

MINUTES OF THE PCA/ACA GOVERNING BOARD APRIL 1, 2015 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Interim President Michael Marsden called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM. It was duly noted that a quorum had been reached.

Voting Members Present: Roger Adams, Lynn Bartholome, Paul Booth, John Bratzel, Diane Calhoun-French, Bruce Drushel, Gary Edgerton, Gary Hoppenstand, Allen Ellis, Michael Marsden, Jay Nelson, James Von Schilling, and Elwood Watson.

Non-Voting Members Present: Chris Covington, Joe Hancock, Kathy Merlock Jackson, Ann Larabee, and Brendan Riley.

Voting Members Absent: Tricia Jenkins and Royce Smith.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Joy Sperling

Opening Remarks:

Interim President Marsden requested a few minutes of silence in honor of the memory of Peter Rollins who served the PCA/ACA so effectively for so many years.

Interim President Marsden thanked the members of the Governing Board for working so well together in a very collegial and productive manner over the past nine months. He then recognized the Board members who were completing their term of office at the end of this conference and thanked them for their good work: Allen Ellis, Tricia Jenkins, Royce Smith and Chris Covington.

Interim President Marsden noted that he would be asking for a motion to enter an Executive Session at around 8:45 PM to discuss personnel matters with one of the association's attorneys, Kevin Kinross.

Before turning to the printed agenda, Interim President Marsden acknowledged the one new member of the Endowment Board, David Feldman, and three new members of the Governing Board, Sue Matheson, Carl Sederholm and Phil Simpson, who will begin their terms of office at the end of the conference. Phil Simpson will be serving as the Vice President/President Elect.

1. Interim President Marsden formally introduced Diane Calhoun-French who will assume the duties of President at the end of the conference.
2. The Governing Board received written and brief oral reports from the Executive Director of Operations and the Executive Director of Events. Given recent events in Indiana, a concern was voiced about the fact that the PCA/ACA is scheduled to meet in Indianapolis in 2018. It was agreed to revisit this issue at the mid-year meeting.

3. The Governing Board received oral reports from the Vice Presidents of Education and Outreach, Awards and Area Chairs. Vice President Roger Adams will be submitting a plan to the Governing Board for consideration at the mid-year meeting for increasing the financial portion of the awards, as well as adding other benefits for award recipients (such as room discounts, discounted conference fees, and one-year free memberships).

4. The Governing Board received oral reports from the Editors of the Journal of Popular Culture and the Journal of American Culture.

5. Nominations were solicited for the position of Treasurer. Lynn Bartholome was nominated and accepted the nomination. She was asked to leave the room while the election occurred. The vote was 11 Yes, 0 No.

6. A motion was duly made and seconded to accept and implement the position description for the new position of Vice President for Diversity, Outreach and Inclusion. A friendly amendment was accepted by the mover and the seconder to the effect that the position description was a working document and could be modified in the future. The vote was 12 Yes, 0 No.

7. Discussion turned to a proposal to fill the position of Vice President for Diversity, Outreach and Inclusion for the first year on an Interim basis per advice from the association's attorneys regarding the unnecessary questions too many special elections might occasion. An individual was identified who will be contacted about serving in the position until the next round of regular elections.

8. A motion was duly made, seconded, and approved to enter into an Executive Session with the association's attorney, Kevin Kinross, at 8:55 PM.

9. The Governing Board returned from the Executive Session back to a general session at approximately 9:40 PM.

10. A request was made to move to item 12 on the agenda, Report from the Subcommittee on Bylaws. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the proposed bylaw changes, with the exception of Article 17, which would be revisited at a later date once at least one round of evaluations regarding the current structure had occurred. The vote was 12 Yes, 0 No.

11. A motion was duly made and seconded to fill the newly established position of Chair of the Governing Board. Gary Edgerton was nominated and accepted. The votes were: 11 Yes, 0 No.

12. A motion was duly made and seconded to fill the newly established position of Secretary. Michael Marsden was nominated and accepted. The votes were 12 Yes, 0 No.

13. A motion was duly made and seconded to accept and implement the recommendation of the Report from the task Force on Travel Protocols. The vote was 11 Yes, 0 No.

14. A motion was duly made and seconded to accept and implement the recommendations of the Report from the Task Force on Employee Evaluations. Interim President Marsden noted that the association's attorneys had endorsed implementation of those recommendations as best practice. The vote was 11 Yes, 0 No.

15. A motion was duly made and seconded to accept and implement the report and recommendation of the Task Force on *Robert's Rules of Order* which calls for adopting Fred Francis and Peg Francis' *Democratic Rules of Order* as the operating procedures for future meeting of the Governing Board. The vote was 11 Yes, 0 No.

16. Interim President Marsden distributed copies of the contract the association has had with the law firm of Bricker & Eckler. He briefly discussed the very positive working relationship he had had with the attorneys. While noting the importance of continuing to curtail our legal costs, he did recommend continuing to work with the firm. He also recommended that Vice President /President Elect Diane Calhoun-French continue his practice of requiring that all questions of the association's attorneys go through the President.

17. John Bratzel provided a brief report the Governing Board regarding the meeting of the Endowment Board which had occurred earlier in the afternoon.

18. A brief discussion was held regarding Major Speakers for the 2016 Conference. Vice President/President Elect Diane Calhoun-French was encouraged to establish a small Speakers Committee to work on selecting major speakers.

19. Interim Marsden again encouraged the Governing Board to host a strategic planning retreat in late spring or early summer. He noted that John Bratzel's suggestions regarding revitalizing international linkages could become part of that planning process.

20. Interim President Marsden reminded the Governing Board that the Ray and Pat Browne Popular Culture Library was approved by the Governing Board last November as the official home of the archives of the PCA/ACA. He distributed a communication of the Head of that library, Nancy Down, regarding the kind of things which should be included in such a collection.

Closing Remarks

Incoming President Diane Calhoun-French thanked the outgoing Governing Board members for their service and noted the particularly outstanding work of Mike Marsden as Interim President. She noted that it would be difficult to reach the standard of excellence he has set, and she asked everyone's assistance as she got fully up to speed on recent events and future issues. She shared her philosophy that the Governing Board is composed of equal members, some of whom have titles which indicate that they have special areas of responsibility or duties, along with their general Governing Board

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responsibilities. She ended by saying that the daily philosophy that guides her is the notion that we should be “kinder than necessary, for everyone (we) meet is fighting some kind of battle.” She expressed her hope we will all be to each other “kinder than necessary” and have a congenial, productive year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Marsden

Former Interim President

Secretary of the Governing Board