

**IACBE Board of Directors Executive Committee Meeting**

**April 20, 2017**

**Annual Conference and Assembly Meeting – San Francisco, California, USA**

**Minutes**

1. **Meeting Time and Location**

The special meeting of the IACBE Board of Directors Executive Committee was held on April 20, 2017 during the Annual Conference and Assembly Meeting in San Francisco, California, USA.

1. **Agenda Presented**

The Board Book and agenda were provided to everyone via Dropbox.

1. **Call to Order and Attendance**

A: Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair, Ann Tuttle, at 8:30 a.m. in the Mason room of the Hilton Parc 55 Hotel.

B: Recording of Attendance:

Roll was taken and attendance was recorded as follows:

*Officers of the Board:*

Chair: Ann Tuttle 🗹 Present 🞎 Absent

Vice Chair: Fred Chilson 🗹Present 🞎Absent

Secretary: Jorge Cardenas 🞏Present 🗹Absent

Treasurer: David Turi 🗹 Present 🞎Absent

Past Chair: Clara Munson 🞏Present 🗹 Absent

*Ex-Officio Members:*

Dennis Gash, President 🗹 Present 🞎 Absent

1. **Business of the Executive Committee**

Mr. Gary Bonvillian, part-time consultant for the Lotus Education Group, gave an overview of the organization. Mr. Bonvillian reported that U.S. schools are the gold standard in China. He also stated that there are cultural changes happening now in China and one example is that the middle class is rapidly growing.

Mr. Bonvillian stated that China has models of accreditation but they are not uniformly applied and he does not think it is going to happen. The Lotus Education Group (LEG) would like to work with the IACBE in offering specialized accreditation to the large number of institutions in China. He informed the Executive Committee that there are approximately 3,000 schools and 30 million students in China that would benefit from IACBE accreditation. Mr. Bonvillian reported that AACSB currently has 4 member schools in Hong Kong and are starting to expand in China.

Mr. Bonvillian stressed that the LEG would respect all of IACBE’s standards of accreditation and noted that China wants to mirror our standards. He noted that LEG would be able to help IACBE navigate all the layers of government since they have a relationship with the Ministry of Higher Education. Mr. Bonvillian mentioned that it is possible for IACBE to try to expand into China alone but that partnering with LEG would make more sense. Mr. Dennis Gash, IACBE President, stated that he felt that our organization could not do it alone.

Mr. Bonvillian suggested finding a very credible school ready to go through the IACBE accreditation process and predicted that once they became accredited, IACBE would experience a “snowball” type of effect on membership in China. Mr. Bonvillian reported there are many 2nd tier schools that are high quality in China, but he recommended that we proceed cautiously. He stressed that IACBE would never be asked to compromise our accreditation standards.

Mr. Bonvillian informed the Executive Committee that Michael Hwang is the President of the Lotus Education Group and has access to the right people and can get us through the phase. He noted Mr. Hwang has connections in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China and has offered to represent IACBE in other parts of Asia as well, but Mr. Bonvillian recommends we attain success in China before expanding to other parts of Asia. Mr. Hwang would like to be seen as an equal partner with the IACBE rather than a broker. He envisions the LEG becoming the Asian arm of the IACBE. Mr. Hwang would front all the expenses. Both Mr. Bonvillian and Mr. Gash think this is a win-win opportunity for the IACBE.

1. **Call for Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was formally adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by Dr. David Turi, Acting Treasurer, filling in as Recording Secretary**