



# Conference on World Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**October 16, 2020, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Virtual via Zoom**

**CWA Board Present:** Anya Berlova, Steve Bosley (Observer), David Brown, Alison Cool, Leslie Durgin, John Griffin, Laurie Leinonen, Tina Marquis, and Peter Spear (Observer)

**Absent:** Shelly Miller and Rashel Gandhi

**Attendees:** Bob Baskerville (Program Committee Member), Alan Culpepper (Director of Marketing and Operations), Katie Grady (Conference Coordinator), Yvette Lowney (S&T Program Committee Chair), Anne Knorr (Anti-Racism Steering Committee Chair) and Erin Rain (Senior Manager of Marketing and Media Relations)

**Minutes prepared by:** Katie Grady

### **I. Preliminaries**

#### a. Introductions

- i. Anne Knorr – 2019-2021 “Racism in the US” Theme Subcommittee Chair and Board Anti-Racism Steering Committee Chair

#### b. Public Comment

- i. Yvette Lowney – Longtime CWA Volunteer, 2021 S&T Committee Chair
  1. Here to bring to the Board some committee reactions to the 2021 Spring CWA Framework proposal:
    - a. There is concern over the process for deciding final events and that we are moving the decision making away from the Program Committee
    - b. Movement of decision making away from Program Committee could undermine the volunteers’ ability to recruit speakers and may induce competitiveness among committees
    - c. Yvette has provided a counter proposal to the Executive Team to reduce “gatekeeping” and find compromise for some panels to be decided by subcommittee and some by executive team.
  2. Clarification from Board: The decision making still lies with the Program Committee (as they will vote on final panels). The intent is to streamline the “Planning Saturday process” of event presentations. The Executive Team will be doing a final review only to ensure all committees are properly represented.
  3. Board Recommendation: Topic will be further discussed later in the meeting, but the planned FAQ for the Program Committee would be helpful to further explain the proposal.

#### c. Approval of September 18th Board meeting minutes

- i. Approved

## II. Old Business:

- a. Board Structure and Composition: Anti-Racism Committee
  - i. Report and Request from Anti-Racism Steering Committee (Anne Knorr)
    1. Goal of the committee: To create a deeper and richer conference through increasing diversity within the conference's organizational structure
    2. Rashel Gandhi initiated a proposal to the Board in July for the development of an Anti-Racism Committee and was further developed by the Anti-Racism Steering Committee
    3. Included in today's proposal to the Board (handout):
      - a. Approval to establish a CWA "Anti-Racism" Committee
      - b. Committee would conduct trainings and focus on Community & University collaboration to eliminate racism and enhance diversity.
      - c. Committee would conduct an annual assessment of progress
      - d. Requests a board seat be allotted to a member of the Anti-Racism Committee
    4. Informal Request: That it be the intent of the Board to include work of this committee in the future budget to affirm commitment and for potential hiring of consultant for training and strategizing, and other future ideas.
  - ii. Board Reactions to Proposal:
    1. Board supports achieving the committee's goals and appreciates the steering committee's initiative.
    2. Can it be combined with the Board's existing "Diversity Committee"?
    3. Should the term "Anti-Racism" be further clarified or possibly renamed?
    4. Worries that assigning one seat to Board doesn't do enough to encourage representation of various multiple ethnicities in all Board seats
    5. An alternative to consider for Board representation is establishing Board Observer role
    6. Given CU's budget this year, commitment may have to be expressed non-financially but encourages using available resources within the University rather than providing funding for outside consultants.
    7. Counterpoint: Perhaps the existing "Diversity Committee" isn't doing enough and we should be partnering with outside organizations like the NAACP.
  - iii. Board Recommendation:
    1. Board Members (Laurie, David, John, Tina, and Steve) to work with the Steering Committee to firm up details and hash out a few more questions, so that the Board can commit 100% and move forward enthusiastically.
    2. Goal: Will think more strategically about CWA's goals on diversity vs. more specifically racial diversity.
    3. Goal: Move forward on this quickly to be able to initiate changes of representation within the organization and leadership.
- b. Board Structure and Composition: Proposal from Peter Spear and Allison Cool
  - i. Proposal clarifies language about the Board Observer role.
  - ii. Proposal introduces a second student seat on the Board to increase the voice of student opinion and to ensure one student is always present at the meetings.

