

NOTE: Hinkle made a motion via email to approve the section of this memo in **red** on July 24, 2026. Cancino seconded the motion, which was approved via email by the IRE Board 13-0 on July 27, 2026.

Memo to IRE Board
July 2026

IRE Finance Committee Appointments for Vacancies

Regarding Finance Committee membership, the Board's governing documents state:

- **Bylaws** – *The Endowment Funds are monitored by a Finance Committee that is chaired by the Treasurer and includes six other members, including one Director. That Director and two of the other members are nominated by the President; the others are nominated by the Treasurer. All are nominated after the annual officer elections and must be approved by the IRE Board. One of the six nominees may be a financial professional who is not an IRE Member. The others must be IRE Members. They all serve for two-year terms. The Finance Committee works on fundraising, oversees ongoing revenues and expenses, monitors the Endowment Funds and advises the Board on investment practices.*

The committee currently has four vacancies. With a goal of maintaining institutional knowledge during turnover, these four positions have a staggered two-year term beginning July 2026 and ending July 2028 (upon officer elections). The two other members will maintain their current term schedule, ending July 2027 (upon officer elections). Any eligible member may be reappointed.

Current Committee Breakdown:

- Board Treasurer (Chair): **Alejandra Cancino**
- President Appointee #1 (Board Member): **VACANT** (serves until July 2028)
- President Appointee #2: **Peniley Ramirez**, Futuro Media Group (serves until July 2027)
- President Appointee #3: **VACANT**, (serves until July 2028)
- Treasurer Appointee #1: **Alex Richards**, (serves until July 2027)
- Treasurer Appointee #2: **VACANT**, (serves until July 2028)
- Treasurer Appointee #3: **VACANT**, (serves until July 2028)

To fill the vacancies, we nominate the following for Board approval, voting on appointments via email:

- President Josh Hinkle: [Andy Lehren](#), CUNY / IRE Board of Directors (serves until July 2028)
 - President Hinkle: [Brandi Grissom Swicegood](#), MuckRock Foundation (serves until July 2028)
 - Treasurer Alejandra Cancino: [Jennifer Forsyth](#), The New York Times (serves until July 2028)
 - Treasurer Cancino: [Barbara Rodriguez](#), The 19th (serves until July 2028)
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Other items for the 2026-2027 board year:

- Furthering the goal of clarity, Hinkle is requesting that the Governance Committee review the language of the Bylaws and the Board's policies and procedures to ensure the two-year term duration is clear regarding mid-year Finance Committee vacancies.
- The Finance Committee will have two staff liaisons: Financial Officer Heather Feldmann Henry and Director of Development Linnie McIlvain.
- The Finance Committee will have two assigned subcommittees (reviving previous stand alone task forces, bringing them under this committee for topic alignment and fuller budget discussions). Subcommittee members will serve one-year terms. Subcommittee chairs must be members of the main Finance Committee, while other subcommittee members don't need to be.

- **Fundraising Subcommittee:** This group will work to strengthen fundraising strategies for IRE initiatives, with a focus on long-term sustainability and impact. The group will also help with coordinated giving campaigns to mobilize public financial support.
 - **Andy Lehen**, CUNY / IRE Board of Directors (Chair)
 - **Brian Rosenthal**, The New York Times
 - **Tisha Thompson**, ESPN
 - **Lee Zurik**, Gray
 - *One other subcommittee member may be added later.*
- **Affordability Subcommittee:** This group works to address the financial barriers that may prevent journalists, particularly those from underrepresented communities, from fully participating in IRE's offerings.
 - **Alex Richards**, Syracuse University (Chair)
 - **Mary Hudetz**, Indigenous Journalists Association
 - **Barbara Rodriguez**, The 19th
 - **Marina Villeneuve**, Hechinger Report
 - *One other subcommittee member may be added later.*