

Canadian Association of Journalists
Board meeting – May 15, 2011
Sheraton Hotel Ottawa

Present:

Hugo Rodrigues

Dale Bass (Skype)

Paul Schneidereit

Michel Remy (Skype)

Mary Agnes Welch

Melissa Lampman (Skype)

Elizabeth Thompson

Simon Doyle

1. The meeting was called to order by D. Bass at 1 p.m. EDT.

2. Approval of the minutes of the CAJ board meetings of October 2010 and December 2010 (teleconference)

Moved by M. Welch and H. Rodrigues

Carried with one abstention

3. New business

a) Board vacancies and appointments

That the CAJ regretfully accept the resignation of Mary Agnes Welch from her position as regional director for Manitoba / Northwestern Ontario and appoint Ruth Shead to the position for the remainder of the term.

Moved by H. Rodrigues and P. Schneidereit

Carried

b) Election of officers – P. Schneidereit took the chair as returning officer.

P. Schneidereit called for nominations for president.

D. Bass and S. Doyle nominated H. Rodrigues for the position.

No other nominations came forward.

H. Rodrigues accepted the nomination.

P. Schneidereit declared H. Rodrigues president (two-year term).

P. Schneidereit called for nominations for vice-president.

S. Doyle and H. Rodrigues nominated D. Bass for the position.

M. Remy inquired whether the CAJ could have two vice-presidents.

H. Rodrigues and S. Doyle nominated M. Remy for vice-president.

No other nominations came forward.

D. Bass and M. Remy accepted their nominations.

P. Schneidereit declared D. Bass and M. Remy vice-presidents (one-year term).

P. Schneidereit called for nominations for chair.

H. Rodrigues and M. Remy nominated D. Bass.

No other nominations came forward.

D. Bass accepted the nomination.

P. Schneidereit declared D. Bass chair (one-year term).

P. Schneidereit called for nominations for treasurer.

D. Bass and H. Rodrigues nominated P. Schneidereit.

No other nominations came forward.

P. Schneidereit accepted the nomination.

P. Schneidereit declared P. Schneidereit treasurer (one-year term).

P. Schneidereit explained the board has not elected a vice-chair for several years. When needed, the past-president has assumed the chair.

c) Staffing

L. Thompson stated her concern that the CAJ has potentially lost out on existing opportunities for revenue from lapsed memberships and that this number could increase as we get closer to the fall.

P. Schneidereit agreed, stating that with conferences breaking even, the CAJ's revenue to fund our other activities could only come from memberships.

L. Thompson mentioned the name of two people she knows (Sharon Henderson, Darlene Parsons) as possible candidates for an Ottawa-based part-time staff member to assist with membership services and other administrative tasks.

H. Rodrigues stated his preference was not to discuss potential employees at this meeting, but to get board consent to strike a hiring committee that would return with a recommendation to the full board.

Moved by H. Rodrigues and P. Schneidereit

That the CAJ strike a hiring committee tasked with identifying a candidate(s) and budget for part-time staff to assist the CAJ with membership and administrative tasks.

Carried.

H. Rodrigues, P. Schneidereit and E. Thompson were named to the committee.

d) Payette report / FPJQ / professionalization of journalists

L. Thompson and M. Remy provided the board with verbal briefing of the Payette report and the developments in Quebec towards recognizing journalism as a profession.

Board members discussed the issue.

Moved by H. Rodrigues

That the CAJ appoint E. Thompson and D. Bass to a committee chaired by the Montreal chapter that will prepare a briefing and recommendations for the CAJ board on this issue within a month to six weeks.

Carried

e) Board committees

P. Schneidereit indicated the board committee membership needs to be reviewed.

H. Rodrigues tasked with sending information to the board regarding committee mandates and current membership.

4. Adjournment

D. Bass called for a motion to adjourn.

H. Rodrigues moved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2 p.m.