

## MINUTES

### **Election Campaign Practices Committee (ECPC): Meeting by conference call Jan. 14, 2016, 2 PM Eastern**

Participants: Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Chair, Elisabeth (Beth) McGregor, Katherine (KC) Slack; Rob Eller-Isaacs, Secretary of the UUA Board (ex officio on the ECPC)

Committee members introduced themselves briefly. Beth was asked to serve as Secretary for the committee. Minutes once accepted by the committee members will be publicly available as requested by the Open UUA committee; Manish will confirm the process for posting.

Manish elaborated on a message from Stephanie Carey Maron, Executive Assistant to the President, outlining steps the staff is taking this year to robustly advertise the process of running for office by petition, in response to concerns the committee expressed a year ago about the timeliness and adequacy of that information.

The Presidential election cycle begins with the announcement of nominated candidates on Jan. 17, 1 PM EST. Candidates who wish to run by petition for president have until Feb. 1, 2017 to file; election will be held at the 2017 General Assembly. Those who wish to run by petition for UUA Board positions to be elected at 2016 GA must file by Feb. 1, 2016; if no one files, the Board elections will be uncontested.

Manish reviewed the formal and informal duties of the ECPC. All members were asked to review the sections of the UUA bylaws and rules on elections, particularly Rule G-9.13.10, which outlines the official duties of the committee, including informing candidates of campaign practices guidelines and financial disclosure rules and hearing and adjudicating complaints. The Secretary of the Association has the overall responsibility for ensuring the integrity of elections; decisions made by the ECPC are reviewed by the Executive Committee of the UUA Board.

The committee also has the unofficial role of answering questions by candidates and their campaigns, dealing with problems and concerns that don't reach the level of formal complaints, helping the candidates maintain a shared covenant of how they will conduct themselves in the campaign, and giving advisory input on interpretations of the covenant and rules. Normally questions will go to the chair (Manish) who will involve the other committee members as needed. While the committee has responsibility for all UUA elected positions, in practice its primary function has been to deal with election processes related to the positions of UUA President and Moderator.

It has been the usual practice that candidates running for President and Moderator get together and agree on a covenant. This will happen next week between the nominees for President; both Manish and Rob will be present. Rob noted that if anyone runs by petition, there would need to be another meeting and recovenanting by all parties.

We reviewed the rules on campaign finance disclosure, which set limits on overall spending (\$100,000) and donations by any one person (\$5000) in the Presidential campaigns, and require reporting of in-kind donations over \$500 in value. Financial filings by the campaigns go to the UUA Secretary, and complaints of rule or procedural violations come to the committee.

There will be a presidential candidates' forum at GA 2016; this is traditionally moderated by the Chair of the ECPC. Manish has already put in the paperwork to reserve a slot. The UUA Board will host a forum for the other candidates if the elections are contested, or may choose to simply introduce them in plenary session if uncontested.

The committee members agree to attend GA in both 2016 and 2017 and to be available for face-to-face meetings. Expenses will be covered; Stephanie will send a budget code and information on making reservations. Airline reservations should be made through the UUA's designated travel agent.

The next meeting by conference call is set for Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 2 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elisabeth McGregor  
Secretary, ECPC