



From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: June 23, 2016
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of June 23, 2016**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Leon Aron (via telephone)
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel (via telephone)

Governors Karen Kornbluh and Kenneth Weinstein were not in attendance. Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Chairman Shell called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website. He noted all Board members were in attendance except Governors Kornbluh and Weinstein, and that Under Secretary Stengel was joining by telephone from the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Stanford University.

Moving to Board business, Chairman Shell stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda, and that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

The Chairman described the five items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: draft minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting of the plenary Board; a resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service; a resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service; a resolution honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service; and a resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit. Governor Armstrong moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Kempner seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

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Chairman Shell noted that Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director John Lansing and his team briefed the Board yesterday on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan. He also noted that the CEO and his team have worked hard to put a structure in place consistent with the Board's directive. Governor Armstrong then made a motion to approve the FY 2016 Internet freedom spend plan that was presented by CEO Lansing. Chairman Shell seconded. Without objection, the FY 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan was unanimously adopted by the Board. The Chairman thanked Under Secretary Stengel for making the effort to join the Board by telephone and invited the Under Secretary to stay on if time permits. Under Secretary Stengel responded that he was scheduled to speak at an event shortly and, therefore, must hang up.

Governor Aron announced his participation by telephone. Chairman Shell welcomed Governor Aron and told him that the Board has unanimously approved the consent agenda and the FY 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan.

The Chairman said that there had been a flurry of activity at the end of the year and commented on Congressman Mac Thornberry's amendment to the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would seek a number of changes to the structure and composition of the BBG. He added that NDAA had passed in the House of Representatives along with the amendment, and that the Senate had passed their own version of the NDAA without any language regarding BBG reform in their authorization. He stated that, while there will be a conference on the amendment, CEO Lansing and his team were hard at work on formulating the Board's position on the pieces of legislation that it would support. He noted that the Board was not ready to take a position, and that this was not something the Board is taking lightly.

At the Chairman's invitation, the following Governors commented on the amendment: Governor Kempner said that there are some provisions, depending on how they are defined, the Board might or might not like but was diligently working to find out; Governor Crocker stated that these are weighty matters that will require considerable deliberation from the Board, and that he looks forward to being part of that process; Governor Armstrong agreed with Governor Crocker; and Governor Aron denoted that the Board was close to crystallizing several consensus points but needed to delve into them and cautioned against excessive deliberation.

Chairman Shell stated that this is his fourth year on the Board and noted that the BBG has important things to do and has nothing to do with the legislation, but it can memorialize the things that are working really well now. He noted that the Board does not intend to create things that make it harder to do for the next Board and the next leadership, and that it is trying to be very careful and thoughtful. He conveyed that the Board has had some disagreements behind closed doors, which was good for any healthy Board; moreover, the Board's goal is to be helpful and to support the people in and outside the room doing hard and dangerous work. The Chairman then thanked the Board for its efforts to continue to formulate a position.

The Chairman recognized that there was something much more important than the legislation and that was the loss of a member of the BBG family. He announced that Zina Kavalou had passed unexpectedly at her home on May 14, 2016 at the age of 49 years old. He noted that Ms. Kavalou was instrumental in ensuring that the BBG Board was able to carry out the live

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webcasts of its meetings, working behind the scenes to keep the show moving. He commented that, in the very early days before his appointment on the Board, he watched the webcast. Ms. Kavalou was a foundational pillar for the technological progress and growth of the Voice of America's (VOA) chyron graphics, including helping programmers to develop Persian, Khmer, and Urdu language capabilities for VOA. At the Chairman's request, there followed a moment of silence for Zina Kavalou.

Before summarizing incidents of threats to the press around the world, Chairman Shell reported on the release of Khadija Ismayilova. On May 25, the Board was pleased to learn that Azerbaijan's Supreme Court suspended the jail sentence of Ms. Ismayilova, an award-winning journalist and contributor for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) who had been in a Baku prison for nearly 18 months as part of a seven and a half year sentence for retaliation for her government corruption reports. The Chairman recognized the assistance in support of Ms. Ismayilova from many outside organizations – Congress, the U.S. Department of State, NGOs, and others – who had pressed her case in public and private. The Chairman stressed the need to continue to support Ms. Ismayilova because she was not truly free yet. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman urged Azerbaijan authorities to clear Ms. Ismayilova's name and remove her travel restrictions. He also called for the immediate reopening of RFE/RL's bureau in Baku, which has been closed since December 2014.

