

# Minutes

National Communication Association  
Executive Committee Meeting  
June 6-7, 2014  
Washington, D.C.

## **Participating in the meeting**

Kathleen J. Turner, President (Presiding); Carole Blair, First Vice President; Christina S. Beck, Second Vice President; Steven A. Beebe, Immediate Past President; Philip Backlund, Educational Policies Board Director; Joseph A. Bonito, Research Board Director; John Greene, Publications Board Director; Kathleen Glenister Roberts, Finance Board Director; Bobby Patton, Finance Board Member (non-voting), Annette Madlock Gatison, Finance Board Member (non-voting); Nancy Kidd, Executive Director (non-voting)

*National Office Staff:* Mark Fernando, Chief of Staff; Wendy Fernando, Director of External Affairs and Publications; Kim Griffin, Chief Financial Officer; Trevor Parry-Giles, Associate Director for Academic and Professional Affairs

*Guests:* (for June 6 afternoon only) Justin Boren, Megan Foley, Pat Ganer, Janie Harden-Fritz, Shawn Long, Bryan McCann, Lynn Turner, Lynne Webb

### **1. Call to order**

President Turner called the meeting to order at 8:15 am Eastern time.

### **2. Executive Session**

At 8:16 am the EC convened in executive session to discuss the Executive Director's annual performance review.

At 8:30 am the staff joined the meeting.

### **3. Announcements, updates, and reports**

President Turner drew the EC's attention to a number of routine reports provided in the written meeting materials. She also indicated that two days earlier we received an unsolicited offer to purchase our building. *A motion was made by Blair to encourage the Finance Board and National Office to determine whether it is an offer worth considering. Seconded by Beebe. Motion carried unanimously.* Publications Board Director Greene described issues with a couple of our journals and sought feedback from the EC.

### **4. Consent agenda**

The consent agenda included the following items: approval of the February 7, 2014 EC meeting minutes; editor nominations for CCCS, FAS, and TPQ; distinguished scholars, and free membership for nonmember convention registrants. A few clarifying points were made, and a decision was made to break out the votes. *A motion was made by Roberts to endorse the editor nominations to the LA. Seconded by Backlund. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Beck to approve the February minutes. Seconded by Greene. Motion carried unanimously.* There was some discussion about ways to enhance diversity, broadly defined,

among distinguished scholar nominations. *A motion was made by Backlund to endorse the Distinguished Scholars. Seconded by Beck. Motion carried unanimously.* Roberts said that the Finance Board endorses the proposal for free membership for nonmember convention registrants. *A motion was made by Beebe to endorse the proposal for free membership for nonmember convention registrants. Seconded by Beck. Motion carried unanimously.* Roberts said that the Finance Board would like to add an item to the agenda for consideration. Specifically, the Finance Board recommends removing the three year limit on the board-designated initiatives fund. *A motion was made by Blair to remove the three year limit on the board-designated initiatives fund. Seconded by Beck. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **5. FY14-15 Budget/ Membership dues increase**

Finance Board Director Roberts summarized the key points in the proposed budget and reminded the EC that a detailed spreadsheet and narrative explanation are included in the written materials provided to the group in advance. The Finance Board has reviewed this proposal and endorses it. Discussion ensued. While the FY14-15 budget does not factor in a proposed dues increase, the EC decided to discuss these items together given that they are related. The EC understands that a dues increase is about sustaining the membership, whereas the budget is about what we can do in a particular year. *A motion was made by Backlund to approve the FY14-15 budget. Seconded by Greene. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Greene to propose a dues increase at the 2014 LA meeting that would start in FY15-16. Seconded by Blair. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **6. Proposal for New Division: Communication and Sport**

President Turner reminded the group that in their meeting binders was a proposal from members requesting a new division. This request will be considered by the Legislative Assembly in November, and the EC was asked to make a recommendation to the LA. Discussion ensued. *A motion was made by Beck to endorse the proposal. Seconded by Beebe. Motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:20 pm and reconvened at 12:55 pm.

#### **7. Constitution/bylaws revision**

The meeting guests reconvened with the EC. Introductions were made. Past President Lynn Turner talked about why she appointed a task force on constitution/bylaws revision, and President Kathie Turner reviewed the full history of the process used for developing revision proposals over the last few years. She reminded the group that 64% of members supported the proposed bylaws proposal that was sent to the membership for approval a few months earlier. The purpose of inviting guests to the meeting is for EC members to better understand the perspective of the remaining 36% so that appropriate revisions can be made to reach consensus on improvements.

At 1:25 pm meeting participants broke out into three small groups for conversation. Each group had a combination of guests and EC members, with an officer serving as facilitator. At 1:49 pm the full group came back together. Each group summarized the main points from the small group discussions, and the full group then talked through several issues. Among the many topics

discussed were clarified roles and responsibilities of different bodies, appropriate names of bodies, fiduciary responsibility, and approaches to fostering diversity.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm and the group reconvened on June 7 at 8:57 am.

#### **Constitution/bylaws revision** (continued)

In light of the discussion the previous day, the EC discussed the possibility of delaying bringing revised bylaws back to the LA for a vote until 2015. Discussion of the pros and cons ensued, and the group decided that it is important for the EC to take more time to listen to members and fully understand all of the concerns that need to be addressed in a revised proposal. *A motion was made by Blair to bring revised bylaws back to the LA for a vote in 2015. Seconded by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.* The EC discussed a number of ways in which feedback will be sought during the convention and at other times during the coming year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 for a break and the group reconvened at 10:35am.

Based on the feedback received from our guests the previous day, the EC came to consensus on a number of proposed changes to the bylaws revision proposal that was sent to members for a vote earlier in the year. The National Office was charged with crafting the revised proposal for EC consideration in September.

#### **8. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm Eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kidd, Executive Director