



HGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 12th, 2025, Meeting held via Zoom

Quorum confirmed, meeting called to order by Patricia Walker (HGS President)

Time: 6:18 pm

2025-2026 Board Members

Patty Walker (P)	Bryan Guzman (PE)	Caroline Wachtman (VP)	Catherine Strong (D2)
Bryan Bottoms (S)	Angela Hammond (T)	Andrea Reynolds (TE)	Lauren Robinson (D3)
Lucia Torrado (E)	Sharma Dronmaraju (EE)	Bill DeMIs (D1)	Amanda Johnston (D4)

Board Present – Red were absent

Patty Walker (P)	Bryan Guzman (PE)	Caroline Wachtman (VP)
Bryan Bottoms (S)	Angela Hammond (T)	Andrea Reynolds (TE)
Lucia Torrado (E)	Sharma Dronmaraju (EE)	Bill DeMIs (D1)
Catherine Strong (D2)	Lauren Robinson (D3)	Amanda Johnston (D4)

Patty Walker – Meeting started at 6:18 pm with Quorum of 9 Board Members present.

First Order of Business Discussion & Approval of the Minutes: There were no edits received. No other board members had any proposed changes.

Motion:

Motion to approve the August 2025 Minutes. Bryan so Moved and Angela seconded the Motion. There was no other discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

The Final Minutes for July can be found in the HGS Dropbox under: Dropbox\HGS Committee Report & Board Minutes\Monthly Meeting Minutes Reports\2025-2026 Board Minutes\2025-07\Final

Motion:

Motion to Approve Agenda. Patty Walker so moved and Catherine Strong seconded. The Vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Angela Hammond

Executive Summary:

- HGS Total Equity decreased (\$19,386) from June 2025 with an increase in expenses due in large part for the website upgrade and a reduction in membership dues which were down by almost half from June.
- Budget – The fact that we have less than 2 months for operating expenses in our non-liquid accounts is concerning, we brought in about \$8,200 less in July 2025 than in July 2024.
- July 2025 Summary: The Investment portfolio continued to steadily increase from June 2025 to July 2025 by ~\$6,700. Revenue decreased by \$26,080 from June 2025 to July 2025 due to an increase in expenses from the website upgrade and expenses outweighing the revenue by almost double under general administrative. Expenses from June 2025 to July 2025 decreased by ~\$2,000, but the incoming revenue was close to half what the expenses were. Overall, Net Revenue for July 2025 decreased \$14,250.
- The above being said, events are starting again in September, which should bring in revenue along with an expected influx of income from the Student Expo when registrations pick up. But we do need to keep pushing for membership renewals.

Revenue and Expenses:

Operating revenues and expenses in July 2025 were as follows:

Majority Revenue - \$7,720 from Membership dues, \$4,382 from Publication Royalties and \$2,200 from Student Expo. Including Investment revenue of \$2,476, **Total Revenue = \$19,212.**

Majority Expenses – Payroll (\$9,594); Website Maintenance (\$7,578); Donation Expense (3,000). **Total Expenses = \$33,462.**

Net Loss = (\$14,250)

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Overall, HGS is still in the black, but we need to be cognizant of our expenses vs. our income moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Motion: Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bill moved and Patricia second the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

Secretary Report – Presented by Bryan Bottoms

New Membership Applications Report:

No new membership applications this month – Spoke with Oyie and she hasn't received any. Andi has been out most of this month, and so there might just be a lag over this past month.

Lucia mentioned that we should advertise on social media booth number for upcoming conferences to try and spur membership applications.

Motion:

Nothing to approve this go round.

Major items for Discussion

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- **Status update of Website rebuild**
 - Merchant fees of 3.5% will be added to any event being registered for by credit card at the new website
 - Link sent to VP (Bryan Guzman to gauge progress)
- b) **Budget prep for 2025-26 - budget work is progressing**
 - i) Have received a few of the completed budget request sheets (~15%). Please encourage your committee chairs to turn them in by the deadline of August 31st. Also encourage them to RSVP for Chairfest
- c) **Date set for Africa Conference in London. October 23-24. I will not be able to attend in person due to a previous commitment. Would like to see representation from the board**
 - HGS does not pay for someone to go. Last time it was in London, HGS rep. did not attend

Bryan Guzman – President Elect

Will be in attendance for upcoming website meeting

Reaching out to Africa conference committee and will continue to follow up.

Calvert Memorial Scholarship Committee – Met August 8th, reviewed applicants. Had 14 applications and they approved 11 of them. Those disqualified didn't meet application requirements.

There is a continuation of previous 9 students that are still receiving funding.

\$115k in scholarship funds awarded, which is an HGS Record!

Lots of new applications from Colorado-Boulder – Penny encouraging students to apply!

Communications committee – reaching out to Dianna late August.

Will be meeting with Andi when she returns.

Editor – Lucia Torrado

Student Expo committee submitted update on upcoming event. Needs Presidents letter – Patricia will send.

Vice Presidents Report – Caroline Wachtman

She is finding all new venues and all new speakers and there is a great line up in the works

Date for September meeting changed to 29th due to conflicts with Student Expo.

Venue Size varies. Spaghetti Western and Federal Grill – good for ~40 people, 60 people Perry's, 80-100 people will be at Norris Center.

Any venue that costs money is extremely difficult to make a profit, even with sponsorship. Not planning on making a profit on these. Hoping to break even. Need to encourage people to show up and attend and encourage sponsorship.

Amanda mentions – Would it make sense to reduce it in order to decrease workload and also drum up more interest in speakers. – Perhaps we drop lunches for some of the months like December and May. Has been easier to get dinner speakers than lunch speakers.

