



Sacramento Insight Meditation

Final Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2022

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 pm on Monday, March 14, 2022, via videoconferencing.

In Attendance

President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	Karen Tercho
Vice President	Tony Pruitt	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Rich Howard
Secretary	Alice Carney	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne
Recorder	Karen Tercho	YPS Rep	N/A

Beginnings

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jon Siiteri, at 6:00 pm. He led the group in a brief period of meditation followed by a reading of the *Guidelines: Board Participation as Dharma Practice* and a member check-in.

Minutes

The draft of the Board of Directors' meeting minutes for February 14, 2022, was revised.

Review and Approval of February Meeting Minutes (Alice) - Minutes were approved and accepted unanimously.

1.0. Board-Faculty Communication (6:20-6:40)

1.1 Faculty Report (Rich)

- No faculty member is available to attend SIM Board meetings in June and September.
 - Dennis is moving away from SIM administrative duties.

- New request that SIM faculty are not required to attend each board meeting, or some meetings a faculty rep will attend a portion of the meeting?
 - SIM Board has no objections to this idea.
 - Faculty reports will still be provided regularly.
 - Idea that SIM board member could occasionally visit a faculty meeting with new information to share or gather.
 - Board members can email Rich, Diane, and Dennis with faculty-related questions (now and in the future).

1.2 Faculty Legacy Project Steering Committee (Rich/Tony)

- Legacy Project Steering Committee – Will be composed of Rich, Tony, Alice (Karen looped in for web/social/marketing and Sara on an ad hoc basis for financial questions).
 - Rich will convene the first meeting soon.
 - Possibility of using SIM’s 20th anniversary as a way to roll out the Legacy Project to the community.
 - What will the event look like?
 - Want to be careful of language about “20 years” so as not to put undue pressure on the new teachers
 - Teachers and administrative tasks - An FYI (from Vance) that we shouldn’t assume that new teachers will want to participate in administrative things like attending board meetings, programming, planning.
 - First two years are part of the pilot project - the hope is that there will be a deeper commitment after that point.
 - Rich will have a conversation with Vance about longer-term commitment possibilities.
 - It’s pointed out that strong communication between Board and Faculty will be needed in a scenario where there is less teacher presence at SIM Board meetings.

1.3 Teacher Scheduling Committee

- Scheduling committee idea - Rich proposes that the SIM Board creates a scheduling committee as most other sanghas have. Planting a seed, this would be a longer-term goal.

2.0. Fiscal (6:45-6:50)

2.1 Financial Summary as of February 28, 2022 (Sara)

Prior to this meeting, the Treasurer reviewed SIM’s Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Reports for February 2022. Those reports are provided in the Meeting Materials.

SIM’s finances stand as follows:

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$124,828.62

Activity (Total Column):

Net Revenue through January: -\$8,234.81

Net Revenue through February: -\$4,966.18 (+3,268.63)

Notes:

Net Revenue through January has been corrected to reflect the TOTAL column on the Statement of Activity Report.

3.0. Operations Issues (6:50-7:10)

3.1 Re-Opening (Jon)

- We're open! Folks have been attending in person and Jon has received positive feedback.
- For now the mask requirement will stay in place until things improve further – a lot of uncertainty. Other sanghas at SDC still have mask requirements in place.

3.2 Website Committee Report (Alice)

- Website team is Jon, Alice, Amy, and Karen (who just joined)
- Had a 2nd meeting on Feb. 25 and saw a mock-up/sample of a new design.
- Suggestion to use our altar/Buddha statue for the homepage photo.
- Renee has offered some of her photography - we can download and use them.
- Timeline for new website is TBD.
- **Action:** Alice will reach out to Max (Three29) to provide the recording of the meeting for Amy.

3.3 Need for Additional Board Members - Potential candidates? (Tony)

- Tony suggests that we recruit 3 to 4 new board members to join SIM.
- Sara has less than 1 year left in her term.
- **Action:** Tony requests that each SIM board member comes up with 1-2 names - within the next month / next board meeting.
 - Suggestion that we run names by the board before directly approaching people. We should tell potential board members that SIM Board is talking to a number of different people. There are several steps leading up to SIM Board service.
- Possibility of Ian MacLeod joining SDC Board - Jon will talk with Ian and Diane about the dual role of serving as SIM representative to SDC.

