

IRE Board Phone Call Minutes
Feb. 7, 2008 – 9:30 a.m. CST

Board Members on the call: James Grimaldi (called in late), Dianna Hunt, Stephen C. Miller, Lea Thompson, Wendell Cochran, Mark Katches, Lise Olsen, Marilyn Thompson, and Alison Young. **Absent:** Cheryl Phillips, Renee Ferguson, Manny Garcia and Duff Wilson.

Staff on call: Mark Horvit and Jennifer Erickson.

1. **Call to Order (Hunt):** The meeting was brought to order by Hunt at 9:39 a.m. CST. Cochran noted that it is the first full board meeting with Horvit in his new role as IRE Executive Director.
2. **Executive Director's Report (Horvit):** Horvit said he spoke with Eric Newton of the Knight Foundation, and Knight has decided to give IRE an extension through Oct. 1 on the last part of matching program; this gives IRE an extra seven or eight months to raise the last \$300,000. Horvit said this is a great opportunity, and that Knight granted the extension because they thought we deserved more time. Horvit said that Brant Houston has agreed to assist with this last push and thanked Houston for his time and efforts.

Horvit reviewed recent fundraising efforts. He said McClatchey will add funds to the Miami Herald sponsorship of the 2008 IRE Conference and reported on a new \$75,000 grant from Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation in support of the Watchdog series.

Horvit said more than 160 people have registered for Houston CAR; the goal is between 200 and 300 registrants. Horvit said possible locations for 2009 will be Indianapolis for CAR and Baltimore for IRE; IRE's conference coordinator will make site visits this week.

Horvit gave an update on the search for a new Database Library Director; a candidate will visit the IRE office tomorrow.

3. **Treasurer's Report (Hunt):** Hunt said expenses are holding fine right now; they are up a bit across the board because of inflation and raises. Hunt said IRE has a \$190,000 payment due to the University at end of month and we will be able to make the full payment. She said the reserve fund is still in use and has not yet been paid back; she and Horvit are setting up a repayment schedule. Discussion ensued.

Hunt reported that the endowment funds are in great shape and hover around \$2.8 million.

4. **Houston Board Meeting:** Grimaldi discussed a proposed schedule for the next in-person board meeting on Feb. 28 and requested agenda items. He asked board members to email agenda items to Horvit. Young asked about the strategic planning sessions from the October 2007 board meeting. Hunt said committee actions should stem from strategic planning. Horvit said that he would add this to the Houston meeting agenda.
5. **Missouri School of Journalism Centennial Celebration Update (Horvit):** Horvit said IRE is scheduled to conduct a panel during the celebration in September 2008. Cochran said that he, Miller and the education committee would meet over the phone to discuss.
6. **Other Business:** Cochran said the Online News Association will meet on Sept. 11-13 in D.C. Cochran asked how IRE could be involved, specifically regarding Watchdog training on Web issues and CAR. Discussion ensued.

Grimaldi said that Horvit, in his first days as IRE executive director, has been doing a great job and thanked him for his commitment and attention to detail.

7. **Meeting adjournment:** Marilyn Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 10:19; Katches seconded her motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.