

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2008 Year End Report
Student Committee

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Special Education Program

Current Administrative Year (2008)

Committee Purpose(s)

The Student Committee advises the Board of Directors on ways to recruit, mentor and support student members, increase diversity, and improve the transition of student members to professional membership. The Committee is also charged with organizing and conducting a Student Issues Forum at each Annual Convention, determining the recipients of Student Awards, and preparing a slate of nominees for the student representatives to the CEC Representative Assembly and the Student Committee.

Committee Members and Terms of Office

Cynthia Chambers, Chair, East Tennessee State University (2007-2008)

Emily Canty, Cansius College (New York) (2007-2008)

James Williams, Sam Houston State University (Texas) (2007-2008)

Andrea Abel, Northwestern University (Illinois) (2008-2009)

Stephen Wright, Virginia Commonwealth University (2008-2009)

Laura Cross, East Tennessee State University, Student Representative to the CEC Representative Assembly (2007-2008)

Shea Obremski, University of Kansas, Student Representative to the CEC Representative Assembly (2008-2009)

Trisha Steinbrecher, University of Kansas (Student Member, CEC Board of Directors, Ex-Officio member of the Student Committee) (2008)

Objectives (Annual) and Work Plans; Relationship to the Strategic Plan

CEC 2006-2008 Strategic Plan Goal 1.0—Recruiting and Retaining Members:

- Work collaboratively with the CEC membership department to develop methods for increasing transition of graduating students to professional membership.
- Develop more effective means for communicating with the student membership and the community at large.
- Strengthen the committee and its effectiveness.

Outcomes/Accomplishments; Relationship to Strategic Plan Outcomes

CEC 2006-2008 Strategic Plan Goal 1.0—Recruiting and Retaining Members:

- The Chair of the Student Committee served on the “steering committee” for the CEC/CEC Pioneers Division Mentoring Pilot, and a member of the committee obtained feedback on the mentoring experience from students at her university who participated.
- The student newsletter, *Inquire & Inspire*, promotes membership, and provides news and information of special interest to students. Articles and materials are solicited from student members for the newsletter.
- The Student Chapter Faculty Advisors e-mail list, now with 395 names, is used to distribute information on Student Committee activities, student leadership opportunities, scholarships and awards, student and student-to-professional membership, the Mentoring Program, and other information of interest to student chapters and student members.
- The Student Committee has a representative on the Program Advisory Committee to represent student interests and inclusion of student presentations in the convention program.
- The 2008 Student Forum included seven poster presentations and networking with representatives from CEC’s divisions and CEC’s Job Bank, two “Q&A” sessions, two feature presentations, presentations on student leadership roles, and recognition of student award winners. Handouts from the Forum are posted on the CEC Web site in the Student section.
- New rubrics were used successfully to facilitate the review of student award and scholarship applications.
- In preparation for the 2009 CEC Convention & Expo, the presentations for the Student Forum were selected, the site for the Fundraiser was secured, and planning for other convention activities has begun.

Challenges Encountered

- We started the year off well. However, in the summer and fall, some Committee members became over-committed with school and other obligations, making it difficult to accomplish our goals. We are behind in some of our work and the 2009 committee will need to make a concentrated effort early in the year to catch up. The delegation and sharing of duties needs to be at the forefront of the committee’s planning for the future.
- The location for the 2008 Student Awards and Scholarship Fundraiser was not as popular as those used in the recent past. In terms of cost and accessibility it was the best option available to us. Due to low participation and the cost of bus transportation, we lost money. In the future, if a prime, suitable location is not found, an alternative way to raise funds (silent auction, solicit donations, etc.) may need to be used.
- Obtaining nominations and applications for student leadership positions continues to be difficult. Although the Faculty Advisors’ E-mail List is of great help in this regard, it is difficult to ascertain where student chapters are located and their level of involvement in order to attempt to obtain a diverse pool of candidates who are “invested” in CEC.

Comments, Questions for the Board of Directors

Thank you to the Board for voting to amend the CEC Constitution and Bylaws to change the term of the Student Member of the Board of Directors from one year to two years. The Student Committee supported this recommendation. The additional year will enable the student member to build professional partnerships between other Board members and committee members, identify and contribute to the needs of CEC, and establish continuity of service.

Recommendations for the Board of Directors and Anticipated Date for Board Consideration (Recommendations for Board Action Must be in the Form of a Motion)

None at this time.

Next Administrative Year (2009)

Proposed Objectives (Annual) and Work Plans; Relationship to the Strategic Plan

CEC 2009-2011 Strategic Plan Goal 4.0—Community and Membership

Objective 4.1:

- The Student Committee will continue its support of CEC student membership recruitment and retention programs, with a focus on the transition of student members to first and second year professional membership.
- The Student Committee will survey student members about their status as a student to obtain data that will help determine if further study is needed in this area.

Objective 4.2:

- The Student Committee plans to expand its outreach to student chapters and communication with state/provincial units in order to reach these chapters.
- The Student Committee plans to work more proactively with CEC to expand the content in the Student section of the CEC Web site and increase the visibility of the committee and its activities.