

GAJE Steering Committee Meeting Report September -November 2010

The meeting was convened by Filip Czernicki, Steering Committee Convenor, on September 1, 2010. The meeting was scheduled to take place in September and October, 2010, but it was extended through November.

The following Steering Committee (SC) members participated in the meeting: Lindi Coetzee; Skye Rose; Ed Santow; Bruce Lasky; Mao Ling; Filip Czernicki; Mariana Berbec-Rostas; Celeste Romero; Carlos Maria Varas; Sahar Maranlou; Minna Kotkin; Frank Bloch; Sara Chandler; Diego Blazquez-Martin, and Tewodros Alefe Meles. Sivanandan Sivakumar did not participate.

There were four items on the agenda:

1) Update on GAJE incorporation procedure.

Barbara Schatz and Bruce Lasky have been working with Joe White (our pro bono lawyer at the New York law firm, Sullivan & Cromwell) on completing the incorporation of GAJE as a US not-for-profit. They asked the SC to provide certain information, most of which has now been provided. As agreed to earlier, the directors of the new corporation will be the current members of the SC. Filip Czernicki will assume the role of President, Celeste Romero will be Secretary, and Frank Bloch will be Treasurer. If all goes well, the Global Alliance for Justice Education, Inc. will come into being by the end of the year.

2) Coming GAJE conference planning update.

Mariana reported on her meeting in Valencia with representatives of the four Spanish universities that will host the conference next year (headed by Prof. Jose Garcia Anon of the University of Valencia), along with Kevin Kerrigan, the editor of the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education (IJCLE).

The SC agreed to the arrangement proposed by that group: the GAJE conference will be held in Valencia on 12-16 July 2010, in conjunction with the IJCLE conference on 11-12 July (with both conferences sharing the day on 12 July). The SC also approved a formal announcement of the conference, which was posted on the GAJE list on November 19 and is now on the GAJE website.

3) Developments on the website and newsletter.

Frank presented a report on the GAJE website, noting that responsibility for the website was shifted to the Communications Committee (CC) when the General Secretariat arrangement with Street Law ended at the beginning of this year. The CC decided to keep the site on Yola.com, a free website service, at least in the short run. Frank assumed temporary responsibility for administering the site and has done some modest updating of key information on the site (current SC membership, 2008 conference report, information about the next conference location and date) – but no significant new content has been added in more than a year.

The SC decided that we need a professional host that can also provide assistance in re-designing the site. Ved Kumari, a member of the CC (and former co-chair), has been in touch with some firms in India that could provide the services we need at a reasonable cost. Ajay Pandey, a GAJE member who also

lives in India, made some inquiries as well. The SC authorized the CC to work with Ved and Ajay to identify and contract with a suitable web hosting and design service in India.

The SC discussed a number of ideas about special features for the site, but the CC will be responsible for making those decisions with the new host provider. The one special feature that is most urgent will be a fully functional and sophisticated page for the next conference. The CC will also have to think through who will be responsible for administrating the website and what those responsibilities will entail, which will depend on what services we contract for and how the website would be redesigned (including if it will be designed so that a number of authorized persons could change and update pages).

4) Fundraising

The SC discussed some general ideas about fundraising, but no decisions were made.