The Iowa Public Radio Board of Directors held its regular meeting November 8, 2007, in the south branch of the Des Moines Public Library. Board members present were chair Art Neu, vice chair Kay Runge, Steve Carignan, Warren Madden, and Steve Parrott. Also present were IPR executive director Cindy Browne and members of the senior executive team Joan Kjaer, Todd Mundt, Robin Fraser and Don Wirth. Wayne Jarvis was absent.

Neu called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Motion by Runge and second by Carignan to approve the minutes of the Sept. 12 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Fraser introduced two new IPR staff members: Connie Grauerholz, underwriting manager; and Todd Behrends, membership manager.

**Financial report**

Wirth reported that underwriting revenue is down at KUNI and KSUI/WSUI. He attributed the change to a leveling off following tremendous growth at both stations. Three underwriting representatives have left the stations in the past month, he added. When those people are replaced, revenues should rebound. There is growth in statewide underwriting contracts, mostly from Des Moines underwriters seeking a statewide audience, he noted.

Fraser reported that membership is down and that the 2007 fall fund drive raised less money than in 2006. The drop in fund-raising followed three major changes for the IPR stations, including the launch of a combined news and information service, the launch of a combined classical service, and a unified fall fund drive. Fund-raising will improve once the databases of members from the three stations are combined and renewal letters can be sent to current donors, he said. Despite those short-term drawbacks, Fraser predicted that the budgeted FY08 membership revenue of $2.7 million would be achieved by year’s end. Browne raised the possibility of a fiscal year-end fund drive, which was a recommendation made as part of a previous development audit.

**Computer acquisition policy**

Wirth requested approval of a new computer acquisition policy. Network systems costing more than $5,000 will require approval beyond the station director. Personal computer replacement will be at the discretion of the individual station manager. The network operations director will develop a computer replacement plan with the aim of replacing equipment on at least a five-year schedule. Motion by Runge and second by Madden to approve the proposed policy. Motion was unanimously approved.

Runge requested that all written policies, whether in draft or final form, be dated.

**Financial instruments policy**

Wirth requested approval of a financial instruments policy that would allow IPR to accept gifts such as stock. Runge recommended that approval be postponed until a gift acceptance policy could be developed to clarify what would be done with gifts of stock and other financial instruments or real property. She recommended selling the stock immediately. Neu suggested approving the proposed policy and then passing a separate motion requiring board approval of stock gifts until a gift acceptance policy could be developed and approved. Madden moved and Parrott seconded approval of the proposed financial instruments policy. Motion passed 4-0 with Runge abstaining.
Wirth asked for a motion to accept and sell stocks currently being offered to IPR. Parrott moved to do so, Carignan seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Madden moved that IPR staff work with Chair Neu to act on the disposition of non-liquid assets offered to IPR until a new policy is developed. Carignan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**State funding for IPR**
Browne reported that she had met with Board of Regents President Michael Gartner and Executive Director Gary Steinke in September to ask that IPR’s $2.5 million budget request be forwarded to the Iowa Legislature as part of the Board of Regents’ overall legislative request. However, she has since learned that the Regents’ $50 million request does not include any appropriation for IPR. Madden recommended that Browne meet with Andy Baumert, who has been appointed interim executive director of the Board of Regents following Steinke’s resignation, to determine the next steps to take in order to present an IPR budget proposal to the Legislature.

**Des Moines Office Space**
Browne reported on a recent visit to Des Moines by Hal Real of World Café Live to determine whether Philadelphia-based organization would consider developing a venue in downtown Des Moines space owned by the Walsmith family. A decision is expected by the end of January. Board members agreed with Browne’s recommendation to wait until that time to make a decision about a new location for IPR offices and studios.

**Executive session**
Vote to go into executive session at 3:25 p.m. in accordance with Iowa Code 21.5(1)I) to discuss the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Madden moved to go into executive session, Parrott seconded. Roll call vote was as follows: Carignan, yes. Madden, yes. Neu, yes. Runge, yes. Parrott, yes.

Madden moved to adjourn the executive session at 4 p.m. Runge seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Madden moved to set the salary of the IPR executive director Browne at $128,600 for the coming year and to award her a $6,000 bonus, based on her accomplishments in the past year. Runge seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Parrott
Secretary