

January 11, 2022  
Full NCECA Board  
ZOOM

In attendance: NCECA Board members Pete Pinnell (President), Rhonda Willers, Merrie Wright, Edith Garcia, Reena Kashyap, MaPó Kinnord, Chanda Zea, Heidi McKenzie, PJ Anderson, Simon Levin, Dina Perlasca, Brett Binford, Lauren Sandler, Michelle Castro, Jeff Vick, Nancy Servis, Ray Gonzales, Ife Williams, Pam Kravetz, Cal Cullen, Shoji Satake, Executive Director Josh Green, NCECA Staff Helen Anderson, and Allyson Hoffelmeyer.

Absent: Alex Hibbitt

7.06 pm EST meeting called to order by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.  
A quorum is present.

### **Announcements**

Welcome to Ife Williams, the incoming Board Steward.

### **Business**

1. The Board approved the consent agenda by unanimous consent (Board Meeting minutes October 18-21 and November 16, 2021, and Members meeting minutes October 10<sup>th</sup> 2021.)

#### **2. Report on contingency plans for pivoting to a virtual conference**

##### **a. Legal and financial ramifications (Josh)**

Josh has raised the issue with vFairs in late December meeting to identify deadlines if the conference goes to full virtual.

Contracts with the conference site are signed years in advance, hotel block contracts are scaled. We do not have much legal leverage at this point, which would only change if California changed its department of health guidelines that would prevent a large gathering from taking place or other such measures. At this point in time, the financial impact doesn't change as we get closer as we are at the max penalty time frame already. Josh met with NCECA's attorney, Pete and a group of staff and board members and they concluded it is time to move forward with the in-person conference, while planning for contingencies. Registrations have been coming in, mostly in person but some virtual. Booths and tables have also been steady and are almost sold out.

Discussion focused on a final deadline for committing to the in-person conference, and the concerns of many onsite partners who are looking to NCECA for guidance as well as the exhibitions. Current projections of the Omicrom wave gives more confidence that a responsibly managed in-person conference is possible. Josh suggests the formation of an ad hoc committee to create a proposal for what these quantifiable turning point factors might look like and share for the board meeting in February. Concern was raised about less stringent hotel policies regarding vaccination and testing. NCECA's health and safety protocols are very good and we should be promoting these as much as possible .

**Action item:** formation of ad hoc committee made up of board, staff and covid compliance contractor. Pete asks interested parties to email him to join the committee.

b. **Communication with presenters** (Chanda)

Chanda has been in touch with all presenters to outline NCECA's position and asked them to prepare a recorded version of their presentation.

c. **Report on conference development with vFairs** (Edith)

The landing page and platform are under construction, the pre-recordings from the presenters will help us prepare for any situation.

**3. Nominations Committee - 2022 Board Positions**

The board went into executive session to discuss and vote on the 2022 Board positions for Student Director at Large and Director at Large. Michelle Castro left the meeting during the DAL discussion.

The board ratified the Nominations committee's recommendation of Tracy Shell and Michelle Castro as candidates to stand for the Director at Large position for the 2022-2025 cycle.

The board approved the Nominations committee's recommendation to appoint Rick Rogers as Treasurer for the 2022-2025 term and Adam Chau as Exhibitions Director for the 2023-2026 term.

The board came out of executive session by unanimous consent

**4. Awards/Honors/Fellowships Committee - 2022 Recognitions & Fellowships** (Merrie)

The Board passed the **Motion: to approve all individuals recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee for 2022 Recognitions & Fellowships.**  
(Moved by Brett, seconded by Rhonda by unanimous consent)

*Motion: as recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee to Approve **Akinsanya Kambon** to receive a 2022 Regional Award of Excellence and the privileges associated with that award.*

*Motion: as recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee to approve **JoAnn Schnabel** and **Ruth Rippon** to receive 2022 Excellence in Teaching Awards and the privileges associated with that award.*

*Motion: as recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee to approve **Donna Polseno, Robert Brady, and Sana Musasama** as 2022 Honorary Members and the privileges associated with that award.*

*Motion: as recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee to approve **Reihan Ebrahimi** to receive the 2022 Helene Zucker Seeman Curatorial, Research, and Critical Writing Fellowship for Women.*

*Motion: as recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee to Approve **Randi Bachman, Micah Sweezie, and Carletta Williams**, to receive 2022 Regina Brown Undergraduate Student Fellowships.*

*Motion: as recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee to Approve **Eugene Agyei, Audrey An, and Sageda Issa** to receive 2022 Graduate Student Fellowships.*

*Motion: as recommended by the Awards, Honors & Fellowship Committee to approve **Michael Dika, Eugene Agyei, Maya Beverly, Tony Bukenya, Yahzyah Crutcher, Majorie Ann Eno, Cynthia Gonzalez, Audrey Higa, Khalil Jannah, Greta Michelle Joachim, Ina Kaur, Susan Namazi-Austin, Ashton Pawl, Kopal Seth, Micah Sweezie, Garima Tripathi, Kushala Vora, Carletta Williams, Jordan Winiski, Cristal Zeballos** to receive 2022 Multicultural Fellowships.*

Nancy suggested that award announcements could be made before the conference to honor those individuals who may not be able to attend.

The board thanked the Nominations and Awards committees for their incredible work.

**5. Conference Manager Search Committee.** (Josh, Helen)

The board unanimously passed the Motion: **Empower the executive director and manager of finance and accounting to work in coordination with the Conference Manager search committee to develop and implement a one-year agreement with the Hutton Group for management of the 2023 NCECA conference.** (Moved by Reena, seconded by Chanda, votes in favor 15)

Helen shared a report on the committee's work. The Committee has met and interviewed multiple groups and organizations and recommends hiring someone who would come to Sacramento to work with/shadow Dori and coordinate next year's conference. They are looking closely at an individual who is very experienced and well versed in hybrid, virtual, and in-person events. This would be a contract with a firm to manage the 2023 conference and not hiring an individual as a staff member. The committee has done a comprehensive job description and broken out work that would best be kept in house, covered by different staff members. Working with a contractor gives us an opportunity to look at our procedures and reevaluate them, working towards future decisions in relation to staffing/contracting out work.

**6. Update on Annual Appeal** (Josh)

Between Giving Tuesday (Nov 30) and today, the annual appeal has raised \$46,264 from 140 people. We had many more low-level donors this year, potentially due to the Shimpo giveaway, but also some larger gifts. This is a highly performing year for giving.

**7. Conference Registration Pricing Update & Discussion** - (Josh, Rhonda)

Early Bird Pricing has been extended to March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We usually have three registration pricing time periods, but have technically eliminated the Advanced Pricing option. Historically, onsite registration is more expensive, but this year's conference is not a typical conference scenario. Should we eliminate the price increase for onsite registration? Josh advises keeping the pricing the same. The board discussed the pros and cons of the issue; greater pressure on onsite staff, financial impacts, and accessibility.

**Action Item:** further discussion and a vote at the February Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9.06 pm eastern by President Pete Pinnell

With thanks to Allyson Hoffelmeyer for taking the meeting notes.