

# Ethical News

The newsletter of the AEJMC  
Media Ethics Division

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## S.F. success: Building for future

### Chair outlines proposed changes on the table for Media Ethics Division

**Stephanie Craft**  
Division head

**C**ongratulations to all of us for another successful conference! I admit to being taken in by the surroundings. In fact, I'm pretty sure I made up my mind about just how great the conference would be the moment I stepped out of San Francisco International into the sunny skies and 70-degree temperatures. After a steamy summer in Missouri, it was all I could do to not pick up the phone and start calling real estate agents. I'm sure many of you know exactly what I

mean.

But all weather-related delusions aside, I think MED succeeded at the conference by offering among the most thought-provoking panels and interesting research. We covered timely topics like secrecy and perennial problems like privacy. The session with editorial cartoonists was very well received, as was a pair of panels related to global ethics. I am delighted that MED, along with the Radio-Television Journalism Division, could provide a forum for discussing Al-Jazeera and the nature of truth.

Quality was evident in the research sessions as well. Like

many other divisions, our submissions were way up. Let's hope that trend continues next year. Thanks to the authors for such good work on topics ranging from "A Million Little Pieces" to political consulting. I was especially pleased to see the number of excellent papers by graduate students.

The minutes of our membership meeting are included in this newsletter, so I won't rehash everything here. But I would like to draw your attention to a couple ideas MED might want to consider and even vote on at the mid-year meeting in conjunction with APPE.

First, I'd like to consider adding

the Research Chair position to our current officer succession structure. Currently, our pipeline calls for the person who occupies the Secretary/Newsletter Editor position to move up to the Vice-Head/Program Chair position the next year and the Head position the year after that. These are more or less "automatic" moves, though the membership does still vote on the positions. The idea behind the pipeline system is to offer both training and incentive for those who do the division's work. Why add the Research Chair? Because running the research competition and dealing with aspects of pro-  
See MED STRUCTURE, page 4

## Got a panel idea? Think D.C. in 07

**Elizabeth A. Skewes**  
Vice head/program chair

**A**ugust 2007 may seem like it's light years away, but if we want strong panels and programs at next year's AEJMC conference in Washington, D.C., now's the time to start planning them.

That means it's time to send in any ideas that you have for panels that would add to or build on some of the panels we had in San Francisco this past August - including teaching panels on covering Hurricane Katrina, and on community-based media criticism and community journalism; professional freedom and responsibility panels on privacy in the physical and virtual worlds, product placement, secrecy and truth telling, editorial cartoons, and al-Jazeera; and a research panel on global journalism ethics. It

was a robust line-up, and Washington, D.C., gives us opportunities to tap into some valuable resources so that we can do just as well in 2007.

For now, I simply need short proposals. Anyone can submit a proposal, but they must be sent via e-mail to me (elizabeth.skewes@colorado.edu) by October 15, 2006, in order to meet AEJMC panel dead-

lines. And - to state the obvious - panel ideas submitted to the Media Ethics Division should have some link to media ethics issues. But that's really the only requirement. Ideas can be linked to teaching, research or media practices. They can be industry specific, or they can be about topics that span media industries. Think broadly, think creatively, think fun. And if you have a great idea leftover from last year - because not every panel can be accepted - feel free to resubmit it.

So ... borrowing (stealing?) very heavily from my predecessors in this job, here are a few things to keep in mind as you ponder panel ideas:

1. Co-sponsorship - AEJMC has more divisions than time during the convention day, so the law of supply and demand kicks in. Each division has a limited number of slots it can use for its convention programs. But when one division partners with another division, each is only charged for half of a slot. Co-sponsorship, then, stretches MED's programming capacity. Any panel that can be jointly sponsored will be given special consideration. Please note in your pro-

## Who's a journo? Colloquium 06 lands in St. Paul

As part of a decade-long series aimed at enhancing scholarship in applied media ethics, the University of St. Thomas will host the 2006 colloquium October 14-17 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. The colloquium - the seventh of the series - features 14 fellows working in teams to explore the moral dimensions of the question: Who is a journalist?

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# Predicting bogus news stories

## Ethics researchers should find more ways to confront real-world problems

**Renita Coleman**  
PF&R chair

The journalism profession seems to be plagued lately by cases of plagiarism and made-up quotes, sources - even entire stories. Beyond the usual calls for professionals to punish the offenders and become hypervigilant to future violations, there doesn't seem to be a lot of really useful advice for how to avoid such problems. I mean, aren't journalists doing everything they can think of already?

