

MACURH South Pre-No Frills Retreat – 26.January.2008

At UM – St. Louis

Ben White South Regional Communications Coordinator, Presenting

Tori Seely MACURH 08 Conference Chairperson, Recording Minuets

- History lesson!
  - Ben would encourage everyone to download the latest version of the policy book
  - I've already given you bid descriptions, so that would be good to have at No Frills with you
  - Where was the first NACURH?
    - Iowa State, Mizzou, UNI and some Colorado school gathered at Iowa State for a conference (yay!)
  - GLACURH (1968) and SWACURH (1980) were both created from MACURH
  - 1996: we expanded into Canada (Manitoba)
  - We were originally the Missouri sub-region, then we changed our region name to the South sub-region
  - We're the first generation of the south sub-region (feel special)
  - Specific questions?
    - What is our reputation?
      - We tend to block vote (bad)
      - We've got a lot of great leadership coming out of the region
      - Hosting conferences
      - Lots of school rivalry
      - We have the best pre-retreats, we win.
  - We have the coolest mascot and colors
    - Legislation is going out at No Frills to officially keep the mascots and colors of the regions
  - We're fun! (The most spirited sub-region)
  - Three sub-regions:
    - Central: Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa
    - North: South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba
    - South: Missouri
  - How many schools are in the region?
    - Between 40 and 45
      - South has about 1/3
  - What other regions are there?
    - PACURH, IACURH, GLACURH, SWACURH, SAACURH, CAACURH & NEACURH
    - Fancy colored map on the website
  - Any famous people?
    - Bob Dole (inducted into the Association of Alumni and Friends of NACURH, AAFN)

- We run the show (students)
- No Frills
  - Last we went to NWMSU to look at the conference site
  - It's going to be an excellent conference
  - It's going to be cold, please pack appropriately (shovel, blankets, etc.)
  - For those of you who are submitting bids that need to be practiced, you will be practicing during boardrooms on Friday night
  - If you are part of that bid team, you need to have someone else be in the boardroom for you to answer at roll call
  - Which bids require presentations?
    - Conference bids
  - Registration will start at 3 pm at the Holiday Inn Express (first hotel you see when you get into town)
  - The beds are soft at the hotel (Ben tested them out for everyone)
  - Maryville is small, but it's still easy to get lost there
  - Shuttles to campus
    - The hotel is 2 miles from campus
    - Don't walk, take the shuttle or drive if you can
  - Opening ceremonies:
    - Seating starts at 6:30 pm
    - In the Union Ballroom in the Student Union
    - There will be a keynote movie being played
    - Ceremony goes from 8 to 9 pm
  - Business
    - We have a lot! Ben isn't joking.
    - Talks of having boardrooms until we're done, which might mean we'll be doing business until after 12:30 am
    - NCCs will start at 8 and go to 1:30
    - NRHH and PCC boardrooms go from 8 to 12
  - Hospitality rooms will still be open after the boardrooms are over
  - Shuttles will be going until after boardrooms are done
  - There will be a bid reading room open late as well
  - Boardrooms:
    - Friday night we'll be discussing awards bids and RCC caucuses (subject to change)
    - We'll be plunging into award bids (Ben used the word plunge) ☺
    - RCC Caucus:
      - We break off into sub-regions to discuss positional bids for South RCC
      - We'll read the bids and talk about them and come to an agreement on which candidate we want and vote and then we will make a recommendation to the entire region on Saturday
      - We'll talk about the candidate again on Saturday and the NCC boardroom will vote on the candidates for all of the RCC positions
      - All the sub-regions hold a caucus, and they all elect a new RCC

