

Asian American Journalists Association
SUMMER 2007 NATIONAL BOARD MEETING
Aug. 1 and 4, 2007
Hyatt Regency, Miami

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 1, 2007

PRESENT:

Officers: Jeanne Mariani-Belding, National President; Jam Sardar, National Vice President for Broadcast; Janet Cho, National Vice President for Print; Cynthia Wang, National Treasurer; Janet Tu, National Secretary

Board members: Katie Nelson-Arizona; Ching-Ching Ni-Asia; Richard Lui-Atlanta; Gail Rayos-Florida; Kristine Uyeno-Hawaii; Richard Chang-Los Angeles; Caroline Paras-Los Angeles; Nancy Ngo-Minnesota; Tara Smith-New England; Anne Marie Cruz-New York; Cheryl Tan-New York; Ellen Sung-North Carolina; Jam Sardar-Philadelphia (proxy for Denise Nakano); Maya Blackmun-Portland; Bobby Calvin-Sacramento (proxy for Jennifer Morita); Don Chareunsky-San Diego; Matt Dunn-San Francisco/Bay Area; Jessie Mangaliman-San Francisco/Bay Area; Sharon Chan-Seattle; Athima Chansanchai-Seattle; Analisa Nazareno-Texas (proxy for Suzanne Marta); Doris Truong-Washington, D.C. (also as proxy for Angeline Hartmann)

Staff: Rene Astudillo, Executive Director; Janice Lee, Deputy Executive Director; Glenn Sugihara, accountant

Guest: Katrina Julian, student reporter for Voices

ABSENT:

Board members: Ameet Sachdev-Chicago (no proxy); Frank Witsil-Michigan (no proxy); Denise Nakano-Philadelphia (Jam Sardar was proxy); Jennifer Morita-Sacramento (Bobby Calvin was proxy); Suzanne Marta-Texas (Analisa Nazareno was proxy); Angeline Hartmann-Washington, D.C. (Truong was proxy)

1. **Call to Order** (Mariani-Belding)

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m.

2. **Roll call** (Tu)

Roll call conducted. Quorum was met.

3. **Approval of Spring 2007 Advisory Board Minutes** (Mariani-Belding)

(See document "Spring 2007 National Board Meeting - Draft Meeting Minutes," submitted by Tu)

The Board reviewed the minutes as recorded and submitted by Tu.

Truong moved to approve the minutes. Sardar seconded. Motion passes.

4. **President's Report** (Mariani-Belding)

(See document "President's Report," submitted by Mariani-Belding)

Mariani-Belding reported on her activities on behalf of AAJA. She also urged the Board to forward to her any ideas on being more proactive regarding industry cut-backs and layoffs. Sardar asked what the UNITY response was on AAJA's resolution urging that UNITY be more proactive on the issue. Mariani-Belding said the response was good and the other alliance presidents realized the need for such action. Sung asked if there were other industries going through similar challenges, to see if there are best practices we could learn from them. Blackmun asked what senior editors/publishers told Mariani-Belding about what they thought AAJA could best do to position our members to be prized employees. Mariani-Belding said they emphasized multi-media training.

Mariani-Belding said she would also like to strengthen national's ties with chapters, and hopes to have the national officers visit chapters.

A suggestion was made that each chapter present a multimedia boot camp. Some chapters, such as San Francisco/Bay Area, have already done so. Sardar suggested putting together a list of multi-media experts from our membership who would be willing to offer their expertise for such workshops. Mariani-Belding said it would be a good idea for the programming committee to consider.

5. **Executive Director's Report** (Astudillo, Lee)

(See documents "Executive Director's Report," submitted by Lee and "Fundraising Report, March 1 to July 15, 2007," submitted by Astudillo)

Astudillo said as of that day (Aug. 1), there were 567 paid registrants. The goal was 800. But Astudillo said he was told there were 20 on-site registrations that morning, so hopefully there will be more in the next few days. Total attendance is about 815 so far. With media access workshop and town hall meeting, the total attendance will probably exceed 900.

