



Meeting via Zoom
January 15, 2021
1:30 p.m. ETS

Approved Minutes

Present: Kendall King, President; Patsy Duff, 1nd VP; Lourdes Ortega, 2nd VP; Laura Collins, Past President; Glenn Martinez, Treasurer; Charlene Polio, Member-At-Large; Christina Higgins, Member-At-Large; Jennifer Leeman, Member-At-Large; Haoshan (Sally) Ren, GSC Representative; Terry Dougherty, Ex Officio; Jessica Atkinson, Ex Officio; and Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala, Secretary.

Before the meeting was called to order, Kendall invited Jessica to offer a mini-demo on how to navigate the AAAL website to access information on volunteers. Jessica provided a nice and succinct demo.

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks

President Kendall King called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. EST. Kendall offered welcoming remarks, noting all the good happening: Positive energy; conference registration (around 1,700 registrants for the upcoming annual conference), collaboration/cooperation leading to great decision-making, webinar participation, and so forth.

1. Agenda

Kendall then proceeded to call for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Patsy made a motion to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Jenny. There was no discussion, and the EC unanimously approved it as presented.

2. EC Meeting Minutes

Kendall turned to Fabiola to lead this item.

Motion: Fabiola moved to approve the October 22-23, 2020, Minutes as presented. Patsy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Motion: Fabiola moved to approve the December 4, 2020, Minutes as presented. Patsy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All members present voted to approve the minutes. Glenn abstained as he had been absent from that meeting.

EC colleagues were very complimentary of the detailed minutes.

GOVERNANCE

3. Proposed Revisions to Standing Rules (SRs): 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, & 20

Motion: Kendall made a motion to approve the revisions to the standing rules (SRs). Laura seconded the motion. Discussion unfolded around the transfer of duties from the Past President to the President-Elect. It was noted that the load may require that the EC revisit the set of duties to ensure the work is doable. Both Laura and Fabiola offered perspectives that supported that decision to potentially revisit the duties if necessary in the future. Kendall committed to circle back on the matter. She then called for a vote, and the motion was approved by all members present.

Action Item: Kendall to review the SRs and President-Elect committee assignments.

Action Item: Terry to update SRs to website with approved changes.

Before we moved into the next agenda item, there was a brief exchange related to a new strand for the conference Lourdes is organizing: the DEIA strand. Lourdes indicated this item was under consideration following discussion with Fabiola and further thought. Patsy offered the comment that, as Conference Chair, Lourdes could introduce a new strand on a trial basis. In order to make it permanent after a couple of years, it would be voted by the EC.

OPERATIONS

4. AIALA Report and AILA EB Nominations Update

- AIALA Name

The report was received and filed. Fabiola provided a summary of the feedback provided by Laura Gurzynski-Weiss in response to the naming issue (i.e., AIALA). Fabiola presented her personal recommendation to the EC: to leave the name as it is until someone can think of a better alternative to consider. She also indicated that, if AAAL membership feedback is received indicating that we need to revisit the matter, we should revisit this issue if necessary. The EC accepted the recommendation.

- Nominations for AILA EB

Kendall introduced the topic of AILA nominations, and turned to Fabiola to offer background on the work of the committee. This committee involved Kendall and Jenny with support from Fabiola. In addition to offering background on lessons learned (i.e., what to revise on the call and what is needed to nurture talent and have a more extensive pool in the next round), Fabiola indicated that, after a robust conversation, the committee agreed to put forward two nominees as follows:

- 1) Laura Gurzynski-Weiss for Secretary General
- 2) Cristina Sanz for Member-at-Large

Motion: After offering some background on the strengths of each, Fabiola made the motion to approve the two proposed nominees as presented. The motion, as it was the result of committee work, did not require a second. There was no further discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Kendall would inform the applicants of the decision to be nominated (or not).

5. Dissertation Award

Kendall led the discussion of this item. She offered background to EC members and made reference to the communication with some members of the committee working on this award. In light of the feedback received, Kendall introduced a motion to address the concerns shared/received.

Motion: Kendall moved to reverse the EC decision to eliminate the dissertation award. The motion was seconded by Patsy. Discussion unfolded. Several EC members (Charlene, Lourdes, Jenny, Laura, Sally, Kendall, Christine) offered their perspective based on previous experience and /or experience with other awards, such as the Research Article Award, and the Distinguished Public Service Award. Members also revisited, during the discussion, the reasons for the previous decision to discontinue the dissertation award (i.e., sustainability and capacity). It was noted that, probably, the issue/challenge experienced with this award is one that relates to process, suggesting that the process may merit revision if the award is brought back by reversing the decision. Consideration was also given to the argument put forward by three members of the dissertation award committee who opposed the decision, as noted in the communication directed to the EC via our President. Consideration was also given as to the impact on students (if we kept the decision to eliminate the award), given the popularity of the award and the value it carries. Several suggestions for potential ways to improve the process were suggested, but, in the end, no new process was adopted at this time. To ensure this is properly addressed, Charlene introduced a friendly amendment to address the need for a revised process. The friendly amendment was accepted and the amended motion was approved by all members present.

