

October 1–3 2010 Retreat

Agenda:

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Spirituality Con Debrief
Rock Con Debrief
Social Justice
WUUKY Update
Toolbox review
Group Work/Review
Drug Use
Hawaii
Worship Accessibility
GRUUST
Respecting Locations
Date for Spirituality Con

Job Jots:

- Branduin Bryant and Meg Rewriting Dean's list– Emily has an updated versionLDC: haven't done anything, but we want it to happen
- SDC: trying to have a meeting with Dan from Palo Alto Theoretically in Jan.
- DoCONumentary– Branduin gone. don't ditch the idea. no work done

Job Jots added at Meeting:

- WUUKY deans need to pick new deans, but not urgently
- Update Deans' List with items discussed at Meeting: Meg and Emily
- Inside out Groups: Emily and Mariah, Eric as support
- Read, look over, and update "A Guide to YELLing": Emily, Mia, and Abbie

Word From Jason– WUUKY for MUUGS

Jason George has been trying to get a summer camp established for Middle School aged UUs. He has discovered that Camp 3 at Mendocino Woodlands is available the same week that WUUKY typically occurs. In order to start this camp, Jason wants to borrow money from the YRUU WUUKY fund. He also suggested joint activities between the two camps. Council reached consensus to give money to Jason for a middle school summer camp from WUUKY funds; as far as joint activities is concerned, Jason can arrange it with the WUUKY deans.

Energy Chair:

Council's Energy Chair, Bailey Boatsman has resigned. This is problematic because having an energy chair is vital to council's success. Council discussed the possibility of moving someone already on council to the Energy Chair

position and replacing them. Isabel Fischer was mentioned as someone who may fill a vacant slot. Next, Conrad Barry was suggested. It was brought up that he is both involved in leadership at cons and interested in filling this very position. Conrad came to the meeting and confirmed his wishes. Council then reached consensus that Conrad Barry will be Council's new Energy Chair until the upcoming Elections Con.

CABBAGE:

At Summer Con, a new YELLer Position was established called the CABBAGE. Council determined that the position was worth keeping, but needed stronger guidelines and a more definite description. Thus, Council created a job description for the CABBAGE. After contemplating several things like at what times during the con this is important and the possibility of having two people in this position, Council delineated a description for the CABBAGE. Council determined that the position of CABBAGE will be made a standard YELLer position that the Cococos will choose for each con. The CABBAGE will... A. be provided with documents including Deep fun for ideas B. specifically look for those disjoined from the community and bring them together in games, and D. Find other people to lead games with them so they can either start another game or look for others who are alone.

Website:

Council discussed the idea of having aliases by job. That way, people's personal information would not be posted directly on the internet. Council also discussed the spam going to the "webops" group. It was determined that a filter should be put up. Council was also reminded to share their knowledge about WUUKY on wiki.WUUKY.org.

Spirituality Con Debriefing:

At this point Council debriefed Spirituality Con and listed things that went well and things that could have gone better. Highlights of the con include a fun hour before orientation, a compelling and well-run Social Action activity, a variety of workshops, strong community, plentiful and tasty food, and the system with a responsible Youth awake all night was first put into use and went great. The things that did not go well were loud winks creating a difficult sleeping environment, an unplanned closing, a large lost and found, bad communication between YELLers, an all-con activity that made many people uncomfortable, and that the Deans were selected too far in advance.

YELLer Meetings:

Since YELLer communication was a problem at Spirituality Con, Council discussed how this problem could be eliminated. It was decided that deans should facilitate two YELLer meetings per con, three for elections. One of these meetings should be before the con, and one should be on Saturday at lunch.

Lost and Found:

Council determined that improvement of the clean-up process can help

lost and found be smaller. One suggested amend was on Sunday morning attendees should wake up and pack their belongings right away. Someone brought up the concern of people not knowing where to put their stuff in the morning. To prevent this, the deans need designate a room at con's start for stuff which they should announce at orientation. Deans should also ensure that all the YELLers know the room, and Touchgroup leaders should remind their touchgroups. Deans also must confirm that the room will be available on Sunday morning. It was also suggested that the Friday night stuff room needs to be different then the Sunday morning stuff room. This forces everyone to neatly repack their belongings before the end of the con.