The Chairman noted that while progress was made in Ms. Ismayilova's case, the Board was dismayed that Saparmamed Nepeskuliev, RFE/RL's correspondent in Turkmenistan, was approaching his one-year of detention. He also noted that the Board believes his imprisonment is unlawful and demands his release. He said Mr. Nepeskuliev courageously reported on economic development, infrastructure, social services, and education in Turkmenistan's western regions, but was detained in July 2015 and held incommunicado before being convicted of fabricated narcotics charges and sentenced to three years in prison in closed proceedings in a Turkmenbashi city court on August 31, 2015.

Chairman Shell reported that, since the last Board meeting, there have been several attacks on VOA journalists in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia: In Turkey, two VOA Turkish reporters were assaulted and hospitalized while covering a car bomb; In Angola, a VOA correspondent was roughed up by police and detained without cause because he was doing a story on police corruption; and VOA journalists were beaten and harassed in separate incidents in Pakistan and Iraqi Kurdistan. In the case of the latter, the Chairman reported that the Kurdistan region security agency had issued a formal apology to VOA and VOA's Kurdish Service for the attack. He called on the authorities in Turkey, Pakistan, and Angola to hold those attackers accountable.

The Chairman concluded by noting that, elsewhere, BBG journalists have faced harassment, intimidation and threats in Crimea, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Iraq. He denounced these and all threats made to journalists in an effort to silence them, and said that the BBG will not be deterred from bringing uncensored news and information to people living under these oppressive regimes.

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In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Ann Noonan from the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting (CUSIB) and Adam Clayton Powell III from University of Southern California to address the Board for three minutes.

At the Chairman's request, BBG CEO Lansing began his report by inviting each of the BBG network heads to give examples of some of the great work they are doing. He announced the appointment of Sandy Sugawara as VOA's new Deputy Director and invited VOA Director Amanda Bennett to speak about the soft launch of VOA's Extremism Watch Desk and to introduce members of VOA's affiliates from Mexico and Central and South America. Malule Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB), revealed a new OCB newsletter highlighting upcoming projects and initiatives. Before going to Nenad Pejic for his update on the 24/7 satellite stream of *Current Time*, CEO Lansing announced Thomas Kent as RFE/RL's new President and took the opportunity to recognize Mr. Pejic with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as RFE/RL Interim Chief Executive while maintaining his full time responsibilities as Vice President and Editor in Chief. Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia, highlighted the coverage of North Korea's progress under Kim Jong Un, China's investment in control of Southeast Asia in Laos and Cambodia, and the crackdown and restrictions on Uyghurs. Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), showed a video of a new Alhurra program that followed four women in Egypt who work in traditionally male dominated jobs. Among other topics, CEO Lansing reported on his participation at the 2016 Global Media Forum in Bonn, Germany hosted by Deutsche Welle; meetings in New York with Dr. Richard Haas of the Council for Foreign Relations and the leadership at the Committee to Protect Journalists; and announced the BBG candidates for the 2016 Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholarship who will be in Aspen, Colorado in July for the Aspen's Socrates Program, including Carolyn Presutti, VOA News Center; Douglas Boynton, IBB Director of Marketing; Emilio Vazquez, OCB Staff Director; Glenn Kates, RFE/RL Managing Editor for Digital; Bay Fang, RFA Managing Director for Northeast Asia; and Fadoua Massat, MBN Managing Editor for Alhurra and Radio Sawa.

The Board then took a short recess and reconvened for a panel consisting of representatives of the BBG's networks to discuss the BBG's enhanced impact model, give examples of where the BBG has had impact through its journalism, and describe how the agency can adopt impact as a driving ethos for its journalism pursuits.

Following the panel, Chairman Shell stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at BBG headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 29, 2016. He said that the Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of April 20, 2016. The Board adopted the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.