Action Item: It was agreed that a task force would be appointed to revise the process (Kendall and Lourdes to work on this).

Action Item: To return to have a motion to reverse the previous decision to discontinue to award and have it reflected in the SRs. (EC and Terry)

6. Strategic Plan Task Force Report.

The report was received and filed (including a copy of the Power Point file used at the meeting). Fabiola offered a summary of the initial meeting of the task force (noting its membership: Kendall King as Ex Officio, Lourdes Ortega, Peter De Costa, Josiah Murphy rep. the GSC, Terry Dougherty and Fabiola as Chair). She indicated that they would likely meet a couple of times prior to the March EC meetings. After that, she stated, the committee anticipated meeting once a month. She informed the EC that the first item the task force wishes to tackle is the revision of the AAAL mission statement. Also, the task force will work on identifying strategic priorities and will be seeking further input from the EC in weeks to come. Fabiola also noted that a facilitator may be needed at some point to help with some work (i.e., strategic discussions), but that is yet to be determined. She mentioned this piece to the EC to alert them that, some budget may be needed if a facilitator was recruited to help.

Sally did have a question regarding the involvement of the student representative. She wanted to know if the student would serve only for one year or beyond. The EC was supportive of having the student serve beyond the year the student is with the GSC as long as the representative works closely with the GSC to ensure regular and two-way communication.

Action Item: Fabiola to continue to update the EC on Strategic Planning Task Force work.

7. Low Income Membership Task Force Report

The report was received and filed. Lourdes proceeded to offer the EC background on this work. The EC was introduced to a very specific proposal to consider a number of recommendations intended to expand the solidarity we currently offer to members from low-income countries as part of our DEIA efforts at AAAL. Specifically, the task force requested two changes to the existing solidarity membership fees.

Motion: Lourdes moved that the EC (1) waive the membership fee for members residing in countries from Groups 1 (Low Income) and 2 (Lower-Middle Income) and (2) offer a flat solidarity rate for members residing in countries from Group 3 (Upper-Middle Income). The motion was seconded by Patsy. The EC discussed the proposals with some members (Charlene and Fabiola) raising questions regarding some countries and their classifications per the World Bank-- China being in Group 3 and Chile being in Group 4. Both EC members provided their thinking based on their understanding of potential AAAL members in those economies with more or less economic power respectively. Glenn also raised the question as to whether or not AAAL could afford not charging anything at all, given that every member costs something to the organization. Also, during this discussion, it was noted that current scholarships are intended for graduate students, and not for other types of members who may also need additional support. Jessica suggested members from high-income countries may welcome solidarity fund-raising opportunity. Following the discussion, the vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

From the discussion, it was noted that the EC would continue to look into other potential solidarity scholarships that could be considered when appropriate. To this extent, the task force will remain in place and will likely advance other motions in March in response to the feedback provided during the discussion.

Action Item: Task Force to continue addressing other recommendations in the report, discuss Jessica's suggestion, and potentially put forward a solidarity award for consideration at a future EC meeting.

Action Item: Treasurer to please put membership dues change review on Fall budget committee agenda to review.

8. NTTF Task Force

The report was received and filed. Fabiola briefly led the presentation of this report. She indicated that the work of the task force is as presented in the document for EC review. The EC was very complimentary of the work undertaken, but some member did note that the document was a bit dense, and requested that the task force consider a way to enhance its accessibility. The following were some suggestions provided:

- A table of contents
- An index
- Bulleted items
- Graphics
- Or anything we can think of to make it easier to access the "dense" content.

It was suggested that maybe the Online Education and Outreach Co. could assist with improving the “accessibility” of this document, but it was decided that such undertaking would be best tackled later to keep making progress for adopting the content put forward by the March meetings.

Fabiola also asked the EC to please return to her, no later than January 31, 2021, any editorial or content-related feedback for the task force to consider so that this work can be timely finalized for the March EC meetings.

Action Item: EC members to please put forward any final comments for revisions and editions via email no later than Jan. 31, 2021.

Action Item Review

The next agenda item was Terry’s review of the day’s action items.

9. Survey Overview

At 3:23 p.m., following the review, Terry and Jessica excused themselves from the meeting to allow for an executive session of the EC regarding the NCG Performance Review.

The meeting was adjourned at around 3:30 p.m. EST.

Prepared by F. Ehlers-Zavala, Secretary
Submitted for EC review on January 21, 2021
Submitted to Terry to file for March meetings on Feb. 1, 2021
Remarks:

- Approved as submitted on Feb. 1, 2021: NO
- Approved with editions noted during March 4, 2021 meeting: YES