

# Film academy diversifies leadership, apologizes to Asians

By Sandy Cohen

The Associated Press

**L**OS ANGELES — The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has added three new governors to its 51-member board and appointed six minority members to other leadership positions. The group also apologized for a racially insensitive skit held during the Oscar show.

Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs announced the new appointees after a meeting of the organization's Board of Governors. The board also ratified other changes proposed in January in response to the #OscarsSoWhite crisis aimed at increasing diversity, including limiting Oscar voting rights to those active in the movie business.

The academy's apology came after criticism from some Asian academy members offended by a skit during the Oscar show that introduced three Asian kids as PricewaterhouseCoopers accountants.

"I can understand the feelings and we are setting up a meeting to discuss, because as you well know, no one sets out to be offensive, and I'm very sorry that has happened," Boone Isaacs said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "I think so much is achieved with dialogue, so much is achieved. And that is what we'll continue to do: Have dialogue, listen, and just keep fixing."

In the interview, Boone Isaacs also expanded on the board meeting and the academy's diversity goals. Responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

**AP:** Talk about the new positions announced tonight (new governors include Oscar telecast producer Reginald Hudlin and *Kung Fu Panda 3* director Jennifer Yuh Nelson; committee members include actor Gael Garcia Bernal and producer Effie Brown).

**Boone Isaacs:** Now the board has much more of a diversity to it ... It's always good to have some new-ness, someone who comes into the conversation that has been rolling along, just a different perspective ... We set out, even a few years ago, of having more inclusion and certainly have stepped it up. We just want to keep this process going, and so we're really happy that we're able to announce these additions.

**AP:** How did the voting discussion go? When you first announced planned voting changes in January, some older members worried about losing their privileges.

**Boone Isaacs:** Overall it was positive. What we have added to this discussion is — our branches are diverse within themselves ... in terms of perspective, and we respect this tremendously. We have just clarified a bit more that because the branch qualifications are so varied that the best way to determine specific criteria is within the branches. It's not such a one size fits all.

**AP:** So voters concerned about their voting status can appeal to their branch?

## U.S. says losing access to China-claimed waters would be huge

By Rod McGuirk

The Associated Press

**C**ANBERRA, Australia — A U.S. Navy commander warns that if the United States lost access to international waters claimed by China in the South China Sea, it would have far-reaching implications beyond military.

U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott H. Swift told a conference on Indo-Pacific maritime security that sailing warships in freedom of navigation operations through contested areas where multiple countries have competing territorial claims was "not a naval issue." He said the issue is the impact on the global economy and international law.

But he said the United States has no expectation that such a loss of access would ever occur.

The U.S. Navy has angered China by sending warships close to artificial islands built by Beijing that include airstrips and radar stations. The U.S. lays no claims to the waters, but says it has an interest in ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight and peaceful resolution of ownership disputes.

Swift said there was a "palpable sense" that an attitude of "might makes right" was returning to the region after 70 years of security and stability since World War II.

While the United States was increasing its military presence in the region as part of its pivot to Asia, Swift said there was no need for more U.S. naval facilities in countries such as Australia.

"There's no real necessity, in fact it become a facilities burden, if we were to expand in some other way. That's not something that I would support," Swift said.

Australia is increasing its defense ties with the United States, its most important strategic ally, as tensions and a military build-up mount in the South China Sea.



**ADDRESSING INEQUITY.** Host Chris Rock, right, gestures to three unidentified children portraying PricewaterhouseCoopers representatives in a skit at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Rock's skit ignited an outcry from Asian Americans and others angered by its stereotyping and, more broadly, frustrated by how non-black minorities are portrayed — or ignored — by Hollywood, especially movie studios. The response also has illuminated the gap between African Americans, who have made on-screen gains, and the lagging progress by other minorities, including Asian American, Latinos, and Native Americans. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

**Boone Isaacs:** Each branch will review with regard to their qualifications.

**AP:** A past academy president said the goals you announced in January to double the academy's female and minority members are impossible to achieve without relaxing standards. Are they?

**Boone Isaacs:** The thing is, we want to set goals and we're going to work our damndest to meet them all. That's our goal. The goal is to have one, and then do everything

you can to meet it ... Everything about us is setting our standards high, and we're going to continue that.

I think that this conversation really has picked up around the industry as a whole. You see different companies — whether its Bad Robot or Ryan Murphy or Plan B or the program that Warner Bros. just set up — this conversation is really, really rolling. So absolutely: Let's set it, let's work for it, and do everything we can. That is the goal.

# 1 YEAR

## after you quit smoking, your risk of heart disease is cut in half.

QUIT SMOKING TODAY.

CALL: 1.800.QUIT.NOW

quitnow.net/oregon

SMOKEFREE  
oregon

Oregon  
Health  
Authority