Meeting: April 21, 2007

Present: Jutta Fitzsimmons, Ch., A. Amoriell, W. Amoriell, Dean of the School of Education, R. Bates, Treasurer; R. Caruso, W. Cullen, Sec’y; M. Davey, M. Delperuto, A. Misra, N. Johnson, S. Stacy, L. Waterson (for Peter Brouwer).

I. The chair convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Members introduced themselves individually.

II. The minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2006 were approved.

III. The treasurer reported that there was a balance on hand of $2424.99.

IV. Acting upon a suggestion from W. Amoriell, the chair called for a few moments of silence in memory of the late Genevieve Baxter, who had been one of the original members of the steering committee that established the SOE Alumni Council. Ms. Baxter also had served as president of the Council for one term. The chair also suggested that the members of the Council send letters and cards to Donna Ce Cartel to encourage her in her battle against cancer. A. Amoriell moved that flowers or a plant be sent by the Council to Ms. Ce Cartel.

A. Amoriell presented her report on the excellent progress being made on the Gallery Project. She announced that all the historical panels planned for the project would be completed by June 1, thus being ready for display during Alumni Weekend in July. The dedication of the project is set for Friday, July 13th, at 6:00 p.m., following President Schwaller’s reception. She also recommended that the cost of the reunion dinner of all the people who volunteered to help in the Gallery Project be paid by the Council and that these people be recognized for their hard work at the banquet.

She further suggested that the motel and meal expenses of winners of the St. Lawrence Academy Medal and spouse be paid by the Council.

V. Dean’s Report: W. Amoriell reported on the action and progress in finding and hiring new faculty in the School of Education. He announced that three faculty searches have been successful: New Faculty hired include an Assessment Coordinator, Science Methods instructor and a Classroom Management instructor. Two faculty searches have failed: Student Teaching and Business Administration. Two faculty searches are still in progress: Literacy and Special Education.

The Dean was pleased to announce that he had received a communication from the Academic Committee of the Ontario College of Teachers saying that the committee is recommending full approval for the primary-junior divisions (early childhood and childhood) programs that SUNY Potsdam wants to offer in Ottawa beginning in the fall semester ’08.
The Dean announced that the Community Health Department of the college will be undergoing a review of its program by a team of three faculty members, two from outside and one inside SUNY Potsdam. The review will last from Sunday, April 22 through Tuesday, April 24, 2007. This review is part of the goal of the college that all departments will conduct program evaluations.

VI. TESA report: Lindsay Tyler gave the TESA report as follows: The Spring 2007 conference on Differentiated Instruction took place on April 20-21. Spring semester has brought difficulty recruiting solid new members. The membership is looking at ways to increase weekly attendance as well as reduce the number of students who attend only one meeting and then use membership in TESA as an item on their resumes. The plans for a Fall 2007 conference are currently being developed. Voting for the new Executive Board will take place on April 23, 2007. A member of the School Health Department has approached TESA about collaborating in the next academic year to co-host a conference or a day of workshops. TESA is collaborating with students in Crane for a workshop on Classroom Management given by Lucille Waterson. Amy Guiney will join TESA before the end of the semester to do a workshop on portfolios and to give suggestions on preparing for student teaching. TESA will end the year with an ice cream social (free food brings college students!).

VII. Sue Stacy reported that the Annual Spring Tea is set for April 25, 2007. Speakers include W. Cullen, speaking on traditions of the college when he was a student at Potsdam Normal School, several foreign students and Mrs. Suad Jerre speaking on traditional preparations of tea in their respective countries of Iran and Iraq.

VIII. Neil Johnson reported for the St. Lawrence Academy Medal committee. He announced that Dr. Greg Geer was unanimously chosen to be awarded the Medal at Alumni Weekend, 2007. Dr. Johnson also reported that one individual who has been in the candidate pool for over five years has been dropped. Citing the conflicts between traveling and trying to attend meetings of the committee each spring, he felt obliged to resign from the Award Committee. R. Bates and Jutta Fitzsimmons volunteered to serve on the award committee. Mark Davey recommended that committees use a web base for conducting meetings.

IX. R. Bates reported that the Promising Teacher Award, 2007 be presented to Tricia Day.

X. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W.H. Cullen, Sec’y.