Though there are less registrants than the goal, Astudillo said national staff tried to balance that in terms of revenue by pursuing sponsorships. Astudillo said they were almost at their goal of \$475,000 in sponsorships. They are also focused on cutting expenses, such as having people pay for their second drinks at events instead of having an open bar; having less audio visual equipment and Internet connection expenses. Astudillo said between the cost savings and sponsorships, he expects this convention will still do well financially.

Astudillo pointed out AAJA's membership numbers are down about 9 percent. That's about \$25,000 less than AAJA would have had in membership dues compared to last year. He projects AAJA will probably end the year with 1,775 members.

Lee referred to updates on programs in the “Executive Director’s Report.”

Lee said there are three new staff members: Nao Vang, student programs coordinator; Annabelle Udo, events and fundraising coordinator; Eddie Foronda, Web editor.

6. **Treasurer’s Report** (Wang)

(See document “AAJA Treasurer’s Report Summer ’07,” submitted by Wang)

Wang said AAJA had about \$2.5 million in total assets in the first half of the year, if chapter and national assets are combined, of which chapter funds represent about a quarter. To arrive at those figures, Sugihara had asked chapters to submit mid-year reports for the first time. 17 chapters complied. End-of-2006 balances were used for three chapters – D.C., Minnesota and Florida - that had not replied.

Cho asked if this mid-year report is something Sugihara would like to continue doing in the future. Sugihara said yes, in order to have a good and accurate picture of national and chapters’ finances.

7. **Chapter Audits** (Wang)

(See documents: Letter from Richard K. Lee, CPA, and “Schedule of Fees for External Audit of AAJA National and Chapters,” submitted by national staff)

Richard K. Lee’s letter stated that the financial statements for the three chapters audited – Chicago, Florida and New England – appear reasonable in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Entities getting audited in 2008 are: National, Sacramento, Hawaii, Portland and Seattle.

8. **MediaWatch Update** (Tan)

(See documents: Resignation letter from MediaWatch co-chair Abe Kwok, effective Dec. 31, 2007 or when a new co-chair is installed, whichever comes first; MediaWatch 2007 incident report)

Mariani-Belding praised Tan for her work on the committee. Tan said MediaWatch has had a really good year. There were great reactions to the advisories issued. The biggest thing, Tan said, was the Virginia Tech shootings, where MediaWatch tried very quickly to issue advisories. Mariani-Belding said it was great the impact AAJA and its chapters and members had on the coverage of that, and praised Lee who handled a lot of the incoming phone calls and interviews. Lee said AAJA’s advisories on the issue raised AAJA’s profile as a resource– she had gotten calls afterward from people asking if they could call in the future about things happening in the Asian American community.

9. **Wisconsin Group Update** (Tu)

Tu reported the Wisconsin group had requested an extension of the hold on their petition.

10. **Pending Business**

A. National Awards Committee (Tan)

(See document “Proposal to Establish a National Awards Committee,” submitted by Tan)

Questions were asked for clarification: The committee would select the judges for the awards, not judge the awards themselves, correct? Tan said yes. Would the Governing Board needed to vote on the final selection of judges? Mariani-Belding said it wouldn't have to vote, but should get a report on who the final selection of judges are. Do other journalism organizations have formal procedures, criteria or formats for judging? Tan said some organizations do, some don't. Mariani-Belding said it's something the committee should keep in mind when it begins working.

Suggestions: Chang said one advantage of having chapters judge the awards each year is regional diversity. If a national committee is established, regional diversity should be taken into consideration. Mariani-Belding suggested also taking into consideration diversity in other areas such as market size. Truong wondered if it made sense to judge the awards earlier so the winning entries are included in convention-goers' packets – a practice followed by the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors

B. Membership Dues Increase (Tu)

Since Sachdev was not present at the time due to an emergency, Tu said she believes Sachdev would have said that the Governing Board is not voting at this Summer 2007 meeting for any membership dues increase. But membership dues increases are being considered starting in 2009, and the Governing Board will likely vote on it at a later meeting. Such a proposal would be sent to the National Board for feedback before any vote is taken.

C. Fundraising Guidelines (Wang)

(See document “AAJA Fundraising Policy,” submitted by Wang)

Various questions and suggestions were made on the draft fundraising guidelines.

