



**ACJS Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 31, 2025
Virtual at 2:00 p.m. Central Time**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 2:03 p.m. by President Stephanie Mizrahi.
- II. **ATTENDANCE** Bitna Kim, David Myers, Sanja Kutnjak, Leah Daigle, Erin Orrick, Melissa Burek, Cassandra Reyes, John Stogner, Christine Tartaro, Camille Gibson, Brie Diamond, Marianne Hudson, John Worrall, Letiscia Perrin.
- III. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve with edits by Brie Diamond, seconded by Melissa Burek. (Approved with edits, 2 abstentions for previous absence).
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

Maritz Design Studio Strategic Planning

John Worrall explained that the Board approved \$74,000 for Maritz to proceed. Given the request to include 15 stakeholder interviews, a broader membership survey of 500 people and looking at 40 variables, approval for another \$34,500 is requested. He continued that an outside entity like Maritz should get more feedback than with a previous insider effort in 2018. The total cost would now be \$108,750.

Kutnjak: There should be input from former members, and the Board should have the opportunity to review and edit questions. Worrall responded - yes, that will happen.

BOARD VOTE:

Motion to approve the added cost of \$34,500 by Cassandra Reyes; seconded by David Myers and Christine Tartaro; 10 in favor; 2 opposed; no abstentions. Motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Change of pattern of annual meeting by 2033

Discussion: John Worrall: Although conference site selection does not require a Board vote, I would like your input. By 2033, do we stick with the Tuesday to Saturday pattern? We need to discuss the proposals from Reno and Pittsburgh for 2033.

Reno per peak pricing model, would back the meeting up by two days (March 6-10); so the BFA would be Saturday, the Board meeting on Sunday. Attendees would be traveling the first weekend and then going home middle of the week. Rooms would be \$219 early in the week, but \$400/night by the weekend. Negotiating the \$40 resort fee that makes it \$249/night at the Atlantis. The food and beverage minimum at Atlantis is \$75,000. Reno gets us back out West; much safer place now than in the past; free shuttle from airport to Atlantis and Peppermill (other hotel in the area); food prices in the area are reasonable; walkable; the University of Nevada in the area has a large

program and will likely assist. Flexibility with dates is a broader trend that is occurring; the same with formats. ASA for example, has gone hybrid. Do we do late February or April?

Discussion points: February = winter weather travel problems; not enough time for registration, budgets, etc. March encroaches on spring break and relatedly study abroad, service learning, etc.; April gets into religious holidays; a Monday to Thursday could mean more time away from classes; classes should not be an issue given online options; this Atlantis rate sounds high for Reno; being cost effective is a good reason for change given budget trends; the Reno dates; could cut across two spring break weeks; people choose their days at the conference to be cost effective, that is, not say all conference days. Attendees may like the Monday to Thursday conference because of the cost savings if this is explained to them. This could be a survey question. No extra union costs. Better conference cost option than Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh: This would be March 8-11 at the Convention Center. Nice facilities; other events in the space at the time, but mostly in the evenings; rental charge \$33,000 for the Convention Center; to reduce this to 13,000, there is a \$100,000 food and beverage minimum. There are four hotels next to it; the closest is the Westin with a skywalk to the Convention Center; hotels are \$300 or more per night.

Discussion: Uptown access; train system; has extra union cost (possibly \$60,000-\$80,000 based on previous meeting in Chicago).

BOARD VOTE:

Motion to approve Reno for 2033 by Camille Gibson, seconded by Davis Myers. Six in favor, six opposed; no abstentions. Motion fails.

Tartaro and Mizrahi: At mid-year, let us look at the price comparison to see what is the better deal (e.g. union cost, nightly rates, etc.).

MISCELLANEOUS

Perrin: No housekeeping matters.

Mizrahi: Erin Orrick and Leah Daigle of the Awards Policy Committee will continue into this year to fine-tune things. Sanja Kutnjak will take my part on this committee. My awards chair Jason Williams, and David Myers' award chair Kimberly Dodson will be joining you on this committee.

Mizrahi: Apologies for my abruptness about Robert Rules at the start of the meeting; thank you for your work over the summer, availability for voting on matters, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Cassandra Reyes, seconded by Melissa Burek. Adjournment at 3:20 p.m.