

Report of GAJE Steering Committee Meeting

July 14, 2011

The Steering Committee met in Valencia during the conference luncheon on July 14. All members who were at the conference attended. Those members were: Mariana Berbec-Rostas, Sara Chandler, Anna Cody, Filip Czernicki, Martin Geer, Catherine Klein, Minna Kotkin, Bruce Lasky, David McQuoid-Mason, Ajay Pandey, Simon Rice, and Celeste Romero. Frank Bloch, an outgoing member from the prior Committee, was also present.

The members discussed the election of officers and voted to re-elect Filip Czernicki as President and Celeste Romero as Secretary. They also discussed the position of who could serve as Treasurer, specifically whether the Treasurer must be a member of the Board. They decided to retain Frank Bloch as Treasurer until that question could be resolved, so that he could continue closing out the books on the conference.

The members then voted to appoint Frank Bloch as Executive Secretary, according to the Job Description approved by the prior Board at its last meeting. Frank Bloch offered to undertake the position on a pro bono basis.

The members then discussed the election of At Large members. Generally, At Large members are nominated within the Steering Committee, based on the recommendation of one or more SC members. In this context, it was noted that one does not have to be on the SC to serve on – or serve as chair of – most GAJE committees. Therefore, persons who wish to be considered for an At Large position should submit a formal written request explaining why the person wishes to serve as an At Large member. In the meantime, it was decided to postpone the election of any additional At Large members to a future meeting.

The members then review the list of suggestions for future GAJE activities from the general Meeting held the day before. The suggestions were:

- 1) Ensure gender balance in plenary sessions.
- 2) GAJE advocacy (e.g., letter of support) for colleagues facing start up resistance, etc.
- 3) Student delegates from each region (grants or waivers)
- 4) Student chapters of GAJE.
- 5) Fundraise for interpreting/ translation
- 6) Connect with allied organizations: regionals, etc.
- 7) Regional activities and projects
- 8) Post presentation reports to contain more details
- 9) Taping sessions and put on the website
- 10) Fundraising for GAJE fellowships - encourage future generation, internships, travel grants
- 11) Website to house info, resources, active exchange and conversations, open access for members, link from local websites
- 12) Brainstorming time
- 13) Link up GAJE members with similar activities, etc.
- 14) Institutional membership with fees
- 15) Training sessions concurrent with or independent from the main conference

After considering each suggestion, the Committee decided to pursue the possibility of establishing GAJE projects in the following areas:

- 1) Support and advocate for Justice Education around the world (including facilitating the involvement of GAJE members in this work).
- 2) Membership policies (including institutional membership and fees).
- 3) Communication and resources (including administration and use of website).
- 4) Regional activities (including regional conferences).
- 5) Partnership with other organizations (including joint projects and submission of joint proposals).

David reported on a request that had been made for GAJE to support a Regional Meeting in Lebanon of Arab-speaking countries interested in establishing law clinics as part of the 'Arab Spring'. The organizers would undertake to ensure that participants with Israeli stamps in their passports and Arab-speaking Israelis could attend. The SC agreed that the organizers should be invited to send in a formal proposal for consideration at the next SC meeting and that Bruce Lasky would send an example of such a proposal to Frank for onward transmission to the organizers.

The Committee also took note of the various suggestions relative to future worldwide conferences and will take them into account when planning the next conference.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place by email in September.

Dated: 27 July 2011

Celeste Romero, Secretary