7 advisory board.

8 DR. BERRY: Frank Millspaugh?

9 MR. MILLSPAUGH: I hereby resign from the

10 WBAI local advisory board.

11 DR. BERRY: Andrea Cisco?

12 MS. CISCO: I resign from the WBAI local

13 advisory board.

14 DR. BERRY: All right. Hearing from the

15 persons whose status was as local advisory board

16 members, that they have duly resigned from that, I

17 hereby announce that they remain as members of the

18 governing board of Pacifica Foundation to serve the

19 terms that are now their stated terms as of this date.

20 And now I ask the counsel, our counsel,

21 whether he believes that we have complied with the

22 guidance from CPB by these actions that we have taken

23 this day.

24 MR. CRIGLER: Yes, I do

25 DR. BERRY: Thank you very much, Counsel.

1 Now we will proceed to vote on the policies.

2 The board has before it a motion to approve

3 the policies which I read to you, which are the

4 policies which will be used to implement the by-law

5 change which we have just agreed to.

6 I move that we approve these policies as a

7 motion --

8 a report coming from the Board Governance and

9 Structure Committee.

10 Could I get a second?

11 MR. MILLSPAUGH: Second the motion.

12 DR. BERRY: Is there any further discussion?

13 Hearing none, all those in favor of the

14 these policies, indicate by saying "aye."

15 VOICES: Aye.

16 DR. BERRY: Opposed?

17 (No opposition.)

18 DR. BERRY: So ordered.

19 Everyone has voted unanimously,

20 and these are the policies that we'll

21 follow.

22 Everyone who has been involved in this

23 debate is very much interested

24 and concerned about Pacifica.

25 There's no one, whatever position they took,

1 or take, on the by-law proposal who did it in bad

2 faith, in my opinion.

3 I believe everyone, no matter what

4 organization or if they were acting individually,

5 and no matter how they expressed their opinions,

6 did it because they were interested

7 in Pacifica.

8 I received, as many of you did

9 all of you did,

10 many communications.

11 -- I got a letter, which purported

12 to be from Howard Zinn,

13 who I very much

14 respect and am very fond of,

15 Noam Chomsky.

16 -- Ed Herman concerning this

17 change in which they said

18 that as the 50th anniversary

19 of Pacifica, we should

20 continue to operate in a

21 democratic --

22 small d -- fashion.

23 Let me just say I would be responding

24 directly to them, but what we have done here is no less

25 democratic, as I said before, than we were before.

1 The issues of how the board of Pacifica

2 should be selected or how the LAB should be selected --

3 whether they should be elected or how they should be --

4 these issues are not the same as whether one should

5 disconnect the LAB roles from the national governing

6 board roles. Those are entirely different issues,

7 although they're issues that deeply concern people.

8 I think we should all commit 9 ourselves to moving forward in the 10 best interest of all of the stations and of the 11 network. 12 My only complaint, 13 and I feel constrained to say this, is that 14 the vitriol and the bile that was expressed by some 15 people in this debate is worse than anything I have 16 ever received from the Right Wing. 17 I have been attacked. I have been fired by 18 Ronald Reagan. I've been put in jail. I've had all 19 sorts of bad things happen to me in my life in the 20 cause of social justice. And the Right Wing has never, 21 In my view, treated me and members of this board as 22 badly as some of the people in this debate. 23 I have had my life threatened on the 24 telephone, on voice mail, at my office, by people who 25 have said I would be killed if I indeed pursued this

1 course. The Right Wing has never told me they would

- 2 kill me if I did something.
- 3 I have had people accuse me of stealing.
- 4 I've had people say all sorts of things. I just think
- 5 that there's a way to disagree and there's a way to
- 6 dislike somebody or something they're doing without

7 being disagreeable.

8 So I would hope that what we would do is

9 commit ourselves to having a reasonable, honest debate

10 with each other. And maybe that's the way at Pacifica

11 and I just didn't know it.

12 But let us hope that we can agree on most

13 things. And when we disagree, we can do it without

14 threatening each other, at least threatening each other

15 physically. And I would very much appreciate it if we

16 went forward.

17 Sherry Gendelman has now arrived.

18 And if there is --

19 was some confusion about when you would speak, I'm

20 sorry --

21 MS. GENDELMAN: I apologize.

22 DR. BERRY: -- I apologize. Because you

23 certainly aren't part of the public comment period. So

24 I'm just glad you got here. And we would very much

25 like to hear from you.