Rayos asked if, by saying sponsors will have no say or control over the content of the training, whether that prevents, say, the New York Times, from sponsoring a Flash media workshop that they would want to do their own way. Astudillo said when he asks sponsors to sign a sponsorship agreement, there is wording that says they cannot dictate the content of our workshops. He thinks they should treat programs like media institutes differently – since the intent is for media companies to come up with training programs, pay for it. But that's different from regular panel workshops.

Debate was raised over taking money from specific companies for specific programming. Truong said she's in favor of companies giving money to general programming. Tu asked what the Board thinks of including wording saying AAJA won't accept money to sponsor workshops on topics central to their business. Tu said she would like to see wording that says at least that it is

AAJA's preference to not accept non-media money to sponsor workshops on topics central to their business. Calvin said he agreed with the idea, but wanted to see it worded in the positive. Smith said the reality was that conventions, such as in Boston, won't be paid for by media money alone or even primarily. Tan said it would be good to include wording on preferences, to show the organization's values.

Other wording and format suggestions were made.

D. Ads on AAJA's Web Site (Blackmun)

(See document "AAJA Policy and Issues Committee First Report," submitted by Blackmun)

Blackmun said they didn't have a policy on this since the committee was waiting for the fundraising policy to be completed to make sure the two agree. She said if the Board feels comfortable with the fundraising guidelines, then a separate Web site advertising policy probably isn't needed. Astudillo said he felt whatever fundraising policy AAJA has would cover the Web ad policy as well.

E. Bylaws Revisions (Blackmun)

(See document "AAJA Policy and Issues Committee First Report," and revised versions of Sections 6, 7 and 8, submitted by Blackmun, and bylaws with suggested changes, submitted by the Bylaws Task Force)

Blackmun explained what the policy committee's recommendations are on the proposed changes. Tu suggested some additional minor changes, including striking the line that proxies may not be used to establish a quorum at National Board meetings; and that for Advisory Board meetings, Governing Board members may assign proxies only to those from their chapter.

11. **Fundraising Strategizing** (Mariani-Belding)

Mariani-Belding said fundraising is a key responsibility of Board members, and that she'd like Board members to think of approaching individuals for fundraising rather than companies. For most nonprofits, that's the lifeblood of their support. She asked Chan to talk about fundraising efforts in Seattle.

Chan talked about fundraising for scholarships Northwest Journalists of Color, comprised of the local chapters of the four journalists of color organizations in the Seattle area. Before 2004, NJC members had solicited money only from companies – getting a few thousand dollars each year. In 2004, Chan started an endowment drive, and decided to put most of the focus on raising money from individuals. Each year since, NJC has raised far more money.

Astudillo said people often ask him what it takes to be a fundraiser. He said it doesn't necessarily take a fundraising or financial background, and the best fundraisers are members. For instance, when attending the President's reception Friday, it's important to plant the seed with funders, letting them know it's important to fund something they believe in, that you believe in. It's important they see in you that you believe in this

organization, and that what they are doing to support the organization is going to a worthy cause.

12. **Recess**

Sardar moved to recess. Tu seconded. Motion passes.

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, AUG. 4, 2007

PRESENT:

Officers: Jeanne Mariani-Belding, National President; Jam Sardar, National Vice President for Broadcast; Janet Cho, National Vice President for Print; Cynthia Wang, National Treasurer; Janet Tu, National Secretary

Board members: Katie Nelson-Arizona; Ching-Ching Ni-Asia; Richard Lui-Atlanta; Ameet Sachdev-Chicago; Gail Rayos-Florida; Kristine Uyeno-Hawaii; Richard Chang-Los Angeles; Caroline Paras-Los Angeles; Nancy Ngo-Minnesota; Tara Smith-New England; Anne Marie Cruz-New York; Cheryl Tan-New York; Ellen Sung-North Carolina; Jam Sardar-Philadelphia (proxy for Denise Nakano); Maya Blackmun-Portland; Bobby Calvin-Sacramento (proxy for Jennifer Morita); Don Chareunsky-San Diego; Matt Dunn-San Francisco/Bay Area; Jessie Mangaliman-San Francisco/Bay Area; Sharon Chan-Seattle; Athima Chansanchai-Seattle; Suzanne Marta-Texas; Doris Truong-Washington, D.C. (also as proxy for Angeline Hartmann)

