

# DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2023

*The Dharma Council provides oversight and stewardship of Dharma presentation and practice at DRZC to support its core mission and values.*

In Attendance: Jiko, Gabe, Kengan, Daikō, Christina, Sanin

Absent: Jyōshin

Facilitator: Kengan

Location: Uji

Recorder: Gabe

## Agenda

1. Welcome new councilmember, Sanin!
2. Tiny Meditation
3. 60-Second Check-ins
4. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
5. Next Meeting Date: February 9th, 2023
6. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s)
7. Questions/Topics for Today's Meeting:
  - a. Any feedback, questions, ideas etc... after reviewing the Seminary class evals: Wisdom Sutras Class Eval Fall 2022? This can include responses to the eval content as well as feedback about the current evaluation questions.
    - i. Summary of main discussion points:
      1. Very positive response overall.
      2. Feedback around there being too much material is typical for the Wisdom Sutras class series and may be inherent to the material.
      3. Future question for whoever takes over Seminary registrar position: "What can we do with the feedback from evals so that it can inform future instruction?"
      4. Minor grammatical change to the wording on the eval form suggested: Change "We can consider your feedback as a Bodhisattva activity" to "We consider your feedback as Bodhisattva Activity"
  - b. What area of responsibility will each member of the Dharma Council take on for 2023? Bring your thoughts and any questions.

- i. Background: Here is a working draft of DC working roles and assignments.
  - ii. Summary of main discussion points:
    1. Question to consider: Do we want/need to seek a 7th member? Or, perhaps combine positions 3 (strategic plan) and 7 (workshops, study groups, new offerings)?
    2. Whoever takes on Position 3 (strategic plan) can explore when the next strategic plan update could/should happen.
    3. Position 4 (affiliated groups) can work on incorporating prison sanghas as affiliated groups.
    4. Position 2 (secretary): Possible coordination/liaison with Shika around public information posting?
    5. Question: Should there be a Sangha Council liaison to facilitate oversight on temple jobs, work-as-practice etc...?
    6. Whoever takes on Position 7 (workshops, study groups, new offerings) can work on clarifying how proposals for new offerings can best move through the organization and be approved by the DC.
  - iii. Decided: Sanin will take on position 5 (seminary, talks and classes). Christina will take on position 6 (DEI, sangha temperature and tone). Jyoshin can perhaps take on a combination of positions 3 (strategic plan) and 7 (workshops, study groups, new offerings)?
  - iv. **Action Item(s):** Kengan will invite the Shika and the Sangha Council lead to attend DC meetings to help clarify roles and facilitate collaboration on oversight. Jiko will invite another member to join the Dharma Council. Sanin will reach out to Sokuchu to learn about maintaining the Master Record of Classes, filling instructor positions etc...
- c. Is the class calendar up to date? And where should it go in the agenda?
- i. Master document for tracking classes: Master Record of Classes
  - ii. Summary of main discussion points: We have teaching spots filled through May 31st.
  - iii. **Action Item(s):** Gabe will add links to the Master Record of Classes and the general Dharma Council folder to our agenda/minutes document.
- d. What other questions do the new (or continuing) DC members have?
- i. We have a new mandate that is just being implemented. Are there questions about process or other topics?
  - ii. Summary of main discussion points: No questions currently.

## 8. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements:

- a. Temple Officers: We discussed logistics for recent and upcoming temple events (Hossen, NYE Ceremony, Shuso installation, Seminary); replied to a question from Dharma Council about how staffing and oversight of teams are currently handled: Sangha Council - Shin'yu and Yusatsu - fill open positions and team leads are responsible for managing their teams.
- b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: No update
- c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: No update
- d. Affiliated Groups: Daiko is working with Sosetsu to add the Corbett group to the website.
- e. Other Reports/Announcements: We are working on how to make Seminary Class recordings available to participants in a timely manner. There is a similar issue for Weds precepts classes. Also, there is a concern around recording classes and then posting without permission from participants - it is important to let participants know if they are being recorded. **Action Item:** Jiko and Kengan will follow up on the issues of timely distribution of class recordings and posting without permission from participants to DRATT..

## 9. Action Item Assignments and Deadlines:

- a. Daiko will query Domyo in January about what help she needs for organizing Dharma Cloud Day 2023 and check in about space considerations
- b. Kengan will ask the teachers group (DRATT) for a representative from Dharma Rain to help plan Dharma Cloud Day.
- c. Gabe will check the website for any places besides the Org Structure document which need an updated Dharma Council Mandate
- d. Gabe will work on updating website with current list of DC members
- e. Kengan will invite the Shika and the Sangha Council lead to attend DC meetings for role clarity, coordination, and collaboration on oversight.
- f. Gabe will add links to the Master Record of Classes and the general Dharma Council folder to our minutes document.
- g. Jiko and Kengan will follow up on the issues of timely distribution of class recordings and posting without permission from participants to DRATT.
- h. Jiko is following up around making recordings of classes available in a timely manner.
- i. Jiko will ask another member about joining the Dharma Council.
- j. Sanin will reach out to Sokuchu to learn about maintaining the Master Record of Classes document, filling instructor positions etc...