

2000 AGM

The Experience of Living – The Experience of Learning

Minutes of the ATI AGM, October 11-15, 2000

Armada Hotel County Clare, Ireland

October 12, 2000

Opening Meeting 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Welcoming Remarks

Meeting called to order by Jamee Culbertson. As we approach the full moon on Friday, we have an exciting few days ahead of us.

2. Announcements

Rick Brennan welcomed all from the Irish contingent and gave a brief list of announcements and request for help setting up.

Official Business Meeting –

Committee of Whole:

Jamee called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. and asked for a motion to suspend Robert's Rules and to proceed to Committee of Whole. Alice Pryor seconded. Motion passed.

Jamee explained the order of business. Catherine Ketrick described the registration packet, the evaluation form and how to use it, and how to make corrections to the minutes.

Jamee read a letter from Fred Oldfield expressing his regret at not being able to attend. Jamee asked for the members present to presence any members unable to be present by speaking their names.

Agenda:

Review Registration Packet

Present and Consent to Agenda

Reports

1. Board 15 min.

2. PDC 10 min.

3. Sponsorship 10 min.

4. Ethics 20 min.

Present Board proposal with clarifying question

Board Reports:

Board:

Jamee presented the ATI Infrastructure Graphic and explained the work of the board over the past year. She discussed the need for the Board to be active in committee work in 1999-2000 in the Ethics and Nominations. The Sponsorship Committee has also been undergoing clarification and activation. Jamee has called the ATI Infrastructure a "committee of redwoods" as a working image of the organization. She called for participation of the international members in the area of Nominations. She told a story of someone recently who asked her how she was able to take on the job of ATI. Her friend wanted to be

involved but said she didn't know how to organize her own life, how could she help in ATI. Jamee said she didn't know – but that not knowing, the un-habituated moment was what attracted us all the study of the Alexander Technique. She invited all to find a place to participate in the organization actively.

PDC:

Catherine referred to the report in the AGM packet. In 1992, as ATI was being formed, it was written into the bylaw's 3 tasks. The first 2 tasks have been approved. The third task is ready to be presented. She explained task #3 and said it will be discussed and voted on during the AGM.

Sponsorship:

Tommy Thompson reported that there is no report in the AGM packet because there is no Sponsorship Committee. The Sponsorship Committee did not meet this year and therefore we do not at present have an active committee. The Board needs to appoint a chair or co-chairs at this time. At this time, sponsors currently evaluate prospective teachers based on their own criteria. The PDC has presented an ATI standard with which teachers will be evaluated. There is a need for discussion by the present membership, and Tommy requested time to meet with the Board. Doris Diestchy reported that there was a meeting of Sponsors Wednesday at 5 p.m. with notes taken. Rosa Luisa Rossi asked how many people are needed for the Committee. Tommy said 5 or 7 people. It is important at this point in ATI's development to get this Committee functioning. Useful qualifications for a committee member would be someone who is a sponsor or who has been involved in watching the process.

Ethics:

Monica Gray opened the discussion saying that given the current rise in state and national regulatory issues that could affect teachers of the Alexander Technique, we see a need for work to be done to improve/create a code of Professional Conduct, a Code of Conduct, and a Procedure for the Ethics Committee. Dale Beaver discussed the work of the Committee: the forming of the ad hoc committee, drafting a grievance form letter, securing the legal council of Brian Costello, and the acquisition of Liability Insurance. He outlined the work done on recent Ethics complaints. Monica discussed the current status of the Ethics Development Committee, including the writing of a more specific code. Dale listed future plans for the Committee: mediation as an alternative to the grievance process, education on the importance of business practices, examining content of training programs to encourage better business practices.

Presentation of Board Proposal

Jamee presented the Board Proposal: To increase the number of Board members from 5 to 7, as allowed in our bylaws. We require the membership's approval to do this.

Jamee explained the main reason for this request is the need to "share the burden" – to spread out the workload. A question about cost was raised, and Jamee explained that the conference calls have been whittled to 2 hours and the telephone company being used is very economical.

Level I – Group Discussion.

a useful way to spread the board

the idea seems timely.

Level II – Identify Concerns

Would be good if Board were more international

7 members may be too large, a disadvantage

some people who might want to be on the board may not have the tools for it, e.g. e mail,

English language skills.

We were out of discussion time, so the Facilitator asked for consent to have those who have unspoken concerns to write them on the scribe board and that the Call for Consensus will occur at tomorrow's meeting. Idea was consented to.

Lucia Walker asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Debi Kaplan.

October 13, 2000

1. Present and consent to agenda 5 mins

Agenda:

Level III Discussion of Board Proposal 10 mins.

Dividing into Small group discussions 5 mins.