Rock Con Debrief:

Next, Council discussed the high and low points of Rock Con. Things that went well include a large amount of profit, successful coexistence with an art gallery, location secured last minute, worship was well-planned, lost and found auction returned many people's belongings, social justice was enjoyable, people enjoyed going to the service, and touch groups were well organized. A few things did not go perfectly include a shortage of food, limited parking, the ovens being left on all of Saturday night, and a lag in scheduling. Since the con went reasonably well, no further discussion was necessary.

Social Justice:

The Social Action Coordinators want to see Social justice at every single con because they think it is a fundamental part of Unitarian Universalism. They have been attempting it throughout the last few Cons and it has been working well. At Rock Con, the SACs took a survey to determine what the YRUU community thought of integrating social justice into cons. 87% of those who took the survey were interested in having this happen. By looking at these results, Council reached consensus that there should be at least 45 minutes at every conference allocated to the SACs to run social justice activities. The Social Action Coordinators also wanted to change the job description of the SACs to include the responsibility to put out written information about current social justice issues, called "zines". This would require an amendment to the bylaws which would be put on the ballot at Elections Con. Some members of Council argued that this should be left to the individual SAC, it should not be a requirement. Also, some thought that putting out a zine would be a waste of resources, and it would make more sense to simply make it a website feature. Next, the SACs brought up that many people oppose to Social Justice because they think of it as films and lectures. The Social Action Coordinators proposed going on little field trips, however, due to liability, this cannot happen. The SACs can simply incite members of YRUU to a Social Action event without making any direct affiliation with the actual organization of PCD YRUU. The SACs will also be getting email addresses at cons to start their own Google Group not under YRUU's name.

WUUKY (Closed Session):

Council discussed marijuana at WUUKY and a stolen iPod.

Consent Toolbox Review:

This system was implemented on a trial basis at Spirituality Con. Council agreed that “Down” worked quite well as a safe word, but there was some controversy on the CAClite. It was brought up that when a CAClite was called, it was not for an issue related to consent. Those who called the CAClite found a full CAC unnecessary because there was no proof of a serious rule infraction. After consulting the bylaws, Council learned that CACs can be called for anything requiring substantial action that occurs at cons, not just rule violations. Next, the question aroused as to whether chaplains should announce the option of having a CAClite to everyone at orientation or not. Eventually, Council agreed that crossed arms, overhead clapping, the safe word “down”, and the CAClite can all be codified. The CAClite is being kept as something deans and chaplains are aware of, but don’t announce, to use for issues of consent.

Group time

At this point Council split into work groups for about an hour, before coming back to review what each group achieved.

LDC Group:

This group is in charge of organizing and planning a Leadership Development Conference in early spring. Leading it will be Mia, Alexa, and possibly Nick Post. Alexa is in charge of asking Nick if he would like to be a part of this. Logan will be cooking and in charge of recruiting a co-cook. They are in need of a materials person. Also, the group was unsure how the conference could be funded. They plan on asking the district; hopefully, the district will not impose on the way the conference is run.

SDC Group:

This group did not meet because its members all were also involved in other groups.

Website Group:

The Website Group posted the documents “A Bit About Cons” and “A Guide to YELLing” on the site in PDF form. They also added a calendar to show Council meetings, Cons, and Social Action Events. The group also created a Google group. Lastly, they plan on making photo galleries.

DocCONumentary Group:

The DocCONumentary group talked about the format of the movie. They determined it will be about 40 minutes long and will be like going to a con. There will be clips of different things like orientation, workshops, and touchgroups. The film will also include brief interview clips. The group intends on kicking things off by having a workshop at the next con to pull together a team. They also will get admin status of the DocCONumentary facebook group from Jason and Branduin

Drug Use At/Before Cons:

It has come to Council's attention that people are using drugs at and before cons. This is very bad because we are liable. A lot of times people use beforehand and show up, thinking that it is okay. Council decided it should be added to deans' list that it's against the rules to come to cons under the influence. Deans should make it known that nobody is being judged for using outside of Cons, but this is not the proper place for that. Council realized that there is no rule about coming to cons with drugs in your system; there definitely should be. Council decided to table this item to the meeting before Elections Con. This allows time to write up a wording change proposal to make this rule official.

Inside Out Groups:

Inside Out Groups are a way for the community to create a safe place to talk about drugs safely that Emily encountered at General Assembly. It includes a power shuffle about drugs and small groups which participants chose based on drug history. A woman from Hawaii named Nan has offered to come to California for a weekend of activities of this sort. Council determined it would be better to ease into it by starting with just a workshop. This brought up the concern that it isn't worth it to fly Nan out here for only an hour or two. The idea was suggested of having a web cam chat with Nan. Council eventually concluded that Mariah and Emily would be in charge of making something happen with this.

