

## **Board Meeting Summary**

### **ATA Board Meeting, Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles, California, October 15-16, 2022**

To keep the membership abreast of ATA Board activities in a timely manner, a summary of the most recent Board meeting follows. This summary is not the same as the meeting minutes. The minutes are posted after they are approved by the Board.

#### **At its October 2022 meeting, the Board:**

- Thanked outgoing Executive Director Walter Bacak for his many years of service.
- Welcomed incoming Executive Director Kelli Baxter to ATA.
- Approved the minutes from the August 6-7, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.
- Reviewed reports received from various ATA Committees and Divisions, the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI), on the implementation of the association management system, and on annual conferences by the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas and the Association of Language Companies.
- Discussed Treasurer John Milan's report covering FY2021-2022. ATA's total revenue for the fiscal year was \$2.87m, while total expenses were \$2.95m. ATA, therefore, had a negative change in net assets of \$84,609. Despite this result, ATA's finances are sound, with approximately \$3m in assets and \$1.5m in liabilities. Milan noted that part of the reason we did well financially last year was that our investments did well. We will not have this same help offsetting losses this year. The reality is that ATA has become a smaller association with smaller attendance at conferences. As such, we need to continue to contain operating costs and fundamentally change the conference model to ensure that ATA is a financially healthy and sustainable association.
- Heard updates on the audits of ATA's books for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2020 fiscal years. The audits came back with no material issues.
- Heard updates on certification from Certification Committee Chair David Stephenson and Deputies Chair Laurence Bogoslaw and Holly Mikkelson, who were present at the Board meeting. Stephenson noted the 287 online registrations and 189 online exams administered this year.
- Approved the addition of English>Romanian as a language pair eligible for certification, with the exam and practice test to be made available immediately.
- Heard updates from Director and Ad Hoc Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Committee Chair Robert Sette on progress with the SIGs pilot program.
- Approved the establishment of the Interpreters & Translators in Education Special Interest Group (ITESIG), pending verification of membership status.
- Approved the establishment of the Financial Translation Special Interest Group (FTSIG), pending verification of membership status.
- Heard updates from Director and Membership Committee Chair Meghan Konkol on progress with the membership survey and progress on the Getting Started As an Interpreter e-book.

- Heard updates from Director and Advocacy Committee Chair Ben Karl on the work by the committee to share about advocacy at the conference, and ongoing advocacy efforts.
- Approved the appointment of Jennifer Santiagos as a member of the Advocacy Committee.
- Discussed Professional Development Committee Chair Nora Díaz's committee report and developments with planning a virtual conference in the spring.
- Approved the appointment of Director Robert Sette as a member of the Professional Development Committee.
- Discussed Public Relations Committee Chair Jamie Hartz's committee report and the contract signed with a new PR firm.
- Approved the appointments of Olivia Caputo, Ingrid Holm, and Marina Ilari to the Public Relations Committee.
- Discussed Business Practices Education Committee Chair Danielle Maxson's committee report and progress on the model contract for translators.
- Approved the appointment of Laurie Bennett and Tricia Perry to the Business Practices Education Committee.
- Heard updates from outgoing Executive Director Walter Bacak on the activities at ATA Headquarters since the last Board meeting, including work implementing the association management system and preparation for the conference.
- Heard updates from President-Elect and Governance and Communications Committee Chair Veronika Demichelis on the work of the committee since the last Board meeting, including developments to the Revised ATA Membership Matrix, a planned call for a second round of member comments on the ATA Membership Restructuring Proposal, and revisions taking place on the ATA Conference Volunteer Reimbursement Policy.
- Discussed Ethics Committee Chair Robin Bonthron's report and reviewed and gave feedback on the Commentary for the American Translators Association Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility. The commentary will be published along with the approved updated Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility that takes effect on January 1, 2023.
- Heard updates from President-Elect and Conference Organizer Veronika Demichelis on ATA's 63rd Annual Conference at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, California.
- Shared feedback from members about ATA63.
- Discussed potential new models for ATA Annual Conferences moving forward.
- Reviewed the report by the International Federation of Translators (FIT)
- Approved the appointment of Jonas Nicotra as Acting Administrator of the Educators Division until the next Annual Meeting of the Division in 2023.
- Approved the appointment of Laurie Bennett to the Board of the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation.
- Reviewed the report by the Interpretation Profession Advisory Committee.
- Reviewed a report about an International Translation Day Fair at Montgomery College, Maryland.

- Strategy Committee Chair Milan addressed the need for a Strategic Plan for the Association.
- Heard remarks from the following members:
  - Dr. Geof Koby presented progress and potential uses of the materials developed by the ad hoc Basic Credential Committee.
  - Andie Ho presented ideas for two potential ATA programs: 1) Special AST free to the public to learn about the profession from the perspective of translators, interpreters, and the government; and 2) One-year online program for recent graduates, starting in May when people graduate, with monthly meetups.
  - Victoria Mendez, Treasurer of the Colegio de Traductores Públicos de Uruguay, introduced herself to the Board.
  - Laurie Bennet, Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia, introduced herself to the Board.
  - Nora Diaz, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, updated the Board on the spring virtual conference, which will focus on machine translation.
  - Bettina Schreibmaier-Clasen, Secretary General of the UNIVERSITAS Austria – Berufsverband für Dolmetschen und Übersetzen, introduced herself to the Board.
  - Rafael Landa is a potential member who shared with the Board areas of advocacy that are important to him, including lack of recognition and fair rates.
  - Matt Baird, host of the ATA Podcast and member of the PR Committee, gave suggestions on how to configure election statements, shared that he will bring aboard a co-host for the podcast, and commented upon narratives that ATA should address, including the narrative around MTPE and poverty in translation and interpreting.