That's why one piece of research at the August AEJMC convention really caught my eye. It did just what seems to be sorely needed - identified patterns in fabricated news stories and came up with a list that editors could use to help them spot such stories and do something before they cause so much damage.

Jia Dai, a doctoral student, and Nick Lasorsa, associate professor at the University of Texas, produced a novel piece that gives working journalists a list of steps they can take to spot plagiarism, made-up quotes or sources, and even entire stories. They content-analyzed all the stories written by 10 reporters in recent high-profile cases including Jayson Blair, Mike Barnicle, Rick Bragg and Jack Kelly, among others, and compared them to "authentic" news stories (at least they were stories that have not been shown to be falsified in any way so far).

They reasoned that other types of man-made accidents, such as nuclear power plant disasters, air traffic control accidents, and dam breaks, all have warning signs that can be used to prevent problems, so why not newsrooms? For example, Jayson Blair turned in restaurant receipts from Brooklyn when he was supposed to be in Washington; if an editor familiar with his assignments had reviewed the receipts instead of an accounting employee, he might have been caught earlier.

Dai and Lasorsa also note that the profession typically has laid the blame at the feet of those with the bylines and not considered the role of the organization or newsroom culture in exacerbating the problems - what we academics know to be the "fundamental attribution error" of blaming individuals rather than a larger society. Historically, it is not until people see the role of both individuals and societies that problems begin to be solved in significant ways. For

example, in the 1950s, we viewed automobile accidents primarily as the responsibility of drivers and failed to take into account road conditions, safety features in cars and social policies that would reduce the number of alcohol outlets in high-accident areas. Not until the societal factors were addressed along with the individual ones did the accident rate begin to decrease. Health professionals are currently struggling to make Americans see society's role in obesity; for example, that there are fewer safe places to exercise or buy fresh fruit in low-income neighborhoods where obesity is more prevalent than in wealthy ones.

*'This is the type of work we academics should do more of.... It scientifically pinpoints the warning signs of fabricated stories and gives journalists a prescription for beginning to overcome the problem. As they predicted, the team found a combination of factors, including organizational ones, that pointed to a high risk of fabrications.'*

Professional journalists can take a lesson from these diverse areas; blaming the few "bad apples" and overlooking the characteristics of newsroom organizations will not help the problem in any significant way. It's time to quit doing more of the same, which isn't working, and start looking for new ways to address the issue.

Which is why research such as Dai and Lasorsa's is so helpful. It scientifically pinpoints the warning signs of fabricated stories and gives journalists a prescription for beginning to overcome the problem. As they predict-

ed, the team found a combination of factors, including organizational ones, that pointed to a high risk of fabrications. In a nutshell, what they found was:

- \* Reporters with "star power" could indulge in ethical indiscretions for longer without getting caught.

- \* Written records and witnesses were important. Phone, hotel, travel and expense records can help identify a reporter's whereabouts. Also, be suspicious of reporters who use phone features to block display of locations. Human witnesses such as sources and those at competing organizations told of fabrications in 20% of the cases. No one seemed to see it or else they ignored it.

- \* Reporters engaged in unethical practices use several techniques - they make up sources, and attribute false quotes to real sources and plagiarize.

- \* Fabricated stories often deal with high-profile issues such as defense, terrorism or war, or about international affairs. Editors should scrutinize those especially.

- \* Fabricated material often is found in stories on the above-mentioned topics that have been given prominent play.

- \* Ironically, fabricators are better at achieving one of the laudable goals of journalism; they have more diversity of sources in their stories - African American, Asian and Latino. Of course, they tend to be made-up sources. There were no differences in female sourcing in fake and real stories, however. Hmmm.

- \* Sources were harder to trace in the fabricated stories, naturally.

Finally, some organizational characteristics include lack of communication between departments and people and lax standards in fact checking, among other things. Tellingly, there were clear warning signs of a problem in nine of the 10 cases studied, but those signs were ignored.

That fabricated news stories have these clear, distinguishing features is good news for professionals concerned about the ethics of their work. Findings from research such as this compellingly suggest a need to expand codes of ethics and require our renewed attention to ethical issues. This is the type of work we academics should do more of, rather than simply repeating the criticisms that those in the trenches already have heard from inside and outside their own ranks.

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### Ginny Whitehouse, workshop co-organizer

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## 2006 ethics colloquium

### COLLOQUIUM, from page 1

When Jon Stewart of "The Daily Show" wins a journalism award, when citizens in London capture photos of terrorist bombings that later appear in newspapers and on TV broadcasts across the world, and when bloggers provide news to a growing number of individuals, the terms and boundaries of journalism are rapidly changing. Who, then, gets to "count" as a journalist, how ought the lines be drawn, and, most importantly, how does this affect the ethics of journalism?

