

1 ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

MEMBERS:

Pamela Benjamin (Chair)
Penelope Markle
Milly Alvarez
Bob Bain
David Blanks
Dennis O Flynn
Marcel Koonan
Tracy Sullivan
Franz Mauelshagen

These are the current financial members. We have two past members, Mojgan Behmond and Sun Yue who have been elected to the current board, and four members whose membership has lapsed.

The Advisory Council exists to advise the IBHA board on matters which need a wider and more time consuming exploration than other board matters. We serve to come up with suggestions that the board may use at their discretion.

In the last two years following the first IBHA conference and after the AC was formed, we have discussed membership. The board was interested in hearing ideas for increasing membership and promoting interest in Big History across all age groups, fields and interests.

In short, this is what the AC suggested:

1. Complimentary memberships for all teachers involved in teaching the Big History Project. While this was an excellent idea, the board decided that it did not have the funds at this time for this.

2. A monthly email newsletter for our basic member listserv which goes out to all 357 members (now named Origins). We also send out a monthly eblast to a larger listserv of approximately 450 readers with teasers from the upcoming Origins issue which encourages them to join to receive Origins each month.
3. At the same time, an online members Forum was set up through the website for ongoing discussions of Big History
4. One idea that the AC suggested was for a special section in Origins for examples of teachers Big History lesson plans. This is still only in the suggestion phase.
5. Twitter and an IBHA Facebook page has been launched with great success. Instagram will be implemented.
6. The development of Little Big Histories – a tool the Big History Project has used to great advantage in middle and high schools, both in the States and overseas.

Respectfully

Pamela Benjamin

Chair: Advisory Council, IBHA