- iii. Proposal by John Griffin: Have one student chair that is either appointed by the chancellor or elected by student volunteers and add a second student seat that is ex-officio the Student Program Chair.
    - iv. Counter Proposal by Peter Spear: Have one student chair that is appointed by the chancellor and add a second student seat that is elected by student volunteers
      - 1. Board votes all in favor.
- c. Recommendation for CWA 2021 Program Framework and Implementation
  - i. The Executive Team drafted a recommendation (handout) built with input from the program committee, students, the office, and the development committee.
    - 1. Student feedback: They want evening options, shorter events, and interactive events.
  - ii. Schedule overview: 7 consecutive days, 4 events per day (some daytime and some evening) and a proposed variety of events.
  - iii. Just for this year, the proposal recommends moving away from the subcommittees' allotted "quota" of panels to a model where Program Committee chairs vote on committee proposals for all different types of events.
  - iv. The Executive Team would review the final selection of events to ensure all subcommittees have events to curate.
  - v. The goal of this framework is to achieve quality over quantity and to boost volunteer opportunity and engagement.
  - vi. The office will contract production assistance in order to execute the virtual events.
  - vii. Board Reactions to Recommendation:
    - 1. If having the Executive Team give the final approval is a problem, could there be something formalized so that each committee has something contributed?
    - 2. Executive Team to put out an FAQ to clarify some of the questions about the proposal
    - 3. We will still need to examine what this means for number of speakers
    - 4. If we have good weather, we should examine outdoor programming
    - 5. We should take advantage of variable times and days to look at data of when people tune in
    - 6. Look to CU students/resources for production (Alan)
  - viii. Motion by Alison Cool to accept the Executive Team's recommendation (with FAQ to provide additional clarification to program committee)
    - 1. Seconded by Tina Marquis, All in Favor
- d. CWA Policy on Commitment to Free Expression
  - i. Proposed Amendment by John Griffin: Replace final paragraph in draft Resolution to read "In keeping with the free expression principle, the process by which the CWA's speakers and topics are identified, recruited, and presented by its faculty director and by its student and community volunteers should be designed to incorporate participants who reflect a wide variety of societal viewpoints."
  - ii. John Griffin emphasized that the Resolution is just a first step to begin a conversation in the CWA community about our shared commitment to free expression.
  - iii. Motion by Tina Marquis to adopt as amended.

- iv. Seconded by Laurie Leinonen
  - v. All in Favor, Adopted by Board.
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- e. Data and Feedback from October Panel
    - i. Last Night CWA hosted the panel “100 Years of ‘Notorious’ Women: Equal Rights and Voting Rights” as a partnership with the CU Boulder’s LeRoy Keller Center for the Study of the First Amendment and the Boulder JCC.
    - ii. Live Viewers: 160-175, views doubled after the panel
    - iii. A post panel discussion was held for Donor cultivation that was well received and a good model to hold again after November’s panel.
    - iv. Overall feedback: Great partnership and high-quality discussion.
  
  - f. Upcoming Events:
    - i. Thursday, November 12, 5:15 – 6:30 pm: Virtual Panel – “How Did We Get Here? And Where Are We Going”, the John and Kathy Rosenbloom Lecture
    - ii. Thursday, December 3, 5:00 – 6:15 pm: Virtual Panel – “The Pandemic’s Impact on Business”

### **III. Committee Reports**

- a. Development Committee
  - i. Working to develop potential sponsors
  - ii. Making personal outreach to lapsed donors who didn’t give last year
    - 1. Board recommends reaching out to donors from last year as well
  - iii. Initiated campaign to boost donations among volunteer base to 100% participation (and for students community members can give gift in name of student)
  - iv. Information on ways to give is on the CWA Website:  
[www.colorado.edu/cwa/support](http://www.colorado.edu/cwa/support)

### **IV. Upcoming Board Meetings:**

- a. Friday, November 20, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: November Board Meeting
- b. Friday, December 18, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: December Board Meeting

### **V. Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 PM**