**Annual General Business Meeting**

**Media Ecology Association**

**June 19, 2020**

**Location: MEA Convention, Zoom (Adelphi University)**

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 am EST

1. **Approval of Minutes from 2019 MEA Business Meeting**

The minutes of the previous MEA Business Meeting, held in June 2019 in Toronto were approved.

**II. Reports from Officers and Committees**

**President (Paolo Granata)**

* Welcome message: first Business meeting online on Zoom
* Role of president is to support the convention, to chair the board meetings, makes decisions like how to manage the Covid crisis: shifting the convention online.
* Expresses gratitude of all the MEA Officers
* Invites each Officer to address the following three points:
  + what’s your role as an officer (what your service consists of)?
  + major accomplishments during the past year (or half year) of service and any relevant info about it?
  + plans and projects for the upcoming year?

**Vice President/2020 Convention Coordinator (Peggy Cassidy)**

* The convention is my report: we’ve learned lots as we go. People are reporting a good experience overall; we’ve had a our share of bumps
* 245 people registered, almost 200 presenters; multiple special events; video recording all the sessions to be made available to convention participants afterwards for a time;
* There will be a post-convention survey.

**Vice President Elect/2021 Convention Coordinator (Adriana Braga)**

* Next convention will be in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro. First time in South America, in the Southern hemisphere.
* We are living in a scary moment and but nonetheless hopes we will be together next year.
* Brazilians are an important part of MEA.
* She will be teaching a 45-hour course, graduate level: introduction to Media Ecology, open to Universities around the area using translated book by Lance, Paul Levinson and Adriana, to generate more local interest in the convention

**Treasurer (Paul Soukup)**

* Has been coordinating all the Zoom rooms
* In 2019, with the successful convention we brought in more money to balance the books—gained $11,000, still need to rebalance;
* Two big expenses are the convention and the publication and mailing in out of EME; our main revenues are from membership and convention dues.
* This year, the convention had minimal expenses, so we may be able to again make some ground on past losses. We like to keep $20,000 in the reserve: we are currently bout $13,000.
* Adelphi provided grants to pay for TAs for the convention
* Details on our finances are available on the web: [https://media-ecology.org/financial-reports](about:blank)

**Editor of *EME* (Ernie Hakanen)**

* 19(1) was previously mailed; and 19(2) is nearly ready to mail out, 19(3) is in production—special issue edited by Cathy Adams and Terrie Lynn Thompson; 19(4) will highlight award papers from the convention. 19(5) will also be a special issue

**Internet Officer (Carolin Aronis)**

* Screen share: ppt
* With Matt, created a new website for the 2019 convention; have now added many new features, including a reading list for Media Ecology, Julia Hildebrand’s virtual coffee; access to EME, “What is Media Ecology” page, History of ME, etc. Lots more to come.
* Always looking for volunteers
* Julia is in charge of Facebook, we want to share your posts, Matt looks after Twitter

**Awards Officer (Lance Strate)**

* Tonight is the awards ceremony, asks everyone to attend
* Awards recipients and judges are in the program
* Peggy coordinates the adjudication of the top paper awards for the convention
* the 2019 awards are here: https://media-ecology.org/2019-Awards — they will add to the list of past awards here now that we have this year’s awards: [https://media-ecology.org/Past-Awards](about:blank)

**Editor of *In Medias Res* Newsletter (Rachel Armamentos)**

* I compile content to be sent out to all our members with the assistance of Carolin, Matt and Julia.
* Encourage member achievements: Please send me items to highlight in the MEA monthly newsletter here: https://forms.gle/qmzF1uAnFqVM3JVp7 (or email me at rarmamentos@fordham.edu)

**Historian (Matt)**

* Works with Carolin, Julia and Rachel, especially over the last 18 months.
* Not just archiving all physical programs, etc., but part of my work is archiving materials from the old website and other materials; preserving newsletters.
* We will providing links for registrants at the convention
* Please contact us if you have historical materials relevant to Media Ecology

**Executive Secretary (Fernando Gutiérrez)**

* Thanks Peggy for her wonderful work, and to Adelphi University
* Maintains MEA membership records, etc.
* Last year we closed with 362 members; this year are also good: 152 members and others who are not included because the host university does not have to pay, more than 20 countries, almost 15% who attended this year are new members
* Report will be posted on the website.