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2. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit as set forth in Attachment 6.
6. FY 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan. The Board adopted the FY 2016 Internet freedom spend plan that was presented by the Chief Executive Officer and Director of BBG.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Rob Fallon; Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary Elizabeth Parish; Assistant General Counsel (Fiscal & Policy) David Kligerman; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Director of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Senior Advisor on Communications Nasserie Carew; Jeffrey Trimble, IBB Deputy Director; Andre Mendes, IBB Director of the Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation; Sonja Gloeckle, Director of Research & Assessment; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Kelu Chao, VOA Associate Director for Language Programming; William Bell, VOA Director of Research; Ernest (E.A.) Torriero, VOA Editor in Charge of Extremism Watch Desk; Maria "Malule" Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Natalia Crujeiras, OCB Chief Content Officer; Thomas Kent, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Nenad Pejic, RFE/RL Vice President and Editor in Chief; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Acting Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; Daisy Sindelar, RFE/RL Regional Director for Europe; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Bay Fang, RFA Managing Director for East Asia; Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Nada Alwadi, MBN Community Manager of Alhurra's Raise Your Voice; Deirdre Kline, MBN Director of Communications; Joshua Lipsky, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs; and members of VOA's affiliates from Mexico and Central and South America.

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

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Witnessed:

Elizabeth Parish
Interim Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Minutes of April 20, 2016 Board Meeting
2. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service
3. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service
4. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service
5. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit

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ATTACHMENT 1

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS June 2016 Meeting Agenda (ALL MEETINGS ARE AT COHEN BUILDING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.)

Thursday, June 23

9:45 – 12:00 Broadcasting Board of Governors' Open Meeting

Chairman's Remarks

A. Consent Agenda

- Draft Minutes of April 20, 2016 Meeting
- Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service
- Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service
- Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service
- Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit

B. Public Comment

C. CEO & Director's Report

10:15 Break

10:30 – 12:00 BBG Open Meeting Continued

D. Panel – BBG's Impact beyond Reach

E. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

12:00 BBG Meeting Adjourned

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ATTACHMENT 2

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: April 20, 2016
Subject: Minutes of the BBG Meeting of April 20, 2016

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Leon Aron
Governor Ryan Crocker (via telephone)
Governor Michael Kempner
Governor Karen Kornbluh
Governor Kenneth Weinstein

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel was not in attendance. Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Chairman Shell called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

The Chairman acknowledged the presence of Amanda Bennett as the new Director of the Voice of America (VOA) and invited BBG Chief Executive Officer and Director John Lansing to introduce Ms. Bennett. Mr. Lansing introduced Ms. Bennett as VOA's 29th director, outlined her journalism background, and credited her discovery to Under Secretary Stengel who floated her name. Ms. Bennett then gave brief remarks.

Mr. Lansing then took the opportunity to recognize Kelu Chao, who served as Acting VOA Director for almost a year. He noted that Ms. Chao filled three positions at once – Acting VOA Director, VOA Chief of Staff, and VOA Associate Director for Language Programming. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Shell and Mr. Lansing presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Chao for her service and dedication.

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Chairman Shell briefly noted that yesterday the Board met with Secretary John Kerry. He said that it was a great opportunity for the Board and Mr. Lansing to discuss informally the BBG's priorities and cooperation with the U.S. Department of State. He noted that Rick Stengel has been enormously helpful to the Board and a huge contributor to the BBG's success. He commented that the agency has a number of dedicated hardworking people in the building and in the field risking their lives, and that the current Board has worked tirelessly over the last couple of years to have a functioning board and a great management team. He said, as a result, the Board was pleased to know that the Secretary understands the importance of the BBG's work and its challenges, and that he recognizes the progress made by the Board. He noted that the Secretary would like the BBG to be an impactful tool of U.S. global policy in the challenging 21st century media environment. Chairman Shell expressed his appreciation for Secretary Kerry's encouraging comments and praises about BBG.

Before moving to citing ongoing the threats to BBG journalists, Chairman Shell highlighted a recent incident in Russia-annexed Crimea, where security officers raided the homes of at least seven people, some of whom have worked as contributors for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). He noted that the Moscow-backed Crimean Prosecutor General's Office had launched a criminal case against one of those contributors, Mykola Semena, alleging that his journalism amounted to "extremism" and agitated for "violations of Russia's territorial integrity." He also noted that the prosecutor had called for the closure of RFE/RL's Crimea Realities website, one of the last remaining sources of independent news on Russia-annexed Crimea. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman condemned the targeting of independent journalists in Russia-annexed Crimea and believed the charges against Mr. Semena are baseless, and aimed only at silencing independent voices and dissent.

The Chairman announced that, this morning, Reporters Without Borders had published its 2016 world press freedom index. He stated that, while he had not seen the report, he would expect very little or no changes in the ranking of countries where there is deterioration of information and where threats to the media and information still remain or have worsened.