4.0. Community Outreach (7:10-7:25)

- 4.1 YPS Update - No update from Idris tonight. Tabled until next month.
- Per Karen, YPS is doing well. Max Erdstein recently taught for YPS on a Tuesday.
- 4.2 Update from Diversity/Inclusivity Committee (Amy)
- No update this month. Amy is working on scheduling the next meeting.
- 4.3 Listening Council Announcement to the Sangha
- Note that a parentheses is missing.
 - For any other comments to Cathy on this final draft, please send them within a week from now.
 - Discussion around how to unroll to the community. Suggestion that we mention this in announcements, plus eNews.
 - Agreed that the Listening Council info should go up on the existing website (and migrated over to the new website).
 - **Action:** Alice will work with Sabitre on adding this info to the website.

5.0. Retreat and Class Updates (7:25-7:35)

- 5.1 Residential retreat 2022, update (Sara)
- Survey will go out to community members soon. Questions about Covid protocols and registration fees.
 - First priority – survey will go to those who participated in past SIM retreats or have been active SIM participants or donors recently. Will include dates and teachers (Greg and Neesha).
 - Goal to open registration in mid-April prior to Greg’s weekend.
 - By June, we’re in for about 13K – will want to make sure we have enough people committed to going to make it work.
- 5.2 Update on Classes (Amy, Sara)
- Discussion on confusion of “Zoom only” vs. “Hybrid” - will the teacher be online or in-person?
 - Sabitre would like info for the website one month in advance.
 - Often we don’t know if teachers (who are more local) will be in-person or hybrid and include the talk description.
 - Karen offers to make website updates when the new website is up (in general).
 - Discussion (Tony) about how our language on the website, in particular “hybrid”, could be alienating to some - consideration for those who aren’t necessarily college-educated.
 - Karen, Alice, Tony will discuss how to modify language for the website to be more inclusive.
 - Beginning Meditation is coming up – David G. will be the A/V host.

6.0. Volunteer Updates (7:35 - 7:50)

6.1 A/V Operations (Karen)

- Request to upgrade Zoom account to Business? \$150 vs. \$165 annually (Note: amount subsequently revised) . SIM Zoom account auto-renews ~ April 22.
 - Board approves the upgrade unanimously.
 - Sara and Karen will work on the upgrade
 - Once the upgrade is done, Karen will figure out technical details of running two meetings at once (concurrent).
- Continued issues with audio for hybrid sessions.
 - Karen will reach out to Dirk to troubleshoot.
- Future issue with enough A/V volunteers for Thursdays – we should consider hiring someone. Board has already approved this cost for Saturdays and one Thursday per month.
 - **Action:** Karen will reach out to Dirk about joining / working on a future Thursday to troubleshoot and also potentially working 1 or 2 Thursdays per month.

7.0. SDC (7:50 - 8:10)

7.1 SDC Report (Jon)

- Larry Smith, Treasurer has resigned as well as others. Need for SDC board members and SIM representative.
- Automatic electronic defibrillator – in progress
- March SDC budget – next year might be running \$1000 per month deficit. Part of this is the hiring of the office manager.
 - If each sangha contributes more for rent, this could cover the increase in cost for expenses for SDC.
 - Bob will talk to Sara with information about a potential new rental agreement.

7.2 Building Report (Bob)

- Plants and drip irrigation system, coming in next two months
- Original plans for the backyard has a big open lawn space. The SDC Grounds committee thinks that trees are needed toward the middle of the lawn (near raised beds). The landscape architect wants input on species of trees.
 - Question on if anyone on SIM would like to be more involved in these decisions along with the Grounds committee – SIM Board is okay with leaving this up to the Grounds committee along with the SDC Board.
 - Suggestions: trees that do not shed (much) would be preferable.
 - Trees will be on a drip irrigation system so will not require too much water.

7.3 Need for new SIM representative(s) for SDC (Jon)

- See discussion on this in section 3.3
- Approval will happen at SDC level and the SIM Board will approve.

8.0. Next Board Meeting

April 11, 2022 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Carney, Secretary
Karen Tercho, Recorder