

BTI Board of Trustees Minutes

September 28, 2011 (7:30–9:30am)

Held at: Andover Newton Theological School: Green Room
(Minutes recorded by Marian Gh. Simion)

PRESENT: Nick Carter (ANTS); James Keenan (BC TD); Mark S. Massa, SJ (BC STM); Mary Elizabeth Moore (BUSTh); Katherine Hancock Ragsdale (EDS); Denis Hollinger (GCTS); Nicholas Triantafilou (HC GOST); Danny Lehmann (HC RS); Dudley Rose (HDS); Rodney Petersen (BTI); Marian Simion (BTI)

REGRETS: Arthur Kennedy (SJS)

Topic	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Invocation	Meeting was called to order at 7:35am with prayer offered by Petersen.	
Approval of March, 9 2011 minutes	Minutes were discussed and a motion was made to accept them as submitted.	<i>Minutes accepted as submitted!</i>
Trustees Retreat	<p>During the summer, Hollinger met with Carter to discuss about the retreat and made the following recommendation.</p> <p>1) A one-day retreat was preferred to discuss BTI's mission and overall direction, considering the new membership of Hebrew College, for January 26, 2012, although Keenan will be in Kenya, thus unable to attend.</p> <p>2) In order to increase institutional sharing, each trustee will prepare a single-page fact sheet, which will include student and faculty size, major programs, etc., as well as worries and excitements about future opportunities.</p> <p>3) Part of the orientation process (BTI legacy) Rose will make a brief presentation about the BTI history, and Petersen and Simion will provide historical documents prior to Christmas break. Hollinger has volunteered to provide taxonomy of the BTI, in terms of what we say we are, what we do, and also try looking at different schools. What is this larger question of the BTI. Who are we? Is BTI program oriented, or service oriented, or both?</p>	<p><i>1) One-Day Retreat will be held on January 26, 2012</i></p> <p><i>2) Moore will facilitate a Fact Sheet for the retreat</i></p> <p><i>3) Rose will present a BTI history assisted by Petersen & Simion</i></p> <p><i>4) Historical documents will be made available to the board before Christmas</i></p> <p><i>5) Hollinger will provide a taxonomy</i></p>

Committees	For the Financial Committee, Petersen reported that BTI office will start assembling by Mid-October the material for the Audit Review. We are getting a review, not a full audit, as provided in the budget.	
Personnel Review	Moore informed that the committee does not have a report at this time.	
Policies and Procedures	Concerning BTI Policies & Procedures, Petersen briefed on the materials distributed. Suggestions were made that for the editing process, these files would be shared with secured access via a google-document module. Discussions were held for clarification on the difference between BTI programs, and programs that are sponsored, co-sponsored and endorsed, for the purpose of setting priorities over the use of staff time. Suggestions were made to develop an evaluation or a reviewing process of BTI projects beyond programs that are evaluated and supported by faculty groups, considering that each program involves a level of staff time. To make the process more practical suggestions were made to assign an evaluator who would develop interviews, surveys, etc. Another suggestion was made to have a trustee report on a particular event. Carter volunteered to bring back a plan for evaluation.	<i>Carter volunteered to present a plan for evaluation</i>
BTI Dinner & Lecture	<p>Lehmann offered some reflections and feedback on the BTI Dinner and Lecture, recognizing that it was a very successful event in terms of participation and atmosphere. The suggestion for the keynote speaker was born from the fact that Alan Brill is one of the few Orthodox rabbis working in a Catholic institution. Lehmann shared also that his colleagues at Hebrew College, felt they were not particularly impressed theologically with Dr Brill. However, the responses provided by Mark Heim and Catherine Cornille were excellent. Members of the BTI Board expressed their gratitude for the hospitality emphasizing that giving the BTI awards was splendid. A recommendation was made to have an outside speaker with BTI faculties joining the conversation.</p> <p>Hollinger offered details about the BTI dinner highlighting various structural concepts. (Petersen pointed that in the annual report, there is a beginning taxonomy on programs on different ideas on the BTI.) This year's dinner was generally perceived as stimulating intellectual exchanges, and everyone agreed that having members of BTI faculties as respondents is a great idea. This was also perceived as an indicator for a greater investment from the board. Concerning the 2012-2013</p>	

	dinner, one recommendation was that the keynote speaker would be someone who would engage the question of ethics and public good, given that it will be during an election year. Another proposal was first to survey the question an intellectually engaging topic, then invite the right person.	
Trip to Israel	Lehman pointed out that travel to the Holy Land is a powerful experience, and invited the Trustees to consider organizing a trip in the future, as a way to know each other, and also see it form a different dynamic. The consensus was positive, noting that the contents ought to be worth in the sense that the trustees will engage individuals and groups, pointing to deliberate conversations with various educational Christian institutions, such as Tantour institute, and others. Similar initiatives were being processed at Holy Cross, such as a series of lectures following the steps of Saint Paul. It was generally felt that the BTI presence will be a significant impact, in line with local work. Hollinger made a motion for a proposal which was seconded by Triantafilou who noted that the proposal should include conversation with local eyewitnesses in the Holy Land. Keenan, Moore and Lehmann volunteered to prepare a proposal.	<i>Keenan, Moore and Lehmann will prepare and submit a proposal to the BTI Board. (Suggestions are encouraged!)</i>
BTI Certificates	BTI Certificates had been a way of recognizing groups of courses, and this may fold into the identity question as well. There are questions whether these certificates are in competition with school programs, if the oversight is adequate, or if these should be housed in a school or administered through the BTI. Petersen reported that the two certificates were initiated by various faculty committees such as the one on International Mission and Ecumenism organized by Meg Guider (formerly Weston Jesuit School of Theology), and Ray Hart (Boston University) suggested that the BTI takes leadership in this direction. It was not an idea of being competitive, but that of building support for each school, mainly for marketing. While some suggested that if the Certificate is not anchored in a particular school, maybe this should not be granted, while others saw these certificates as ways of inspiring interfaculty cooperation. Hollinger identified two questions with the BTI certificates, such as logistics, and identity, and suggested to table this subject for the January Trustees retreat.	<i>Add the question of BTI Certificate (logistics, and identity) unto the January agenda.</i>
Agenda Items	Questions were raised if there are certain items that need to be addressed in each regular meeting? No suggestion was made.	<i>1) Double Check the Date for the Retreat. 2) Simion will send a reminder later in the semester</i>

<p>Executive Director's Report</p>	<p>Petersen briefed on the First Quarter Report. Following the report, various suggestions were made, such as board members facilitating each other towards the privilege a signature event. Concerning gatherings of student representatives, Petersen reported that students usually meet 3-4 times a year on various topics.</p>	
<p>Cross Registration Policy</p>	<p>Cross-registration is on auto-pilot, yet this can be reviewed particularly on work on field education. A question was raised about how to address the rationales about courses that are not open to the BTI cross-registration. Reports from previous semesters are available on the BTI website under the publications section.</p>	<p><i>Simion will collect X-Reg Reports once available from the Registrars.</i></p>
<p><i>Meeting adjourned at 9:30am</i></p>		