



Board of Directors Meeting

Teleconference — March 12, 2018

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order (by chair: Becky) called to order at 8:01pm
 - a. Roll call and introductions
Board members: Debbie Allen, Rob Boston, Ian Dodd, Rebecca Hale, John Hooper, Jennifer Kalmanson, Howard Katz, Sunil Panikkath, Susan Sackett, Kris Shellska, July Simpson, and Jason Torpy were in attendance. Nobody was absent. Staff Roy Speckhardt was in attendance.
 - b. Appointment of parliamentarian (Howard)
 - c. Appointment of recording secretary (Debbie)
2. Acceptance of June meeting minutes moved by Jenny; Jason seconded; accepted by consent.
3. Ratification of votes to approve The Humanist Institute dissolution into the AHA and four votes to 1) remove Lawrence Krauss from our pool of contributors, move his award into administrative review, improve awardee selection processes, and develop policy for possible award revocation; accepted by consent.
4. Financial update
 - a. John reported for the finance committee that the AHA is doing well at the end of 2017 with the variances from projections provided in the report. There will be a finance committee meeting at the end of April to review 2017 financials in detail as well as the first quarter of 2018, along with the budget. The results of that discussion and analysis will be provided at the May board meeting.
 - b. Becky asked about the status of the legal effort to secure property tax exemption for the AHA headquarters. No new news yet, but Roy will seek an update and report at the next meeting if not sooner.
 - c. Proposed to authorize an AHA account for the Boulder Humanist Institute at Wells Fargo. With Gordon Gamm coordinating its income and expenses, it will not impact the AHA's budget plans. John moved, Howard seconded; accepted by consent.
 - d. Jenny reported that the Trustees have a candidate to replace Fred, and that the previous year's financial progress was strong with A|B doing a good job taking advantage of growth while insulating us as best as possible from volatility and dips in the market. The fund has a 4.7 million balance and experienced a 17.3% return in 2017.
 - e. Jenny proposed to pre-approve the potential re-appointment of Lyle Simpson to the board of Trustees of the Humanist Foundation. Sunil moved, July seconded; accepted by consent.

- f. The capital campaign made good progress in recent months, but anticipates a roughly quarter million shortfall at this point. Sunil asks how much confidence there is in the remaining pledges. Roy has full confidence, with the exception of the Morain pledge our pledges come through nearly all the time.
5. Discussion of potential future bylaw changes:
 - a. Existing changes were met with overall agreement.
 - b. Jason recommended we replace all “Association” references to “AHA” for consistency.
 - c. Sunil pointed out the error in the section heading in Article VII Section 1B.
 - d. It was also recommended that the date be added to the THI agreement clause so it distinguishes that agreement from the ones that happened before it.
 - e. Jason and Howard recommend removing “online” from the voting process in Article V, Section 5.
 - f. Roy will circulate the updated edited version to the board well before the 30 day deadline in advance of the next board meeting.
 6. Conferences and Events
 - a. Discussion ensued about the current conference, already confirmed awardees, and approach plans for Humanist of the Year. Also,
 - b. The scholarship plan was just announced online as we heard no additional feedback from the social justice leaders who called for options for those who couldn’t afford. It was agreed that a notice should go directly to that group.
 - c. Jenny described that for future awardees, the burden is on us to thoroughly vet our awardees, but with regard to revoking past awards, she thinks the full AHA board is the appropriate body to consider this. In response to a question about specific awardees, Jenny explained that there’d be a different (perhaps higher bar) consideration for still living awardees, versus deceased ones. Kris agrees that the moral landscape is different than it was 50 years ago, and we have to treat each case within the context of when the incidents occurred. When someone mentioned that the research needed might include interviewing survivors, July warned against asking victims to explain their story over and over again.
 - d. Jenny moves that we established an ad hoc committee to define a process for reviewing prior awardees, and to bring this process forward to the May board meeting for approval.
 - i. Sunil asks that the minutes reflect that the consensus was for the ad-hoc committee to produce drafts of policies to cover the areas the Board voted on last week:
 1. Modify the awardee selection process to include in-depth inquiry into potential candidates’ personal ethics, reputations, and actions to ensure they are in accordance with humanist values as AHA states them.
 2. Create an addendum policy that stipulates those circumstances under which awards may be revoked.
 - ii. The committee will include Jenny, Sunil, Kris, Howard, and Debbie.
 - e. In preparation for 2019, Becky would like to send some content from the conference to local chapters to test our concept for the 2019 conference. Roy

reports that staff is exploring wifi options to make this possible and collected some suggestions from board members for making that happen.

