

公益社団法人\_日本外国特派員協会\_

## The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

100-0005 Japan, Tokyo-to, Chiyoda-ku, Marunouchi, 3-2-3, Marunouchi Nijubashi Building 5F  
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**Minutes** (7 pages)

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, March 10, 2025**

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### **Quorum: Five Voting**

#### **Attend In Person (Voting):**

Dan Sloan, President  
Randy Schmidt, 2nd Vice President  
Anthony Rowley, Treasurer  
David Umeda, Secretary  
Shuri Fukunaga  
Dave McCombs

#### **Attend In Person (Non-Voting):**

Martin Fackler, Kanji  
Simon Farrell, Kanji

#### **Absent:**

Khaldon Azhari, 1st Vice President  
Suvendrini Kakuchi  
Taeko Nagayama

#### **Attend In Person (Club Staff):**

Wayne Hunter, General Manager

### **1) Call to Order, Prioritized Agenda (10:00 am)**

#### **a. President's Report (D. Sloan)**

D. Sloan highlights the breadth of activities on the horizon at the Club. He has invited the entire Membership to attend the General Membership Meeting (March 27), with non-Regular members being able to observe (not vote) firsthand the proceedings. D. Sloan sees the need for a sustained increase in Membership, and the GMM will aim to engender purpose amongst the attendees. He encourages the BoD to invite either those new members they are in contact with, or anyone they think would be interested.

He thanks S. Farrell (chairperson of The Entertainment Committee) for a lot of events coming up.

There are plans in the month of May for a Hanif Recognition Night. A fundraising portal aims to make his transition back to Pakistan easier. D. Sloan hopes to see many of our former staff and current friends who wish to see him off properly that night.

D. Sloan is grateful to M. Fackler for stepping in to be co-chair of PAC, and he hopes to see more great guests in the BoD's last few months.

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### b. Treasurer's Report (A. Rowley)

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to recommend the FY2025 business plan, budget and incorporated monthly levy of 1,500 yen to the membership for approval as presented.

PASSED. 5 Yes, 1 No. **Note:** on each of the three components—i.e., 1 – Business Plan for FY2025 (D. Sloan and GM went through it); 2– Budget for FY2025; and 3– Monthly levy of 1,500 yen to the membership (continued).

The Finance Committee met on March 4 and also on March 6. Hopefully the deficit in cash flow is temporary. However, year-on-year cash flow has improved. The recently established Task Force should offer some guidance in its initial introduction (to be delivered at the GMM on March 27) on how improvement might be achieved, but significant challenges lie ahead.

When asked later, A. Rowley responded that there's a lot of work to be done and, at the moment, we haven't fixed a specific time frame for the report to be completed. It is up to Task Force chairperson Michiyo Nakamoto to make this announcement officially. He added that we want to make sure it's a comprehensive document rather than rushing out something that is only half finished. A. Rowley stated that probably the announcement at the GMM (March 27) will include when the final report will be available.

### c. First Vice President's Report (K. Azhari)

### d. Second Vice President's Report (R. Schmidt)

(See Membership Committee's Report)

### e. Secretary's Report (D. Umeda)

D. Umeda explains about upcoming Professional Associate/Associate Survey distributed, responded to, and tallied in April. In answering specific concerns raised by the BoD, there will be an item that has respondents indicate what activities are valued, which will be shared with the chairpersons of related committees; another item will allow respondents to comment on the Club overall (S. Farrell's idea); and the profiles of respondents will include age, number of years as a member, etc.

### f. Kanjis' Report (M. Fackler, S. Farrell)

### g. General Manager's Report (W. Hunter)

–ANAC was given permission by a past BoD to display model plane and use of logos on menus and name tags.

–Explanation of registered parking arrangements.

–Ricoh barter arrangement being discussed regarding new membership card printer and related software.

–March 6<sup>th</sup> initial review of Club archival content for potential monetization. Dan mentioned about History Channel “audit” yet to be developed further.

–S. Fukunaga offered to assist in locating off-premises venue for a social gathering for Club staff, not held since Covid, being organized by the GM.

–AGM appointed. Also noted in HR Committee Report.

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- Union approved proposed percent increase in staff salary. Also noted in HR Committee Report.
- Entry of staff team into the TELL Tokyo Tower club in May.
- A contract renewal beginning in May for Membership manager. Also noted in HR Committee Report.
- In updating staff work rules (not done since 2017), have incorporated childcare and family care leave, and workplace harassment for staff union to review before approval.
- Discussion on merits of maintaining ties to chambers of commerce, which now involves 7-8 chambers.
- Regarding the FPIJ members who are not FCCJ members, should they pay something if attend an FCCJ event. D. Sloan says this eventually will need to be addressed.
- Reviewing printer and copy machine system as the current cash operated system does not function with the new 1,000-yen notes or coins and is costly to replace. Also, need to consider looking at the current printing being free up to 50 pages per day, while copy machine is not free.

### 2) Approval of Consent Agenda

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve the consent agenda as follows:

a. February 10 Board Meeting Minutes

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve the February 10, 2025 Board meeting minutes as presented.  
PASSED.

b. February Membership Applications

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve the March membership applications as recommended by the Membership Committee.  
PASSED.

c. Honorary Membership for Paul Snowden

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to grant a one-year honorary membership to Shakespeare event lecturer Paul Snowden as presented.  
Need further investigation into intent for why so often. **Note:** four times a year, for the past 12 years.

d. Honorary Membership for Stuart Varnam-Atkin I

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to grant a one-year honorary membership to Shakespeare event lecturer Stuart Varnam Atkin as presented.  
Need further investigation into intent for why so often. **Note:** four times a year, for the past 12 years.

e. Honorary Membership for Kazura Sunamori

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to grant a one-year honorary membership to exhibition curator Ms. Kazura Sunamori as presented.  
PASSED.

