



## College Media Association Special Meeting

(via Zoom Webinar)

Date: Feb. 15, 2023

*Board members present:* Jackie Alexander, president-elect; Sacha Bellman, treasurer; Joe Gisondi, secretary; Hillary Warren, vice president for member support; Fred Batiste, vice president for member training. *Absent:* Chris Whitley

*Staff present:* James Brannigan, Kellen Management executive director; Jennifer Stone, Kellen Management

### I. Call to Order at 3:00 p.m. (CT) by President-Elect Jackie Alexander

### II. Review of Minutes –Joe Gisondi

The minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved. (Jackie Alexander moved, Fred Batiste seconded).

### III. Financial Report – Sacha Bellman

The Board is still waiting for financial numbers from the Fall 2022 ACP/CMA/SPJ fall convention in Washington, D.C. James Brannigan said he hopes to have those figures before the March Board meeting.

The Day of Giving is scheduled for March 23.

The financial reports that initially indicated that the funds allotted for per diem at the Fall 2022 conference had been higher than anticipated were the result of an accounting error, not higher-than-expected spending.

### IV. Conventions and Events – Jackie Alexander

Five CMA advisers were officially awarded the first Kelley Lash scholarship fund from among six applicants during a Slack vote previous to the meeting. These scholarships, worth \$1,000 apiece, are intended to help advisers without financial support to attend a spring or fall CMA conference.

### V. Committee Reports

The website should be completed during the NYC Spring 23 conference. Most of the content has been uploaded for the final build, but a few more steps are still necessary to complete the work; therefore, Jackie suggested that we extended Rhys Finch's contract beyond Feb. 15 – but without pay – in order to protect both CMA and Rhys. The board unanimously agreed to do so.

The elections committee has been collecting names of potential candidates that will be announced prior to the NYC Spring 23 conference.

The speakers and topics for the virtual summer journalism training sessions are verified, said Fred Baptiste. He is even chasing one or two more potential sessions. These sessions, which are offered to both advisers and students will place between June 12-July 17. These economical training sessions will be promoted before and during the spring conference.

The Board proposed four bylaws changes for members to potentially vote upon during the spring elections. Here they are:

**Proposal 1:** Reduce the president-elect and president terms from two years to one.

*The current bylaws language under Article IV, Section 2, reads:*

“Section 2. “The president-elect and two vice presidents shall be elected by the membership at large to serve two-year terms beginning in odd-numbered years. They may not succeed themselves. The president-elect succeeds to the position of president. To qualify for president-elect, candidates must have been adviser members for five years. Vice presidential candidates must have been adviser members for three years.”

*The Board propose new language for Proposal 1 (Article IV, Section 2) that would read as the following [changes denoted in red]:*

“Section 2. The president-elect and two vice presidents shall be elected by the membership at large to serve ~~two-year~~ terms beginning in odd-numbered years. They may not succeed themselves. The president-elect succeeds to the position of president **after serving a one-year term and then serves one more as president. The vice presidents serve two-year terms.** To qualify for president-elect, candidates must have been adviser members for five years. Vice presidential candidates must have been adviser members for three years.”

(Jackie Alexander moved, Fred Batiste seconded). The Board voted unanimously to approve this item, which will now move forward to the ballot.

**Proposal 2:** Revise the process for selecting treasurer and secretary.

*The current bylaws language under Article IV, Section 3, reads:*

“Section 3. Subject to approval by the board of directors, the secretary and treasurer shall be appointed by the president for a two-year term beginning in even-numbered years. Candidates must have been an adviser CMA member for at least two years. The treasurer and secretary may serve no more than two full terms in the same position.”

We propose new language for Proposal 2 (Article IV, section 3) that would read as the following:

“Section 3. ~~Subject to approval by the board of directors~~ The secretary and treasurer shall be ~~appointed by the president for~~ **elected by the membership at large** to serve a two-year term beginning in even-numbered years. Candidates must have been an adviser CMA member for at least two years. The treasurer and secretary may serve no more than two full terms in the same position.”

(Fred Batiste moved, Joe Gisoni seconded). The Board voted unanimously to approve this item, which will now move forward to the ballot.

**Proposal 3:** Reduce notice time for CMA Board meetings to membership from 10 to 7 days.

*The current bylaws language for Proposal 3 (Article V, Section 4) reads:*

“Section 4. A notice of meeting shall be issued to all members by post to the association website and by email at least 10 days before any scheduled meeting.”

*We propose the new language for Proposal 3 (Article V, Section 4) that would read as the following:*

“Section 4. A notice of meeting shall be issued to all members by post to the association website and by email at least ~~10~~ **7** days before any scheduled meeting.”

*This change, subsequently, would require the following bylaws revisions for Article V, Sections 5 and 7, as outlined in red below.*

Section 5. All scheduled meetings shall be open to all members. A notice of access and instructions on how to attend the meeting shall be provided at least ~~10~~ **7** days before the meeting date by email.

Section 7. The board may call an emergency or special meeting with fewer than ~~10~~ **7** days notice. Emergency and special meetings must be announced via email once scheduled and the agenda provided in a timely manner. These meetings may also go into executive session.

(Sacha Bellman moved, Fred Batiste seconded). The Board voted unanimously not to approve this item, saying they did not want to reduce the days before Board meetings would take place; therefore, this bylaws proposal won't be included on the spring ballot.

**Proposal 4:** Elevate the contest committee to a standing committee.

*The current bylaws language for Proposal 4 (Article VII, Section 1) reads:*

“Section 1: The standing committees of CMA are the: Awards Committee, Bylaws Committee, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Education/Certification Committee, Elections Committee, Finance Committee, First Amendment Advocacy Committee, John A. Boyd Hall of Fame Award Committee, Membership Committee.”

*We propose the new language for Proposal 4 (Article VII, Section 1) that would read as the following:*

“Section 1: The standing committees of CMA are the: Awards Committee, Bylaws Committee, **Contest Committee**, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Education/Certification Committee,

Elections Committee, Finance Committee, First Amendment Advocacy Committee, John A. Boyd Hall of Fame Award Committee, Membership Committee.”

*In addition, we would need to expand Article VII, Section 6 so that it includes a description for the Contest Committee’s assigned responsibilities. This addition would be Article VII, Section 6-C. The other committees would subsequently be moved down in this alphabetical listing.*

*The new description in the bylaws, which would be Article VII, Section 6-C. Contest Committee, would read as the following, if Proposal 4 passes:*

The Contest Committee coordinates awards given to student-run media during the two annual conferences, which currently includes the Pinnacle Awards and Apple Awards.

(Sacha Bellman moved, Fred Batiste seconded). The Board voted unanimously to approve this item, which will now move forward to the ballot.

The Board voted unanimously to confer an honorary membership on Candace Baltz, a longtime CMA adviser who is leaving her advising after significant service to college media. (Sacha Bellman motioned, Fred Batiste seconded.)

#### VI. Old Business

None.

#### VIII. Adjourn

Board meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m. (Hillary Warren motioned, Sacha Bellman seconded). The next meeting will be scheduled in-person on March 7 during the NYC Spring 23 conference.

Minutes by Joe Gisondi, CMA Secretary