1 COUNCIL OF CHAIRS REPORT

2

3 MS. GENDELMAN: Thank you.

4 I've been asked to communicate to you the

5 concerns of many of the listeners and supporters of the

6 Pacifica network which have been forwarded to me by the 7 Council of Chairs. 8 In addition, many long-time KPFA supporters 9 have also asked me to represent them here. Finally, I 10 have letter given to me by Victor Honig, which I will 11 either read or give at the end of my remarks. 12 DR. BERRY: We have the letter. 13 MS. GENDELMAN: Oh, you have the letter. 14 The underlying strength and reason for the 15 continued existence of Pacifica, KPFA, and the other 16 stations in our network, in large part, is based upon 17 the connection it maintains with its listening 18 community, as well as to communities who attribute to 19 the progressive politics, culture, and spirituality 20 that have been broadcast for so many years. 21 It is often a joke that if there's a 22 Pacifica or KPFA gathering in town with 100 people in 23 attendance, there will no doubt be 300 different 24 opinions minimum. We air controversy, and we invite 25 it

1 I recommend to all of you Matthew Lasar's

2 recently published book, Pacifica Radio, the Rise of

3 the Alternative Network, which chronicles our colorful

- 4 history with humor and accuracy.
- 5 I care deeply about these airwaves. They

6 are my connection to the ideas, thoughtful discussion, 7 information, about what's happening, who needs help, 8 who to lobby, who to picket, to wonderful music, plays, 9 scientific information, all of it. This is my 10 lifeline. I love the medium of radio more than any 11 other. 12 We, Pacifica, is once again facing difficult 13 decisions about how to protect and grow the network and 14 Pacifica's mission while retaining a connection to the 15 communities we serve and who support us. I speak on 16 behalf of many people in urging you to remember you are 17 here to serve the mission of Pacifica. 18 I understand economic reality quite well. I 19 am fully aware of the contribution CPB makes to our 20 overall budget. But we are not here to serve CPB first 21 and Pacifica as an afterthought. 22 In a conversation I had with Rick Madden, it 23 was troubling to learn that no one advocated on behalf 24 of Pacifica in response to the CPB ruling that our 25 structure could not be reconciled with current CPB

guidelines. Rather than viewing it a challenge to
 create structure that supported who we are, it created
 a response of panic, with the national office offering,
 in the eyes of the Pacifica community, to give up the

5 essence of Pacifica to save it.

6 I know that talent abounds on the national
7 board. I do not believe that collectively our board
8 and the vast array of talent and genius that contribute
9 commentary to our airwaves can't come up with a
10 solution that meets our needs and CPB's. You're all
11 too smart for that.
12 I look to the national board for many
13 things: To guide this organization through whatever
14 political waters we encounter. Rarely smooth. That's
15 because the market we have carved for ourselves is the
16 market of intelligent, informed dissent, be it in
17 culture or politics. Because of that, our audience is

18 indeed vocal and territorial, and it will be

19 relentless. Of course I'm not telling you anything

20 new.

21 When you develop the by-laws that will

22 define our governance and structure, you must maintain

23 the connection to your communities.

24 How will you govern if you are perceived as

25 a completely self-appointed entity?

1 How will you enjoy the legitimacy you need

2 to make difficult decisions of concern to most people

3 within the Pacifica community if you have no mandate at

4 all for governance or if you sever your only mandate?

5 How will you guide the network through the

6 very difficult decisions that national boards 7 historically had to manage, such as testifying before 8 the hostile government committees, engaging in 9 difficult union negotiations, handling public reaction 10 to very controversial programs, or station staff 11 personnel meltdowns that have taken place from time to 12 time within Pacifica? 13 How will you handle these if no one can 14 figure out why you are in charge? 15 I want to address specific concerns: 16 The most egregious action taken by Pacifica 17 was the treatment of Larry Bensky. Larry is an asset 18 to the network. For many across the country as well as 19 here in the Bay Area, Larry is their voice on Pacifica. 20 His supporters contribute money to the network, and, 21 more importantly, they are informed by his commentary 22 and subsequently contribute to their own communities. 23 His intelligent reporting creates political 24 ripple effects to benefit all of us. He has worked for 25 the network for 30 years. His personality is not the

1 issue; the quality of his work is.

2 His firing resulted in my having a second

3 full-time job. The reaction was so extreme. You are

4 aware of this. We air stories all the time about

5 abuses of labor here and abroad. Larry was treated in

6 a manner that any reporter of ours would hold7 abhorrent.

