

7 February 2019
National Board Meeting Minutes

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES
VIA TELECONFERENCE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7 2019 2:00 PM (EST)**

MINUTES

Present: Paul Beresford-Hill CBE KSt.J, E. Quinn Peeper, President; Donald Best, Karen Blair-Brand; Julia Hansen; Duncan Karcher; James Kerr; William B. Maschmeier; Bettie Miller; Donna Miller; Mary Alice Phelan; Charles Reaves; John Raffaeli; Jeffrey Schnabel; Julia Van de Water

Excused: Cheryl Albuquerque; Janet Haedicke; Darryl McCormick; Susan Robin Sinclair; Mathew West

Observing (ESU Staff): Karen Karpowich, Interim Executive Director; Joshua Keppel-González, System Administrator and Executive Assistant

Presiding: Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, Chairman

Dr. Beresford-Hill called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM (EST).

Welcome – Paul Beresford-Hill

Dr. Beresford-Hill welcomed the members to the meeting and conducted a roll call. Following a motion, the minutes of the meeting of the National Board of Directors held on November 17, 2018 were approved unanimously.

Election of Officers - Paul Beresford-Hill

Dr. Beresford-Hill opened discussion of the Vice Chariman position and its possible removal as an officer position. A motion was unanimously approved to re-elect E. Quinn Peeper as President of the Board and elect Karen Karpowich as the Secretary of the Corporation. Additionally, as a Treasurer had yet to be identified, the Nominating Committee would begin a search for an appropriate candidate. The position of Vice Chairman would also be investiaged by the Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Review Committee.

Committee Election - Paul Beresford-Hill

After a review of the Committees of the Board, the Board unanimously approved the Committees of the Board.

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Interim Executive Director's Report – Karen Karpowich

Karen Karpowich reported that in her first months she's been working with the Staff and Branches to enhance communication. To that end, materials such as a Branch Officer Directory as well as a chart that lists legal fees have been created to facilitate communication. Additionally, an editorial committee has been formed to keep information on the website current as well as relevant to the organization as a totality.

The building's Certificate of Occupancy will be acquired in the coming months pending the redesignation of the 3rd floor as office space as opposed to residential space.

The audit was close to completion, but auditors were still working with seven Branches whose fiscal data was not reconciling. Financially, the investment income in the past months was down, with the endowment's value dropping from \$14.2 in December of 2017 to \$11.7 in December of 2018. Additionally, the Luard Morse Committee would like to spend down its program-specific endowment over the next few years due to deflated interest in recent years. However, this would have to be a Board-level decision. Ms. Karpowich reported that Peter Frey remained committed to financially supporting the Andrew Romy New Immigrant Center, but would look for greater accountability as well as financial commitment from other organizations to support the program. The ARNIC Graduation had been set for Mid-June on either June 13th or 14th along with the next Board Meeting. The Dinner after the graduation would honor ESU's Investment Advisor Robert Morse with the Founder's Award.

The organization would proceed working with the Development Committee on a new branding campaign and Ms. Karpowich solicited the board for any branding firm recommendations. She then provided an outline of the branding process and the strategies to make it an inclusive process.

The Board entered an executive session at the conclusion of Ms. Karpowich's report.

Adjournment - The Board meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm (EST).