

# **KPFA Program Council: Role, Composition, Confidentiality, and Reporting**

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The KPFA Program Council assembled at a retreat in November 2003 to deliberate its composition, role, decision-making, and reporting requirements. In addition to resolutions establishing reporting options and meeting confidentiality, Program Council also adopted a resolution defining its composition and establishing majority vote as the requirement for programming decisions. The KPFA LSB amended and approved that resolution in April 2004:

Resolved that:

Whereas, it is the duty of the KPFA LSB: To work with station management to ensure that station programming fulfills the purposes of the Foundation and is responsive to the diverse needs of the listeners (demographic) and communities (geographic) served by the station, and that station policies and procedures for making programming decisions and for program evaluation are working in a fair, collaborative and respectful manner to provide quality programming. @ Bylaws, Article Seven, Section 3.G.

Therefore, the KPFA LSB adopts and approves the programming decision-making policy and procedure agreed upon by the KPFA management and Program Council at their retreat on November 18, 2003, specifically:

*We affirm the power of the Program Council to make programming decisions by majority vote, and to [sic] affirm the composition of the program council to include as voting members, management (programming and development), department heads (music, drama and literature, training, news, and future public affairs), unpaid staff (4 plus 2 alternates), and Local Advisory Board, which elects 3, and appoints 3 community representatives, and in timely consultation with KFCF and other Associate Station management, which shall have access to the Program Council, access to all relevant information and input on any programming proposals that impact KFCF or other Associate Stations and their listeners.*

Further, the LSB adopts the following policy:

*The General Manager may override a programming decision made by the Program Council in the following cases:*

- 1. legal issues that pose a threat to the broadcast license,*
- 2. personnel issues where the programming decision conflicts with a disciplinary action taken by the GM,*
- 3. violations of the KPFA union contract, and*
- 4. where the GM believes the decision would cause serious financial harm to the station.*

*If the General Manager overrides a programming decision made by the Program Council, the Program Council may appeal to the LSB to override the General Manager.*

The LSB refrained from acting on the reporting and confidentiality resolutions, quoted in the next section.

## Background

Program Council met for a retreat on 18 November 2003. In attendance were Newport, Bennett, Stone, Osegueda, Medina, Osman, Fay, Conley, Alexander, Nagy, Welch, Spooner, Woods, and Aguirre, with Walker as note-taker. Alfandary, Molina, and Gonzáles were also reported in attendance, though the unofficial notes do not mention them. This motion passed 12-0-1:

*We affirm the power of program council to make decisions according to majority rule and to [sic] affirm the composition of the program council to include voting members, management (program and development), department heads (music, drama and literature, training, news, and future public affairs), unpaid staff (4 plus 2 alternates)), and Local Advisory Board, which elects 3, and appoints 3 community representatives.*

*We affirm the power of the program council to make decisions according to majority rule, and to [sic] affirm the composition of the program council to include these voting members:*

- 1. Management (program and development director)*
- 2. Department heads (music, drama and literature, training, news, public affairs)*
- 3. Unpaid staff (four, plus two alternates)*
- 4. LAB (3 members, elected by LAB)*
- 5. Community representatives (appointed by LAB)*

(This admittedly redundant wording appears in the meeting notes.) The group broke for lunch, then passed 10-0:

*Program council needs to come up with a regular forum for a report back to listeners. This could be on the air; at the local station board meetings, a meet-and-greet with listeners twice annually, or on the website.*

And this, 11-0:

*Everything with program council should be confidential except official minutes. At the end of each meeting, program council minutes [sic] can initiate discussion on items to be brought by [sic] the public.*

Five months later, on 17 April 2004, the KPFA LSB met in special session and began considering a resolution to affirm Program Council composition and authority, along with additional language specifying when the GM could override the PC, and how the PC could subsequently appeal to the LSB to reverse any such override. In session the LSB added language giving KFCF and other Associate Stations access to PC. It further added a requirement that authoritative PC decisions would require two affirmative votes from each “consituency,” as enumerated above but with Management and Department Heads considered a single constituency.

At its 25 April 2004 regular session the LSB rescinded the requirement for two affirmative votes from each constituency, then passed the resolution 13-10.