

BTI Board of Trustees Minutes

May 4, 2011 (7:30–9:35am)

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

PRESENT: Nick Carter (ANTS); Jennifer Bader (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 L. Petersen (BTI), Marian Gh. Simion (BTI)

REGRETS: Regrets: Arthur Kennedy (SJS); James Keenan (BC TD); Mark S. Massa, SJ, (BC STM)

Topic	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Invocation	Hollinger offered invocation	
Approval of March, 9 2011 minutes	While pointing out the practical usefulness of the new format in which minutes are recorded, the chair asked if there are any questions, additions, or corrections to be made to the minutes from March 9, 2011 meeting. As no comments were offered, Carter made a motion to accept minutes as submitted, seconded by Rose. All were in favor.	Minutes accepted as submitted
Board Retreat	<p>DATE & LOCATION: As mandated by the Board, the executive director circulated a memo to identify the most feasible date. Thus, it was determined that January 26 or 27 2012, are the most practical days and the retreat will be hosted by Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. During discussions all present thanked Triantafilou for offering to host the retreat, and confirmed January 26, 2012. Yet, because not everyone was in attendance, Simion was asked to circulate a memo to all the trustees to get their confirmation for availability. It was strongly emphasized to make this an all-day event.</p> <p>THEME: MISSION STATEMENT & STRATEGIC PLANNING: It was suggested that the trustees need to discuss the mission statement, and have a concrete look on where the BTI should be in the next five years. Therefore, it was recommended that prior ideas be circulated, as to build a more robust agenda. Additionally, it was suggested that two or three people would present a 2-3page focus paper on purposes and priorities of the BTI.</p>	<p>1) Simion will circulate a memo so that each trustee will confirm January 26, 2012.</p> <p>2) This is an all day meeting!</p> <p>3) Trustees should reflect on strategic planning and the future mission statement</p> <p>4) Hollinger and Carter will work together in August 2011 to build an agenda for January 2012</p>

<p>“Bin Laden” death Celebration</p>	<p>In light of celebratory public mood that erupted Sunday night (May 1, 2011), following the announcement of President Barack Obama about the killing of Osama Bin Laden by the US Navy, there was a shared disappointment and concern over such celebration of death and killing. Therefore, an initial suggestion to have the BTI post a either a stand-alone statement, or a statement recommending a moment of pause, or links towards schools offering such statements. Although this suggestion initially welcomed, the immediate concern was that this may create a precedent for similar statements, and also may raise the question of how far BTI’s centrality overlaps with the centrality of each school member.</p>	<p>No statement will be issued by the BTI concerting the public celebrations in the USA, which followed the death of Osama Bin Laden.</p>
<p>BTI Mission Statement</p>	<p>At the previous meeting an agreement was reached that, for the time being, the BTI will update the previous statement. The subcommittee in charge of the updating of the mission statement presented the version that was circulated in March with correction. Following discussions related to wording and nuances, the version submitted was edited. The agreed upon version is presented below:</p> <p>“The Boston Theological Institute is a consortium of ten theological schools and seminaries in the Boston ares. We exist to share our resources and enrich each member school through intentional collaboration. We harness our collective resources to advance ecumenical and interreligious learning, model good stewardship, strengthen out teaching and research, and more fully engage our community and the world. In all these we seek to advance our individual missions and better prepare a new generation of scholars and leaders for religious leadership in North America and the world.”</p> <p>Following these editorial changes, Carter made a motion, seconded by Hollinger to approve the statement as edited.</p>	<p>The revised Mission Statement was approved unanimously.</p>
<p>2011-2012 Budget Approval</p>	<p>BTI Board’s Treasurer, Dudley Rose reported that he worked with the executive director, and on behalf of the budget sub-committee, he offered a broad explanation of the budget, indicating that while the BTI had an increase with the revenue from Hebrew College, BTI joined the Hispanic program which implied expenses. Additionally, the treasurer reported that the BTI staff did not receive any raises in salary for several years. Overall, the treasurer reported that the new budget keeps the dues at the same level and give raises to the staff. The</p>	<p>1) Petersen & Simion were excused while the budget discussion and Personnel Committee review were in progress.</p> <p>2) 2011-2012 Budget was unanimously approved.</p>

	<p>executive director offered some details as well. Prior to the vote on the new budget the executive director and the assistant director were excused, as the board sought a report from the Personnel Committee. Once Petersen and Simion were invited back into the meeting, Hollinger made a motion to accept the budget proposal as submitted, seconded by Rose. All were in favor.</p>	
<p>Future Planning</p>	<p>As determined at previous meetings, BTI has programs, and supports, and endorse various programs and events. In order to make a fair use of BTI staff's time, an Application Process was set in place for new BTI programs and co-sponsoring, which are subject to the Board's Approval. (Endorsed events are subject to the approval of the executive director, and this implies only the lending of the BTI name.)</p> <p>The BTI Program and Grants Committee discussed an application submitted by Frank James (Provost at GCTS) and Mark S. Massa, SJ., (Dean, of BC STM), for the BTI to adopt REFO500, as a BTI program involving church historians and other faculty. During discussion, it was understood that a program means the highest level of involvement of the BTI staff in terms of time, and as a result the Board felt it could not vote positively at this time for that category. Nevertheless, two suggestions were made: REFO500 could resubmit the proposal according to the criteria of BTI support, or the BTI will only endorse it at this moment.</p>	
<p>Prison Ministry & Other Programs</p>	<p>BUILDING CHARACTER: The executive director reported that he received a request from a former graduate of Harvard Divinity School for the BTI to endorse an application for a grant dealing with prison ministry (project called "Building Character") Following discussion of this request, it was recommended that the executive director would recommend that the HDS graduate should seek to work with organizations such as Partakers, Alternatives to Violence Program, etc. It was generally felt that this is not in the interest of the BTI because it does not come from any BTI school. Therefore, the consensus was not to approve this request.</p> <p>TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11: The executive director suggested that a reflective event on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 ("Living in the Shadow of 911") be held in the fall, and listed also several other events that BTI may be involved with, such as an immigration resource day on October 10, 2011 at EDS; the endorsement of Pentecostal Study with Peter Berger, etc. All were received positively.</p>	

<p>Annual Dinner and Lecture</p>	<p>Hebrew College will host the annual BTI Dinner and Lecture. Lehmann reported that he met with Petersen, determined the dates, and venue (Hebrew College). Professor Alan Brill is invited as the keynote speaker.</p>	
<p>Cross-Registration</p>	<p>The assistant director thanked the board members who helped ensuring that cross-registration statistics are submitted. He also indicated that cross-registration data is available on the BTI website under the section of publications.</p> <p>The executive director thanked the Board for guidance and programming as we work with the application process.</p>	<p>The cross-registration policy will be discussed at a future board meeting.</p>
<p>Meeting Adjourned at 9:45am</p>		