

From: Alan Stevens - The MediaCoach <alan@mediacoach.co.uk>
Sent: 09 September 2024 14:16
To: secretariat@thepsa.co.uk; Joanne Lockwood
Cc: Lynda Shaw; Operations Manager; Chantal Cornelius
Subject: Motion for the PSA AGM, 10th October

In accordance with the AGM rules, I am submitting a resolution for debate at the AGM on October 10th 2024.

The resolution is seconded by Dr Lynda Shaw FPSA, PSAE, Past PSA President.

I would be grateful for confirmation that this resolution, and its accompanying statement, will be sent to members prior to the AGM and added to the agenda for debate.

Best wishes,

Alan Stevens

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Resolution for the PSA AGM, 10th October 2024

"Within 14 days of a Board Meeting, the minutes will be made available for members to view, subject to the removal or redaction of any commercially confidential or personal information"

Proposer: Alan Stevens, FPSA, PSAE, Global Speaking Fellow, PSA Past National and GSF Past Global President

Seconder: Dr Lynda Shaw, FPSA, PSAE, PSA Past National President

Supporting statement

The Professional Speaking Association (PSA) is a membership organisation served by a Board of Directors who manage the organisation for the benefit of members.

Regular Board Meetings are held at which decisions are taken that affect the membership.

Our Articles of Association state (Article 15) *"The directors must ensure that the company keeps a record, in writing, for at least 10 years from the date of the decision recorded, of every unanimous or majority decision taken by the directors."*

Therefore a record already exists of every decision taken at a Board Meeting.

At present, Board minutes, including a record of decisions, are not made available to members, nor do observers attend Board Meetings.

The initial Vision Statement in the agreed PSA Strategic Plan says: **"Board members will collaborate with the Chair to establish measurable KPIs, ensuring transparency and accountability in achieving our strategic objectives"**

The Goals in the same agreed Strategic Plan include **"Ensure that member insights and feedback through surveys and focus groups continue to drive the plan, promoting transparency and open communication within our community."**

The Guiding Principles in the same agreed Strategic Plan include **"Cultivate transparency by welcoming challenges and scrutiny from fellow members and the broader community."**

Transparency, Scrutiny and Accountability are key to the PSA's Strategy. Members must be able to see, scrutinise, and hold accountable both individual Board members and the PSA Board as a whole. At present, that is made extremely difficult by a lack of information. Members have no knowledge of whether decisions were unanimous, nem con or a majority vote. There is no scrutiny of Board debates, and who proposed, supported or opposed issues.

In response to a question I asked a year ago asking for the Board to publish minutes, a response on the PSA website said *"All the information that can be shared is already being made available through other communications."*

There has been no update from the Board since April this year. No doubt there will be updates at the AGM, but that is a retrospective, rather than a current view of Board discussions, decisions and actions.

The motion takes into account that there may be items about individuals or commercially sensitive matters that can be redacted or moved to a confidential section. This is common practice in member organisations.

At present, there is little transparency, scrutiny or accountability of the PSA Board. The simple solution is to make Board minutes available to members, with confidential matters removed.

I urge you to support the motion.

Thank you.

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