

APPROVED

The Urantia Book Fellowship
Annual Meeting of The General Council
August 12, 2001 in Santa Cruz, California

The Annual Meeting of the General Council of The Urantia Book Fellowship, meeting at the University of Southern California in Santa Cruz, CA, was called to order on by President Avi Dogim at 3:15 P.M. on Sunday, August 12, 2001.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Agustin Arellano
Claudia Ayers
Sara Blackstock
Matthew Block
Robert Bruyn
Robert Burns
Linda Buselli
Gary Deinstadt
Avi Dogim
Lila Dogim
Steve Dreier
Marvin Gawryn
Larry Geis
John Hales
Doreen Heyne
Richard Johnson
David Kantor
Michelle Klimesh
Marilynn Kulieke
John Lange
Rosey Lieske
Joe Liska
Dan Massey
Harry McMullan
Charles Montgomery
Dolores Nice
Charles Olivea

Susan Ransbottom
Stephanie Schaffer
Brain Smith
Lee Smith
Paul Snider
Paula Thompson
Stephen Zendt

Absent: Beth Bartley. Beth Bartley's proxy was properly filed to Claudia Ayers.
34 members present, one proxy, one seat vacant.

Stephen Zendt read a passage from The Urantia Book.

A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, approved unanimously.

Nominations to fill a vacancy on the General Council were presented: Byron Belitsos, LuAnn Harney and John Hay. James Gonzalez was nominated from the floor. Discussion on the candidates followed. Charles Montgomery and John Lange were appointed tellers. Voting took place by closed ballot. A total of 34 votes were cast. The tellers reported 8 votes for James Gonzalez, 3 votes for Byron Belitsos, and 23 votes for John Hay. The President declared John Hay elected to the General Council.

At 4:02 P.M. the meeting opened to observers:

President Avi Dogim presented his annual report. The report is on file.

President Avi Dogim announced Duane Faw's gift of the Paramony to the Urantia Book Fellowship.

Dan Massey described the help received from Larry Watkins in bringing project to conclusion. A round of applause for Larry Watkins followed.

A motion to accept minutes of February 3, 2001 was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Uversa Press Report - Harry McMullan reporting

Item 1. Behz Sarmast's book – EC recommends Uversa Press not publish and that Behz find another publisher since UBF needs to focus on the publication of the UB. Discussion followed. Harry McMullan reported on history of the project. Circumstances have now changed. UBF does not have the resources of carry this project forward. There was no commitment to Behz about

printing his book. Behz has no objection to this.

Item 2. Publishing The Urantia Book. The President reported that EC feels that publishing The Urantia Book is important, for new features, and for access to new readers. The President reported that the GC had formerly taken a straw vote to publish if the book went into the public domain. Extensive discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded: That The Urantia Book Fellowship print The Urantia Book. Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to limit discussion on the question of printing The Urantia Book to conclude at 7 P.M. Vote on the motion to limit discussion: 29 yes, 4 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes. Discussion will end at 7:00 P.M. Discussion continued on the motion that the Fellowship print The Urantia Book. An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded: That the word "promptly" be included, the motion to read "That The Urantia Book Fellowship promptly print The Urantia Book." Discussion on the proposed amendment followed. A motion was made to call the question of the amendment to the motion. Vote on the motion to call the question of the amendment: 26 yes, 6 no, 1 abstention. Motion to call passes. Vote on the amendment to the motion: 24 yes, 10 no, 1 abstention. Amendment to the motion passes. The motion under discussion is now "That The Urantia Book Fellowship promptly publish The Urantia Book." Discussion on the motion continued. At 7:00 P.M. the question was called. Vote on the motion: That The Urantia Book Fellowship promptly publish The Urantia Book. 26 yes, 8 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

The president declared a recess for the evening at 7:04 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 A.M. on Monday, August 13, 2001, beginning with a short period of silent meditation.

A motion was made and seconded: That The General Council agree to suspend its decision to promptly print the UB subject to UF agreeing to and effecting the transfer of all reader service activities to the Fellowship by October 1, 2001. Compliance with the terms of this motion will be determined by the President of the Fellowship. Discussion on the motion followed. A motion to call the question was made and seconded. Vote on the motion to call the question: 31 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes. Question is called. Vote on the motion: 4 yes, 28 no, 2 abstentions. Motion fails.

A 15 minute recess was called at 10:29 A.M. The meeting resumed at 10:53 A.M.

Discussion returned to consideration of publishing Behz Sarmast's book. A motion was made and seconded to release Sarmast from obligations to the Fellowship concerning publishing of his book and inform him that due to our publishing the UB we cannot publish his book. Vote on the motion: 34 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. Motion passes.

