

Report of GAJE Steering Committee Meeting

June-July, 2013

The Steering Committee, sitting as the GAJE Board of Directors, met via email from June 3 through July 20, 2013. The following members participated in the meeting: Mariana Berbec-Rostas, Anna Cody, Lindi Coetze, Filip Czernicki, Diego Blazquez-Martin, Catherine Klein, Minna Kotkin, Bruce Lasky, Sahar Maranlou, David McQuoid-Mason, Ajay Pandey, Simon Rice, and Celeste Romero, and Carlos Maria Varas. Frank Bloch, GAJE Executive Secretary, was also present. Tewodoros Alefe, Sara Chandler and Mao Ling did not participate.

The agenda included five items:

1. Report of Conference Planning
2. Report of Local Organizing Committee
3. Report of Fundraising Committee
4. Report on conference committees and working groups
5. Overview of preliminary conference budget

In addition, the Committee discussed the possibility of redefining GAJE regions for purposes of allocating and selecting membership on the Steering Committee. Recognizing that any such change would be a complicated matter and would raise a number of interconnected constitutional and practical issues, the Committee decided to ask Filip to appoint a special sub-committee to prepare a comprehensive report. The Steering Committee will consider that report at its next meeting and, depending on any action it decides to take on the report, may then submit proposals for change to be taken up at the General Meeting during the worldwide conference in Delhi.

Ajay Pandey, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, reported on the activities of the LOC. The LOC, which now has a core membership of 8 members, was scheduled to meet during a conclave of law teachers that is to take place at the Jindal Global Law School campus at the end of June. On the meantime, the LOC has been concentrating on 1) preparing for the field visits planned for Wednesday during the first week of the conference, 2) putting together more detailed information on the housing that will be provided on the JGU campus during the first part of the conference and the various arrangements that will be made for accommodations during the TOT part of the conference at the National Law University-Delhi, and 3) exploring possibilities for conference sponsorship from the local legal community. Ajay also conveyed great enthusiasm for the conference among all the members of the LOC, the administrations at the two host law schools, and various other local justice education supporters.

Catherine Klein, Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, set out the current timeline for carrying out the conference, including deadlines for first- and second-round review of conference session proposals and requests for travel/accommodation grants. She also reported that she has been working on the process for filling the various committees and working groups that will be responsible for implementing certain parts of the conference. A good number of GAJE members responded to the post on the GAJE listserv in April inviting members to volunteer to help with conference planning. Some of them have already been assigned to a particular committee or working group. The next step is to identify specifically how many additional committee and working group slots need to be filled and then to fill those slots by drawing from the list of volunteers.

Simon Rice, Chair of the Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee, noted that while the committee has not yet been fully constituted, it seems that there should be opportunities to obtain sponsors that will underwrite some of the on-the-ground expenses of the conferences. As noted above, the LOC has already started to try to identify potential sponsors from the local community.

Finally, Frank Bloch presented an overview of the conference budget that he prepared in collaboration with the CPC and the LOC. He reported that current projections indicate that we should have no trouble covering GAJE's share of the expenses from conference fees. (With JGU offering to cover all of the daily food and accommodation expenses during the first part of the conference and with both JGU and NLU-Delhi offering their facilities free of charge, the main expenses that GAJE will have to cover are three conference dinners (two during the first part and one during the TOT part), transportation, materials, and funding for travel and TOT accommodation grants.) He then reported more specifically on the line item for travel/accommodation grants, noting that authorization for that line item needs to be given now since the Waiver and Grants Committee will be beginning its first-round review of grant requests in the middle of July. He proposed the allocation of US\$ 30,000 (divided roughly between \$25,000 for travel grants and \$5000 for TOT accommodations).

The Committee discussed the various reports, endorsed the activities undertaken so far, and authorized the allocation of US\$ 30,000 for grants in the conference budget.

Dated: July 24, 2012

Celeste Romero, Secretary