Fellows have explored these questions during the last several months and will present their work during the October colloquium. Papers that result from the colloquium will be published in the *Journal of Mass Media Ethics* in 2007.

This year's colloquium culminates with the Whalen Symposium

on Media Ethics. Founded in 1999, the symposium offers a public forum for focused discussion about the moral dimensions of journalism and mass media.

The University of Hawaii will host next year's colloquium: *Intersections in Media Ethics - Negotiating Intercultural Issues*. It is tentatively scheduled for October 14-17, 2007.

### 2006 Colloquium Fellows

Sandra Borden  
Jerry Ceppos  
Andrew Cline  
Jerry Domatob  
Arthur Hayes  
Jennifer Henderson  
Jeremy Iggers  
Doug McGill  
Bala Musa  
Tom Oates  
John Pauly  
Chad Tew  
Jane Singer  
Erik Ugland

## Minutes of the 2006 Media Ethics Division members' meeting

The annual members' meeting of the AEJMC Media Ethics Division was called to order by outgoing MED chair Erik Ugland, Marquette University, at 6:50 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, 2006, at the Marriott San Francisco. About 25 members were present.

### I. Awards

Ugland recognized the following research paper award winners: Carol Burnett/University of Hawaii prize: Ruben Stern, University of Missouri, "Stakeholder Theory and Media Management: An Ethical Framework for News Company Executives."

Top paper, special call on "Secrets and the Media": Patrick Lee Plaisance, Colorado State University, "Transparency: An Assessment of the Kantian Roots of a Key Element in Media Ethics Practice."

Professional relevance award: Jane B. Singer, University of Iowa, "Truth and Transparency: Bloggers' Challenge to Profes-

sional Autonomy in Defining and Enacting Two Journalistic Norms."

Top faculty paper: Jane B. Singer, University of Iowa, "Truth and Transparency: Bloggers' Challenge to Professional Autonomy in Defining and Enacting Two Journalistic Norms."

### II. Announcements

Ugland reported on the "state of the division" saying that the Media Ethics Division is in "OK shape" with its budget. While the division, as of the annual meeting, had \$3,900 in the budget, much of that was encumbered. The account for the *Journal of Mass Media Ethics* had roughly \$1,500, which Ugland said was low due to the fact that funds had just been spent on a double issue. Income from annual dues should bring the JMME account back up to a more comfortable level, he reported. Ugland said the annual dues for the Media Ethics Division would

remain at \$26 for regular members and \$10 for student members. However, he said the division should monitor the budget this year to make sure that those dues are sufficient. He said that AEJMC dues will be increased by \$5 next year. That increase will pay for the costs associated with making the transition an electronic submission system for all research papers in all divisions in 2007.

Ugland reported that paper submissions to the Media Ethics Division were up by 43 percent in 2006, and noted that while paper submissions increased across all divisions in AEJMC, the increase in the ethics division was above the average for the association as a whole. Most of the increase in the ethics division came from graduate students. The number of faculty submissions in 2006 was roughly the same as in 2005.

Because of the higher number of submissions to the division over-

all, however, the acceptance rate in 2006 dropped to roughly 38 percent. It was about 50 percent in 2005. Ugland said he expects submissions for 2007 to remain strong since the conference is being held in Washington, D.C. Ugland said that the partnership between the Media Ethics Division and the *Journal of Mass Media Ethics* remains strong. All members of the division get a subscription to JMME as part of their division dues. Additionally, the authors of the top paper at the annual conference are offered the opportunity to have their work given a "fast track" review for publication in JMME. Publication in the journal is not guaranteed, nor are authors obligated to submit their papers to JMME. Those who do, however, will have the review process conducted more quickly. Ugland also said that Lou Hodges, Washington & Lee Uni-

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## Changes to MED structure on table

MED STRUCTURE, *from page 1*

gramming related to research sessions is great training for being Vice-Head and Head of the division.

The second idea is to purchase an LCD projector for the division. A couple other divisions have decided to do so, largely because the conference hotels charge a great deal to rent these and, unlike

the costs of overhead projectors, AEJMC won't cover them. We would need to work out a system for rotating "possession" and responsibility for the projector among the officers. We also would need to consider hotel rules regarding the use of outside equipment.

