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Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of  
(1991)

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1991

# Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 20

M. J. Valdes

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June 19, 1991

Dr. Lynne Cheney  
Director  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Cheney:

It has come to my attention that there has been some misunderstanding with regard to the governance procedures at the Modern Language Association of America.

The MLA is a non-profit association of scholars incorporated in the state of Maryland. It is governed by an Executive Council of fourteen elected members, two elected vice-presidents and an elected president. The Council meets three times a year and is empowered by our constitution and charter of incorporation to act as a board of directors for our thirty thousand members. Meetings of the Executive Council are presided over by the president who is responsible for the agenda.

I want to state as unequivocally as I can that the MLA Council is solely responsible for actions taken at the meeting of February 21-22, 1991 wherein the most recent nomination to NEH Council was opposed. Let it be known by anyone who inquires that the Executive Director of the MLA is mandated by our constitution to implement the decisions of council.

I want to thank you for your attention on this matter. Please feel free to call on me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

M.J. Valdes  
President