



MEETING NOTES

Journalism Association of Community Colleges General Membership Meetings

April 15&16, 2020 | Online in Zoom

President Cecilia Deck called the meeting to order. There were 24 people at the Wednesday meeting, and seven in attendance at the Thursday meeting, including faculty and instructional staff. Cecilia, treasurer Cindy McGrath, past president Judy Menezes and ACP Executive Director Laura Widmer attended both meetings.

Deck called the meeting to order and reminded members that JACC is an advocate for journalism programs.

Most attendees introduced themselves during check-in/introductions, sharing pros and cons of teaching/advising during this COVID-19 crisis.

Cecilia honored members who are retiring, including Sylvia Rico-Sanchez (East Los Angeles College), Cathy Werblin (Orange Coast College) and Paul Debolt (Contra Costa College). She also thanked Judy House-Menezes, president for the past three years. House-Menezes has been on the Board of Directors for the past six years and will now serve as Past President.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cindy McGrath gave the treasurer's report, advising that "everything is solvent." Cecilia thanked JACC's convention/hotel liaison for all her efforts in managing the cancellations for the state convention and for preventing JACC from financial bankruptcy.

AWARD FOR STATE WRITE-IN COMPETITIONS: Cindy McGrath said the awards will be finished by this Friday, April 17, and she will send Maryanne Shults and Nancy Kaplan-Biegel the list for publication on the website and social networks. She will also send the membership an Excel file on Monday of all the award winners. She will not be printing certificates until she can return to her college to utilize a printer. There will not be plaques this year; she will mail certificates to the college of record and she asked the advisers to forward to the applicable students.

MONTANA FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Cecilia said coordinator Melissa McCoy, event coordinator for this event scheduled June 24-26 at the University of Montana at Missoula, is still a "go."

SOCAL AND NORCAL PRESIDENTS NEEDED: Cecilia asked for volunteers for these positions on the board and/or to coordinate the regional conferences in 2020. San Jose State University has already offered to once again host the NorCal Conference. Cecilia also mentioned the possibility of a virtual statewide conference. Email her if interested.

INTRODUCTION / DISCUSSION, MERGER WITH ASSOCIATED COLLEGE PRESS: Cecilia introduced guest Laura Widmer, executive director of ACP. She was present to answer questions prior to the membership's vote to move forward with the merger. There were several questions including the scheduling and location of conventions and if this merger would eliminate the interest and value

in maintaining membership in both JACC and ACP. Cecilia said the only difference would be they would manage the state convention; JACC would still present the regional conferences as well as the state-level competitions for students. She also said she is hoping to provide more resources for JACC members and their students.

Cecilia then called for the vote whether members wanted to move forward with the merger with ACP; and, if it should happen in 2021 or 2022. Faculty had also been given the option to vote confidentially by email.

The vote totals from the two meetings and email:

Wednesday's vote:

- 16 yes - 2021
- 1 yes - 2021 or 2022

Thursday's vote

- 2 yes - 2021

Email vote:

- 2 yes - 2021
- 1 yes - 2022
- 1 no

Totals:

- 20 - Yes - 2021
- 1 - Yes - 2021 or 2022
- 1 - Yes - 2022
- 1 - No

Treasurer Cindy McGrath confirmed that all who voted are JACC members and that no more than one voted per college.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Jen Vernon advised Sierra College will be taking applications for adjunct faculty to teach online and asked if she could share that information, when available, with the JACC membership; she will share via the Google Group (listserv).
- Laura Widmer said to email her if anyone has questions about ACP and/or the possible merger; her email is laura@studentpress.org
- Discussion: adviser training and benefits of Mid-Winter Faculty Conference; grading issues/challenges this semester due to COVID-19 crisis.
- At both meetings, faculty talked about how the COVID-19 shelter in place is affecting them and their programs. At Thursday's meeting, faculty concurred that we should have more Zoom calls to share strategies and blow off steam.

The meeting was adjourned by president Cecilia Deck at 5:20 p.m. Wednesday and 7 p.m. Thursday.