Staff: Rene Astudillo, Executive Director; Janice Lee, Deputy Executive Director

Guests: Stanton Tang, sitting in on behalf of Frank Witsil for Michigan Chapter (though not a proxy); Shirley Leung, New England chapter president; Brian Wong, New England chapter member; Paul Cheung, Miami convention co-chair; Dinah Eng, ELP director; Neal Justin, J Camp co-director; Onica Makwakwa, UNITY executive director; Jennifer Abella, convention student project convergence editor; Thomas Lee convention student project Voices editor; Harry Mok convention student project online editor; Lonnie Wong, convention student project broadcast coordinator

ABSENT:

Board members: Frank Witsil-Michigan (no proxy); Denise Nakano-Philadelphia (Jam Sardar was proxy); Jennifer Morita-Sacramento (Bobby Calvin was proxy); Angeline Hartmann-Washington, D.C. (Truong was proxy)

13. **Call to Order** (Mariani-Belding)

Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m.

14. **Roll Call** (Tu)

Roll call conducted. Quorum was met.

15. **ELP Report (Eng)**

(See document “ELP Board Report,” submitted by Eng)

Eng said she is looking forward to starting an ELP mentor program again. It’s been two to three years since ELP last had it.

Eng said with this being such a critical time in the industry, anything AAJA can do to facilitate sessions that help people with support in dealing with change would be good. Feedback from the advanced ELP session held in Miami was that people appreciated the opportunity to vent, get inspiration, encouragement and ideas, and to network.

Question was asked about how many ELP graduates there have been so far. Eng said about 334.

16. **J Camp Report (Justin)**

(See document “J Camp 2007 Report to Board,” submitted by Justin and J Camp co-director Clea Benson)

Justin said J Camp had a group of 41 great kids. One had to drop out. He said this is the seventh year for J Camp. There are 42 kids each year, so about 300 kids have gone through it total. Justin said he appreciated all the chapters that have donated to J Camp, and urged everyone to also talk to their companies about sponsoring the program.

Question was asked if J Camp tracks how the students are doing. Justin said he’s been talking with the Casey Foundation and several other organizations about tracking. He said it would take a budget in order to pay someone to do that. Sardar suggested having a listserv for alumni. Justin said listservs are used – and it’s typically busy for the first six months, and then use tapers off. Justin said he’d like to start a Web site – to track the students and because it would be a good fundraising tool.

Marta suggested that each chapter talk with their local NABJ, NAHJ and NAJA counterparts to help sponsor local students. She’s sent letters to her counterparts in Texas about J Camp.

Justin said there were about 180 applicants this year, and it would be great if there were even more. Justin said the number of applications has basically held steady through the years, maybe down a little bit.

Sardar said there are organizations that cater to high school journalists. Justin said they had thought of that, and are considering sending Mark Angeles to some of those high school journalism conventions. Cruz said it might be useful to have three different graduates of J Camp write about their experiences in DateLine AAJA.

Question was asked on whether internships are offered to any of the students. Justin said not through J Camp, but they do try to do something. Most companies don’t take on high school students as interns. But some students have gotten internships through people they’ve met at J Camp.

Justin said they are continuing to look for new leaders for J Camp. He isn't going to do this for much longer, and they are in the process of training new leaders to take over. Question was asked about succession. Justin said Benson is trained to lead J Camp, as is Angeles and Josh duLac. And they're in the process of training Angie Lau. He said they're committed to creating a pipeline of leaders. Justin said his own commitment to J Camp is through next year, and then it's time to pass the baton.

17. **National Convention Reports**

A. 2007 Miami Convention (Cheung, Astudillo)

Cheung praised all the hard work many people had done for the convention, including Lorene Yue on the silent auction, Sandy Louey on volunteers, Victoria Lim and Doris Truong on programming, and Florida chapter members.