Chairman Shell segued to the threats that other BBG journalists continue to face around the world. He highlighted the following incidents involving BBG's journalists: (1) In Cuba, Celia Mendoza, VOA Spanish's correspondent, was surveilled while interviewing dissidents, and on her third day in Cuba, the Cuban police checked the room she was renting and pressured her landlady watch for "suspicious activity;" as a result of the pressure, the landlady canceled the reservation to Alhurra's correspondent; (2) In Vietnam, on March 30, the Ho Chi Minh City People's court sentenced blogger Nguyen Ngoc Gia, a regular, weekly contributor to Radio Free Asia (RFA) to four years in prison and another three years of probation for carrying out "propaganda against the State," saying that "many of his articles were sent to RFA;" (3) In Mogadishu, a stringer of VOA Somali Service received three death threats via text in a 20-hour period by a man believed to be an Al-Shabaab militant, demanding that he support the militants or leave his VOA job, or else "we know where you are and we will get you;" (4) Albanian military police harassed a VOA Albanian reporter who was covering the crash of an army helicopter, including pushing the reporter and his camera away while using derogatory language which was captured on video; (5) In Washington, D.C., while covering the Nuclear Security

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Summit, reporters from RFA's Tibetan Service were harassed by Chinese nationalist demonstrators gathering at the convention center, including pushing and shoving the reporter and her colleagues until police intervened which was captured on video and shared via Youtube and Twitter; (6) In Azerbaijan, investigative journalist and RFE/RL contributor Khadija Ismayilova remains in prison, despite the release of more than a dozen political prisoners by the Azerbaijani government in late March; however, Ms. Ismayilova's work also recently gained major recognition – the 2016 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, the UNESCO's World Press Freedom Prize, and the Khadija Project, which continues her investigative work won the 2015 Tom Renner Award; (7) In Turkmenistan, RFE/RL Turkmen Service freelancer Saparmamed Nepeskuliev remains in prison; and (8) Since the middle of March, RFE/RL's Russian Service and the Current Time team have been the subjects of at least four negative articles and video programs on Russian media outlets. In conclusion, the Chairman stated that the BBG will make sure to highlight these threats and more at the upcoming World Press Freedom Day on May 3, "a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession,"

Moving to Board business, Chairman Shell stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda, and that there was no comment from any Governors.

The Chairman described the four items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: the minutes of February 26, 2016 meeting; a resolution honoring the 70th anniversary of VOA's Thai Service; a resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of VOA's Tibetan Service; and a resolution changing the June Board meeting date – from June 2 to June 23. On the last resolution changing the June Board meeting date, the Chairman explained that a couple of Board members have unavoidable conflicts and suggested that staff canvass the Board members again for their availability in late June or early July. He then moved to amend the consent agenda by removing the resolution changing the June Board meeting date. Governor Kempner seconded. Without objection, the amendment was unanimously adopted by the Board. The Chairman then moved for adoption of the amended consent agenda. Governor Armstrong seconded. Without objection, the amended consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Chairman Shell announced that Ann Noonan from the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting (CUSIB) had registered to attend the Board meeting and signed up to speak but cannot attend at the last minute. In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Adam Clayton Powell III from University of Southern California to address the Board for three minutes.

At the Chairman's request, BBG CEO Lansing began his report by inviting each of the BBG network heads to give examples of some of the great work they are doing. Among other topics, Ms. Bennett spoke to the work VOA is doing to tell America's story, including a series profiling America's immigrant communities around the U.S. such as an African community in Alaska; a quote from Nigerian president Muhammad Buhari who said "I am an avid listener to VOA

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because you are fair, professional and balanced, which all add up to the fact that you are the station I love to hear;" VOA Zimbabwe Service's help in bringing to light the fact that Zimbabwe's leading platinum mine was using offshore accounts in order to siphon money and illegally pay its officers; and a National Review profile of the head of VOA Ukrainian Service, Myroslava Gongadze, who came here to the U.S. after her husband was murdered in their home country to continue to pursue journalism. Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) Director Malule Gonzalez reported that the Martis, for the first time ever, had a live shot from Havana; and now that postal service between Cuba and the U.S. resume, OCB has received letters from Cuba with feedback that is extremely important to OCB. RFE/RL Interim Manager Nenad Pejic spoke to the pressure on RFE/RL in Russia and the satellite stream in the Russian language. RFA President Libby Liu announced the launch of RFA's investigative series on North Korea, and the Internet freedom festival last month that RFA convened with the U.S. Department of State, focusing on the enormous expansion of Internet freedom and its impact on the free flow of information around the world. MBN President Brian Conniff announced the launch of Sit BE mit RAgal, (Arabic for 'A Lady is Worth 100 Men') a new program that turns the spotlight on successful Egyptian women making their mark on society by profiling four Egyptian women who are embarking on traditionally male dominated jobs, and that the program touches on MBN's core mission of women's empowerment and entrepreneurship.