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f. Honorary Membership for Messrs. Gill, Asano & Takiuchi

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to grant one-year honorary memberships to Film Committee guests Mark Gill, Tadanobu Asano, Kumi Takiuchi as presented.

PASSED.

**Note:** Agreed that if an FCCJ-sponsored event, an Honorary Membership is fine. D. Sloan cited ones by the Film Committee and Exhibition Committee as examples. For PAC, M. Fackler (newly appointed co-chair) said that in addition to the event being FCCJ sponsored, the second criteria for Honorary Membership would be that the guest speaker is prestigious.

Regarding live streaming, one way to find how to monetize a press conference is that the FCCJ controls one of the cameras, and what is outputted (M. Fackler).

### 3) Old Business

a. Articles of Association Amendments (W. Hunter)

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to recommend the amendments to the Articles of Association to the March 27, 2025 General Membership Meeting for approval as presented.

PASSED.

b. Life Membership Gregory Clark

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to grant a life membership to Gregory Clark as presented.

Need all BoD Members to be present.

c. Main Bar Venue for Comedy Night (S. Farrell)

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to change the date for the closure of the Main Bar for a Comedy Night from March 22 to May 24, 2025.

PASSED. 5 Yes, 1 No.

d. Membership Barter for Website Upgrade (W. Hunter)

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve to grant a three-year honorary membership to Paul Braganza in exchange for upgrading the club website operating system from Drupal 8 to Drupal 10 as presented.

PASSED. 4 Yes, 1 No.

### 4) New Business

a. Membership Campaign from April 2025 (W. Hunter)

**Proposed Resolution:** Approve a new membership voucher campaign with the parameters as presented.

PASSED. Unanimous.

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### b. Any Other Business – Issues Inventory

Donation box for Hanif placed at Reception. Limited edition “Hanf – oh my god” coffee cup planned with net profit to go to the Hanif Fund.

## 5) Committee Reports

### Committees – Liaison

#### a. Associate Members Liaison – S. Farrell

(See *Secretary's Report*)

#### b. DeRoy Memorial Scholarship – S. Kakuchi

#### c. Election – S. Kakuchi

#### d. Entertainment – S. Farrell

–Planning themed SNL performers with menu items to match.

–For Comedy Night (May 24), GM says need BoD approval to close the Bar. Discussion on charge (1,000 to 1,500 yen per person), and how last time, Comedy Night had 50 people or so attend.

–Trivia Night in June or July. Emcees: D. McCombs and J. Adelstein.

#### e. Film – D. Sloan

Potential income—Film Nights attract many pre-screening diners to the FCCJ restaurant, and the Film Committee members always escort attendees (10-25 people) to the restaurant afterwards. If the restaurant stays open longer, they will spend much more.

#### f. Finance – A. Rowley

(See *Treasurer's Report*)

#### g. Food & Beverage – S. Fukunaga

–Discussion on pricing

–Pen & Quill promotional suggestions (e.g., clarity on menus and how often changed, curtained windows that hide views).

–ANAC's hospitality responsibilities besides the quality of food & beverage.

–Convincing ANAC about new angles like a 10-person dinner with special guest.

#### h. Freedom of Press – R. Schmidt

–Reissuance of rules for publishing Freedom of the Press statements. The BoD requests that the following change be dropped in Step 3: ... “To avoid conflicts of interest, no member of the Committee or the Board may nominate his or her own organization or colleagues, but Committee members can vote for them if nominated by another member.”

–Discussion on “conflicts of interest.”

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–Awards Ceremony planned for May 27, from 7:00 pm at FCCJ. Happy to consider a more elaborate awards ceremony if BoD requests.

i. House & Property – K. Azhari

j. **Human Resources** – R. Schmidt

–Small performance-related bonus in new budget, and this will be paid out based on the Club's financial performance at year-end and individual staff performance based on a review/rating plan that GM will roll out in the new financial year.

–AGM (*see GM Report*).

–Membership manager new contract (*see GM Report*).

–Update staff rules (*see GM Report*).

–Union and salary increases (*see GM Report*).

k. **Information Technology** (Web) – K. Azhari

Current co-chair will assume chair.

l. **Library, Archives & Workroom** – S. Kakuchi

–“A Dinner Event, from 5:45 pm to 8:30 p.m.” (replaces “from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm”).

–Number1 Shimbun: issues still being scanned and work to check image quality still underway.

–Half of the tapes have been checked for sound quality and added to list of tape names.

m. **Membership** – R. Schmidt

As of Feb 28, 2025: 1,470 total membership (1,444 a year earlier).

n. **Membership Marketing** – D. Umeda

–Making it quick and easy for non-members invited by members to register and pay for events online by themselves.

–Events that will draw non-members to the Club.

o. **Professional Activities** – D. Sloan

–Planning two historic events: (1) The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan-Korea relations; (2) The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War End.

–Introduce a kind of Communication App to replace email.

–Introduce small video meetings for event discussion (e.g., regular short online meetings to improve the development of events).

–Long-term planning: collection of foreseeable events like trade shows, which offer dates for PAC related events.

–Revisited the issue of live streaming of PAC events. Live streaming and the introduction of an online membership are closely related.

–Feb 2025 Attendance figures.

p. Publications (No.1 Shimbun) – D. Umeda

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### **Ad hoc – Liaison**

r. Compliance – R. Schmidt  
s. Deep Dive – A. Rowley  
t. Exhibition – S. Fukunaga  
u. Sports D. – Sloan

D. Sloan reiterated when asked that the next Board and next President will make the decision about the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

### **6) Adjournment (12:05)**