Astudillo gave an update on numbers for the convention. He said there were 92 on-site registrations. As of that morning (Saturday), there were 940 in total attendance, not counting those expected at the town hall and media access workshop. Between those and the total so far, there should be about 1,000 in total attendance. There were 659 paid attendants. That's compared to 646 in Hawaii.

B. 2008 UNITY Convention (Makwakwa)

Makwakwa said Aug. 15 is the deadline for submitting programming ideas for the convention, and that the programming committee is going to be doing workshop selection in September. She said they were looking at opening registration in October. They are hoping to get 10,000 registered attendees.

Makwakwa said the biggest focus so far has been fundraising. She said UNITY is doing pretty well compared to where it was at this time in 2004. They have \$275,000 in hand so far, and \$475,000 in signed commitments. The biggest challenge is that there's a half million dollar gap created by companies that have historically supported UNITY that no longer exist. Her work in the past several months has been with supporters of the 2004 convention – increasing their level of commitment.

Makwakwa said UNITY 2004 had 400 booths total. She's hoping to have a minimum of 400, pointing out the Chicago convention center has a larger exhibition hall than D.C.'s.

Mariani-Belding wondered if there was a way to extend the programming deadline since some alliance partners seemed unaware of the deadline; she also asked how many proposals there had been so far. Makwakwa said she would get back to us on both those questions.

C. 2008 UNITY Convention – Chapter Assignments (Mariani-Belding)

Astudillo said because this is a UNITY year, there are fewer activities chapters need to sign up for. But those not signed up for an AAJA-specific activity may be called upon to help with UNITY's programming or planning committees. Mariani-Belding asked for volunteers for assignments. Board reps broke into

small groups by chapter size to work out who wants what assignment. They decided:

Gala Banquet: New York, San Diego, Texas
Journalism Awards: Seattle
National Scholarships: Washington, D.C., Minnesota
Silent Auction: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia
Special/Lifetime Awards: Hawaii
Media Access Workshop: North Carolina

Chapters without specific assignments so far: Arizona, Michigan, Atlanta, Portland, New England, Sacramento

Chapters that get a pass from specific assignments: Florida, Asia, Chicago

D. 2009 Boston Convention (Leung)

Leung reminded the board that the convention hotel will be the Seaport Hotel. They are looking at various venues for the opening reception. She said she and Brian Wong had talked about hoping to split the convention main sponsorship between the Boston Globe and ESPN. Leung and Astudillo are talking with the Globe about specific numbers now. Astudillo said the goal is for the Globe and ESPN to come in as platinum sponsors each: so \$100,000 from each.

Question was asked on if co-chairs for the convention have been identified. Leung said they are herself and Sangita Chandra.

E. 2010 Convention

(See document “2010 AAJA Convention Chapter Bid,” submitted by Paras)

Caroline Paras said the Los Angeles chapter has submitted a bid. She said she was told the Los Angeles Times was very interested in sponsorship. But because of new ownership changes, that would need to be tied down now.

Astudillo said the staff will do site visits, and then the Governing Board will likely make a formal approval at its fall meeting.

18. **New Business**

A. Proposal for Online Voting (Sardar)

(See document “AAJA Election Proposal,” submitted by Sardar)

Sardar proposes moving AAJA’s voting to an email method.

Question was asked if national staff sees any feasibility problems with this. Staff said no. Mariani-Belding said she thinks this will allow more people to vote. Some chapters said they do this already. There were no objections.

B. Discussion on Board Attendance Policy (Tu)

Tu asked if the Board felt there was a need to have a clarified attendance policy for Board meetings. Question was asked if this has been an issue. Tu said there are some things that come up now and then. Tu said she could draft something and pass it by the Advisory Board for feedback.

C. Any New Business

Wang asked if there was any way to acknowledge Simon Li of The Los Angeles Times as the single largest donor to the endowment. People said yes.

Discussion was held on changes to the convention format this year. Question was asked what members' feedback was on moving the gala banquet from the traditional Friday to Saturday this year. Some people said they heard from members who were surprised by the move. Some said some people have traditionally left on Saturday. Smith said the New England chapter was leaning away from holding the gala on Saturday. Some wondered if a Saturday morning job fair could be reinstated since some students involved in student projects may not be able to get there till then. Suggestion was made to offer something targeted that recruiters can buy into, like receptions with business reports with 10 or more years of experience. Astudillo said this is the second year for the mid-career reception and he thinks recruiters and mid-career members like it.