At Mr. Lansing's invitation, Director of Research and Assessment Sonja Gloeckle gave an overview of the new impact model that is more streamlined and attuned to the market realities in the more challenging markets. Ms. Gloeckle noted that the new impact model is a result of the summit lead by Mr. Lansing. She explained that the impact model is a living document, the digital impact indicators will be amended regularly as the digital sector evolves. The impact model contains three pillars from the mission statement – inform, engage and connect with core indicators and optional indicators. Ms. Gloeckle said that the next step now is to rework some of the BBG's research products to be more in line with the impact model.

In closing, Mr. Lansing asked Chief of Staff Rob Fallon to provide an update on the partnership with the Peace Corps. Mr. Fallon stated that VOA is finalizing a new partnership with the Peace Corps, where it will provide its Learning English training suite to Peace Corps' approximately 7,000 volunteers worldwide. He noted that this is a great way to use VOA's existing tools to drastically enhance another agency's ability to teach English around the world.

On behalf of the Board, Governor Kempner thanked BBG CEO Lansing for his work which resulted in many positive activities and accomplishments.

The Board then took a short recess and reconvened for a panel consisting of representatives of the BBG's networks to discuss their efforts to expand in digital and social media.

Following the panel, Chairman Shell stated that the next Board meeting will be announced on the BBG's website. He said that the Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

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The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of February 26, 2015. The Board adopted the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring the 70th Anniversary of Voice of America's Thai Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 70th anniversary of Voice of America's Thai Service as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring the 25th Anniversary of Voice of America's Tibetan Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of Voice of America's Tibetan Service as set forth in Attachment 4.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Rob Fallon; Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Director of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Senior Advisor on Communications Nasserie Carew; Jeffrey Trimble, IBB Deputy Director; Andre Mendes, IBB Director of the Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation; Sonja Gloeckle, Director of Research & Assessment; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Kelu Chao, VOA Associate Director for Language Programming; Matthew Baise, Director of Digital Strategy for VOA; Mayra Fernandes, VOA International Multimedia Broadcaster; Maria "Malule" Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Clive Fernandez, OCB Director of Digital and Social Media Strategy; Nenad Pejic, Interim Manager for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) (via telephone); Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Susan Jackson, RFE/RL Director of TV & Video Production; Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Acting Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Chief of Staff; Glenn Kates, RFE/RL Managing Editor for Digital; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Rohit Mahajan, RFA Director of Public Affairs; Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Omar Fekeiki (Mahmood), MBN Managing Editor of Raise Your Voice Digital; and Joshua Lipsky, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

Witnessed:

David Kligerman
Interim Board Secretary



Broadcasting
Board of
Governors

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Attachments:

1. Agenda for April 20, 2016 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of February 26, 2015 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring the 70th anniversary of VOA's Thai Service
4. Resolution Honoring the 25th anniversary of VOA's Tibetan Service

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ATTACHMENT 3

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S ARMENIAN SERVICE

June 23, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in Armenian on June 24, 1951 to provide accurate, balanced, and comprehensive news and information to the Armenian people;

WHEREAS, VOA's Armenian Service has served for decades as a vital communications link with the Armenian people in support of freedom and democracy during the Cold War, and through the challenges Armenia faces today;

WHEREAS, VOA's Armenian Service has successfully adopted television, online and social media platforms to reach even greater numbers of Armenians;

WHEREAS, VOA Armenian is a leading source of news and information for Armenians about United States policy, and expert analysis on Armenia and the world;

WHEREAS, VOA Armenian is a unique source of news and information for Armenians about American society and its achievements in democratic governance, business, medicine, science, technology and the arts, which can serve as an inspiration and a model for Armenia;

WHEREAS, VOA's Armenian Service has nurtured and developed successful partnerships with Armenia's leading television networks;

WHEREAS, VOA Armenian remains a respected source of objective and accurate news and information about Armenia, Eurasia, the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Armenian Service continues to broadcast daily to millions of people in Armenia and around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Voice of America's Armenian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors commends and congratulates both the current and former members of the Voice of America's Armenian Service for their dedication in serving the Armenian people, and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.

