

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
JUNE 14, 2017
ZOOM CONFERENCE

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

With President Lynn Walsh presiding, the meeting of the board of directors of the Society of Professional Journalists was called to order at 12:05 p.m. ET on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 via Zoom virtual conference service.

In addition to Walsh, the following were present: Immediate Past President Paul Fletcher; Vice President of Campus Chapter Affairs Sue Kopen Katcef; Campus Representative Keem Muhammad; Campus Advisers At-Large Becky Tallent and Leticia Lee Steffen; At-Large Director Bill McCloskey; Regional Directors Jane Primerano, Andy Schotz, Michael Koretzky, Patti Gallagher Newberry, Michele Day, Joe Radske, Kari Williams, Eddy Gallagher, Ed Otte, Ethan Chung, Matt Hall and Amanda Womac.

Staff members present for the meeting were Executive Director Joe Skeel and Associate Executive Director Tara Puckey.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed governance makeover, specifically the proposed bylaws changes. .

ARTICLE 6, SECTION 3

Koretzky asked to include “community manager” as an allowable pre-requisite to run for president-elect.

None opposed Koretzky’s suggestion.

ARTICLE 8, SECTION 5

Kopen Katcef shared that she would like to see more students plugged into national leadership. Her experience is if they are engaged, they will do it. However, she isn’t convinced it should be in the bylaws.

Primerano agreed with Kopen Katcef. She has some very enthusiastic student members in Region 1.

The board discussed the options for involving students in other ways, such as a student community.

Koretzky said it’s important to explain to membership how students will be represented by the smaller board. He doesn’t believe having more students help regional coordinators will answer that question.

Newberry and Skeel were in favor of leaving the bylaws as is and make sure RDs know to recruit one or more students.

The board decided to keep the language as is currently written. But, it should do more to get students involved.

ARTICLE 7

Because Wedding McClelland wasn't able to participate in the call, Walsh shared her concern about having non-members be eligible for board appointments. Primerano, Gallagher, McCloskey and Schotz shared that concern.

Newberry supported leaving it open to non-members, giving the new strategic board as much flexibility as possible to bring the best people together. In some instances, she explained, the board may wish to have expertise outside of the journalism field – such as fundraising or technology.

Upon proper motion by Newberry, and second by McCloskey, the board voted 7-6 to accept the bylaws document as drafted, and allow the newly constituted board to select non-members as appointments.

Those voting yes were Walsh, Otte, Radske, Gallagher Newberry, Tallent, Kopen Katcef, Koretzky. Those voting no were Gallagher, Schotz, Fletcher, Primerano, McCloskey, Womac.

Under proper motion by McCloskey, and second by Fletcher, the board voted unanimously to recommend to the delegates that the bylaws changes be approved (with the addition of adding community chairs to the qualifications for the ladder).

Andy shared concerns about the sample nominations process. He isn't comfortable having a group of volunteers recommend candidates. Gallagher agreed. The group discussed the pros and cons of each approach, but agreed that any nominations process is under the purview of the board of directors.

For the purposes of the delegate meeting at EIJ, it would be explained that the sample policies are intended to help answer questions that delegates may have. However, it will be up to a new board to finalize any policy.

Upon proper motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. ET.