**Members-At-Large (Julia Hildebrand, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, John Dowd)**

* Julia: Communication (Facebook page), Connection (Virtual Coffee program: can sign up to have a virtual chat--welcome volunteers: [https://media-ecology.org/Virtual-Coffee-with-a-Media-Ecologist](about:blank) ); Collaboration (with Rachel and Carolin and Matt on the newsletter, organize panels and events such as Women and ME coffee at this convention),
* Jaquie: appointed as of Jan 1; thanks to all the convention committee: Peggy and Paul especially;
* John: appointed as of Jan 1: MEA mercenary; personal project is out reach; working with the Inclusivity Committee

**II. Call for Nominations**

**Immediate Past President/Chair of Election Committee (Paul Grosswiler—not present)**

* So Paolo open the nominations for election to the MEA Board, and turns it over to .
* Overview of election process: there are 12 positions, staggered for continuity; we currently have 5 positions open.
* Nominations will stay open now until end of September ???
* Information will be sent out via newsletter plus posted on the MEA website
* The following week (early October), the ballots will go out to all members in good standing
* Results will be reported October ??; this will give people time to make plans to attend the meeting in January 2021, which has traditionally been F2F in New York.

Four positions are currently open:

1. Vice President-Elect/Convention Coordinator 2022

* This position is to host the 2022 convention: this is a 4-year position that shifts to President, and then ascends to the clouds, etc.)
* Lance is nominating Mike Plugh as the Vice President-Elect (Peggy seconds); and Mike accepts!

1. Recording Secretary (1 year)

* Open; records the activities of the association
* Cathy Adams will not be continuing
* Lance would like nominate Ashley Moore, seconded by Cathy; not present so need to check if she accepts the nomination

1. *In Medias Res* Newsletter Editor (1 year)

* Currently open;
* Julia nominates Rachel Armamentos as Newletter editor and seconded by Paul; she accepts

1. *Member-at-Large* (3 year)

* There is always one position open
* John is Adriana’s replacement, so he is up.
* Thom nominates John Dowd, seconded by Carolin; he accepts the nomination

**IV. Reports from Committees**

1. Updates from affiliate organization activities (T. Gencarelli: ICA we get one panel—this year in Gold Coast Australia, upcoming will be in Denver at end of May 2021; M. Plugh: NCA-MEA, third and final term: along with the 5 panels, we hosted a very successful cocktail hour, 6 panels in Indiana, we have a full program scheduled but have no more information about the status of the convention, J. Bogaczyk: not present).
2. Updates on Strategic Committee (C. Aronis)

Strategic Committee is considering and working on the future of MEA (see ppt): Introduction and MEA newcomers; local and international academic recognition and involvement, for example through translation of works; development of MEA pride and sense of community; Welcoming and thriving environment of color, women, students; Increase relationships between scholas form different generations and places; encourages newcomers and volunteers from MEA

1. Statement for Inclusivity & Guidelines of Conduct (P. Granata): underlines how important this statement and guidelines are; will say more in his president’s address.

**V. New Business**

1. Fernando: some of you sent me information about your courses: please send me emails. This is an ongoing mapping exercise of our pedagogical efforts across the world; how Media Ecology can be integrated into classes.
2. Carolin: we are all trying to think of you as an MEA member: what you need as part of this organization.
3. Terry Manzella: we should change “people of color” to minorities (print out by Carolin): we need a discussion about the terms we use to name marginalized communities. Jaquiline suggests there are other terms like BIPOC (“black, indigenous and people of color”) but some have pushed back against this too. Lance: we need to avoid US-centric terms, and remember that our identity is international.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Adams

Recording Secretary (2020)