



**COBEC SUMMER CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT PERMAIN BASIN**

***HIGHER / TERTIARY EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER***

FRIDAY, JULY 22nd, 2022

ATTENDEES – FACE-TO-FACE:

Complete Name	Organization/Institution – In Person	Complete Name	Organization/Institution – In Person
Wesley Hickey	University of Texas at Tyler	Gustavo Ellis	San Pedro Junior College
Hugo Gonzalez	Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College	Roberto Canche	San Pedro Junior College
Marlon Brown	Corozal Junior College	Josue Sosa	San Pedro Junior College
Larry Daniels	University of Tyler at Permain Basin	Rocio Carballo	Sacred Heart Junior College
Diane Meighan	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology	Fermin Magaña	Sacred Heart Junior College
Yolanda Gongora	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology	Perla Marin	Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College
Yvonne Palma	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology	Luis Carballo	Sacred Heart Junior College
Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz	University of Texas at Tyler	Ethel Arzu	University of Texas at Permain Basin
Kirk Fontenot	Bossier Parish Community College	Andy Novobilski	Delta State University
Karen Martinez	Ecumenical Junior College	Ellen Green	Delta State University

Vincente Palacio	University of Belize	Leslie Griffin	Delta State University
Sharmayne Saunders	University of West Indies Open Campus	Onida McAfee	Delta State University
Eleanor Gillett	Wesley Junior College	Ismael Noble	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology
Eve Aird	Galen University	Susan Syverud	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Marita Linarez	Independence Junior College	Tara Wilson	University of Texas at Permain Basin
Yolanda Salgado	University of Texas at Permain Basin		

ATTENDEES – ONLINE:

Complete Name	Organization/Institution – In Person	Complete Name	Organization/Institution – Online
John Kemppainen	UNF / Emeritus Member		
Emilia Hodge	University of Florida		
Ivan Nikolov	Valdosta State University		

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at about 9:17 a.m. by Dr. Hickey, COBEC US Co-Chair.

2.0 WELCOME

Dr. Hickey and Mr. Gonzalez welcomed the membership to the business meeting.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted by the membership as tabled.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4TH, 2022

The minutes of February 4th, 2022 were accepted as tabled by the membership on a motion made by Dr. Kempainen and seconded by Dr. Aird.

5.0 CONSIDERATION FOR EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

No application was received.

6.0 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

No application was received.

7.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS - BELIZE & US TREASURER

Dr. Nikolov, US COBEC Treasurer, reported that John Paul II Junior College had submitted a mini grant application for \$1,245.00 to assist with the hosting of the winter conference. He also informed that the US treasury is healthy and encouraged members to apply for a mini grant. Finally, he shared that

On a motion made by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz and seconded by Dr. Daniels, the US COBEC membership approved the mini grant. COBEC account is healthy. The report will be sent to Dr. Hickey.

Mr. Brown, Belize COBEC Treasurer's, shared the Belize COBEC financial report for the period January 1st to June 30th, 2022. He reported that beginning balance for the period was BZD \$7,941.01. Majority of the transactions were bank service charges. He shared that membership dues payments are current. He also shared that he had received from Ms. Luciola Castillo of the Belize National Library a request to pay membership dues. After some discussion, it was agreed that that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology pay the Associate membership fee. The National library will not have a casting vote. The bill should be sent to Dr. Palma. The ending balance reported was BZD \$9,952.18.

On a motion made by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Carballo, the Belize COBEC Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

8.0 CONSIDERATION FOR MINI GRANTS

No application was received. A call for proposals was made.

9.0 CONSIDERATION FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

No application was received.

10.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 CAFÉ COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Magaña shared that there is the need for ongoing professional development workshops for faculty. More professional development topics are also needed. The topics suggested include: online course security, teacher mentorship for faculty, and subject specific teaching methods.

10.2 COLLEGE FAIR COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Palma reported that the goal of the MoECST is to cater for the educational needs of students. As a result, it is planning two (2) days of the college fair. The first event will be a virtual fair and it will be held in either October or November 2022. A call to interested US member institutions was made to participate in the fair. The second event will be held in February 2023 and it will be held in person. More details will be shared later during the year.

10.3 STUDY ABROAD COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz reported that UTT intends to host twenty (20) students for three (3) weeks. The students will need to take courses for credit. The UB marine service station is open. It was suggested that tuition and fees for exchange students be waived.

10.4 RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Hodge shared that Dr. Hickey will be the Committee Co-Chair. He intends to work with Dr. Wayne. There is the need to create an online peer review journal which will allow for the creation of a research culture. There is also the need to increase research capacity in Belize. Finally, there is the need to align COBEC's plan with the MoECST Education sector plan – 2021 to 2025.

Dr. Arzu shared the Research Committee revised strategic plan. It will be uploaded on the COBEC partners website. It was also shared the Oklahoma State University is seeking mentors for their graduates students. Dr. Hodge, Dr. Arzu and Dr. Bennett will assist OSU.

Dr. Palacio provided an update on the research agenda at UB which will support COBEC's research agenda. The first research publication is expected to be out in September 2022.

11.0 WINTER CONFERENCE LOCATION – GALEN UNIVERSITY & SAN PEDRO JUNIOR COLLEGE

Mr. Ellis shared that Galen University and San Pedro Junior College have partnered to host the winter conference which will be held in San Pedro Town beginning on February 1st to 3rd, 2023. He is looking forward to having COBEC partners attend the conference.

12.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Hickey expressed his opinion on the growth of the membership and the influence that may have on COBEC. It was noted that the change of leadership at the different educational institutions has affected COBEC membership continuity

The following question was asked: Do we need to consider how to allow members?

Dr. Saunders expressed that institution departments or colleges should be considered. There is the need to focus on national development. She also expressed that membership should be inclusive.

Dr. Hickey suggested the need to reflect on the pathway COBEC wants to take.

Finally, Dr. Aird shared that matter under discussion should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

13.0 THANKS TO UTPB

A heartfelt thank you was given to Dr. Daniels and his team for planning and organizing an excellent conference.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

On a matter of adjournment, Mr. Brown shared that COBEC has a US Co-Chair and Belize Co-Chair; US Treasurer and Belize Treasurer but only a secretary. Therefore, he suggested that there is the need for US partner to serve as COBEC secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. on a motion made by Dr. Saunders and seconded by Dr. Aird.

Prepared by,



Marlon Brown
Secretary.