

NCA Activism and Social Justice Division Business Meeting

National Communication Association Convention
Philadelphia, PA, November 2016

A. Preliminary Business

1. Call to order (Lawrence Frey)
2. Introduction of Division Officers (Lawrence Frey and Kristen Blinne)
3. Introduction and Statements by NCA's Candidates for Second Vice President: Ron Arnett and Kent Ono
4. Brief discussion of the 2015 Business Meeting Minutes (none to approve)

B. Vice Chair Report (Lawrence Frey)

1. Division Membership

A) As of Friday, November 4, 2016, the division had 446 members, with more than 27% (121) being graduate students.

B) According to NCA's figures (November 2016), the Activism and Social Justice Division is the 16th largest of the 48 divisions.

2. 2016 Convention Programming

A) This year, because the division was new, it was given only four slots for this convention.

1) The Division received **124 submissions** (89 competitive papers [47 authored by students] and 35 panels of various types).

2) Forty-six people who served as reviewers, all of which provided written feedback to submissions, in addition to ratings.

3) Because of the large number of submissions, coupled with the division's fast membership growth, upon my request, NCA First Vice President Stephen Hartnett (a division member) awarded the Division 4 more slots, for a total of 8 slots.

4) Those 8 panels consisted of 2 competitive papers panels (including a Top Three Papers panel), 5 panels (4 discussion and 1 paper oriented), and Division's business meeting.

B) Congratulations to all those who had their papers and panels accepted, especially given the incredibly low acceptance rate, especially to the authors of the top three papers panel, two of whom were students (and five of the seven papers selected for presentation overall were written by students):

Nicholas S. Paliewicz, University of Louisville: Top Paper (Policing a Climate for Change: The Architecture of Consensus at the 2014 People’s Climate March)
 Christopher Scott Thomas, University of Iowa: Top Student Paper (“A Global Environmental Movement that Protects Us All”: Whiteness, Racial Scripts, and the Southwest Organizing Project’s [SWOP] Letter to the Group of Ten)
 Sonia Ivancic, Ohio University: Student Paper (“Gluttony for a Cause” or Feeding the Food Insecure? Constituting Contradicting Frames for a Fundraising Event through Materiality and Discourse)

C) In addition to the slots offered by the division:

- 1) Five submitted papers were sent to and accepted for the “Scholar to Scholar” program. Kristen Blinne served as a “wandering scholar” for that program.
- 2) The division sponsored a preconference on “Teaching Communication Activism for Social Justice,” organized and facilitated by David Palmer, Jason Del Gandio, and Tim Huffman.
- 3) The division cosponsored 13 other panels, including NCA’s Opening Session, offered by the First Vice President: “Putting Bodies on the Line and Words into Action—Celebrating the Joys of, Challenges in, and Opportunities for Civic Engagement,” with Billie Murray (a division member) being featured as one of three scholars for her social justice work.
- 4) The division cosponsored panels with a number of units, including the African American Communication & Culture Division, Women’s Caucus, NCA Forum, Disability Issues Caucus, and Health Communication Division, as well as with some of the special programs sponsored by the First Vice President (e.g., Media Activism and Social Justice).
- 5) The division was well represented at the Social Justice Exchange, which featured local activists paired with communication scholars (who will contribute a short written piece about the activist group for a book to be published by NCA).

D) Finally, with regard to this convention, the division’s budget was \$570, with \$350 spent on plaques that will be awarded to the top three paper authors and \$220 going to coffee for this meeting.

3. Minutes and Division Secretary

A) Sumitra Srinivasan (University of Toledo), the Division’s secretary, has been incommunicado for almost a year. Despite repeated attempts to contact her by email and by phone, she has not communicated with me or with Kristen Blinne (the Vice Chair Elect).

- B) Because of this lack of communication, we do not have minutes from last year's meeting.
- C) The division, thus needs to replace Sumitra for the remaining year of her tenure (the secretary serves a 2-year appointment).
- D) The division's bylaws (Article 4, Section 7) specifies that: "Section 7: In the event that an officer is unable to fulfill her or his responsibilities for whatever reason, the remaining members of the Executive Committee will appoint a replacement until such time as a replacement can be duly elected."
- E) Kristen Blinne and I constitute the Executive Committee, and we intend to appoint a replacement right after the convention.

C. Vice Chair-Elect's Report (Kristen Blinne)

1. 2017 Convention Programming

- A) The theme of NCA's next convention will be "Our Legacy, Our Relevance." The conference will take place in Dallas, Texas – November 16-19, 2017. The convention space includes around 60 meeting rooms with 21 time slots for convention programming.
- B) There will be a number of special programming options at NCA 2017, including the following:
 - 1) On Friday, November, 17, 2017, an event featuring internationally known slam poets titled "Lyrical Justice . . . NCA Poetry Slam," will take place. Tickets will be available in January until sold out. Proceeds from this event have been proposed to establish a new NCA scholarship for first generation college students.
 - 2) Our Legacy, Our Relevance: Submissions to this program series should highlight the disciplines "legacy of relevance on contemporary social issues." Put differently, the goal of this programming is to attend to the ways in which communication scholarship is relevant to the broader public.
 - 3) Legacy Training & Development Series: The objective of this special programming is for communication scholars to offer training series for local residents and community members (e.g. "communication, community, & inclusion training for local police"). Members are encouraged to submit proposals for 2–3-hour workshops to offer low-cost trainings (approximately \$50 per participant to contribute to the proposed first-generation student scholarship) for external audiences on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. It is important that submitters reach out to target communities as part of the submission process.

4) Leadership Accelerator Program (LAP): This program is part of a new NCA initiative to create a mentorship program for NCA members who wish to pursue leadership positions in the association (e.g., serving on the Legislative Assembly or on NCA boards). The LAP invites both self-nominations and nominations for participants who might be interested in serving NCA.

5) Other special programming worth noting, includes the Freedom Film Series, a proposed Day of Service, and the “Unbound” special programming, which will involve panels that go outside of the convention center and into the Dallas community.

C) For the 2017 NCA Convention, the Activism and Social Justice Division was awarded 4 program slots.

D. Election of New Vice Chair-Elect (Lawrence Frey and Kristen Blinne)

1. The Nominating Committee (Lawrence Frey and Kristen Blinne) was charged with preparing a slate of two persons for the Vice Chair Elect position vacancy.
2. After deliberating, the Nominating Committee asked Jason Del Gandio and Tim Huffman to be candidates for the Vice Chair-Elect position and they agreed. However, nominations from the floor for the Vice Chair-Elect position were also open. No nominations from the floor were forwarded.
3. Jason Del Gandio and Tim Huffman introduced themselves and offered statements.
4. Voting took place by written ballot, and Jason Del Gandio was elected to serve as the Vice Chair-Elect for the Division.

E. New Business

1. Strategies for 2017 Programming Planning: A discussion regarding the number of slots in relationship to the increasing membership occurred during the remaining time.

Meeting adjourned.