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Senior Policy Advisors meeting. 24 November 1989. Minutes,
November 1989.

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MINUTES: Senior Policy Advisors, Commission on Jewish Education
in North America

DATE: October 24, 1989

DATE MINUTES ISSUED: November 1, 1989

PRESENT: Morton L. Mandel, Chair, Seymour Fox, Mark Gurvis,
Annette Hochstein, Stephen H. Hoffman, Martin S. Kraar,
Ken Myers, Joseph Reimer, Arthur Rotman, Herman D.
Stein, Jonathan Woocher, Henry L. Zucker, Virginia F.
Levi (Sec'y)

COPY TO: David S. Ariel, Carmi Schwartz

I. Impressions of the October 23 Commission Meeting

Senior policy advisors were asked for their reactions to the Commission meeting of the previous day. There was general agreement that the meeting went very well, that participants were involved and expressed their concerns openly. Some surprise was expressed at the lack of intensity or tension in the discussion of issues.

Commissioners were supportive of the action plan as presented, although they were not always clear on the specifics intended. Specific recommendations for the design of an implementation mechanism and definition of Community Action Sites will be important for the next meeting.

The significance of research to many commissioners was noted. Monitoring, evaluation, and analysis were used interchangeably in referring to research. This should be clarified for the recommendations.

It was suggested that the emphasis on research was indicative of the desire of the group to focus on the concrete. Commissioners are engaged and anxious to move ahead.

Concern was expressed at the absence of certain commissioners. AH and VFL will chart the absences so that staff can recommend corrective action.

Chart
in
books

Commissioner interest in best practices was also noted. We may wish to consider presenting some concrete examples of best practices at the next meeting.

It was suggested that some of the terms which have been developed during the life of the Commission (e.g., community action site, research, continental body, implementation mechanism, and Jewish education) need to be clarified. This will be especially important as the final report is drafted.

Assignment

It was generally agreed that commissioners left the meeting feeling positive about progress to date and ready to see concrete products.

II. Follow-up to Meeting

A. Action Needed

There was discussion about whether the Commission could conclude after one more meeting or whether two are required. An alternative of regional meetings was suggested, but discarded. Following discussion, it was concluded that we do need two more meetings-- one at which to present a draft of final recommendations for commissioner reaction, highly focused on decisions, and a final meeting for presentation of the final report and launching of the implementation mechanism.

It was suggested that the next meeting of the Commission be held in March rather than February and that a meeting of senior policy advisors be scheduled a month in advance of the meeting. At that time, senior policy advisors would have an opportunity to react to the document proposed for mailing to commissioners.

It was proposed that a new format be considered for the next Commission meeting. Commissioners should be presented with concrete issues to which to respond. There should be small group meetings with well-prepared group leaders. It was suggested that the meeting be held over a two-day period, beginning on a Sunday at 4 p.m. and going through dinner followed by a full day of meetings on Monday. There will be a major agenda with significant decisions to be made.

It was suggested that the senior policy advisors meet, as scheduled, on Wednesday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Cleveland. At this point, an outline of the recommendations for the final report will be presented, including an outline of the implementation mechanism.

A second meeting of senior policy advisors was tentatively scheduled for Thursday and Friday, February 1 and 2, possibly in Florida. At this meeting, the group will have an opportunity to review a first draft of the final report, including recommendations for action. Following this meeting, the draft will be revised for mailing to commissioners in advance of a Commission meeting tentatively set for Sunday and Monday, March 4 and 5. (This is currently under review and senior policy advisors will be notified as soon as possible.)

B. Follow-up with Commissioners

The minutes and a carefully drafted cover letter will be sent to all commissioners as soon as possible. Senior policy advisors were encouraged to call or write their assigned commissioners, concentrating especially on those who were not present. A plan for communication with commissioners to take place between October and March will be developed and presented to senior policy advisors.

Assignment
Assignment
Assignment

III. Research Update

It was reported that Isa Aron and Aryeh Davidson are proceeding with their research and should be ready with some preliminary findings by December 6.

Assignment

The proposed paper on the organizational structure of Jewish education in North America will be reconsidered.

SF has
info on
this.

Assignment
Assignment

It was agreed that programmatic options will be combined where feasible and that a three to four page overview of each will be completed for possible inclusion as an appendix to the final report. It was suggested that experts identified by CAJE and others be convened in Cleveland in early December to develop an agenda indicating basic data, trends, potential impact, problems, and recommendations for the programmatic areas. This agenda would be turned over to the implementation mechanism for further action.

Done

Assignment

This proposal elicited detailed discussion among the senior policy advisors. The two primary approaches under discussion were to develop each remaining option for presentation in an appendix or to do an in-depth analysis of a small number (1 to 3) of the programmatic areas and to indicate that the implementation mechanism would proceed in the same manner with the other areas. SF and AH will review the alternatives and recommend further steps.

Done

IV. A. Outreach/Public Relations

It was reported that meetings have been scheduled or are being planned to inform or update critical constituencies about the progress of the Commission. These include presentations to the JESNA board, the JWB board, federation planners, federation executives and presidents, bureau directors, the training institutions, COJEO, and the three denominations.

It was reported that we are taking advantage of organization publications to disseminate news about the Commission and have submitted the first in a series of press releases to the Jewish press.

B. Hillel Involvement

Assignment

It was suggested that Martin Kraar meet with Richard Joel, new international director of Hillel, to inform him of the activities of the Commission and to propose that he agree to consult with staff on the writing of the option paper on college youth.

Scheduled

V. Good and Welfare

Assignment

A. It was agreed that a "process and an event" for the presentation of the final report to the public will be discussed at the December meeting of senior policy advisors. It was suggested that we review the approach taken to the publication of the Carnegie Report.

In process

- B. It was noted that the term "programmatic options" is no longer applicable and that a new term should be found.

Assignment

- C. It was suggested that a subcommittee or task force be established to work on an approach for developing federation support for the Commission product.
- D. Participants were reminded that the next meeting of the senior policy advisors is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hopkins, Cleveland.