As we move into the academic year, I hope we can sustain the

momentum of this year's conference. In particular, I'd like to see all of us encouraging graduate students to participate, nudging colleagues to consider submitting to MED, and brainstorming ideas for next year's panels. I am eager to hear your thoughts on any and all of the tidbits I've mentioned here. Best wishes for a happy and productive year!

## Now is the time to plan D.C. sessions

PANEL IDEAS, *from page 1*

positional which division or divisions might be suitable co-sponsors. If you think there might be three or more divisions interested in your topic, you might want to suggest your panel as a mini-plenary session. In San Antonio two years ago, for example, MED co-sponsored a mini-plenary called "At the Intersection of Ethics and Politics" with the PR, Advertising and Radio-Television Journalism divisions.

2. Location - Panels that address issues of particular salience to Washington, D.C., might have added appeal. The nation's capital is a highly political and very multicultural city, so panels addressing the upcoming election season, the country's political divides, diversity, culture or media representations of minorities, could be promising.

3. Participants - The location could give us the opportunity to tap into national and international panel members who are based in D.C. Consider whether there are people in area (journalists, PR professionals, entertainers, academics, politicians, etc.) who could make unique contributions to your panel.

4. Feasibility and Cost - Getting George Bush or John Kerry on a panel would be a real coup, but it's probably impossible. Still, if you think you can convince a high-profile figure to join your panel, great. Just be realistic. MED can request money from AEJMC to cover travel expenses for panelists who are not members of the association, but these funds are neither guaran-

teed nor limitless. If your panel will need special funding, please note that and get your proposal in as soon as possible.

5. Timing and Current Events - It is hard to predict now what issues will be grabbing headlines next summer, but panel proposals that address timely and controversial issues are encouraged.

6. Originality - Before working on your proposal, you might want to look at some of the panel titles and themes from the most recent AEJMC conferences to avoid any significant overlap. Keep in mind, though, that if you submitted a proposal last year (or earlier) that was not selected, you may resubmit it.

7. Themes - As of this writing, AEJMC has not adopted a theme for the Washington, D.C., convention, but that could change before the panel proposal deadline. Proposals that tie in to that theme would be especially attractive, so keep an eye on the AEJMC website for any announcements about a convention theme.

Before you submit your proposal, review the guidelines outlined in the AEJMC call. If you have any questions or would like to see a sample proposal, let me know and I will send one to you.

All proposals must be delivered to me as Word e-mail attachments.

Please send them to [elizabeth.skewes@colorado.edu](mailto:elizabeth.skewes@colorado.edu) by the end of the day on Sunday, October 15.

### Pitch your D.C. panel ideas now

Be sure to include:

**Title.**

**Moderator.** Feel free to name yourself.

**Panelists.** Provide the names of possible panelists, but please make sure your volunteers understand you're submitting a proposal that is tentative and not guaranteed.

**Topic.** A one- or two-paragraph description of the topic/issue to be addressed in the panel.

**Possible co-sponsors.** A list of other AEJMC divisions that might be interested in co-sponsoring the panel (preference for inclusion on the program will be given to topics that appeal to both MED members and members of other divisions - this allows us to get more mileage out of our programming slots).

**Estimated costs, if any.** Please remember that funds for speakers and audio/visual equipment are quite limited; also, please note that if your panel proposal is accepted and you need funding to persuade a non-AEJMC member to be on it, you'll need to file a request later seeking funds for travel and lodging.

**Your contact information.**

Send proposal by October 15 as a Word e-mail attachment to: [elizabeth.skewes@colorado.edu](mailto:elizabeth.skewes@colorado.edu).

## U. Oregon offers new certificate in ethics

This fall, the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication began offering a new graduate certificate in Communication Ethics. Students enrolled or planning to enroll in graduate studies in any program at the university are eligible to pursue the certificate, and students should be able to fulfill the program's requirements within a two-year period, normally in conjunction with their primary graduate emphasis.

The School of Journalism and Communication has always emphasized ethics; now it will be the first program in the nation to offer a graduate level certificate program in the subject. "We've had some remarkable students go through our program wanting to concentrate in communication ethics and having to patch together a set of courses in order to accomplish that goal," Dean Tim Gleason said. "This certificate program will ensure that future students have an organized and effective means to do just that."

The objective of the new program is to enhance the philosophical underpinnings of graduate students interested in communication ethics. Graduates of the certificate program are will be able to apply and teach both theoretical and applied ethical decision-making strategies covering a variety of media-from print and broadcast journalism to advertising and public relations.

