

NCA ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BYLAWS

Article I. Name, Authority, and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this division/interest group will be the Activism and Social Justice Division of the National Communication Association.

Section 2. The authority of this division/interest group will be derived from Article VII of the Constitution and Article VI of the Bylaws of the National Communication Association (NCA), and its powers and procedures are those prescribed therein.

Section 3. The primary purpose of the Activism and Social Justice Division is to promote scholarship (research and teaching) that explores relationships among communication, activism, and social justice.

Pursuant to that goal, the Division will plan programs at the annual NCA convention; conduct activities as determined by the Division's membership; and represent the interests of the Division's membership.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership in this Division is open to any member of the Association.

Section 2. The full membership of the Division will be those individuals who are members in good standing of the Association and who are affiliated with the Division on their NCA membership application or renewal, and/or so advise the NCA's Executive Director.

Article III. Meetings

Section 1. An annual business meeting will be held at the time and place of the NCA's annual convention. The Division's Executive Committee may schedule additional meetings.

Section 2. The Secretary will be responsible for circulating/publishing the minutes of all Division meetings.

Article IV. Officers and Committees

Section 1. The officers of the Division will be a Chair, Vice Chair, Vice Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Immediate Past Chair. These officers constitute the Division's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will serve as the chief administrative authority of the Division between annual business meetings of the Association and the Division.

Section 2. The Chair will serve for 1 year, preside at business meetings of the Division, be responsible for membership records, prepare annual reports and budget requests in

such form and manner as NCA's Legislative Assembly prescribes, and serve as a representative of the Division on NCA's Legislative Assembly of the Association for 2 years—1 year as Chair and 1 year as Vice Chair.

Section 3. The Vice Chair will serve a 1-year term, and then succeed to the office of Chair. The Vice Chair, in cooperation with the officers and appropriate committees, will plan the Division's program for the annual NCA convention, administer the evaluation process for papers and panels submitted for competitive consideration, present competitive awards as authorized by the Division, and serve as a representative of the Division on NCA's Legislative Assembly.

Section 4. The Vice Chair-Elect will serve 1 year, and then succeed to the office of Vice Chair. The Vice Chair-Elect will assist the Vice Chair with coordinating the review of papers and other program submissions, will coordinate any membership drive, and assist with other activities assigned by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Secretary will serve a 2-year term, prepare minutes of the Division's business meetings, and coordinate and direct the publications of the Division.

Section 6. The Immediate Past Chair will serve as a representative of the Division as the Awards Committee Coordinator and on the NCA's Nominating Committee, and assist the other officers of the Division as directed by the Chair.

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.

Section 8. Special committees, with tenure limited ordinarily to 1 year and with specific duties appropriate to the needs of the Division, will be appointed by the Chair, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

Article V. Elections

Section 1. There will be a Nominating and Elections Committee of the Division chaired by the Division's Immediate Past Chair. Committee members will be the Immediate Past Chair, the Chair, and the Vice Chair.

Section 2. The Nominating and Elections Committee will prepare a slate of two persons for each vacancy to be filled. Following the presentation of the committee's report at the Division's annual business meeting, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Section 3. Balloting will be conducted at the Division's annual meeting, with ballots counted by the Nominating and Elections Committee, and results will be announced at that time. In the case of a tie, the Chair will withhold his or her ballot.

Section 4. A majority vote of those members attending the Division's annual business meeting at the NCA convention will be sufficient to elect officers for vacant positions. In the case of a vacancy in any office of the Executive Committee, the position will be filled by an automatic succession process, if appropriate. The Executive Committee will fill vacancies in other offices until the Division's next annual business meeting at the NCA convention, at which time a new election will take place. A person so elected will serve the remaining and successive full term for that office.

Article VI. Convention Programming

Section 1. Individuals may submit competitive papers and paper/discussion panels to the Vice Chair/Program Planner for presentation at the NCA convention. Competitive papers will be selected through a blind review process. The Vice Chair will administer the evaluation process. Convention program evaluators will read the submissions and assign ratings and rankings according to a format as directed by the Vice Chair. The Division supports standardized evaluation procedures across all submissions to determine the top-rated papers and sessions. The Vice Chair will report on the number of submissions, rate of acceptance and rejection, and any other matters related to the submission review process at the Division's annual business meeting.

Section 2. Competitive papers and paper/discussion panels will be rated separately. Overall quality and interest to Division members will guide the evaluation of work submitted.

Section 3. On the basis of the evaluations received, the Vice Chair will select the Division's convention programming and work with NCA's First Vice President to schedule Division programs at the annual convention.

Section 4. On the basis of the evaluations received for competitively submitted papers, the Vice Chair will determine the Annual Top Paper Award (to the paper that receives the highest overall rating by reviewers) and the Annual Top Student or Debut Paper Award (to a student author or an author submitting to a convention for the first time). An annual Top Four Activism and Social Justice Papers Panel will spotlight the Top Paper and Top Student/Debut Paper, and the two competitive papers that received the next highest overall rating by reviewers. The Vice Chair will present those two awards at either the panel or at the Division's annual meeting. Authors of submitted works for these two awards are not required to be Division members.

Section 5. The Vice Chair may propose one "spotlight" panel for NCA's annual convention without seeking reviews from outside evaluators. A spotlight panel may feature a particular scholar, local community member, a single piece (or body) of work, or a topic of interest.

Article VII. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. All meetings of the Division, its committees or other subsidiary bodies, will be governed by the Parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws may be initiated by a majority of the Division's Executive Committee, by a majority of the Division's membership at the Division's annual meeting, or by a petition addressed to the Division's Chair and signed by 25 Division members.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to these bylaws are to be published/distributed by email to all Division members at least 60 days prior to the Division's annual business meeting. The adoption of a proposed amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of those present at the Division's annual business meeting.

Article IX. Ratification of Bylaws

Section 1. These bylaws will become effective after ratification by a majority vote of Division members during the special election to be held in June 2015.