- Be respectful of the opinions of other sub-regions
- Saturday
  - READ BIDS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE!
  - Sleep Friday night
  - Shuttles start at 6:30 and go to 8:15
  - Breakfast in the Union from 6:30 to 8 am
  - Don't eat at the hotel breakfast room, go to campus and partake of the donuts from Northwest and orange drink.
  - We're apparently not going to have a caffeine free conference (yay!!!)
  - Bid presentations
    - Conference bids
      - Start at 8 am and don't go to 10 pm like Ben said. They go to 10 am
      - READ THE BIDS! Find the differences in the bids, don't focus on the money
    - If Ben ever hears a SINGLE complaint about distance to conferences, he will slap you (that's a promise)
    - Distance isn't an issue, the bid is the issue
    - Break off into boardrooms
      - Position bids:
        - Director, ADFR, ADSP (NCCs)
        - Sub-regions, Advisors
        - NRHH RAD (NRHHers)
        - AD-Programming (PCCs)
      - Budget of MACURH
        - It'll be really fun, Ben promises
      - Legislation
    - There will be a variety of people in the boardrooms on Saturday
      - If you aren't nice, Ben will come after you
  - Shuttles will be going back to the hotel after business for people to prepare for the banquet
  - Award Ceremonies might not happen, depending on how long the boardrooms take
  - We'll be going back into boardrooms after the banquet
  - You must check out of the hotel by 11 am on Sunday
- Dress in the boardroom is business attire
  - Guys in suits, girls in dress suits
  - Dress comfortably, but professionally
  - Ben's funny story about dressing
    - First pre-retreat was at Northwest (pre-No Frills)
    - Nicki Timm was talking about dress and Ben asked if he could dress in drag and Nicki said he could, but then he decided to bid for RCC, so he didn't

- BREAK!
- Break is over <tear>
- Why is the conference caffeine free (or that it used to be)?
  - Red Bull was a sponsor a little while back and that was a BAD idea
- Bids!
  - What is the purpose of an award bid?
    - To recognize people at our schools for doing good things
    - Spread ideas to other schools
    - To acknowledge accomplishments on other campuses
    - People will continue to work hard
    - Awards foster growth
    - Form of validation (cost to individuals)
    - Good way to show what one person can do, so it gives other people ideas of what they can do
    - They're fun!
    - NIC has "treasure troves" and "pure gold" when it comes to award bids (Note to self: Tell Genny we've got gold)
    - When you write a bid, you are adding to the "treasure trove"
    - We'll grow as schools and regions as well as a national organization
  - Write a bid for the sake of writing one
  - Find something that you are passionate about, it will change you
  - When you write a bid, you question your own legacy (according to Chi)
  - Why is that when you walk into a boardroom, you haven't read the bids?
    - You're cheating yourself, the region, the author and the subject of the bid
    - Put your time and effort into reading a bid because someone else put time and effort into writing it
  - It's all about respect
  - READ YOUR BIDS!
  - What, in a bid, are you looking for?
    - Conference bids
      - Schedule
      - Map/details
    - People bids
      - Personality
      - What was done?
      - Quantity/Quality
      - Local achievements over regional and national achievements
      - If it tells us what they do, who is supporting them?
      - Facts and figures, obstacles
      - Grammar, page setup and layout, neatness, etc.
    - Bids for positions
      - Letters of support, revealing about candidates
    - Don't judge bids by its theme, but a lot more about how it looks