Negotiating Team Update

President Avi Dogim reported that he spoke to Urantia Foundation President Richard Keeler, telling him that UBF believes The Urantia Book is in the public domain and that UBF we will restore the Uversa Press version of The Urantia Book on the UBF website. Mr. Keeler disagreed that the book is in the public domain until all appeals in Michael vs. Urantia Foundation are exhausted. Discussion on the report followed.

Office Reorganization Report

President Avi Dogim reported on the Executive Committee plan for office reorganization. The plan involves selling the Wrightwood Avenue office, obtaining a mailing address for the Fellowship, and moving accounting functions to Oklahoma City. The purpose is to make better use of resources, to improve outreach and to provide information more readily using the internet as a medium. Discussion on the report followed.

Bob Bruyn read a motion of the TDA concerning the Wrightwood office:

TDA Resolution from First Society – Passed with 6 in favor, 1 against, 4 abstentions

“WHEREAS it is recorded in the minutes of General Council of February 6, 1998 that "Janet Farrington Graham described the plan from the Executive Committee to begin the decentralization of the office. Financial administration will move to Oklahoma City, readers services will take place in Boulder, and the web site will be administrated from the San Francisco area.... Discussion about the reasons for these changes occurred.", and WHEREAS the reasons for these changes are not recorded, and WHEREAS the Societies and the general membership have hitherto been largely unaware of this decision, and WHEREAS such a significant change in the operation of the organization as the dissolution of the central office should properly be taken openly after consideration of its ramifications by all the parties affected, and WHEREAS, among the advantages of having a central office are 1) that the close proximity of the present location to Urantia Foundation headquarters offers opportunities to meet and interact, affecting the entire readership, as members from around the world attend meetings in the area, which has and would continue to encourage the resumption of a cooperative relationship between the two organizations as well as social and spiritual unity among readers, and 2) that the existence of an independent central office assures that the organization’s operations remain subject to democratic control and oversight, serve the needs of Societies, and express the will of the general membership rather than the priorities and agendas of individuals, and WHEREAS, the cost of maintaining the central office is just one part of the Fellowship’s budget, and can be addressed and remedied through open discussion and, if necessary, an appeal for funds based on the importance of the central office to the organization, now therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the matter of the proposed elimination of the central office and related issues shall be decided by a vote of the General Council after a period of

consideration in which the Societies and the general membership are consulted for their opinions.”

Discussion continued.

The President called a recess for lunch at 12:00 P.M. The meeting resumed at 1:05 PM. Linda Buselli, Paula Thomson, Brian Smith and Marilyn Kulieke have left the meeting.

Discussion continued on the matter of selling the Chicago Wrightwood Avenue office. A motion was made and seconded that the General Council approve the general parameters of the Executive Committee on office reorganization. Discussion on the motion followed. A motion was made to call the question. Vote on the motion to call: 29 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. The question is called. Vote on the motion: 26 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstentions; motion passes.

Election of Standing Committee members

John Hales presented the slate proposed by the Executive Committee.

COMMITTEE NOMINEE(S)

Judicial

6 year term Marilyn Kulieke

1 year term (vacant)

Charter

6 year term Lenny Cowles

2 year term John Causland

Interfaith

6 year term Les Jamieson

Outreach

6 year term (To be determined)

International Fellowship

6 year term Rosey Lieske

Education

6 year term Stephen Zendt

Publications

6 year term Sage Waitts

Finance

6 year term Jerry Pando

3 year term Larry Geis

Special Projects

6 year term Larry Watkins

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. Michelle Klimesh and Charles Montgomery appointed tellers. The ballots were passed and returned. Vote to elect the slate: 30 yes,0 no,0 abstentions. The President declared the slate elected.

Ad-hoc Public Relations Committee Report

Alison Gardner presented the report of the ad hoc Public Relations committee. The PR committee suggests better communication with readers and more letters from the President. The PR committee is planning to do a media training event at IC02. President Avi Dogim called for round of applause for Alison's work.

Family Life Committee Report

Sent by email; nothing to add

Triennial Delegate Assembly Report – Bob Bruyn reporting

Bob described various discussions which took place at the TDA. The TDA voted to meet again next year.

Dan Massey suggested that all members of the Executive Committee attend TDA off year meetings. There were four EC members at the TDA, including those who were delegates.

John Hay left the meeting at 2:27 P.M.

Mid Year Meeting of the General Council

The proposed date is the first weekend in February 2002 (Feb1-2, 2002). The meeting date was approved by voice vote. The meeting location is undetermined. Mexico City or Phoenix are possible choices. Michelle Klimesh was assigned to research the locations..

Steve Dreier reported on plans for International Conference 2002 in Estes Park, Colorado, from June 30 to July 6, 2002.

The annual reports of the officers and committee chairs were discussed. Finance Chair Robert Burns asked for suggestions on fund raising.

Electronic recording of General Council meetings: It was agreed that the President, at the beginning of each meeting of the General Council, shall announce that electronic recordings of any type are prohibited.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

Submitted by Steve Dreier, Secretary

