

**Mid-America Theatre Conference**  
**March 2013 – St. Louis, MO**  
**Draft Business Meeting Minutes, 3/9/13**  
**Prepared by Kate Roark, MATC Secretary**

- I. **Approval of the 2012 Minutes.** With all the new bylaw changes, printing of the 2012 business meeting minutes was overlooked. Scott Magelssen, MATC President, proposed approving the 2012 minutes by email. This motion was passed unanimously.
  
- II. **Report on the Unite Here “Hyatt Hurts” nationwide boycott of Hyatt Hotels and MATC’s response.** Scott Magelssen summarized how MATC became aware of the labor conflict and reported on the results of the survey of the membership. 91 out of 93 responses said not to break our contract with the St. Louis Hyatt due to the catastrophic damage it would do to MATC’s finances. The poll supported looking for other ways to express our discontent. A large percentage of those responding to the poll said we should make labor issues a part of our decision making process. Copies of the letters written by Unite Here to MATC and Magelssen’s response on the behalf of MATC are available on the MATC website. We are not planning to hold future conferences at Hyatt Properties.
  
- III. **Treasurer’s Report.** Tyler Smith, Treasurer, explained that MATC’s non-profit status was revoked by the IRS; we were one of 300,000 non-profits whose status was revoked. We hired a legal firm to help us reapply, and our status was reinstated 2 weeks ago. The lawyers were expensive, costing MATC over \$10,000 during the past 2 years. The IRS also required a \$950 filing fee. However, now we can apply for state sales tax exemption, which will save us a lot of money for future conferences. See the treasurer’s report for more details.
  
- IV. **Grad Student Liaison Report.** Macy Jones and Laura Lodewyck presented about the new program for graduate students presenting at the conference to get a reduced conference registration fee (\$75 deduction) in return for working 6 hours at the registration desk. In this inaugural year of the program, 12 applications were received and the liaisons chose the 4 applications demonstrating the greatest need. This new program was a great benefit for all the grad students involved. Christine Bean will replace outgoing liaison, Laura Lodewyck.
  
- V. **Theatre History Studies Report.** Scott Magelssen began by thanking Rhona Justice-Malloy, outgoing editor, for her excellent work and service to MATC. The new editor, Elizabeth (Liz) Reitz Mullenix, is currently working on the 34<sup>th</sup> volume, a special issue on theatre and war. The deadline for submissions was February 1, 2013, and Liz received approximately thirty submissions. About half of those submissions are currently out for peer review, with the intent of publishing ten submissions. Ann Haugo is also working on editing volume 33, a special issue on Native performance. Liz also reported on the problem of University of Alabama Press requiring 13 months turn-around time, which is exceptionally long and discourages submissions from

early-career scholars. Alabama has also announced they will be raising their fees, though we don't have the new numbers yet. For these reasons, Liz will be investigating other publishing options. Rob Shimko, Book Review Editor, encouraged MATC members to be reviewers, and to check out the list of available books printed on the THS report. The books available for review will be available soon on the MATC website.

## VI. **MATC Bylaws Changes.**

- A. John Fletcher, President-Elect, briefly introduced the history of these bylaw changes, reminding us that these changes are a marker of MATC's growth. Tyler Smith then gave a brief overview of the changes made by the legal firm for our tax-exempt status reapplication, which were approved at the 2012 business meeting. Then Scott Maggelsen and John Fletcher introduced three new proposed changes to the bylaws.
- B. Proposal for Nominating Committee Bylaw.
  - a. John Fletcher explained how MATC has grown to the point that we now have multiple people interested in co-chair and executive committee leadership positions. To ensure transparency and greater democratic participation by the membership in the filling of these leadership roles, the executive committee proposes this Nominating Committee Bylaw. The members of the Nominating Committee will include the following seven members; the President elect (2 year term), senior Symposia co-chairs (1 year term), and 2 members-at-large (2 year terms). All nominees will be announced by Feb. 15, in advance of our annual MATC meeting in March. During discussion, the question was raised if nominating committee members could be nominated for another leadership position, and John answered no, members of the nominating committee are not eligible for other positions. Another question asked if the membership will still vote on officers, and we will. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Proposal for Theatre History Studies Bylaw.
  - a. Theatre History Studies Editor, Elizabeth (Liz) Reitz Mullenix, explained the proposal to add a new Associate Editor position to aid the transition from one editor to the next, and specifying that the Book Review Editor also serves a four –year term (with possibility of renewing for multiple terms). During discussion, the question was raised if the new Associate Editor would be voted on by the membership. The answer was no; a new editor is chosen by the current editor in consultation with the executive committee. When an Associate Editor is chosen, the same process will be used (since the associate editor will become the editor). Two other questions were when would the new associate editor position be filled and what happens if the current editor chooses to serve another term. Peter Campbell, Vice President and Conference Coordinator, suggested to change the wording of the bylaw to state the editor must announce plans to serve another term at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, to allow time for the selection of an associate editor. The language of bylaw 7.C.1 will reflect the following changes discussed and agreed upon at the business meeting:

- b. *Theatre History Studies* Editor: The Editor of this journal shall be selected by the members of the Executive Committee with the approval of the membership. The editor shall serve no less than four years but may be reappointed for additional terms with the approval of the Executive Committee. The editor, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will appoint an associate editor before their last year of service, who would in turn become the new editor. The editor of the journal shall prepare an annual report to be distributed to the members at the annual Conference.
- c. Movement to approve amended language passed unanimously. Then the revised bylaw passed unanimously.

#### D. Proposal for Article II. Purpose

- a. John Fletcher, read the old Article 2.1, and pointed out the conflict between the statement that we represent “a 12 state region,” but only 9 states are listed. John explained that the list of states may inhibit our ability to get tax exempt status in states not listed. John also explained MATC has grown into a truly national conference in terms of rigor, quality, and membership. Rosemary Banks asked us to cut the word “currently.” Mark Cosden asked if we are an international conference. Rosemary suggested that the language national venue does not limit the scope of our topics. Scott suggested that to call ourselves an international conference, we would be expected to hold the conference outside the USA. Mark asked if the language was sufficient to convince University administrators who make tenure and promotions decisions. Rosemary said she would be happy to write a letter to explain. The question was raised if we should consider a formal survey of the membership about what language is necessary for promotion and tenure. Scott and John explained that this revised statement of purpose was crafted precisely to address these concerns, and if a member has a particular Dean needing more persuasion, the leadership can write a letter.
- b. Article II.1 will now read: The purpose of MATC shall be to support and advance the study, growth, and improvement of all forms of theatre in the USA and beyond. Founded as a region-specific organization, MATC attracts and welcomes participants from a wide range of states and countries. While remaining mindful of the need to support the study and practice of theatre in the middle section of the USA, MATC is a national venue for innovative scholarship, criticism, pedagogy, and production.
- c. The new language was approved unanimously. The motion passed unanimously.

#### I. Announcements

- A. The 2014 Conference will be in Cleveland March 6-9 at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square.
- B. Tonight we spring forward – remember to move your clocks and alarms forward one hour tonight.