The certificate consists of 28 credits in various areas of communication ethics, including mass media ethics, philosophy of communication, persuasion and ethics, photographic ethics, visual truth, advertising ethics, and communication research ethics.

## Ethics is theme of Best Practices Teaching contest

The Elected Committee on Teaching is looking for the Best Practices in the Teaching of Ethics. Share your best ideas and win a cash prize! Showcase your ideas with your AEJMC colleagues. Winning entries will be selected for publication by the Teaching Committee and presented at the 2007 AEJMC convention in Wash-

ington, D.C. Entries should be limited to no more than two pages (an executive summary) and include:

1. Explanation of teaching/methodology
2. Rationale
3. Outcomes

Examples of entries might include a syllabus, one good teaching idea, an instructional unit or a

multimedia presentation.

Deadline date: November 15, 2006  
Requirements: Copies of each entry should be submitted via e-mail to [blevensf@fiu.edu](mailto:blevensf@fiu.edu) AND regular mail to Dr. Fred Blevens, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University, 3000 N.E. 151st Street, North Miami, Florida

33181.

Large digital files may be sent by regular mail. Judging: Winners will be determined by the Teaching Committee at the midwinter meeting. The committee reserves the right not to award prizes. First prize: \$300 and certificate  
Second prize: \$200 and certificate  
Third prize: \$100 and certificate.

### Minutes of the 2006 Media Ethics Division members' meeting

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iversity, is stepping down as the editor of the "Cases and Commentaries" section of JMME. The position is one that will rotate every two to three years. The division also is continuing its partnership with the Association of Practical and Professional Ethics. Ugland reported that the Media Ethics Division had several papers and panels at the APPE meeting in Jacksonville in 2006. Next year APPE will meet in Cincinnati on February 22 to 25. The submission deadline for that conference is Oct. 13. Ugland then thanked the following people for their work on behalf of the division this year: Stephanie Craft, University of Missouri, division vice head; Elizabeth Skewes, University of Colorado at Boulder, secretary/newsletter editor; Lee Anne Peck University of Northern Colorado, research chair; Jack Breslin, Iona College, teaching chair; Matt Cabot, California State University-Long Beach, professional freedom and responsibility chair; Tom Bivins, University of Oregon, webmaster; Bill Reader, Ohio University, newsletter designer; David Boeyink, Indiana University, reviewer for APPE submissions; Bill Babcock, California State University-Long Beach, and Ginny Whitehouse, Whitworth College, pre-conference workshop organizers.

#### III. Officer reports

Stephanie Craft, the division vice head and program chair, said the Media Ethics division programs

this year went very well. The division received many good proposals and was able to sponsor some solid panels. She reminded everyone that now is the time to think about panels for the 2007 convention. The deadline for panel proposals is Oct. 15. Ugland said that Craft did an especially admirable job this year because she was working with fewer slots for research sessions.

Elizabeth Skewes, the secretary/newsletter editor, asked whether the division was moving to an electronic list since the key delay with the newsletter this past year seemed to be getting the notification postcards labeled and mailed. Ugland said he and Craft will be working on an electronic notification system and listserve for the Media Ethics division.

Tom Bivins, the Webmaster for the division, reminded people that the Web site is fluid and he invited people to submit more information, commentary, paper calls and announcements to the site. Bill Babcock, one of the pre-conference workshop organizers, said this year's workshop filled up by June. There were six presenters and 22 participants in attendance. He reported that based on questionnaires filled out by participants, most favor holding the workshop on the day before the conference rather than the last day of the conference, which is when it has been held in the past. Ugland said if the workshop is held before the official start of the conference, it doesn't cost the division any "chips" that are used for scheduling sessions, whereas

there is a "chip" cost to holding it the final day of the conference. There were no reports from the research, teaching or PF&R chairs.

#### IV. Election of officers

Craft, who as vice head and program chair was in the division rotation to replace Ugland as division head, presented the following slate of candidates for leadership positions for the 2006-07 year: Stephanie Craft, University of Missouri, division head; Elizabeth Skewes, University of Colorado at Boulder, division vice head/program chair; Patrick Plaisance, Colorado State University, secretary/newsletter editor; Wendy Wyatt, St. Thomas University, research chair; Seow Ting Lee, Illinois State University, teaching chair; PF&R chair vacant; David Craig, University of Oklahoma, JMME "Cases and Commentaries" editor.

No additional nominations were received, and the slate was approved by acclamation.

