


Second Board Meeting, 2004, CAST-UT

	Minutes of Meeting	
	Date	Jan 17 th , 2004
	Prepared by	Li Xiqing
	Approved by	CAST-UT Board

Time : 1:00 PM

Location : Murray City Library, 166 E. 5300 S., Murray, Utah

Presiding : Zhu Hao*

Participants: Cheng Geping
Chen Weili*
Dong Xiaoming
Jiang Weimin (Bill)*
Le Taowen
Li Xiqing*
Liu Feng (University of Utah)
Liu Feng (Frank)
Lu Bo*
Peng Enhua (Edward)*
Wan Le*
Shu Xiaozheng*
Song Yucheng
Xia Weidong (Wayne)*
Yu Zhengda (Jordan)*
Zhang Xianxin*
Zhang Zhe(Jay)*

Excused : Liu Liping (Lily)*
Shen Hua (Henry)*

Absent : Zhao Hongjie*
Wei Huiying*

* Indicates CAST-UT Members of Board of Directors
All Chinese names start with family names.

Distribution: CAST-UT members

Summary

The meeting discussed 1) the Chinese New Year celebration event; 2) setting up an education fund for Huashige Middle School, 3) CAST-UT administrative routine tasks, 4) CAST-USA national annual conference, 5) CAST-UT bylaws and 2004 presidential election controversy. The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. and was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. Le Taowen and Yu Zhengda left the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and 2:35 p.m. respectively.

1. Chinese New Year Celebration Event

Among all the Chinese community groups, CAST-UT is the most active force among the organizers of the Chinese New Year celebration party. Zhang Zhe's couple, Wan Le, Xia Weidong, Yu Zhengda, Liu Liping, and several other volunteers from CAST-UT, have made great efforts for the preparation of this event. Special thanks go to Jiang Weimin who has raised over \$1,900 in both cash and gift certificates for the party. This fund along with donations from other sources will guarantee free admission to the party for all attendants. A proposal of providing light refreshments for attendants was made, pending approval by the organizing committee. Cheng Geping, Lu Bo, Shu Xiaozheng and Yu Zhengda will be available to purchase and deliver refreshments to the party, if needed. Song Yucheng suggested that part of the fund be allocated for editing a publishable photo collection of this year's Chinese New Year event, which will serve as a Utah Chinese history archive.

2. Education Fund for Huashige Middle School

Le Taowen presented the case of Huashige Middle School. The board discussed the case and approved the motion to set up an education fund for the Huashige Middle School. Located in Fuxin Mongolia Autonomous County, Fuxin city, Liaonin province of China, the school faces extremely difficult financial situation. Many student families cannot afford their tuition and other expenses. The fund has received \$350 in total, mainly from Dong Xiaoming, Shen Hua and Le Taowen. The board calls for donation to the fund. Each donator will receive CAST-UT's receipt that may be used for the purpose of tax deduction, an acknowledgement letter and a detailed report on the spending of the donation from the school or directly from students. Detailed procedures to operate the fund will be worked out as the fund develops.

3. CAST-UT Routine Tasks

A) Utah Chinese Life Science Association (UCLSA)

UCLSA was newly established and chaired by Zhang Zhe for promoting academic and professional exchanges on life science, pharmaceutical development among its members. It is also intended to serve as an additional vehicle to attract more local Chinese professionals to join CAST-UT. Detailed information of UCLSA will be passed to the Chinese community as soon as possible. It is proposed that UCLSA members with expertise in above-mentioned fields will present sci-tech seminars in the near future.

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B) Business/Investment

It is proposed to invite Ye Yi to make a presentation on investment when he is available.

C) Members' Benefit/Fund Raising

Jiang Weimin will carry out more work on the Members' Benefit/Fund Raising task this year with helps from other members. It is proposed that CAST-UT members act collectively when selecting travel agencies, airlines, etc., thus become eligible for group bargaining discounts.

D) Seminars

Zhang Zhe proposed that this year's seminars will be more focusing on specific and specialized scientific and technological subjects and areas, which may attract more audiences who have common interests. In the past, more generalized seminar topics such as Tax-filing, Immigration-petition, etc., did bring in as many audiences as anticipated.

Seminars on life science and business investment have been proposed in the near future, as mentioned above. In addition, Professor Liu Feng from Department of Material Science of University of Utah may give seminars on applications of nano-technology.

E) Newsletters

According to Professor Peng Enhua, six issues of newsletters are planned for year 2004. Members are encouraged to contribute short articles on the overview of their research and work to the newsletters. Such articles can serve as a good reference for knowledge and information exchange among members. Li Xiqing will contact individual members and explore the possibility of their contribution.

