# Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554



# June 7, 2012

Alan Korn, Esq. 1840 Woolsey Avenue Berkeley, CA 94703

Peter Franck, Esq. 1939 Harrison Street, Suite 910 Oakland, CA 94612

Mr. Ted Hudacko 3030 Clinton Avenue Richmond, CA 94804

# In re: University of San Francisco (Assignor)

and

Classical Public Radio Network LLC (Assignee)

For Consent to Assignment of License Station KUSF(FM), San Francisco, CA File No. BALED-20110125ACE Facility ID No. 69143

**Dear Petitioners:** 

We have before us: 1) the application for consent to assign the license for noncommercial educational ("NCE") FM station KUSF(FM), San Francisco, CA, from University of San Francisco ("USF") to Classical Public Radio Network LLC ("CPRN"); and 2) your Petitions to Deny<sup>1</sup> and the informal objections (filed by certain persons copied on this letter) to the referenced application, filed pursuant to Sections 1.41 and 1.45 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.41, 1.45, together with all responsive and supplemental filings in this matter. Based on those filings, together with our review of the application and related documents, we initiated an investigation into the proposed transaction.

Our investigation culminated in the attached Consent Decree with the University of San Francisco and Classical Public Radio Network LLC (the "Applicants"). The Consent Decree includes stipulations that the Applicants violated Sections 1.17 and 73.503(c) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.17, 73.503(c), requires the Applicants to make a voluntary payment of \$50,000 to the United States Treasury, and finds that the Applicants are legally qualified to hold authorizations issued by the Commission. In light of this Consent Decree resolving the matter, we have concluded that the public interest, convenience, and necessity will be served by a grant of the referenced application. Accordingly, we are denying your Petitions to Deny, informal objections, and all responsive and supplemental filings opposing the grant of the referenced application.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Friends of KUSF, represented by Alan Korn, Esq., and Peter Frank, Esq, filed a Petition to Deny on February 28, 2011. Tom Hudacko filed a Petition to Deny on February 28, 2011. Loren Dobson filed a Petition to Deny on April 18, 2011. Because that last Petition to Deny was untimely under 47 C.F.R. § 73.3584(a), we will consider it as an informal objection pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.3587 rather than as a petition to deny.

While the Commission recognizes that KUSF(FM)'s format has attracted a devoted listenership, it is well-settled policy that the Commission does not regulate programming formats, nor does it take potential format changes into consideration in reviewing license assignment applications. In 1976, the Commission issued a *Policy Statement* in which it concluded that review of program formats was not required by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, would not benefit the public, and would deter innovation, as well as impose substantial administrative burdens on the Commission.<sup>2</sup> The Supreme Court of the United States has upheld this policy and the Commission's determination that "the public interest is best served by promoting diversity in entertainment formats through market forces and competition among broadcasters . . . " and that a change in programming is not a material factor that should be considered by the Commission in ruling on applications for license assignment or transfer.<sup>3</sup> This is particularly so with regard to the programming decisions of NCE broadcast stations. Although market forces cannot be relied upon to regulate programming in the NCE realm, the Commission historically "has had the appropriately limited role of facilitating the development of the public broadcasting system rather than determining the content of its programming."<sup>4</sup> Accordingly, the Consent Decree does not address format or programming issues. We hereby deny all petitions to deny and informal objections based on such issues.

In light of the above, the application for consent to assignment of the license for noncommercial educational radio station KUSF(FM), San Francisco, CA (Facility ID No. 96143), from the University of San Francisco to Classical Public Radio Network LLC (File No. BALED-20110125ACE) IS GRANTED and all Petitions to Deny, informal objections, responsive filings and supplemental filings opposing the grant of that application ARE DENIED.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Doyle

Peter H. Doyle () () Chief, Audio Division Media Bureau

cc: John E. Fiorini III, Esq. Lawrence Bernstein, Esq. Dawn M. Sciarrino, Esq.