Small group discussions 50 mins.

Ethics

PDC

Sponsorship

Report back to large group 20 mins

The Facilitator clarified that the concerns raised during yesterday's discussion of the Board proposal were all excellent suggestions, but not germane to the proposal which was simply: shall we increase the number of board members to 7? The Facilitator called for consensus, and we consented to the proposal with the understanding that the board would try to become a more international board.

We divided into two groups, an ethics group and a sponsorship group. Discussion was so interesting that people preferred to use the report time to continue the discussion, rather than report back to the large group. Notes were taken during both discussions and given to the respective committee chairs.

October 14, 2000

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

David Mills opened the meeting.

1. Review and Consent to the Agenda 5 mins.

Agenda:

Proposal to adopt ATI Criteria for Evaluating Teachers (PDC Task C)

a. background information 5 mins

b. present proposal with clarifying Qs 10 mins

c. explain 2 step decision making process 5 mins

d. Level 1 Discussion in small groups 15 mins

e. Report back to large group 10 mins

f. call for consensus

g. explain Level 2 discussion 10 mins

Evaluation of business meeting 10 mins

Close Committee of the Whole, vote 5 mins

Moving into the Future with ATI 15 mins

We decided to have the Level I discussion in a large group. With this change, the agenda was consented to.

2. Present PDC Proposal with clarifying questions 10 mins.

Catherine Kettrick presented Task C:

That we approve PDC Task C as the minimum level of competency a person must have to be certified by ATI as a teacher of the Alexander Technique.

Clarification: This is not a “how much,” or a “how to” for sponsors. Provides minimum criteria though sponsors could add more. Sponsors will need to agree to abide by these minimum criteria. Question: have current sponsors been asked for feedback? Catherine said that the sponsors have been asked for feedback numerous times over a three-year period.

Questions:

“good character” is too subjective. How do we define it?

ATI’s mission has been to not get involved in training programs; is having a letter attesting to

character from a training program director a conflict with this part of our mission.

If we have an anatomy requirement, and there is a gifted teacher who is not good with

anatomy, will this keep them from being a teacher?

The phrase “full clear speaking voice” raised concerns. Can there be space for exceptions

perhaps regarding use of voice?

Questions were raised about the section A – 1, 2, 3 in specificity of criteria. Catherine explained where the use of the word “character” came from when writing the criteria.

The Facilitator called for overall consensus on the proposal. He reminded people that specific concerns would be addressed in step two of the discussion. Consensus was reached on the proposal as a whole, that as a group we could live with it as written while changes were made.

Discussion, step two:

The Facilitator asked for ways to resolve specific concerns. Words were suggested to replace “character” – conduct, comportment, good communications skills, follow the code of ethics. A suggestion was made to look at STAT guidelines. The Facilitator asked if anyone could reword section 1-a. The word “character” was changed to “conduct.” The phrase “bona fide training program” was struck, and replaced with: “Completion of an Alexander Technique Training process shall be considered representation by the candidate’s trainers . . .”. “Qualities of good communications skills” will be added to the criteria.

The Facilitator asked if there were any unresolved concerns. There were none.

The amended section I-a reads:

I. Conduct

Demonstrate qualities of patience, compassion, honesty and respect in interactions with peers and students. Completion of an Alexander Technique Training process shall be considered representation by the candidate’s trainer(s) that the candidate has satisfactorily demonstrated these characteristics of patience, compassion, honesty and respect in interactions with peers and students, provided the examining teacher sees no evidence to the contrary.

We consented to these changes to the criteria.

5. Evaluate Business Meeting 10 mins.

In future meetings, we need to have the Infrastructure and call for participation early in meeting schedule.

Facilitator needs to say "I'm calling for consensus."

We need to get the important business matters early in the schedule.

Perhaps we need to cut down on what we are doing or pay more dues to pay work.

We need to advertise the meetings as lively and enjoyable so that those who have had negative experiences with ATI meetings will reconsider coming.

Did we accomplish our purpose by coming to Ireland?

Discussing in smaller groups around a table was enjoyable in the Friday meeting.

Later timing if we were to meet in Ireland again would save money on airfare.

All in attendance at the meeting were in agreement that Spanish Point was wonderful, and agreed to return to Spanish Point for next year's AGM because this one was so successful.

Close Committee of the Whole

Theresa Lee moved to close the committee of the whole. Ruth Brownstein seconded.

7. Return to Robert's Rules

Board Proposal passed.

Ethics Proposal passed.

PDC Proposal Passed

1999 AGM Minutes approved with corrections.

8. Carrying our intentions forward 15 mins.

Jamee presented the ATI Infrastructure (see attached) and invited participation. She explained the nature of the job of a committee chair.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MARSHA PALUDAN