Blackmun proposed an idea for the future board to consider: having one face-to-face Advisory Board meeting a year, due to decreasing media company support for board travel. It is especially difficult for small chapters to raise money for this expense. Tan said she didn't think that was a good direction to go in because some chapters had previously thought there was too much disconnect with the Board. Smith and Nelson said fundraising, and supporting board travel, is a real concern for small chapters.

Working lunch.

During lunch, this year's convention student project coordinators joined the Board for discussion of the first year of the convergence model.

Abella said the project went about as well as could be expected for the first year. She would've liked to have seen some audio/video projects ready earlier – and ready to be posted online.

Lonnie Wong said last year, they had access to cameras from sponsors, but didn't this year. So they asked the volunteer staff to bring their own cameras – not a long-term solution. Wong also said on the broadcast side, they usually get about 35 to 40 applicants. There were only seven or eight this year. And he said he asked the students how many had applied thinking they would be in only one discipline – half did.

Thomas Lee said a total of 37 people applied for the convergence project. Even if 37 people applied to Voices only in a normal year, that's low. He thinks maybe some people were confused about what the project was. He said a lot of the students were very inexperienced. And there were three students who dropped

out after their non-refundable plane tickets were purchased. Lee suggested having students sign a code of conduct when they are chosen for the project.

Thomas Lee also asked the Board to clarify what it hopes to accomplish with the convergence project, and manage the expectations in the application process.

Mariani-Belding asked if the marketing this year was any different. Janice Lee said there wasn't a difference in marketing this year. The same material was sent to the same people national staff had sent material to in previous years. Smith said she thought Brandon Sugiyama also used to personally call specific students he thought were talented to push them to apply.

Marta said the feedback she got from the students she worked with on the project was that they didn't know the amount of work involved, or what months the work would be taking place since some of the work takes place before the convention.

Sachdev asked if the application changed to say they would be working in multimedia. Janice Lee said yes. For example, in previous years, they asked for the applicant's specialty: print, broadcast, etc. This year, the application asked for them to send five examples of their best work. Abella thought maybe some would-be applicants might have thought they weren't qualified for multimedia if they only had print clips.

Lonnie Wong said this year was a print-heavy year, so he had the broadcast students for only half a day. The broadcast project essentially ceased to exist, and students don't end up with a tape they can use to get a job, as they usually would, he said.

Wong suggested for next year's project, to have teams of four students. One member does a radio story one day, another does print, another multimedia, another broadcast. Then maybe rotate tasks. And probably not expect a print paper every day.

Mok said there really wasn't a multi-media experience this year. There was multi-platform. But there wasn't really a multimedia project that was created.

Thomas Lee said while he'd like to see the newspaper continue, he agrees with Lonnie Wong and Mok that the Board needs to decide what the goal is. If the goal is for the kids to gain experience, that's one thing. If the goal is to produce a product that they can use to get jobs, that's another. But having it all mashed together dilutes the quality of each.

Mariani-Belding asked Thomas Lee to send Tu an e-mail with some of his main thoughts from this year's project.

19. **Adjournment**

Paras moved to adjourn the Advisory Board meeting. Sardar seconded. Motion passes.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, AUG. 4, 2007

PRESENT:

Officers: Jeanne Mariani-Belding, National President; Jam Sardar, National Vice President for Broadcast; Janet Cho, National Vice President for Print; Cynthia Wang, National Treasurer; Janet Tu, National Secretary

Board members: Maya Blackmun-Portland; Matt Dunn-San Francisco/Bay Area; Jessie Mangaliman-San Francisco/Bay Area; Ameet Sachdev-Chicago; Cheryl Tan-New York; Doris Truong-Washington, D.C.

Staff: Rene Astudillo, Executive Director

ABSENT: None

1. **Call to Order** (Mariani-Belding)

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** (Tu)

Roll call conducted. Quorum was met.