> Mr. Wayne Williams 1584 Post Street San Francisco, CA 94109

> Mr. Ralf Burgert 3725 Mission St, # 7 San Francisco, CA 94110

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Changes in the Entertainment Formats of Broadcast Stations, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 60 FCC2d 858, 865-66 (1976), recon. denied, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 66 FCC 2d 78 (1977), rev'd sub nom. WNCN Listeners Guild v. FCC, 610 F.2d 838 (D.C. Cir. 1979), rev'd, 450 U.S. 582 (1981).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> FCC v. WNCN Listener's Guild, 450 U.S. 582, 585 (1981).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Revision of Programming Policies and Reporting Requirements Related to Public Broadcasting Licensees, Notice of Proposed Rule Making, 87 FCC 2d 716, 732 (1981). See also License Renewal Applications of Certain Commercial Radio Stations Serving Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 8 FCC Rcd 6400, 6401 (1993) (licensees have broad discretion over programming decisions).

Ms. M.F. Cavanaugh 3288 21<sup>st</sup> St. # 196 San Francisco, CA 94110

Mr. Damin Esper 1247 Fulton Street, #4 San Francisco, CA 94117

Mr. John Hogle P.O. Box 3725 Santa Clara, CA 95055

Mr. Charles Hurbert 839 Divisadero Street, #10 San Francisco, CA 94117

Mr. Eric Boucher P.O. Box 419092 San Francisco, CA 94141

Mr. Brad K. Alder 1049 Market Street, #502 San Francisco, CA 94103

Mr. Stevyn Polk P.O. Box 14842 San Francisco, CA 94114

Mr. Rudolf Fell 1462 Hayes Street, #A San Francisco, CA 94117

Mr. Benjamin Cohen 494 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue San Francisco, CA 94118

Mr. Ken Sanderson 1338 Clement Street San Francisco, CA 94141

Ms. Susan Barrett 551 E Capistrano Way San Mateo, CA 94402

Ms. Elizabeth Ebrahimzadeh 1034 35<sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento, CA 95816

Ms. Beth Allen 1538 Fulton Street, #B San Francisco, CA 94117 Mr. Thomas Plagemann 1044 Revere Avenue, #B-33 San Francisco, CA 94124

Ms. Shannon Assad 101 27<sup>th</sup> Street, #5 San Francisco, CA 94110

Ms. Lucinda Toy P.O. Box 410104 San Francisco, CA 94141

Ms. Evie Salmon 2745 Mission Street, #14 San Francisco, CA 94110

Mr. Michael Rowell 615 Guerrero Street, #2 San Francisco, CA 94110

Ms. Helen Block 3364 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, #5 San Francisco, CA 94110

Mr. Nikolás McConnie-Saad 1463 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #A San Francisco, CA 94122

Mr. Loren Dobson 2483 Harrison St. San Francisco, CA 94110

# Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	) NAL/Acct. No. MB201241410032 ) FRN: 0010699056
University of San Francisco (Assignor)	)
and	) File No. BALED-20110125ACE
Classical Public Radio Network LLC (Assignee)	) ) )
For Consent to Assignment of License Station KUSF(FM), San Francisco, CA	) ) ) Facility ID No. 69143

#### ORDER

### Adopted: June 7, 2012

Released: June 7, 2012

By the Chief, Media Bureau:

1. In this Order, we adopt the attached Consent Decree entered into by the Media Bureau (the "Bureau"), the University of San Francisco ("USF"), and Classical Public Radio Network LLC ("CPRN"). The Consent Decree resolves issues arising from the Bureau's review of the captioned application for consent to the proposed assignment of license for Station KUSF(FM), San Francisco, CA (the "Station") from USF to CPRN. In particular, the Consent Decree resolves the Bureau's investigation of the applicants' compliance with Sections 1.17 and 73.503(c) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§1.17, 73.503(c) (the "Rules").<sup>1</sup>

2. The Consent Decree stipulates that both USF and CPRN violated Section 1.17 of the Rules and that USF violated Section 73.503(c) of the Rules, and provides, among other things, that USF and CPRN will collectively make a \$50,000 voluntary contribution to the United States Treasury. A copy of the Consent Decree is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

3. After reviewing the terms of the Consent Decree, we find that the public interest will be served by its approval and by terminating the Bureau's investigation of potential violations of the Rules in connection with the captioned application and granting that application.

4. Based on the record before us, we conclude that nothing in that record creates a substantial or material question of fact whether either USF or CPRN possesses the basic qualifications to be a Commission licensee.

<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.17, 73.530(c).

5. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,<sup>2</sup> and by the authority delegated by Sections 0.61 and 0.283 of the Rules,<sup>3</sup> the Consent Decree attached hereto IS ADOPTED.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the investigation by the Media Bureau of the matters noted above IS TERMINATED.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that copies of this Order shall be sent, by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, to the University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117-1080, and its counsel, Dawn M. Sciarrino, Esq., Sciarrino & Shubert, PLLC, 5425 Tree Line Drive, Centreville, VA 20120, and to Classical Public Radio Network LLC, 1149 S. Hill, Suite H-100, Los Angeles, CA 90015, and its counsel, Lawrence Bernstein, Esq., 3510 Springland Lane N.W., Washington, DC 20008, and John E. Fiorini III, Esq., Wiley Rein LLP, 1776 K Street, N.W., Washington DC 20006.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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William T. Lake Chief, Media Bureau

<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 4(i).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.61, 0.283.

### CONSENT DECREE

### I. Introduction

1. This Consent Decree is entered into by and between the Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission, the University of San Francisco and Classical Public Radio Network LLC, by their respective authorized representatives, for the purpose of terminating the Bureau's Investigation of the parties' compliance with Sections 1.17 and 73.503(c) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§1.17, 73.503(c).

#### **II.** Definitions

- 2. For the purposes of this Consent Decree, the following definitions shall apply:
  - (a) "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§151 et seq.;
  - (b) "Application" means the application filed with the Commission for consent to assign the license for the Station from USF to CPRN (FCC file no. BALED-20110125ACE):
  - (c) "Bureau" means the Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission;
  - (d) "CPRN" means Classical Public Radio Network LLC;
  - (e) "Commission" or "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission;
  - (f) "Effective Date" means the date on which the Bureau releases the Order;
  - (g) "Investigation" means the investigation commenced by the FCC in 2011, which culminated in the Bureau's Letter of Inquiry dated June 28, 2011 (as amended by letter dated July 27, 2011), regarding the PSOA;
  - (h) "Order" means an order of the Bureau adopting this Consent Decree;
  - (i) "PSOA" means the Public Service Operating Agreement executed by USF and CPRN on January 12, 2011, and amended on July 25, 2011;
  - (j) "Parties" means the Bureau, USF and CPRN;
  - (k) "Rules" means the Commission's Rules, found in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations;
  - (1) "Station" means KUSF(FM), San Francisco, CA (Fac. ID 69143);
  - (m) "USF" means the University of San Francisco; and
  - (n) "Violations" means the payments received by USF pursuant to the PSOA in violation of Section 73.503(c) of the Rules; the certification by USF in Section II, Item 3c of the Application that the agreements between USF and CPRN.

including the PSOA, "comply fully with the Commission's rules and policies;" and the certification by CPRN in Section III, Item 3b of the Application that the agreements between USF and CPRN "comply fully with the Commission's rules and policies."

## III. Background

3. Section 73.503(c) of the Rules provides that:

A noncommercial educational FM broadcast station may broadcast programs produced by, or at the expense of, or furnished by persons other than the licensee, if no other consideration than the furnishing of the program and the costs incidental to its production and broadcast are received by the licensee. The payment of line charges by another station network, or someone other than the licensee on a noncommercial educational FM broadcast station, or general contributions to the operating costs of a station, shall not be considered as being prohibited by this paragraph.<sup>1</sup>

4. Under the terms of the PSOA, executed on January 12, 2011 (with an effective date of January 18, 2011), USF agreed to make the Station's facilities available to air programming supplied by CPRN "for up to 24 hours a day, seven days per week" for the term of the agreement.<sup>2</sup> In consideration for making Station airtime available to CPRN, the PSOA provides that CPRN will reimburse USF for any expenses incurred in connection with delivering and broadcasting CPRN programming, including the cost of broadband or other circuits used for delivery and reception of the programming, electrical power to the transmitter site, regulatory fees, insurance rider, and telephone expenses incurred at the transmitter site.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, CPRN agreed to pay USF: (1) \$5,000 per month for the first 120 days during which the PSOA is in effect; and (2) \$7,000 per month for the remainder of the first year of the PSOA term.<sup>4</sup> Documentation provided by USF shows that USF collected over \$38,000 in PSOA fees from CPRN, plus nearly \$10,000 in tower cost reimbursement, from January through July 2011. The PSOA fees were ended by an amendment to the PSOA after the Bureau sent its Letter of Inquiry to USF and CPRN.<sup>5</sup>

