



**Business Professionals of America Minutes  
Special Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 16, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Cedric Bandoh, called the meeting of the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Board of Trustees (BOT) to order at 6:02 pm CST.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Cedric Bandoh, Chair; Natasha Smith, Vice Chair; Athena Frank, Treasurer; Debbie Darnell, Secretary; Angie Benson; Dianne Carroll; Nate Cradit; Amy Hollingsworth; Cassandra Lindo, Post- secondary President; Amy Riddle; Emily White, Secondary National President; Shauna Williams; Evan Wolff; and LouAnn Ross, Executive Director.

Guests: Brigette Bethea; Heather Bunning; Mark Burch; Ric Cowles; Michele Gordon; Amber McNew; Patrick Schultz; and Jonathan Smith.

**OPENING REMARKS**

Cedric Bandoh, Board Chair, stated this meeting was to determine what happens now that NLC has been canceled.

Dr. Ross presented information regarding what is next and the possibility of postponing NLC.

Ric Cowles reported that there will most likely be a deficit at the end of this year. It is unclear what will have to be paid to hotels. (They are investigating the “Act of God” clause in the contracts.) Another big expense is Cybis. Some has already been paid on the Cybis contract. Tours and transportation are another contracted expense. There are some expenses for NLC that we cannot recoup. We could use board restricted funds to cover deficit. The worst-case scenario is the hotels could charge us for all rooms. The cancellation insurance will not cover the virus.

Jonathan Smith addressed the possibility of rescheduling the conference in the summer. If we did offer a later date, we would have to renegotiate with the current hotel due to legal and financial complications.

Patrick Schultz shared an NLC Cancellation brainstorming diagram to keep members engaged.

After much discussion, the main areas to address regarding the NLC cancellation are financial concerns, policy concerns (contingency plan), and continued engagement opportunities for members. In addition, plans for National Officer elections and Board of Trustees elections need to be communicated.

Cedric Bando reported that the Board of Trustees will be meeting with SAAC and National staff sometime this week (possibly Wednesday) to discuss the above items and gather information and feedback.

The Board went into executive session at 7:29 pm CST.  
The Board came out of executive session at 7:43 pm CST.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm CST.

Debbie Darnell, Secretary

*Approved March 31, 2020.*