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November 2014 Board Meeting

○ **Call to Order**

The meeting on November 18, 2014, was called to order by Shawn Foster. The following people were in attendance:

**Shawn Foster
Howard Speight
Keana Taylor
Carlyn Burton
Luke Culpepper
Nathan Dunn
Jason Sander
Tanya Chaney
Andrea Tran
Todd Bynum
Albert Liou
Steve Boyd
Chris Shield
Jennifer Sickler
Andrew Ward**

Approval of Minutes from October 2014 Board Meeting

The October 2014 Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Howard moved to approve the minutes. Keana seconded the motion.

Treasurer Report

For the month ending October 31, 2014, we had income of 200,601.00 and had expenses totaling 108,933.87. Reimbursements for the fall institute are trickling in, and will probably come in through December.

Committee Reports

Amicus – Peter Corcoran (by email)

The Amicus Committee is waiting to see if SCOTUS grants cert in the *Commil/Cisco* case. The issue is whether a defendant's good-faith belief that a patent is invalid voids its liability for indirect infringement. There is some interest in the committee in writing a brief if cert is granted.

Fall Institute – Betsy King

The preliminary report does not take into account reimbursements to Moody for costs, but the income was \$135,240, and expenses to date are \$50,170, meaning that the income so far is \$85,069, which indicate record numbers so far. Last year, UH got \$24k, and Sindee believes they have generally been \$20-30k. We are looking for the final number by end of Jan/early Feb so we can cut a check and have the Institute closed by March. The Friday evening wine event received good feedback, and we will see what the written feedback says.

Steve Boyd – Science Fair

The Science Fair is moving from GRB to UHD, and will be held on a Saturday (February 28), instead of a Friday (as in years past). We have traditionally given \$3000: \$1k to a 9th grade winner, 1k to a 12th grade winner, and 1k to fair. We generally have 6-9 volunteers, but are not sure with the move to a new location and a Saturday how many volunteers will participate. Steve raises the question of how HIPLA want to proceed (whether we want to continue sponsorships), especially since we have had a hard time getting winners to come to a lunch meeting (for past 2 years). Howard said he enjoyed it last year and recommends supporting (though, states it is less attractive with move). Tanya said that date change will prevent her from being able to participate and also mentioned that moot court is only 2 weeks later. Albert commented that for moot court, it is generally easier to get volunteers for Sat AM than Fri PM. A suggestion was made that we continue supporting for 2015 and see what affect the schedule and location change has. Nathan moved and we allocate \$3000 for the Science Fair and the motion passed.

Tanya Chaney – Moot Court

HIPLA is looking for individuals to participate on the Moot Court committee for 2015 to help run the competition. If anyone knows of anyone that might be interested, names should be passed along.

Communications – Chris Shield

In discussions with vendors in which Chris requested estimates for our website, one issue seemed to be a major factor for pricing, which was HIPLA's membership cycle running from July-June. Every year, it presents a

problem and requires a significant amount of human manipulation. The question was continuously posed why we use a July-June cycle instead of a rolling 12 months (from when a member joins or renews). After presentation of the issue, no one was opposed to moving our membership cycle to a rolling 12 months so long as reminders can be automatically generated and sent. It was confirmed that they would be automatically sent and additional reminders can also be sent. Chris will move forward on obtaining quotes with this change. Shawn and Howard will look into the bylaws to confirm what changes, if any, are needed, and Keana and Chris will discuss with the accountant to make sure there are no new accounting issues. Chris will get at least 3 bids and will report back later once the bids are obtained.

New Business

Charles Knobloch is HIPLA's delegate to the U.S. Bar – European Patent Office Liaison Council. This is typically a four year term; however, Shawn is proposing that Charles continue for an additional year because the EPO is looking to come to the US to hold discussions in several cities, including Houston. There is a proposed date of June 4, 2015, for a one day meeting that is sponsored by HIPLA and the State Bar. There is a possibility that the USPTO will also be involved. Howard moves to extend Charles as HIPLA's delegate to the US Bar – EPO Liaison Council for one additional year to help with the EPO visit and the motion passed. Nathan moved that HIPLA pursue sponsoring the EPO event for up to \$5000, and the motion passed.

Future Board Meeting

The next meeting will be December 8th, and will just be the board, without the committee chairs.

Adjourn

Howard moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd seconded, and the motion passed.