- Well written bids look nice
    - Look for BS/TS: Validation
    - Continuity and flow
    - Commitment to policy (did they follow guidelines?)
      - SWACURH has thrown out bids (in front of Ben's eyes)
      - Don't write more than you should, don't lie, etc.
    - Important reflects on why and how the subject is deserving
    - Clarity: Why does the author think the subject deserves the award
    - Looking at who wrote the bid, and who the bid is about
  - Reading bids for content
    - Stay inside the bid (do not talk about ANYTHING that isn't in the bid)
    - Call out inaccurate information, don't let it slide
  - Be active in the boardroom, don't just observe
  - Read letters of support, be active about what you're reading and seeing
- No Frills bids
  - Bids given out by NCCs
    - OCM Distinguished Service Award (Ben reads the policy, I'm so not writing all that down, which means you should probably go through it yourself)
    - OCM Dennis Lynch NCC of the Year Award
    - Hallenbeck Service Award
    - Mabel Strong Outstanding Advisor Award – **Policy books states that the page limit is 16 pages, but the award policy sent out to the region prior to No Frills states an 8 page limit for this award. Policy Book holds precedent over Award Guide...follow Policy Book at all times!**
    - MACURH School of the Year Award
    - President of the Year Award
  - NRHH awards
    - Valerie Averill & Mark Hudson NRHH Outstanding Member of the Year Award
    - NRHH Building Block of the Year Award
    - NRHH Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award
    - Mike Grosz Student of the Year Award
  - PCC awards
    - Commitment to Diversity Award
    - Building RHA of the Year Award
    - First Year Experience Award
    - Programmer of the Year Award
- Rules of the Boardroom
  - The first rule of boardrooms is that if you are not in the room when the doors are closed, you don't get back in
  - You don't have to ride the pony if you're late, you just can't get back in (Ha!)
  - How do you proxy your vote?
    - You announce it to the room
  - You can yield to your NCC-IT after being called upon to speak

- The boardrooms are set up by the RBD to separate the regions, no powerhouses together (bad)
- You'll get to your seat in the boardroom and the session will start
  - Roll call is taken, you must be present to have speaking/voting rights
- Discussions on presentations, award bids, etc.
- Director leads and facilitates the boardrooms
- Parliamentarian keeps a speakers list
- Pros & Cons are SHORT (high GPA, messy bid, etc.)
  - Go through all bids with PC before discussion
- Discussion
  - Raise your placard, get on the speakers list, speak (don't be redundant)
  - Be unique, to the point and articulate
- Robert's Rules of Order
  - Placards have a handy and orderly set of common boardroom rules
- Voting when discussion is over, use your handy dandy OCM notepad ☺
- Obscure: Boardroom bingo?
  - Not sure, but check your e-mail
  - If we can't do boardroom bingo, can we have boardroom buddies?
- Snaps are recommended when you agree with someone who is speaking
- Point of Clarification does NOT exist, you use Point of Information can be used to ask to clarify a statement
- Also, you address the chair, not the person (if they are in the room) when using Point of Information.
- Mock No Frills Boardroom (Started at 1:22 PM)
  - FYE Nominations
    - Jonathan Sheffield, seconded by UMSL
    - Rolla: Christopher Riley, seconded by Regina
    - Rolla moves to close nominations, seconded
  - Pro/Cons for Jonathan
    - P-Follows guidelines
    - C-Wasn't a list of achievements
    - P-
    - C-No letter stating he's in good academic standing
    - P-Completed large management ...
    - C-Few graphics
    - P-Created something new
    - C-Confusing theme
    - P-Large amount of initiative
    - C-No explanation of the acronyms
    - P-2 conferences in first year
    - C-
    - P-
    - C-
    - P-

- C-
- Christopher
  - P-Dean's list honors
  - C-Small print, hard to read
  - P-Creative theme
  - C-Grammatical errors
  - P-Rather high GPA
  - C-Didn't explain involvement in detail
  - P-Clear list of titles
  - C-
  - P-Consistent and easy to read
  - C-No letter from the dean of students
  - P-
  - C-No subcategories
  - P-
  - C-Little documentation of difficulties
  - P-Explained why he became involved
  - C-A lot of credit hours for FYE
  - P-Takes a lot of initiative
  - C-
  - P-Letters of Rec are passionate
  - C-
  - P-Takes on a lot of responsibilities
  - C-
- Discussion
  - In regard to JS, we have no validation of grades, no documented transcript from his university. Other bid has documentation
  - CR took a lot of credit hours for a FY as well as a high leadership role
  - CR: Most of his accomplishments are defined in terms of position, JR's bid are listed from goals
  - JS did his job, CR went above and beyond
  - CR: Doesn't follow format, difficult to read, spacing is not according to criteria, JS's followed criteria
  - JS put together several budgets for Student gov, which is a difficult task
  - JS: jumped into an e-board that was already in place which can be difficult to do
  - JS brought us more into his life and what he did on campus, whereas CR only spoke about he got into Res Life and went into what he wanted to do in his future
  - CR shows a lot of passion in his writing and tried to show his own feelings towards his experience in hall gov
  - We need to look at the bids: One student was politically oriented, the other was more business oriented. CR had the fortunate experience to be a pioneer, JS was put into a position that was already in place and both of them flourished