8 Listeners were somewhat reassured when he 9 returned with Sunday Salon. But once again, my phone 10 rang off the hook with the deafening silence of his 11 absence during the impeachment coverage. We have no 12 other talent within Pacifica who can make his political 13 understanding, acumen, and encyclopedic knowledge of US 14 politics. Yet, the comment repeated was that Larry 15 would never work as Pacifica national affairs 16 correspondent again. Consequently, Pacifica's coverage 17 was abysmal. 18 One day Amy Goodman aired an interview with 19 a conspiracy theorist linking Clinton to the murder of 20 Vince Foster, of leaving a skull on the lawn of 21 Kathleen Wiley, smuggling drugs into an Arkansas 22 airport, et cetera. 23 My phone rang off the hook throughout the 24 impeachment coverage. There is little doubt that Amy 25 Goodman is extremely talented in many areas. Political

1 anchoring of a senate impeachment trial is outside the

2 bounty of her talent. Who suffered because of this?

3 Pacifica and its listening audience.

4 The growth of the national bureaucracy is

5 not something that I am opposed to. I have been

6 involved with many organizations. I was the executive

7 director of the Gray Panthers, which I've headed up 8 many campaigns and organized many demonstrations. I am 9 aware of issues of distribution of power. I am not 10 opposed to centralization. However, how that occurs 11 and why, is an important decision-making process. 12 I urge you to grow our national office to 13 create innovative national programming, develop and 14 respond to the explosion of technology and its impact 15 on our medium, lend technical support to the stations 16 within our network, and at the same time, grow Pacifica 17 in non-signal areas, lobby and advocate on behalf of 18 our network in Washington, DC, or Sacramento, or 19 wherever you are needed. That is what this national 20 office is about. And support the growth of all the 21 stations within the network, and support their 22 continued strength within their communities. 23 I urge you further to support the managers, 24 staff, and each of the stations. We seem to have 25 fallen into a we-versus-them mode of operation. We

cannot survive operating from this perspective. Our
 organization will not be able to maintain competent
 people if this toxic environment continues.
 We are all in this together. And we
 desperately need a well-informed, professional,
 national structure to guide, protect, and grow a

7 well-informed, competent staff within the stations. 8 The stations and their staff are our strength, our 9 greatest asset. It is only good sense and good 10 politics to respect and nurture their talent. 11 Our station has faced enormous upheaval and 12 controversy. I supported the debalkanization of 13 programming that occurred in 1995. The repercussions, 14 as you are well aware, were dramatic. It has taken a 15 long time for KPFA to regain the respect and loyalty of 16 our community. 17 I currently credit our long-time staff and 18 their tenacity. I give a large degree of kudos to our 19 station manager who assumed her job under difficult 20 circumstances. Nicole has treated staff with firmness 21 but respect, has made strong connections to a variety 22 of communities, and has exciting and innovative 23 programming ideas. She knows radio. 24 I urge you to allow her, and all the 25 managers, to use their creative talents to grow their

1 stations. Don't suffocate them, support them. It

- 2 inures to the benefit of Pacifica.
- 3 Finally, I want to thank you for all the
- 4 work you have done and do for this radio network. I
- 5 know your contributions of time and energy are

6 enormous. I know that you care deeply about keeping 7 first amendment radio alive and healthy and growing. 8 And I support you and am available to contribute to the 9 network and to all of you. 10 DR. BERRY: Sherry, thank you for your 11 report. But your report, in many ways, was an example 12 of what's wrong with Pacifica. You came representing 13 the Council of Chairs. You are speaking because we're 14 in your signal area. You said nothing about any of the 15 other stations or their concerns or anything that we've 16 discussed in the Council of Chairs, or any issues. 17 You, also, did not even acknowledge that 18 there are at least two stations -- unless I've got it 19 wrong -- that don't even carry Larry Bensky. Have I 20 got that right? Or didn't want to carry Larry's show? 21 New York didn't want to carry it. 22 MR. MILLSPAUGH: They didn't want to start 23 it during the fundraising. 24 DR. BERRY: No, no. I'm saying when I first 25 came on this board, I was told that WBAI didn't want to

1 carry Larry Bensky because it interfered with their

2 programing. And that WPFW didn't want to carry it

3 either.

4 I have nothing against Larry Bensky. I love his show

5 personally. But I'm old, you see. And I've been