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ATTACHMENT 4

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S GEORGIAN SERVICE

June 23, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in Georgian on May 26, 1951, to provide accurate, balanced, and comprehensive news and information to the Georgian people;

WHEREAS, VOA's Georgian Service has served for decades as a vital communications link with the Georgian people in support of freedom and democracy during the last 65 years of harsh policies and rule by the Communist Party, and through the challenges Georgians face today;

WHEREAS, VOA's Georgian Service has successfully adopted television, online, mobile and social media platforms, and its stories and commentaries are remarkably efficient to solicit feedback by politicians and potential trendsetters;

WHEREAS, VOA Georgian is a leading source of news and information for Georgians about U.S. official commentary and expert analysis on Georgia, the Eurasia region and the world;

WHEREAS, VOA Georgian is a unique source of news and information for Georgians about American society and its achievements in democratic governance, business, medicine, science, technology, and the arts, which can serve as an inspiration and a model for Georgians;

WHEREAS, VOA Georgian remains a respected source of objective and accurate news and information about Georgia, Eurasia, the United States and the world, with a major focus on human rights, religious and cultural rights, freedom of speech, and democratic values and practices;

WHEREAS, VOA's Georgian Service continues to broadcast daily to more than three million people in Georgia and Georgian-speakers around the world; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Georgian Service is among the leading international broadcasters in the Georgian language and is surpassing its competitors with its audience reach on multiple platforms – television, Internet, radio and mobile – which are arguably the most popular and influential television programs in the Georgian language.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Voice of America's Georgian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors commends and congratulates both the current and former members of the Voice of America's Georgian Service for their dedication in serving the Georgian people and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.

Minutes of June 23, 2016 Meeting

ATTACHMENT 5

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S BOSNIAN SERVICE

June 23, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in the Bosnian language on June 15, 1996, to provide accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

WHEREAS, VOA's Bosnian Service has since served as a trusted source of unique, credible, relevant, and trustworthy news and information about the United States of America, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the rest of the world;

WHEREAS, VOA Bosnian multimedia content reaches and engages more than 17 percent of Bosnian-speaking adults across broadcast and digital platforms;

WHEREAS, VOA's Bosnian Service has broadened its impact by augmenting its regular television broadcasts with increasing presence on Internet and social media platforms;

WHEREAS, VOA's Bosnian Service is a leading source of news and information for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina about America's life, thought, and institutions;

WHEREAS, VOA's Bosnian Service is also a leading source of news and information for all the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina about U.S. official commentary, U.S. public opinion, as well as expert analysis on Bosnia and the world; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Bosnian Service has been a highly trusted and respected source of news and information about human rights, religious and cultural rights, freedom of speech, and democratic values and practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Voice of America's Bosnian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors commends and congratulates both the current and former members of the Voice of America's Bosnian Service for their dedication in serving the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.

Minutes of June 23, 2016 Meeting

ATTACHMENT 6

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RFE/RL BALKAN SERVICE'S MACEDONIAN UNIT

JUNE 23, 2016

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) launched, within its Balkan Service, Macedonian-language programming for the Republic of Macedonia on September 1, 2001 and will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of these programs in 2016;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Macedonian Unit's multiple-media broadcasts in support of inter-ethnic tolerance, democracy, economic reform, human rights, the rule of law, Euro-Atlantic integration, and the fight against corruption have earned them the faith and trust of their audience in Macedonia;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL is the only international broadcaster serving Macedonia that operates in both the Albanian and Macedonian languages on all three multimedia platforms: radio, TV, and web;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL is considered the most reliable and professional source of information in Macedonia;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Macedonian Unit and Voice of America's Macedonian Service recently introduced a video project called "Horizons" that addresses such sensitive issues in the region as Macedonian politics, the rise of ISIL, and the refugee crisis;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Macedonian Unit's reporting in 2012 led to the [breakup](#) of a major trafficking ring that facilitated massive illegal immigration transiting the Balkans en route to the European Union, and the Unit continues its reporting on the waves of immigrants moving through the Balkan countries from Kosovo, Syria, Africa, and Asia; and

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Macedonian Unit reports extensively on the internal political crisis in Macedonia, and the heightened pressure that is now being exerted on independent media in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Macedonian Unit of RFE/RL's Balkan Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board applauds and thanks current and former members of RFE/RL's Macedonian Unit for their dedication to professional journalism.