

# Minutes

National Communication Association  
Executive Committee Meeting  
September 19, 2014  
Washington, D.C.

## **Participating in the meeting**

Kathleen J. Turner, President (Presiding); Carole Blair, First Vice President; Christina S. Beck, Second Vice President; 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) *Absent*: Steven A. Beebe, Immediate Past President; Philip Backlund, Educational Policies Board Director  
*National Office Staff*: Mark Fernando, Chief of Staff; Wendy Fernando, Director of External Affairs and Publications; Kim Griffin, Chief Financial Officer; Trevor Parry-Giles, Director of Academic and Professional Affairs  
*Guest*: Stephen Hartnett, Second Vice President-Elect

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

President Turner called the meeting to order at 8:54 a.m. Eastern time.

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

President Turner welcomed Stephen Hartnett to the EC and drew the EC's attention to a number of routine reports provided in the written meeting materials.

### **3. Consent agenda**

The consent agenda included the following items: approval of the June 6-7, 2014 EC meeting minutes; July 28, 2014 EC conference call minutes; July 18, 2014 Legislative Assembly report of ballots; emeritus memberships; Bacon Award selection committee member; Eckroyd Award selection committee member; and task force guidelines. *A motion was made by Blair to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Beck. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **4. Report of the independent auditor and FY13-14 year-end budget report**

Finance Board Director Roberts presented the financial report from FY13-14. The FY13-14 budget was approved with balanced spending from operations and additional expenditures from board designated funds of \$184,780. Despite planning for spending beyond annual operating revenue, we finished the year with \$105,726 surplus. We released \$161,217 from board designated funds. Summing \$105,726 and \$161,217 means \$166,943 will be added to the association's undesignated funds this year. Roberts also reported that the Finance Board met with the independent auditor without staff present. The auditor explained that we received an unqualified opinion on our audit and praised the National Office staff on their fiscal management. *A motion was made by Greene to accept the report of the independent auditor. Seconded by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **5. National Office real estate**

Kidd provided an update on the search for a new office that was prompted by an above-market offer to purchase our current property. The owners of the alternate property on which we made an offer decided not to sell, and no other options are currently available. The deadline on the purchase offer was September, and we asked if the offer could be extended. It has now been extended indefinitely. The EC agreed that we should continue to pursue the investigation of alternative space, provided that the LA supports that decision. A vote will be sent to the LA in the next few days.

#### **6. Academic boycott/ divestment**

In light of recent experiences of other scholarly societies with respect to the BDS movement, the EC discussed the issues and information relevant to an association declaring support for BDS. The group agreed that it would not be in the best interest of the organization for NCA to support BDS.

#### **7. Affiliate applications**

Thirty-four organizations submitted application materials to be affiliates of NCA. This was the culmination of a two-year process of reviewing our affiliate program. The meeting binder contained the applications from each of the organizations for EC review. The EC decided to vote on them en bloc. *A motion was made by Beck to endorse all of the affiliate applications for LA consideration. Seconded by Blair. Motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned for a break at 10:25 a.m. The EC reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

#### **8. Proposals for new divisions: Activism and Social Justice & Game Studies**

President Turner reminded the group that in their meeting binders were proposals from members requesting two new divisions. These requests will be considered by the LA in November, and the EC was asked to make recommendations to the LA. Discussion ensued. Hartnett left the room for the discussion of Activism and Social Justice since he was one of the proposal submitters. *A motion was made by Beck to endorse the Activism and Social Justice Division proposal for LA consideration. Seconded by Bonito. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Blair to endorse the Game Studies Division proposal for LA consideration. Seconded by Beck. Motion carried unanimously.* The EC agreed that in the future all proposals for new divisions will be considered only at September EC meetings.

#### **9. Constitution/bylaws revision**

A new draft bylaws revision proposal was presented to the EC for consideration that incorporated all of the ideas discussed during the June EC meeting. Discussion ensued. *A motion was made by Beck to accept the draft with one stipulated change to the recall provision. Seconded by Bonito. Motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m. The EC reconvened at 1:00 p.m. The EC discussed the best ways to disseminate the new bylaws proposal to the membership to ensure that there is sufficient opportunity to review it, understand it, and provide feedback. The EC agreed that materials would be sent to the membership in advance of the annual convention. During the convention, a number of opportunities for discussion will be organized including a

bylaws booth in the exhibit hall, a Chautauqua in Chicago, and the attendance of EC members at interest group meetings for this express purpose. After the convention, an online bylaws forum will be available for member discussion.

The meeting was adjourned for a break at 2:45 p.m. The EC reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

#### **10. Distinguished scholars**

The EC continued its discussion about ways to ensure appropriate diversity in the distinguished scholar program. Ideas had been solicited from the current distinguished scholars, and those ideas were discussed. *A motion was made by Roberts to bring the following ideas to the distinguished scholars for feedback so that the EC can consider that feedback in a follow-up discussion in February: 1) extend the right to nominate people for the award to the full membership, 2) increase the maximum number of allowable new distinguished scholars each year by one. Seconded by Beck. Motion carried with five for and one abstention.*

#### **11. Programmatic initiatives review**

The National Office directors of programmatic departments, Wendy Fernando, Director of External Affairs and Publications, and Trevor Parry-Giles, Director of Academic and Professional Affairs, provided an overview for the EC of new and ongoing initiatives. Discussion ensued.

#### **12. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. Eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kidd, Executive Director