Minutes from MATC Board Meeting 2/13/2008

The President declared this meeting to be a "closed session." See Article V.1-g(iv) "Attendance" of the Constitution.

Board Members Present:
Hirak Parikh (President)
Aleric Soans (Vice President)
Solveig Heinz (Treasurer)
Rahul Mhaskar (Registration Officer)
Anjali Purkayastha (Director of Operations)
Andrew DeOrio (Webmaster)
Elizabeth Garcia (Secretary)

No Board Members were absent. Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 pm.

Proposed Agenda:
2. Vote on EOs for the Alicia Pons Workshop, 2008


This complaint was mentioned in the minutes of the Board meeting held on 2/7/2008. M.R. was the Faculty Advisor for the Club at that time.

As this complaint is regarding Club business which affects all Club Members/Users, information regarding the investigation is being made public to the Club.

a) Alicia Pons was invited by the existing Board to conduct workshops in Ann Arbor in March of 2007. Y.V. was appointed as EO by the MATC Board at the time to organize the event.

b) During Fire and Ice 2007, it was brought to M.R.'s (the Faculty Advisor to the Club at that time) attention that advertisements for the workshop were being distributed stating that A2 Tango was the sponsor of the event.

c) The contract was obtained (by O.P. and H.W.) from Barbara (Alicia Pons' agent) in order to determine whether the contract stated that MATC was hosting the event or not. The contract was forwarded to M.R. and it was clear that the contract was between Alicia Pons/Representative and Michigan Argentine Tango Club.

d) It was also learned that 1) A private website was hosting the event's information and
registration. 2) On the website, check payments for the event were asked to be made to Y.V. and not to MATC, and 3) A private Paypal account was set up on the private website for payments to be accepted online.

e) When these matters were brought up by other concerned members of the Board, M.R. offered to resolve the issue first by informing Y.V. that the original contract for Alicia Pons stated that MATC was the sponsor of the event. M.R. then offered Y.V. the following choices:

i. To continue organizing the event through the Club failing which the Club reserved the right to initiate action against Y.V. (including potential legal recourses through the University).

ii. Organize the event independently but only after informing Alicia’s agent and making the appropriate changes to the contract. The Club would still reserve the right to initiate legal action in this instance.

f) Y.V. opted to reschedule the event through the Club.

g) Payments received as personal checks made out to Y.V. and through the Paypal account were accounted for by Y.V. in the financial report.

h) The contract stated that Alicia Pons would be paid in cash. M.R. asked Y.V. to remove this from the contract (this was done) as this was not the Club’s policy, but stated that the Club would honor the agreement to pay Alica Pons in cash. M.R. communicated this decision to the co-Treasurer and O.P.

i) Y.V. claimed full responsibility for the event being promoted through and on the private website.

j) M.R. stated to the Board that her main concern was to resolve this matter as quickly and peacefully as possible due to personal time constraints with leaving the country and the preparations involved with that. Likewise, the Club was under tremendous turmoil at that point in time due to the constitution making process, which had split the Club, and other financial issues, all of which created a tense atmosphere. Negotiating a quick solution and eliminating a tension area seemed of utmost importance to ensure members could join together on finalizing the constitution and not be diverted into other issues.

M.R. also informed Y.V. that even if she chose to organize the event through the Club, she could not promise that no further action would be taken as she cannot prevent others in the Club from filing a formal complaint with the Club. However, M.R. did state that she would stand behind Y.V. if any formal complaint were to be filed as she felt that Y.V. did act in good faith in the resolution of the conflict and complied with all requirements in the event planning.

The Board will send the complaint to Y.V and A.B and invite them to provide a response in writing as well as in person once the written response has been received.

Proposed by: Andrew
Seconded by: Aleric
Vote: Unanimous
Motion passed.

2. Motion to approve Lana and Hirak as EOs for the Alicia Pons 2008 workshop.

Proposed by: Anjali
Seconded by: Solveig
Vote: Unanimous
Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 pm.