

# Disability Issues Caucus Meeting Minutes

3-4:15pm, Thursday November 5, 2020

Online: Zoom Room 01

## Leadership

Chair: Julie-Ann Scott-Pollock

Vice-Chair: Allison Brenneise

Vice-Chair Elect: Davi Kallman

Secretary: Jessica M. F. Hughes

Immediate Past Chair: Keith Nainby

Access Chair: Isabelle Stahr Fisher

Graduate Student Representation: Sophia Maier

Legislative Assembly Representative: Brian Grewe

## Minutes

1. Call to order
2. Chair's welcome: Julie Ann Scott
  - Notes that Legislative Assembly meeting scheduled for 11/18/20. Updates from the meeting will arrive via email after the meeting.
  - Attendance form/sign up for reviewers and chairs provided via chat
3. Approval of 2019 minutes:
  - Brian Grewe moved to approve
  - Allison Breenneise seconded
  - All in favor, none opposed
  - Motion passes: Minutes approved
4. Access Chair report: Isabelle Stahr Fisher

- Working on access for 2021 Seattle conference
  - Davi Kallman talked with 2nd VP Roseann Mandziuk, who committed to working with DIC to make conference accessible
- DIC plans to create a disability guide to help attendees navigate virtual and physical conference spaces.
- Question from Peter Joseph Gloviczki: What sorts of accommodations have been made in the past?
  - Past initiatives: providing resting spots, ensuring spaces are accessible, checking that amenities are within reach for attendees with different mobility aids/needs
  - In a normal year, the Access Chair would travel to the conference location and do a walk through with a check list to assess accessibility of space and location. (The 2020 walk-through was cancelled.)
  - Future accessibility guide should help to alleviate issues such as not knowing what restaurants are accessible in the vicinity, not knowing which entrances are accessible
  - Issues reported in the business meeting are addressed the by planners the following year
  - Brian Grewe shares some things he looked at as past Access Chair: buttons for doors, grades for ramps that are carpeted, pathways, access to elevators, whether bathrooms meet accessibility standards, presence of refrigerators for folks who need to keep meds cold, putting in rooms of rescue assistance on every floor.
- Comment and question from CLS Ferguson who works with panelists who are Deaf: In years past, NCA has been good about getting interpreters, but Deaf attendees need to decide their schedule a month in advance and they can't change their mind. This year, NCA did not contact a Deaf panelist and they had to make arrangements for interpreters and then contact NCA to request that they get free access and reimbursement. Captioning is great but does not capture signing. Is there any way to have interpreters on call so that Deaf attendees can make last minute decisions to go to panels?
  - This issue has been brought up repeatedly to conference planners who argue that with hundreds or thousands of presentations it's impossible to have so many on call.

- For in-person conferences, there is a form on the NCA accessibility page where people can request interpreters.
- Access Chair can schedule a meeting with 2nd VP and conference organizer to see what changes can be made.
- NCA should not have to pay an interpreter to hang out and wait, there are other options, e.g., on-call services.
- Access to interpreters also depends on where conference is held.
- Move to online opens up possibility of CART services, which would only need 3-4 days notice.
- Need to look into possibility of hiring interpreters and just pay them to be there for the day, address logistics of having 2 interpreters for sessions that break an hour
- Need for interpreters at registration
  - This issue was brought up to NCA conference organizers 2 years ago and requested an accessibility stand at registration, was told there weren't enough volunteers.
  - Can DIC can provide people to staff accessibility stand? Access Committee will look into this.

#### 5. Update from Diversity Council: Brain Grewe

- This year, DC is conducting data analysis pertaining to fallout on CRTNET and resistance to Facebook group.
- The Council likely has a later meeting slot. Check email for updates after meeting.
  - Notify Davi Kallman if you're not on email list and would like to be.

#### 6. Report on this year's convention: Allison Breinneise

- 14 individual papers
- 5 panel discussions
- 6 paper sessions
- 1 performance session

- 73% acceptance rate
- DIC co-sponsored a number of additional sessions, including 2 performance sessions.
- Looked to suggestions from last year: How to improve approval rate for panel discussions which was less than 50%?
  - Call updated to include requirement that panel proposals identified scope of presentation and how time would be allocated.
    - Panel discussion acceptance was 60% this year
  - Reviewers were asked to make it clear how papers relate to theme of conference so that Caucus could argue for additional slots.
    - Papers related to conference theme were given slight numerical advantage.
  - Recommended that next year's planners use these strategies
- Thank you to reviewers' pedagogical care in reviews
  - Service labor happening at the same time as we were pivoting to online
  - Reviewers will receive a small thank you via email soon.