5. USF submitted a copy of the PSOA with the Application. In the Application, USF and CPRN each certified affirmatively that the agreements between the parties, including the PSOA, "comply fully with the Commission's rules and policies."<sup>6</sup> Since 1998, the Commission's policy on mass media applications has been that it will rely on application certifications as to compliance with the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 73.503(c).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> PSOA, Section 2. The agreement is to terminate upon the earlier of: (1) consummation of the assignment; (2) 30 days following termination of the Asset Purchase Agreement; (3) the fifth anniversary of the PSOA's effective date (subject to certain renewability provisions); (4) on April 1, 2011, if the effective date had not occurred; or (5) the termination of the PSOA upon a specified default of either party. *Id.*, Section 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> PSOA, Exhibit C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> PSOA, Section 6. The payment was to increase for each ensuing year to a monthly amount equal to \$7,000 plus the greater of: 1) 5 %; and 2) the Consumer Price Index plus 2%. *Id.* CPRN would receive a *pro rata* credit against the compensation due for any portion of the time during which the Station did not broadcast CPRN's programming. *Id.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Declaration of Charles Cross, Vice-President for the Division of Business & Finance and Chief Financial Officer of USF, dated July 27, 2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Application, Section II, Item 3c, and Section III, Item 3b.

Commission's rules and policies and that it will not routinely review contracts submitted with assignment of license applications.<sup>7</sup> Parties have also been on notice since 1998 that reliance on a prior Commission action with respect to a contract term or rule interpretation "would be appropriate only where a decision disposing of the prior application plainly considered and found acceptable the pertinent contract term or rule interpretation."<sup>8</sup> In their response to the Bureau's Letter of Inquiry, USF and CPRN pointed out a number of instances in which parties submitted agreements with terms similar to the payment terms of the PSOA, and contended that they relied on those submissions in certifying their compliance with the Commission's Rules and policies. However, USF and CPRN\_did not point out any instance in which the Bureau or the Commission issued a decision in which it considered and found such payment terms to be compliant with Section 73.503(c) of the Rules, because no such decision exists. In light of the foregoing, the Bureau finds that the terms of the PSOA as originally submitted violated Section 73.503(c) and that the certifications by USF and CPRN that the PSOA complied with the Commission's Rules and policies were incorrect. The Bureau does not, however, find that USF or CPRN made misrepresentations or lacked candor.

6. Because of the compliance issues identified in the Bureau's investigation, the Parties have agreed to enter into this Consent Decree to which USF, CPRN, and the Bureau intend to be legally bound.

# IV. Agreement

7. The Parties acknowledge that any proceeding that might result from the Violations would be time-consuming and require a substantial expenditure of public and private resources. In order to conserve such resources, to resolve the matter, the Parties are entering into this Consent Decree, in consideration of the mutual commitments made herein.

8. The Parties agree to be legally bound by the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree. Each of USF, CPRN, and the Bureau represent and warrant that its signatory is duly authorized to enter into this Consent Decree on its behalf. USF and CPRN agree that the Bureau has jurisdiction over the matters contained in this Consent Decree and the authority to enter into and adopt this Consent Decree.

9. The Parties agree and acknowledge that this Consent Decree shall constitute a final settlement between USF, CPRN, and the Bureau concerning the Violations, as discussed herein.

10. In express reliance on the covenants and representations in this Consent Decree and to avoid further expenditure of public resources, the Bureau agrees to terminate its Investigation into the Violations. The Bureau further agrees that, in the absence of new material evidence, it will not use the facts developed in the Investigation through the Effective Date of this Consent Decree, or the existence of this Consent Decree, to institute any new proceeding, formal or informal, or take any action on its own motion against USF or CPRN concerning the matters that were the subject of the Investigation. The Bureau also agrees that it will not use the facts developed in the Effective Date of this Consent Decree, or the existence of this Consent Decree, or the existence of this Consent Decree, or the existence of this Consent Decree, to institute any new proceeding, formal or informal, or take any action against USF or CPRN with respect to either party's basic qualifications, including character qualifications, to be a licensee. In the event that either USF or CPRN fails to satisfy any of its obligations under this Consent Decree, however, USF and CPRN each acknowledges that the Bureau may take any enforcement action available pursuant to the Act and the Rules with respect to each

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Streamlining of Mass Media Applications, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 23056, 23074-6 (1998).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> *Id.*, 13 FCC Rcd at 23076.