- f. For 2020, Becky reports that at an IHEU meeting in Brussels, she discovered that a city, date had not been communicated, and their board seemed unaware of our plans. Becky reported to all that arrangements were made for Miami in August. Susan says she reported to the IHEU board some time ago about those details so it's curious that they claim to be unaware.
7. Program and Adjunct Reports – (most are written)
- a. Becky applauds staff for monthly reports.
 - b. Reporting on the IHEU, Becky says that they had a meeting with the European humanist organizations in Brussels where they discussed trying to encourage organizations of all kinds, humanists/atheists, national/local, to affiliate with the IHEU so they have more influence and power when working on their causes. In India, the focus is on helping the untouchables. In Africa, the focus is on education and providing basic services. In Norway, focus is on the government funding process for religion. In the Netherlands, the program is almost entirely funded by the humanist celebrant programs. In South American there were developments for Cafe Humanistes. The annual membership meeting this coming year is in Auckland, New Zealand. The following year it will be in Iceland. 2020 will be the World Congress in Miami. They are working toward increased representation from areas around the world. Becky is the only North American on the IHEU Board. Others are from Europe, India, Nepal, and Africa.
 - c. Reporting for the Institute for Humanist Studies, Jenny explained that the IHS received a \$10,000 grant from Steve Rade. They added two new fellows: Navarro-Rivera and Garcia were nominated, and they have accepted.
 - d. Reporting on MAAF, Jason described how he brought the Dutch military chaplains to a meeting of US Chaplains that included an in-depth tour of the Pentagon. There is an overdue determination from the Department of Defense regarding Jason Heap's humanist chaplaincy application and interview. There were letters from the Prayer Caucus of the House, opposing the determination. We should hopefully all know soon.
 - e. Reporting on the Humanist Society, Debbie thinks things are moving in a positive direction, and noted the benefit to the programs already being seen with Kristin Wintermute and Emily Newman now providing direction and support to all our efforts.
8. New business
- a. Becky introduced the topic of the open seat on the board created by Kristin Wintermute's move to Director of Education on staff. Given the limited time for that board member to serve before elections result in a replacement, the matter was closed. The nominating committee will have to keep in mind that they have seven open seats for the coming board election. The slate will be announced at the annual conference in May.
 - b. Sunil wants to remind everybody that the confidence of our email correspondence is only as secure as our weakest connection. Be careful with your privacy and security settings and be aware that our deliberations are vulnerable to discovery.

- c. Howard raised concerns about the requirement for chapters to provide names and addresses of members annually to the AHA in order to maintain their chapter status—this is specified in the AHA bylaws under Article VIII, Section 1B. He was particularly concerned that there isn't reciprocal providing of AHA member contacts to chapters. After discussion about the history and benefits provided to chapters, Sunil moved and Rob seconded that no action be taken at this time on the matter, which was approved by consensus.
 - d. Jason moved that the resolutions committee be disbanded since there isn't enough involvement from board members to get the work done, and because there had been no action by the resolutions committee reorganizing group that was commissioned at the last board meeting, and with him removed from the committee, there isn't a path forward for continuing it. After discussion, that included Debbie and Sunil's caution about removing the committee, Rob moved and Kris seconded to table the discussion until the May meeting since it will require more time and consideration. At the previous board meeting, an ad-hoc committee was formed with Sunil chairing and including Jason, Roy, and Jenny, to develop a new resolution process. The results of that committee may impact the ongoing discussion.
 - e. Becky asks Jenny for IHS's assistance improving the existing draft of the environmental resolution from her fellows. Jenny agrees.
9. At 9:50pm Sunil motioned to adjourn and Susan seconded the motion; approved by consensus.