F) Finance

In the absence of CAST-UT treasurer Shen Hua, Song Yucheng, a former treasurer, explained at the meeting, that Shen Hua as treasurer of CAST-UT, is in charge of CAST-UT annual tax filing and state registration. As per CAST-USA's suggestion, the board decided that a portion of the membership due would be allocated for CAST-USA-related activities (e.g., attending annual meeting). This allocated fund will be managed locally by CAST-UT. New amendments in CAST-UT bylaws were proposed to define the percentage such CAST-UT fund allocation.

Many thanks go to Professor Peng Enhua who donated \$300 to CAST-UT at the meeting. The participants applauded his commitment and generosity to the organization. Proposal was made at the meeting that a portion of the fund from donation to CAST-UT shall be allocated to partly finance members to attend the CAST-USA annual conference.

G) Science and Technology Cooperation

This month, Zhu Hao and Ye Yi presented an overview of CAST-UT and related activities to both the State of Utah government representatives and the Delegation of the Yunnan Provincial Bio-Science & Pharmaceutical Science and Technology. Ye Yi (a CAST-UT founding BOD member and a lifetime member) assisted the State of Utah International Business Development (IBD) in hosting the delegation.

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In February 2004, a delegation from Anhui province will visit the State of Utah IBD and other agencies. CAST-UT may help in this effort and make arrangements to host them. The board calls for member families to host similar delegations from various parts of China for their interests to learn more about Chinese and American lives in Utah.

H) Public relation

In the absence of Liu Liping who is in charge of the Public Relation for CAST-UT, Zhu Hao reported that a Utah delegation led by Governor Olene Walker will be visiting China in the upcoming April. CAST-UT, in particular Liu Liping, will help in coordinating this trip.

I) Membership

Zhu Hao reported six new members joined CAST-UT since last month. Professor Peng Enhua will contact the leaders of the Chinese student organization at BYU to pass across CAST-UT's activities and attract potential members. It was suggested that same attempt be made at USU.

J) Website

CAST-UT BOD decided that CAST-UT will look for new web-hosting agency which provides more web space and online services for CAST-UT members and apply for a new address for its website. Li Xiqing will be responsible for the application. Dong Xiaoming will be in charge of updating the website on the basis of the existing one.

4. CAST-USA Annual Conference

The 2004 annual national conference of CAST-USA will be held from 6th to 8th, February. Four CAST-UT BOD members (Shen Hua, Peng Enhua, Li Xiqing, Zhu Hao) expressed intent to attend the conference. Li Xiqing, Peng Enhua and Shen Hua applied to bid for members of CAST-USA national board of directors representing Utah Chapter. The meeting approved their candidacies with majority votes.

Current CAST-UT bylaws dictate that the current president of CAST-UT assumes automatically as Utah Chapter's candidate for CAST-USA Vice President unless he/she is not willing to or cannot serve that position. Zhu Hao was approved by the CAST-UT BOD and recommended to CAST-USA to be the candidate for CAST-USA Vice President representing Utah Chapter this year. His position is now pending upon a confirmed appointment from the CAST-USA president and approval by the CAST-USA board.

5. CAST-UT Bylaws and 2004 Presidential Election at the December 2003 Board Meeting

The meeting spent about 45 minutes discussing the issue recently raised by Liu Feng (Frank) with regard to bylaws and the re-election of Zhu Hao as the 2004 president of CAST-UT in the BOD meeting after annual conference in December 2003. The board reconsidered its decision to elect Zhu Hao as 2004 president and reached following consensuses. No motion was initiated.

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- 1) Zhu Hao's election as president at the board meeting in last month was legal and he will continue to serve as 2004 CAST-UT president.
- 2) The issue arose due to the ambiguity of the corresponding clause in current bylaws. Amendments to the bylaws are needed to eliminate the ambiguity. It is proposed that if an incumbent CAST-UT president is unable to finish his term, the succeeding president will take the president position for the rest of year, but remain to be eligible for another two elected full terms. This proposal, along with proposals on other issues (e.g., fund allocation for CAST-USA-related activities in national level) will be subject to a public comment session for all members by the end of April and will be finalized as amendments to the bylaws at the first board meeting after April of this year.
- 3) Liu Feng (Frank)'s effort to make the bylaws more accurate should be acknowledged.
- 4) In future election, the board will fully examine the eligibility of every candidate.

Others Issues

Due to time limits, discussions on other issues on the meeting agenda and suggestions (e.g., Song Yucheng's suggestion to establish Board of Trustee) will have to be postponed to the next board meeting (tentatively in March).