Violation, and/or the violation of this Consent Decree.

11. The Parties stipulate the following:

(a) USF violated Section 73.503(c) of the Rules by accepting the PSOA fees from January through July, 2011;

(b) USF violated Section 1.17 of the Rules by submitting the unintentionally false certification that the PSOA as originally submitted complied with the Commission's Rules and policies; and

(c) CPRN violated Section 1.17 of the Rules by submitting the unintentionally false certification that the PSOA as originally submitted complied with the Commission's Rules and policies.

12. USF and CPRN hereby jointly agree to make a voluntary contribution to the United States Treasury in the amount of Fifty\_Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) within 15 days of the Effective Date.

13. The Bureau finds that its Investigation raises no substantial and material questions of fact as to whether USF or CPRN possesses the basic qualifications, including those relating to character, to hold or obtain a Commission license or authorization. Accordingly, the Bureau is granting the Application as of the Effective Date.

14. Payments hereunder must include the Account Number and FRN referenced in the caption to the Order. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 979088, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000. Payments by overnight mail may be sent to U.S. Bank – Government Lockbox #979088, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101. Payments by wire transfer may be made to ABA Number 021030004, receiving bank TREAS/NYC, and account number 27000001. For payments by credit card, an FCC Form 159 (Remittance Advice) must be submitted. When completing the Form 159, enter the Account number in block number 23A (call sign/other ID), and enter the letters "FORF" in block number 24A (payment type code). Each party shall send electronic notification of its payment to Tom Hutton at tom.hutton@fcc.gov on the date its payment is made.

15. USF and CPRN each agrees that it is required to comply with each individual condition of this Consent Decree. Each specific condition is a separate condition of the Consent Decree as approved. To the extent that either USF or CPRN fails to satisfy any condition or Commission Rule, in the absence of Commission alteration of the condition or Rule, it will be deemed noncompliant and may be subject to possible enforcement action, including, but not limited to, revocation of relief, designation of the matter for hearing, letters of admonishment, or forfeitures.

16. USF and CPRN each waives any and all rights it may have to seek administrative or judicial reconsideration, review, appeal or stay, or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Decree and the Order, provided the Order adopts the Consent Decree without change, addition or modification.

17. USF and CPRN each agrees to waive any claims that it may otherwise have under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. § 504 and 47 C.F.R. § 1.1501 *et seq.*, relating to the matters discussed in this Consent Decree.

18. USF, CPRN, and the Bureau agree that the effectiveness of this Consent Decree is

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expressly contingent upon issuance of the Order, provided that the Order adopts the Consent Decree without change, addition or modification.

19. USF, CPRN, and the Bureau agree that, if USF, CPRN, the Commission or the United States on behalf of the Commission, brings a judicial action to enforce the terms of the Order adopting this Consent Decree, no party will contest the validity of the Consent Decree or Order, and USF, CPRN, and the Commission will waive any statutory right to a trial de novo with respect to any matter upon which the Order is based (provided in each case that the Order is limited to adopting the Consent Decree without change, addition, or modification), and will consent to a judgment incorporating the terms of this Consent Decree.

20 USF, CPRN, and the Bureau agree that, in the event that this Consent Decree is rendered invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall become null and void and may not be used in any manner in any legal proceeding.

21. This Consent Decree may be signed in counterparts and/or by telecopy and, when so executed, the counterparts, taken together, will constitute a legally binding and enforceable instrument whether executed by telecopy or by original signatures.

# **MEDIA BUREAU** FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

By: William T. Lake, Chief JUN 07 2012

### UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

By:

Date:

Charles E. Cross, Vice President, Business and Finance

Date:

### CLASSICAL PUBLIC RADIO NETWORK LLC

By:

Brenda Barnes, Managing Director

Date:

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MEDIA BUREAU FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

By:

William T. Lake, Chief

Date:

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

4 U IN By:

Charles E. Cross, Vice President, Business and Finance

Date:

CLASSICAL PUBLIC RADIO NETWORK LLC

By:

Brenda Barnes, Managing Director

Date:

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## MEDIA BUREAU FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

By:

William T. Lake, Chief

Date:

### UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

By:

Charles E. Cross, Vice President, Business and Finance

Date:

### CLASSICAL PUBLIC RADIO NETWORK LLC

By:

Managing Director Brenda Barnes

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Date:

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