3. **Approval of Spring 2007 Advisory Board Minutes** (Mariani-Belding)

(See document "Spring 2007 National Board Meeting - Draft Meeting Minutes," submitted by Tu)

The Board reviewed the minutes as recorded and submitted by Tu. Truong amended to add that Tara Smith was a guest at the spring meeting.

Truong moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mariani-Belding seconded. Motion passes.

4. **2010 Convention Bid**

Board reviewed the Los Angeles' chapter's bid.

The Board directed the executive director to pursue study of the bid with site visits.

5. **National Awards Committee Proposal** (Tan)

Amendments proposed: Wording change to clarify that a committee would be formed to select judges for the national awards each year; adding graphics to the categories; strike the words "and that the board vote on approving the list during that meeting."

Cho moved to approve the proposal as amended. Truong seconded. Motion passes.

6. **Fundraising Policy (Wang)**

(See document “AAJA Fundraising Policy,” submitted by Wang)

Wang went through the revisions in the policy.

Changes include clarifying that regardless of the source of sponsorship or funding, all programming decisions rest with AAJA; that AAJA’s preference is not to accept sponsorship from a non-media company for a program that is focused solely or directly on that company’s primary business; and that AAJA will not accept donations from those under known active criminal investigation. Changes were suggested in wording to reduce redundancy.

Mangaliman moved to approve the fundraising policy as amended. Tan seconded. Motion passes.

ACTION NEEDED: Wang will send a clean copy of the new policy to the national office and the national secretary.

7. **Web Site Policy (Blackmun)**

Blackmun decided that a separate policy, aside from the fundraising policy, is not needed. No objections from Board.

8. **Bylaws Revisions (Blackmun)**

(See document “AAJA Policy and Issues Committee First Report,” and revised versions of Sections 6, 7 and 8, submitted by Blackmun, and bylaws with suggested changes, submitted by the Bylaws Task Force)

The following revisions were suggested:

Article III, Section 14: Strike “Proxies may not be used to establish a quorum.”

Reword/add: “For Governing Board meetings, Governing Board members may assign proxies only to another Governing Board member. For Advisory Board meetings, Governing Board members may assign proxies only to those from their chapter.

Article V, Section 5: Revise to read: “The presence of 30 percent of AAJA’s members at any membership meeting shall constitute a quorum...”

Tan moved to accept the bylaws revisions as amended. Wang seconded. Motion passes.

ACTIONS NEEDED: Blackmun will send the bylaws revisions to the national office and the national secretary. The bylaws revisions need to be amended to the previous bylaws iteration. The national secretary will then certify the bylaws amended as of this day.

9. **Online Voting Proposal (Sardar)**

The Board directed the national secretary to conduct online elections, per Sardar’s proposal.

ACTION NEEDED: The national secretary will work with the national office to conduct online elections.

10. **Formation of Executive Director Search Committee** (Astudillo, Mariani-Belding)

(See document “Proposed Timeline for E.D. Search Committee,” submitted by Astudillo)

Astudillo said UNITY took 1.5 years to find a new executive director, so AAJA needs to think about the job description of what it wants in a new executive director, and allow time for the search. Mariani-Belding emphasized the importance of getting the right person. Astudillo recommended talking with former national president Victor Panichkul, who chaired the committee that hired Astudillo. He said some organizations hire a head hunter, but it’s still important to have a committee to craft the job description.

Mariani-Belding asked how Astudillo had heard about AAJA’s opening. Astudillo said he saw AAJA’s ad in a publication for nonprofit organizations. Blackmun said she remembered that Astudillo’s background had been in health care, not journalism, so the search should not be limited just to those in journalism.

Mariani-Belding asked Board members to think about potential members for this search committee.

The Board approved the formation of an executive director search committee.

11. **Extending Corporate Membership Benefits** (Sardar)

(See document “Proposal to Extend Corporate Membership”)

Sardar asks the Board to authorize another one-year change to AAJA’s corporate membership, so that any company signing up for a \$1,500 corporate membership through the end of 2007 will be considered a corporate member through 2008.

Wang moved to approve. Tan seconded. Motion approved.

12. **Adjournment**

Truong moved to adjourn the Governing Board meeting. Sardar seconded. Motion passes.