#### 7. Next year's convention: Davi Kallman

- Program planners have met and discussed 2021 conference
- Theme of 107th annual convention: Renewal and transformation
  - Focus on how we can engage in essential tasks of restoration and change
  - Examine questions of regeneration and reconstruction
  - What is the relevance of our scholarship and teaching as we recover from this time of crisis?
  - How can comm scholars contribute to rebuilding and restoring communities?
  - What should be done to replenish and build our discipline?
- Location: Seattle, WA

- Date: Nov. 18-21, 2021
- Deadlines:
  - Jan. 11, 2021: NCA Convention Central opens
  - Mar. 31, 2021: Submissions due
  - May 5, 2021: All reviews due
  - May 12, 2021: Scholar to scholar transfer deadline
  - July 1, 2021: Registration opens and preliminary program available online
- 10 slots allotted
  - On par with other Caucuses
- Proposals should be very specific with regard to how work relates to the conference theme and time allotted for each component of session
- Given social justice and identity focus, submission should speak to nature of disability and social justice.
- Need to push for panels outside of DIC to be as accessible as possible
  - Options for ASR?
  - Different forms of handouts: large print and braille options
  - Accessibility shouldn't just be in DIC.
- Possibility of joining forces with other Caucuses via overlapping concerns and issues

8. Announcement from national office: Mitch Liwanag

- The Spectra is now online and being emailed to members
- Online resource bank
- Anti-racism resource bank:  
<https://www.natcom.org/advocacy-public-engagement/nca-anti-racism-resource-bank>
- Open session and Arnold session are both asynchronous and President's address is synchronous

- Discord will be used for receptions
- Awards Ceremony: Sat. 11/21

9. NCA 2nd VP Candidate: Walid Afifi

- Holding 3 listening sessions on Tuesdays, 4-5:30pm EST
- Background:
  - Made decision to run at time of creation of Communication Scholars for Transformation Facebook page
  - On Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force at NCA in 2014 from which Diversity Council emerged
  - Currently on ICA version of Diversity Council
  - Strong commitment to diversity
  - Led Task Force on Community Engaged Scholarship which led to support for NCA Center in Community, Culture, and Change
  - Chair at Univ. of Iowa for 3 years
  - Currently director for Center of Middle East Studies
  - Past Chair of Interpersonal Comm Division at NCA and ICA
- Priorities:
  - Wants to learn more about needs and concerns of DIC
  - Make space more inclusive for people who've felt their voice isn't being heard
  - Make community engaged scholarship a bigger part of our discipline
    - Create infrastructures in programs
    - Create reward structures in organization and convention programming
    - Bring knowledge to communities and communities to us

10. Presentation of Top Paper Awards: Allison Brenneise

- Top paper: Julie-Ann Scott-Pollock, Univ. of North Carolina Wilmington, “An Autoethnography of Disabled Athletic Identity: Communicating Inescapable Vulnerability and Contextuality Through our Mortal Bodies”
- Top student paper: Benjamin W. Mann, Dixie State University, “Theorizing Intersectional Stigma Management Communication at the Crossroads: LGBTQIA+ and Autistic Subjectivities”

#### 11. Presentation of Jim Ferris Award for Outstanding Achievement in Disability and Communication: Davi Kallman

- Received more nominations this year than ever before
- Committee created rubric to make evaluation as unbiased as possible and hopes to make the rubric available to future committees
- 2020 Jim Ferris Awardee: Beth Haller, Towson University
  - Applauded for mentorship, international teaching, advocacy, and promotion of disability studies perspective

#### 12. Nominations

- Vice Chair elect
  - Jill Underhill, Assoc. Prof. at Marshall University, background in Communication Education, commitment to facilitating inclusion in classrooms
  - Michael Jeffress, Assoc. Prof. at Tennessee State Univ., focus on ethnography of adaptive sport
- Grad student rep
  - Sophia Maier

#### 13. Discussion about moving online conversations away from Facebook

- Create professional space on Slack or Discord
- Need for a messenger that pings to phones, faster than email

#### 14. Announcements

- Michael Jeffress: CFPs for *Handbook on Disability and Communication* with Palgrave McMillan and *Handbook on Disability Studies Research Methods* with Routledge - proposals due Nov. 30

- Davi Kallman: Invitation to virtual Disability Awareness Symposium at Washington State University, Mar. 29-Apr. 2, 2021.

- Theme: Fitness for all

- <https://accesscenter.wsu.edu/awareness-events/2021-symposium/>

15. Motion to adjourn: Julie-Ann Scott-Pollock

- Allison Brenneise seconded

- Motion passed