Interim President Mike Marsden brought the meeting to order at 2:05 PM EST.


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

Guest: Gary Burns

A quorum was established.

Opening Remarks:

Interim President Marsden thanked everyone for taking the time out of their busy schedules to join the virtual meeting of the Governing Board. He reminded the Governing Board of the clear statement from our attorneys that we do have fiduciary responsibilities for the organization and that we do need to meet as often as necessary to carry out those duties, which cannot be relegated to the few. He reminded Governing Board members that draft minutes should only be shared with those who participate until such a time as they have been corrected and approved. This would help ensure clear and accurate communication. Finally, he noted that at times important communication was channeled only to the officers. Since the Bylaws do not speak to the existence of an Executive Committee of the Governing Board, he recommended that important communication be shared with the entire Governing Board on a regular basis.

1. Report was presented by Gary Burns as Chair of the Nominating Committee to select two nominees for Vice President/President Elect. He provided a summary of the process used to select the two nominees who are Diane Calhoun-French and Philip Simpson. Interim Marsden thanked Chair Burns and Nominating Committee Members Bruce Drushel, Elwood Watson, Paul Booth and Toni-Johnson Woods for their work on the reconstituted committee for this nominating process.

2. Following a discussion of the proposed Scholarly Writing Workshop a motion was made by Bruce Drushel and seconded by Roger Adams to approve the proposed workshop for the fall of 2015, with the understanding that in the future such workshops would have a themed focus and that more details would be provided to the Governing Board as they evolved, including specifics about publication opportunities resulting from this 2015 workshop. Roll call vote: 10 yes, 0 no.

3. It was moved by Elwood Watson and seconded by James Von Schilling to approve the proposed establishment of longevity awards for Area Chairs beginning in 2016. Roll call vote: 9 yes, 1 no.
4. It was moved by Gary Hoppenstand and seconded by Royce Smith that the PCA/ACA accept the offer from the Head of the Ray and Pat Browne Popular Culture Library, Nancy Down, to establish the official PCA/ACA Archives at Bowling Green State University. Roll call vote: 10 yes, 0 no.

5. It was moved by Gary Hoppenstand and seconded by John Bratzel to approve the proposal to schedule and fund a weekend work session at Michigan State University for the Subcommittee on the Bylaws. Roll call vote: 10 yes, 0 no.

6. It was moved by Gary Edgerton and seconded by Gary Hoppenstand that the proposed memberships of the four task forces be approved. Roll call vote: 10 yes, no.

7. Report was received from the Executive Director of Operations, Brendan Riley, about registrations for the 2015 conference and the need to update the PCA/ACA web site. After some discussion, it was agreed that given the estimated cost, the project should go out to bid. The Board asked Interim President Marsden to appoint a small group of Board members to work with Brendan on the bid process.

Report was also received from the Executive Director of Events, Joe Hancock, regarding his recent trip to the hotel in Seattle in preparation for the 2016 conference. He also shared an update on planning for the 2015 conference.

8. Reports were received from Gary Edgerton on the distinguished practitioner speakers, Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez, for the 2015 conference, and from Royce Smith on the distinguished scholar speaker, Dan Cameron. Information was shared with the Board regarding arrangements for these speakers. Interim President Marsden also noted that the Circus Area Chair, Stacey Mascia, had arranged for Matt Fraser to speak at the conference as well.

9. It was moved by Gary Hoppenstand and seconded by Royce Smith to approve the proposal to have the PCA/ACA establish the Ray and Pat Browne Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Popular Arts. The first recipients would be Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez. Roll call vote: 10 yes, 0 no.

10. It was moved by Gary Hoppenstand and seconded by Gary Edgerton that when new or existing unnamed awards are named in the future, careful consideration be given to naming these awards after longtime innovators who truly reflect the diversity of our organization and the composition of members who make up the PCA/ACA. Roll call vote: 10 yes, 0 no.

11. James Von Schilling, Chair of the Committee of Five, reported to the Board that he and the other three remaining colleagues on the committee do not believe there is sufficient evidence, based on advice of the PCA/ACA attorneys, to pursue the November 1, 2014 request from the Board to do a follow-up investigation. Interim President Marsden verbally shared the advice from the PCA/ACA attorneys with the entire Board, since it had been received and shared with James Von Schilling’s
committee only a couple of days before the December 18, 2014 meeting. It was moved by Gary Hoppebnstand and seconded by James Von Schilling that the Board not pursue the follow-up investigation based on the advice the PCA/ACA attorneys. Roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no. (Elwood Watson was unable to remain connected electronically to the virtual meeting at this point.)

Closing Remarks:

Interim President Marsden indicated that he would be sending each of the new task forces their charges in the very near future. He also indicated that as soon as the election of the Vice President/President Elect has been completed, he will be engaging that individual in our work as a partner. He also wished all the Governing Board members a most happy holiday season and hoped everyone would be able to spend time with family and friends.

After thanking Governing Board members for making the time for this virtual meeting, he adjourned the meeting at 4:20 EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Marsden
Interim President