- CR's bid focused on local events, JS's talked about regional activity, JS has a more diverse experience, which can lead to other positive experiences, diversity is something that should be weighed in FYE
- Both candidates had great involvement. Cr had a larger effect, influenced youth in his community at home, which is good for continuing to build leaders
- CR's bid states that he submitted the application to run for pres against odds, but didn't know what the job entailed. Questioning whether it was more about the title of the job
- Grammar wise, CR's bid changes tense. Suggests he didn't put much effort into the bid
- CR's bid says he had to choose between an exec position or RA, and talked to his exec board and they encouraged him to take the RA position to influence others
- Compare the reasons the bids state why the two people got involved: CR states he wanted to become a leader, JS's said he filled out an application and said he would fill any position as needed
- JS: He talks about himself, changes from 1<sup>st</sup> person to another in the same paragraph
- JS: Page 3-4, talks about presidential positions, onto the bid in page 5, still tried to stay involved in the community. Servant leadership is important to remember even in higher position, really impressive
- CR: Seems to be intent on letting us know what positions he's held, seems like he's only trying to build a resume
- JS: Goes through multiple aspects of leadership: Service (Equipment), Education (learning), Leadership (thrives)
- CR: Homeschooled, had to overcome a lot more getting into a new environment
- JS: He presented at a SAACURH conference, which is quite a feat for a first year
- JS: He uses clichés, there are better ways to express yourself
- POI: How important is the theme?
  - Not very
  - Judge content
  - Nice theme shows creativity
  - But if the essay is clearly written without a theme, the content is gone by
  - CR: Page 6 Letter of Rec, Jon talked about how since the freshman dorm was new, no one expected a good leader to come out of it
  - CR: Seemed to put more time and effort into his bid
  - JS: Academic standing hasn't been brought up enough. We don't know what his GPA is.
  - It is more important to focus on what they have done, CR has been such an involved member and has proof of good academics
  - JS's bid was more put together than CR's (?)
  - We can see how CR has shown interested before he got to university
  - Both bids had a lot of errors, JS's bid had less though and was more put together and had more time put into it and looked over more

- Speaking on the experience that they both had, both candidates have a lot of input themselves, showing that they are gaining bid writing experience
    - JS: See a lot of things already anticipated; see a lot of things clearly more difficult seeing things in CR's bid. Both show that they learned something from the experience
    - JS: Seemed to cover the criteria of the bid
    - CR: Not even sure what his position is for, no explanation
    - Future aspirations JS plans on running for VP, CR's states personal aspirations
    - CR: a lot of emphasis on the theme and flow, JS's bid has more content and you can see that it hits certain points and shows what he's done, JS's bids show more and gives more detail
    - CR: Homeschooled, no high school activity experience, JS had the experience before, CR still excelled
    - JS: Concerned he didn't write pages 3-5, written in a different style
  - POI: Does the nominee need to write the entire bid, or just the essay portion?
    - Nominee does not need to write the bid, mutual authors acceptable
  - POI: Isn't the essay under suggested criteria?
    - Not required in the bid
  - POI: One has an activities list the other is blended
    - Formatting is different in every bid unless there is required criteria
    - CR: Assumed that homeschooled people are not given the opportunity to be in a leadership role, we shouldn't put too much emphasis on the fact that he was homeschooled
    - JS: Page 1-2, essay written by student, but the whole bid is not written by him
    - CR: Mentioned previously that he had leadership roles in his community, don't place emphasis on homeschooled vs. traditional schooled, has had previous experience in a college environment
    - Criteria discussion, don't get hung up on it, subjective isn't important, neither bid violates a standard, content with the nature of the bids
    - CR: Doesn't say when he was homeschooled, not sure if it is within the timeframe
  - POPP: Can we stop discussing prior involvement before the bid's timeline?
    - Talking about homeschooling is in the bid, was questioning the timeframe and references to homeschooling
  - POI: Who has yet to speak
  - Question called, No dissent.
  - Voting!!!
  - Normally we wouldn't learn the winner until the awards ceremonies, but Jonathan Sheffield won by our boardroom
- Challenges with boardroom experience
    - Both award candidates were experience and involved
    - Really hard to compare bids
    - Hard at first until sat down and looked at the bids and discussed them
    - Hopefully this discussion will help you read the bids for No Frills

