencing), Susan Israel, Robyn Jacobs, Deb Kaplan, Rachel Kleinbaum, Dan Rockmore, Michael Zegans

Absent: Rusty Sachs, Robert Shumsky, Mitchell Stotland,

Guests: Rabbi Boraz

1. **Call to order** and welcome by Deb Kaplan at 7:05 PM
2. **Approval of minutes** of December 3, 2013: Rachel Kleinbaum moved to approve the minutes without correction and Richard able 2nd the motion. The minutes were approved without comment or correction.
3. **High School of Jewish Studies:** Rabbi Boraz outlined the purpose and content of this pilot program which is designed to offer engaging continuing Jewish education for post B'nai Mitzvah students. Currently the program is linked to the UVJC Madrechim program with students serving as madrechim in the UVJC religious school required to participate. This has been largely successful but there have been a small number of madrechim who have not wished to engage in the High School program. A few issues were raised for discussion
 - a. For the remainder of the current academic year:
 - i. Is it acceptable to keep the requirement in place?
 - ii. Is it acceptable to offer an opt-out alternative for those who don't wish to participate?
 - b. For future academic years
 - i. Is the High School program strong enough to stand on its own? (ie will it attract students if it is NOT linked to the madrechim program)
 - ii. Should the High School program remain linked to the madrechim program?

There was significant discussion surrounding the first set of questions with a general consensus that the program should be continued as-is for the remainder of this academic year. It was also decided that alternatives could be offered to those who don't feel the High School program is meeting their ongoing educational needs. It was suggested that a leadership project supporting the development of skills necessary to increase success as madrechim should be completed by the students who opt-out of the High School Educational program.

The second set of questions was not directly addressed and will be brought forward for discussion at a future meeting. The Rabbi notes that he has called upon some UVJC members with students involved in the program (Jeff Lubel, Melissa Herman and Felixa Estey) for input

and would like to create an ad-hoc committee which will present to the UVJC BOT by late May/early June with a strategic plan for the High School educational program.

4. **UVJC Religious School Policies:** The religious school policies have been undergoing development and revision. It was noted upon review of the distributed policies that these were not the most recent revision so voting on passage was tabled until the most recent is distributed for review. A few discussion items arose surrounding the policies
 - a. The safety of the Roth Center as an “open building” has been an ongoing concern. Doors are locked when religious school is in session but the building is otherwise open and it is felt that this may pose a security risk. Dan Rockmore will speak with campus facilities regarding options for having the building accessible by “key card” only as many other campus buildings are secured in this way.
 - b. The question of a clear policy for addressing the use and delivery of medication to children during religious school. It was noted that this issue is addressed in the most recent version of the school policies.
5. **Treasurer’s Report:** The treasurer was not in attendance tonight so no formal report was made. Deb Kaplan, president, notes that the January P&L has been reviewed and that both revenues and expenses were up for the month and seem to be keeping in line. There were some unexpected expenses and over the fall which have left the budget tight.
6. **Video conferencing and streaming capabilities:** Hillel is planning to purchase a system which will allow for skype, presentations, videoprojecting and videoconferencing in the library. The cost of this system will be approximately \$2600 and Hillel asks whether the UVJC would have need for such equipment and wish to purchase with them. Some possible uses were discussed but a current need for such equipment was not identified. It was suggested that creation of policies regarding the appropriate use of such equipment in the library may need to be developed.
7. **The Library:** Fred Lerner has been responsible for maintenance of the library and has come forward requesting guidance as to how to move forward. There exists a library fund and approximately \$500 per year is appropriated for the purchase of books for the collection. Fred has concerns about space for future purchases and what the board sees as necessary and appropriate for the collection. Suggestions were made to consult with other library specialist to develop an appropriate collection. Rich Abel and Deb Kaplan will plan to meet with Fred to further clarify his questions and will bring more specific issues forward to the BOT.
8. **Mishpahah/Shem Tov Award Committee:** This committee is together and has received 5-6 nominations for award recipients. The committee includes Gloria Finklestein, Susan Israel, Mitch Stotland, Robert Shumsky, Lori Hirschfeld and Jill Schiffmann. Deb Kaplan has asked that the committee finalize award recipients by the end of next week and forward names to her.
9. **UVJC Board Retreat:** This is scheduled for April 6th from 10:00-3:00 and will begin with an hour of observation at the religious school. Deb Kaplan introduced her hopes for setting the agenda and reports that a significant item identified by the Past Presidents Council (currently consisting of Rob Gurwitt, Susan Israel and Rich Abel) is the lack of a documented “institutional memory”. To begin to remedy this, Deb would like to use the retreat to review and align the bylaws with

current practice. The bylaws were last amended in 2010. The UVJC is also in need of an approved mission, vision and value statement which have been worked on but never formalized. Deb plans to contact Sid Finkelstein to tap into his organizational expertise for setting the agenda for the meeting.

10. Upcoming Events

a. NH Jewish Film Festival

The NH Jewish Film Festival begins on March 30th with the film “50 children: the rescue mission of Mr and Mrs Kraus” and will continue with 4 films shown over 10 days. Some dates on the initial flyer were incorrect and Susan Israel notes that a repeat mailing will be going out by mid-March with corrections.

b. Annual Dinner

i. Scheduled for Sunday May 4th

ii. Theme will be “Israel” – Dinner coincides with Yom HaZikaron – Israeli Memorial Day

iii. Mishpachah and Shem Tov award winners will be honored

iv. Format will be similar to last year with Baskets, Raffles and other items

c. UVJC Community Seder

i. April 15th.

ii. Catering will be carried out by Jed Cohan’s Delicata Catering who served the Passover meal for the UVJC last year. Costs are up considerably from last year and will likely need to be passed on to participants. To offset costs sponsorship will be requested as will the underwriting of other costs including paper goods, wine and ceremonial items. A proposed per person cost of \$46 was suggested. The caterer will be asked about pricing for children.

11. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm