

Canadian Association of Journalists
Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting (via Skype)
Jan 13, 2013

Present board members: Hugo Rodrigues, Dale Bass, Paul Schneidereit. Shauna Rempel, Jen Skerritt, David Wiwchar, Micah Luxen, Sean Holman, Ellin Bessner, Nick Taylor-Vaisey, Shauna Rempel. Other: Anja Karadeglija.

1. D. Bass called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. D. Bass asked for additions to the agenda, and E. Bessner suggested discussing whether CAJ should weigh in on plagiarism cases being covered in the media, as well as correspondence around the awards dinner.

3. P. Schneidereit moved to approve the agenda as amended. M. Luxen seconded, motion carried.

4. D. Wiwchar moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 16. teleconference, S. Holman seconded, carried.

5. There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. D. Bass filed the chair's report on electronic votes since Sept. 16, 2012.

8. H. Rodrigues presented the presidents report.

H. Rodrigues moved: "Whereas on Jan. 3, 2013, the CAJ board approved the appointment of CCI Accounting to complete the 2012 financial review and reporting and rescinded Alan Gutman's appointment made by the membership at the 2012 annual meeting; That the CAJ board recommend to the membership the approval of these decisions at the 2013 annual meeting." E. Bessner seconded, motion carried.

H. Rodrigues moved: "That the resolution adopted by the CAJ board at its June 9-10, 2012 meeting regarding the transition to the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act be amended so the work is completed in time for approval by the membership at the 2014 AGM."

Members discussed practical issues around amending bylaws. J. Skerritt seconded the motion, motion carried.

The board discussed the CAJ's options regarding its relationship with CJEF, and J-Source's Dec. 15, 2012 discussion paper, deciding that H. Rodrigues would talk to J-Source.

The president's report was carried.

9. P. Schneidereit presented the treasurer's report, including the estimated 2012 year-end numbers.

He moved that: "the CAJ board receive and, where necessary, approve the financial reporting documents the 2009, 2010 and 2011 fiscal years; and, That the CAJ's 2009, 2010 and 2011 financial statements be referred to the 2013 annual meeting with the recommendation they be approved."

He also gave an overview of CAJ financial situation and background about the financial statements, as well as an update on the 2012 budget and details on the 2013 projected budget.

H. Rodrigues moved the 2012 budget, P. Schneidereit seconded, motion carried.

P. Schneidereit moved the treasurer's report, D. Wiwchar seconded, motion carried.

10. S. Rempel gave the communications co-coordinator's report (verbal). She gave an update on the CAJ's social media strategy and a short Toronto chapter report.

S. Rempel moved the report, P. Schneidereit seconded, motion carried.

11. M. Luxen gave the events committee report, including an update on the conference. J. Skerritt seconded to move report, motion carried.

12. E. Bessner gave the membership services committee report.

The board discussed the ongoing question of how to define who is a journalist and what is journalism. H. Rodrigues suggested the CAJ strike an ad. hoc. committee looking into the question, which would look at questions that have been raised to the board regarding definitions of membership brought up in the report, and have a recommendation on whether changes are required in time for the AGM. Membership would include H. Rodrigues, E. Bessner, A. Karadeglija, S. Holman and D. Bass. S. Holman seconded, motion carried.

E. Bessner moved report, M. Luxen seconded, motion carried.

13. D. Bass gave the awards committee report.

H. Rodrigues moved that: "Whereas at the June 9-10, 2012 meeting of the CAJ board the following motion was approved: 'That the 2012-13 CAJ awards committee complete a review of the CAJ awards categories with the following aims and report back to the board for its September 2012 meeting.

- Question whether all current categories should continue being offered
- If sponsored categories are not chosen for the 2012 program, that explanations be offered as to why in order to attempt to retain sponsorship for a different category
- Review all category descriptions and entry criteria with the aim of making each category as platform-agnostic as possible in a manner that is fair to journalists working in all newsrooms.

That the CAJ board assign this review to a subcommittee of the CAJ Awards committee, chaired by H. Rodrigues;

That Fred Vallance-Jones and Rob Washburn be invited to sit on this subcommittee; and,
That this sub-committee report back in time for the fall 2013 CAJ board meeting.”

J. Skerritt seconded, motion carried.

D. Bass moved report, H. Rodrigues seconded, motion carried.

14. New business

The board discussed whether to comment on recent high-profile cases of plagiarism including the Toronto Star, and Chris Spence. H. Rodrigues stated if in the future, the board wants to comment on an issue, a board member should draft a statement, or post existing relevant ethics guidelines on Facebook.

14. The board set the date of the next in-person meeting for June 22-23. N. Taylor-Vaisey joined the meeting and gave a verbal National Capital Region chapter report.

15. M. Luxen moved to adjourn at 16:19.