Patty knows someone who reached out to give a talk. They will collaborate further on that.

Andrea: What if we made buying tickets more competitive (not as many seats available) and just host at smaller places to save money? All of these places still cost money – Spaghetti Western is cheapest, but hard to get in due to high demand. Caroline evaluating additional company sponsored locations that are free, which are good for lunches, but difficult to do dinner.

If wanted to try and make more money, move to virtual would be the only option to remove overhead. Has its pros and cons. Further discussion around scaling back number of events.

Perhaps more of these “red holes” in the schedule could become virtual. Good idea from Amanda around having some of the scholarship winners, especially from CU Boulder, present their research virtually at a future lunch session.

Bill Demis will reach out to Corelab for a potential venue.

Andrea – suggest keeping statistics on venues for how many people show up at certain venues.

General Dinner / Lunch 2025-26, Aug update

- **Timing:**
 - Adjust dates to match venue availability; a few dinner dates on 4th or 1st Monday
- **Pricing:**
 - Goal is break-even
- **Venues:**
 - Extensive(!) evaluation of venues along I-10 corridor
 - Select venue based on event size and availability: Spaghetti Western & Federal Grill for ~40; Perry's for ~60; Norris for 80+
- **Look ahead:**
 - Contact other lunch options (Premier/Bryan, Shell/Angela, Total/Amanda, etc)
 - Sponsorship inquiries
 - Alumni nights
 - Combine International, Northsiders and New Energies into “General” lunch

Type	Date	Location	Speaker	Price (M, NM, S)
Dinner	9/29/2025	Spaghetti Western		\$45/50/\$45
Lunch	9/24/2025	Oxy, C106	Bryan Bottoms	\$25/\$35/\$25
Happy Hour	10/13/2025	Federal Grill, Shepherd	Equinor, Smackover Lithium	\$45/50/\$45
Lunch	10/22/2025	Murphy	Panel: Pivoting your career	\$25/\$35/\$25
Dinner	11/10/2025	Norris, Magnolia	UH, Dr. Jiaxuan Li, seismology	\$65/\$75/\$40
Lunch	11/19/2025	Oxy, P118		\$25/\$35/\$25
Happy Hour	12/8/2025	Federal Grill, Shepherd	ExxonMobil, Energy Outlook	\$45/50/\$45
Lunch	12/17/2025	Apache		\$25/\$35/\$25
Dinner	1/12/2026	Perry's Memorial		\$65/\$75/\$40
Lunch	1/21/2026	Murphy	Cantium, Main Pass 313	\$25/\$35/\$25
Dinner	2/9/2026	Norris, Magnolia		\$65/\$75/\$40
Lunch	2/18/2026			
Dinner	3/2/2026	Spaghetti Western	Penny and Jerry, Buffalo Bayou	
Lunch	3/18/2026			
Dinner	4/13/2026	Perrys, Memorial	UT, Katie Smye	\$65/\$75/\$40
Lunch	4/22/2026			
Dinner	5/4/2026	Spaghetti Western	Oxy, Bruce Trudgill	
Lunch	5/20/2026			

Directors Reports:

Bill Demis

Has contacted Golf Tournament, Sporting clays, Grand Canyon, and Tennis tournament committees.

Dan Baker on Tennis tournament doing a great job. Has a \$5k commitment from SLB, and maybe more to come.

Grand Canyon Field Trip – Do we want to do this again? Lost money on the last one – couldn't get people to sign up. Patty suggests maybe letting it lay dormant for a few years/year.

Bill will contact RMAG about what they're doing and perhaps we can collaborate to make sure we have enough people. Discussion around whether we do different field trips: Big Bend, etc.

Sporting Clay & Shrimp peel – progressing fine. Sporting clay committee had trouble with registration for Skeet Shoot last year. New website should fix this by then.

Tennis Tournament – Tentative date might not work due to conflict with Shrimp Peel date, so looking at other options currently. What would best venue be? Should we explore the option to host a Pickleball tournament instead? Could use many of the places like the Chicken & Pickle pickleball venues. Will explore that further. NeoGeos do have a Pickleball tournament on the calendar. Perhaps they can work with Bill to put on a larger one for all members.

Catherine Strong

Absent but notes provided below:

Case Study Seminar – speakers lined up and going well. Working out prices. October is time frame.

Lauren Robinson

Neo Geos – working on budgets. Busy with upcoming events.

Student Expo committee – working on budgets. Busy with upcoming events.

Social Media committee – working on budgets. Report uploaded to dropbox. All accounts are growing month to month. Patty has former OSU student to introduce to Lauren.

Amanda Johnston

Continuing Education - reaching out to potential people to give short courses. Need to make 20% above cost on these events. John Rotzien, turned down because of book/printout cost. Could potentially give out digital copies?

Museum & Field Trip Committee – nothing to report at this time.

K-12 Outreach Committee – Revising HGS posters to update for the times

Earth Science Week – set for October

Exhibits Committee – Unsure if this is still a committee.

Student Expo – bringing back posters, great opportunity to invite HGS members to be judges. Could advertise that through the newsletter to drum up volunteers, or have Andi send out a mass email. Social media committee will do the same.

Would be great to get ConocoPhillips involved at Student Expo if anyone could reach out to potential contacts there. Sponsorship for poster session or Happy Hour would be helpful as well.

Presidents Report:

Office Report – nothing new

Old Business – nothing new

New Business – nothing new

Next Meeting Date – To be scheduled by the new incoming President Patty Walker. Tentatively Tuesday September 9th 2025 @ 6:15pm.

Placeholder will be sent from Andi to all board members for meetings on second Tuesday of the month.

Motion:

Motion to adjourn the meeting Amanda and seconded by Andrea.

All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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