

# Board Minutes 2008 Mar 13

Sakai Foundation Board of Directors Conference Call  
March 13, 2008

This document contains minutes from the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors conference call held on March 13, 2008. Corrections, suggestions should be sent to John Norman and Mary Miles.

These minutes capture both the discussion and formal resolutions of the board. Simply because something was discussed does not mean that it is the agreed-upon position of the board. When the board makes a formal resolution to approve an item, it will be noted as such in the minutes. If there is no such notation, readers should assume that the minutes are simply the notes of the board discussions.

Board members present: Josh Baron, Chris Coppola, Mara Hancock, John Norman, Clay Fenlason, Lance Speelmon, Michael Korcuska (ex-officio), Mary Miles (staff)

Board members absent: Jutta Trevarinus, Lois Brooks, Ian Dolphin, Joseph Hardin

## Review of Minutes:

The February minutes were modified and then approved with those modifications. They will be posted on Confluence as soon as the changes are made.

## Executive Director Updates:

Michael Korcuska provided a brief financial overview of Sakai Foundation revenue and expenses. A more detailed presentation will be made in April.

IMS has offered Sakai a reduced membership fee, and Michael suggested that Sakai join at that reduced price. There was some question as to whether membership would only extend to Sakai staff, or if it would include under the Sakai "umbrella" those individuals who were working on a targeted effort that is critical to Sakai.

Action: The board supported IMS membership for one year at the reduced level. At the end of that time, the membership will be re-evaluated to determine whether it justifies continuing membership.

Membership renewal updates were also presented. This list will continue to be presented, showing a running update of both new members, potential new members, and those members who have chosen not to renew.

Potential new members include Seton Hall, Gert Sibande (South Africa) and Wiley Publishing. Josh offered to assist with follow-up with Seton Hall. Michael is working with Wiley to encourage their participation.

Michael provided a brief report on his recent visits to China and Spain, but suggested that the Board review his blog for more detailed information. Currently, Tsinghua, HuaZhong, BUPT and East China Normal (Shanghai) seem to be the strongest possibilities not to host Sakai China. In Spain, there was interest in Sakai from a few schools, one of which is brand new and has regional government support. Several of the board members noted that lots of South American countries follow very closely what is happening in Spain so there is value in working further on this. Michael also reported that he would be speaking with the Japanese eResearch Learning Society via video conference and would have more information at the April Meeting.

## New Membership Options for Commercial Affiliates:

This is a continuation of the February meeting. The following options were presented to the Board in an effort to attract some smaller commercial affiliates to the membership.

Proposal for Smaller SCAs: SCA membership dues will now be on a sliding scale from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year depending on total revenues of the SCA. The membership dues will be calculated as \$2,000 per \$1 million in latest fiscal year revenues (rounded up to the nearest thousand). The minimum is \$5,000 and the maximum is \$10,000. So an organization with \$3.2 million in revenues will pay \$7,000 in dues. Any organization with \$5M or more in revenues pays the full amount.

Distinction between SCAs on the Sakai Website: There is a distinction in the mind of the Executive Director between Sakai service providers (Serensoft, Unicon, rSmart, CampusEAS, etc.) and other commercial affiliates (Oracle, Cengage, etc.). These will be split visually on the website. All will remain as Sakai Commercial Affiliates. Those that provide Sakai support services would be called "Sakai Service Providers" and those that don't would be called "Sakai Supporters."

Note: Invoicing has already been done for the 2008 calendar year, so this will apply to new SCAs and will be applied to existing SCAs in the 2009 calendar year.

Action: The portions shown above (Proposal for Smaller SCAs and Distinction between SCAs on the Sakai Website) were approved.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding membership and voting rights for independent contractors., but no agreement was reached. Michael was charged with further developing the proposal for independent contractors, particularly with regard to whether or not they would have voting rights and in what form. That particular issue will be brought back to the board for further discussion at a later date.

Sakai-China:

After Michael's recent visit to China, he suggested that an independent Sakai China organization be created. He reviewed the basic points of the organization, which is further detailed in the materials distributed to the Board. The question before the Board is whether or not this is worth Michael's efforts to pursue this. The board agreed that the model presented is very attractive but questioned its feasibility in terms of competing priorities for Michael's time. Michael noted that this is not the final charter, but was presented at this time to get a sense from the Board that this is a good direction to work toward finalizing this proposal. Michael will endeavor to get this done before the end of June, with an eye toward having a meeting in July among the principles to plan an event that would be a training/working planning session. A

Action: The board approved the time necessary to pursue along the lines discussed. Michael will work this up a bit more and provide an outline of a plan of action for the next two months which will be presented at the April board meeting.

With no further business before the board, the call ended at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Miles