Hawaii:

It was brought to Council's attention that the Hawaiians want to become a part of district programming. They are eager, but they really want the combined cost of attending a con and travelling to a con to be equal for all attendees. This would greatly increase the fee for local con-goers- it would add about 15 dollars per person. The Hawaii youth group has 2 or 3 interested youth. They are active enough to raise the money, but they feel unwelcomed since the community is not reaching out. Hawaii is also interested in sending attendees to WUUKY, and adding \$15 to the WUUKY fee is not much at all. In order to reach out, the idea was proposed that PCD YRUU could match all of the fund-raising that the Hawaii Youth Group does. Also, it was suggested that YRUU hosts other fund-raisers like can-collecting or donations. After much discussion, Council reached consensus that a) PCD YRUU shall raise money for a travel equalization fund, by various means at the discretion of PCD YRUU leadership, and by any interested youth groups or individuals; b) the intent of the fund shall be to provide assistance to PCD YRUU members whose travel costs are the greatest obstacle to attendance at PCD YRUU events, notably including Hawaii; c) the PCD YRUU Treasurers shall collect and track this money; d) the event Registrar shall communicate with requesters and collaborate with the Treasurers to identify the best way to distribute money to help youth attendees get to events, and e) the funds shall be used to reimburse up to 2/3 of documented travel expenses for any given attendee.

Dual Meeting:

Council consented that on November 20th there will be a meeting that replaces the December 4th meeting. It will take place at 10 AM at San Jose church concurrently with the board meeting to share lunch and a conversation with them. This conversation's purpose will be to express how we feel as youth who have no PCD community to enter after bridging out of YRUU. It was discussed at great length that young adulthood is a time filled with many changes and people need love and support from a strong community like YRUU. It was suggested to invite Jason, Tom and Testiclees to this meeting, so young adult voices could be heard. Council contemplated whether or not the board would support the creation of some sort of young adult programming. Some asserted that since the board is all about growth, they should be willing to try it out. Others disagreed; they said that in the past, the board has been against this because the Young Adults are not active in their congregations when district programming exists. Also it was brought up that the Board has completely ruled out conferences as an option for young adults. Council intends on finding out exactly why at this joint meeting. It was also mentioned that having a con-like event could serve as a catalyst to build personal connections potentially inspiring a program to start. Since programs for young adults frequently spring up and quickly fade away, Council determined that this new program needs to be supported by a strong foundation, including a decision making body, like Council.

Worship Accessibility:

After several instances of worships ending very late, Council began to wonder what can be done about this. As things happen now, many drivers need to miss worships. The idea was brought up to switch the placement of Coffee House and Worship on Saturday evening. Some members of Council expressed concerns of going from a deep activity to something so silly and light-hearted. Still others asserted that this is not a decision for Council to make; it is up to the individual deans. Since there was no apparent solution, Council held a brainstorm. Suggestions include having a "drop dead deadline", the coffee house/worship inversion, limiting the amount of coffee house acts, waking up earlier, going to the next activity when things run late (not free time), make sure cooks are trained, and holding YELLers accountable for their activity being ready on time. Council decided to take all of these options and put them on the Dean's List so deans have options when things are running late.

GRUUST:

GRUUST is now in existence, but it is as a blog. This does not coincide with the bylaws which state GRUUST must be written. A blog is easier because it saves paper and is much easier to make. The bylaws should be changed. It should be up to the current editor(s) to decide whether they want to publish GRUUST as a blog or as a newsletter. Council tabled this issue until Elections Con when Adam will write a proposal to change the bylaws.

Respecting Church Locations:

At many Conferences, attendees have been using tea, sugar packets and hot chocolate that does not belong to YRUU. CoCoCos could warn churches to

lock up their tea and coffee in advance. It is also important that Deans make it clear it is not permitted. Cooks can bring it for us and make it clear which items are for our use. Someone should create a master shopping list of basics for cooks to use. A question arose as to whether YRUU breaks too many things during Conferences. The last Con went very well considering an art show was in progress and nothing broke. All it took was a warning to the community. Perhaps simply announcing at orientation that consuming the church's food is no tokay will stop that problem as well. It was decided that this shall be placed on the Deans' List.

Spirituality Con Dates:

The original date conflicts with District Assembly. Council consented to change the date of Spirituality Con to May 20th through 22nd.