Because there were no nominations for the PF&R chair, Craft will appoint someone to that vacancy. (Note: Shortly after the annual meeting, Craft appointed Renita Coleman, University of Texas-Austin, to serve as the PF&R chair for 206-07.)

#### V. Open comments

Ugland said he had received a few complaints about sub-par reviewers for this year's paper competition. He said while most reviewers do a solid job, a few don't take the job very seriously. On one

form, he noted, a reviewer rated the paper a 3 in every category and then provided no comments, leaving the sense that he/she was simply racing through the paper. He asked that all reviewers take time to provide thoughtful comments and meaningful scores that will help the authors as they consider the revisions they would like to make. He also asked that this year's research chair be sure to send out a form outlining the responsibilities of a reviewer to the 2007 judges. Additionally, he said that when a reviewer gets a paper that he/she thinks is not appropriate for the division, he/she should notify the research chair immediately so that the paper has a chance to be forwarded to another division for its competition. He said the move to electronic submissions next year should help streamline the process. Proposals for panel submissions for 2007, however, will still be submitted via "snail mail" or e-mail.

Ugland said their had been discussion at the Council of Divisions about limiting authors to one submission in a division in a year in order to keep some authors from dominating the research sessions. However, he noted that this hadn't become a problem in the Media Ethics Division and said that for the MED, it may be "a solution to a problem that doesn't exist." No action was taken.

Ugland said that the annual conference will be held in Washington, D.C., in 2007; in Chicago in 2008, and in Boston in 2009. He

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said the division needed to consider its preference for a conference location for 2010. After briefly discussing the list of potential sites, the consensus of the membership was that Denver was the first choice and Portland, which would require multiple hotels, was the second choice. Wendy Wyatt, who is hosting the Media Ethics Colloquium at St. Thomas University this fall, noted that in the past the Media Ethics Division has given \$500 to support the colloquium. She asked that the division provide that support again this year. Tom Bivins, who hosted the colloquium at the University of Oregon last year, said that while he was allocated \$500, he didn't use that money. He moved that St. Thomas be allowed to use that carryover from last year, in addition to the \$500 that Wyatt requested for this year. The division approved a total of \$1,000 for this year's colloquium - with \$500 of that coming from last year's unused funds. Wyatt thanked the division and said if the colloquium comes in under budget, she will not tap into the carryover. Wyatt, who also is the book review editor for the Journal of Mass Media Ethics, said that she is looking for reviewers for several books. She passed around a list of titles and asked those interested to put their contact information next to the title(s) they would like to review.

Tom Bivins announced that the University of Oregon, where he teaches, will be starting a graduate certificate program in media ethics. The program, which includes coursework in philosophy, will require an additional 28 credits and will be open to masters and doctoral students in any graduate program at the university. Bill Babcock thanked Erik Ugland for his service as division head for the past year. Babcock also announced that California State University-Long Beach has been awarded a Knight Foundation grant to develop a news council in Southern California. A second news council will be starting in New England. Stephanie Craft floated the suggestion that the research chair for the Media Ethics Division be included in the leadership rotation, which currently has the secretary/newsletter editor in year one moving into the vice head position in year two and the head of the division in year three. Patrick Plaisance asked if that might create a problem for recruiting research chairs. When he agreed research chair in 2004-05, he did it because it was a one-year commitment. At that point, he said, he wouldn't have wanted to commit to a four-year term in the division. Wendy Wyatt said one problem would be that since MED officers are expected to serve as conference paper reviewers, it would mean that someone would be barred from submitting papers to the division for four years.

Wyatt's comment prompted several people to suggest that ethics division officers be allowed to submit work to the division competition. Craft noted that AEJMC's standing committee on research is working to draft a guideline that would exclude those who are reviewing papers in a division from submitting their own research to that division in order to avoid a conflict of interest. It was moved and seconded that Media Ethics Division officers be allowed to submit work to the division's paper competition and to, as a result, to be excused from reviewing papers for that year. The motion passed with one "nay" vote. Craft noted that the division still needs a Professional Freedom & Responsibility Chair. She will be looking for someone to appoint to that position, which is primarily responsible for finding professionals in the field to write guest articles for the quarterly newsletter. Jay Black, University of South Florida-St. Petersburg and JMME editor, asked if the division would be interested in sponsoring an award in honor of James Carey, who died in May. He said the Media Ethics Division would be a home for such an award. Ugland said it might be a good idea to see if AEJMC had any plans for an award in honor of Carey before the division makes a decision. Wyatt suggested that the issue be revisited at the MED mid-winter meeting. The meeting adjourned about 7:50 p.m.

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