- Thought it was hard to focus on activities in bids vs. nitpicking, what was written vs. what was said
  - Found it difficult to know how to vote, content vs. layout, grey area
  - Hard going through the bids and hit everything, do the bids meet qualifications, how much work went into writing the bid or how much did the person do that was being written about?
  - Hope that bids are evaluated by the events that took place and not grading composition
  - Looking at the bids, a lot of frustration with acronyms, don't assume that each university is the same with how they organize things, spell everything out
  - Had to resist the urge to repeat a point to get it across, have to learn to trust that people here you the first time
  - Anyone find it difficult talking?
  - Can't remember policy on speaker's lists
  - What?
    - Sometimes you can speak twice, first and second speaker's lists
  - We had two good bids, it was hard to come up with something good to say without being that nitpicky person that everyone states
  - You will find that you have a lot of bids in front of you, can sometimes eliminate a few, but you'll have to get really nitpicky with them to determine which is best
  - A challenge was that the suggested criteria is too confusing
  - It's nice to see suggested criteria so you can look for those things, but it's good to have required criteria as well so you know it needs to be in the bid, helps get through the grey area's in the bid
  - One good thing from this experience is that we now have guidelines, we can look at the actual bids and have your issues laid out for the boardroom
  - Pro/con is for the benefit of the body
  - Evaluation sheets exist for you to write thoughts about each bid, they help a lot
  - Pro/con helps
  - You leave the room if they are reading a bid about you
  - Chi was trying to be picky on the parli pro to help out, but there is always potential of someone being picky about it in the boardroom
  - More comfortable to talk in front of each other after bonding
  - A lot of new people so we're glad that we're getting help to help others
  - Boardroom settings can be serious and real and you get shy so it takes more to say things, this helps
  - The RBD are only steering the ship, the voters decide where to go
  - Be clear and deliberate when speaking
  - Sometimes the boardroom wants to rush, but you need to make sure you spend enough time discussing things
  - Each person in the boardroom focused on different parts of the bids, which is good because each person in a valuable piece of the boardroom
  - Glad we did this so I can take this back to others that have never been in a boardroom that will be at NF
- Job descriptions

- NCC
  - At the conference, you go to the boardrooms and participate actively
  - In the joint boardroom, you will listen to the conference bids
  - Discuss bids, legislation, etc.
  - Role outside of the conference
    - Chats, sub-regional chats
- PCC
  - Have chats too, you need to be on the PCC listserv
  - For your benefit
- NRHH Reps
  - Go to boardrooms, discuss bids
  - Your real job is to solicit OTMs, valuable as a recognition tool
  - You have chats too!
- We apparently have a points system. Who knew?
- Send monthly reports, we like them
- We love you
- RBD
  - Director – Runs the show (NBD Member)
  - ADFR – Budget and Records (Minutes) (NBD Member)
  - NRHH RAD – In charge of regional NRHH happenings (NBD Member)
  - AD-Programming – Programming & MACURH U, newsletters and PCCs
  - RCC- Special Projects – Website, googlegroups, recruitment and president's boardroom at MACURH
  - Sub-regional RCCs: North, Central and South (we hope you know what they do)
    - Be there for you, run retreats, chats, etc.
  - Conference chairs: Ben is afraid of the mystery that is conference running
- RETREAT IS OVER!!!! (3:12 PM)
- TIME TO PACK!