

National Communication Association

Communication as Social Construction Division

By-Laws, 2009-2010

ARTICLE I. Name, Authority, and Purposes

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Communication as Social Construction Division of the National Communication Association (NCA).

Section 2. The authority of this organization is derived from Article VII of the Constitution and Article VI of the By-Laws of the National Communication Association, and its powers and procedures are those prescribed therein.

Section 3. The purpose of the Communication as Social Construction Division shall be to nourish and support the articulation of an emerging sensibility or “paradigm” in the discipline of communication known as social construction. The Division will help to clarify a distinctive communication approach to social construction, as well as a social construction approach to communication.

ARTICLE II. Membership

Section 1. Membership in this Division is open to any member of the Association who is interested in promoting the Division's purposes.

Section 2. The full membership of the Division shall be those persons so designated in the current Directory of the Association or by the Executive Secretary of the National Communication Association.

ARTICLE III. Meetings

Business meetings shall be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association as published in the program for the annual meeting of the Association and on the Division's Website.

ARTICLE IV. Elections

Section 1. At each annual business meeting elections shall be held to select various officers, committee chairpersons, committee members, representatives and liaisons of the Division as specified in these By-Laws.

Section 2. Nominations of the election will be reported by the Nominating Committee as specified in Article VI, Section 2 of these By-Laws.

Section 3. Following the report of the Nominating Committee and any nominations made from the floor, the elections shall be conducted by the chairperson of the Division in such a way as to provide for election by a plurality of members in attendance.

ARTICLE V. Officers of the Division

Section 1. The officers of the Division shall be: a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a vice chairperson elect, an immediate past chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer, and a webspinner. At the conclusion of the Division's annual business meeting at the Association's convention, the vice chairperson shall succeed to the office of chairperson, the vice chairperson elect shall succeed to the office of vice chairperson, and the chairperson shall succeed to the office of immediate past chairperson.

Section 2. The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Division, shall discharge the usual responsibilities adhering in such office, shall provide advice to the vice chairperson as requested, and shall serve as a representative of the Division on the Legislative Assembly of the Association. She or he shall present an annual report to the Legislative Assembly in such form and manner as the Assembly prescribes and will make a report to the Division at the annual business meeting of the Division. The term of the office shall be one year.

Section 3. The vice chairperson shall, in cooperation with the first vice president of the Association, and after consulting with Division officers and committees, plan that portion of the program of the Association for which the Division is responsible. The vice chairperson will make a report on the program planning at the annual business of the Division. The term of office shall be one year.

Section 4. The vice chairperson elect shall cooperate with the vice chairperson in planning the convention programs of the Division. The term of office shall be one year.

Section 5. The secretary shall perform the customary duties of that office. The term of the secretary shall be **three years**.

Section 6. The immediate past chairperson will provide such assistance as requested from the chairperson in assembling reports, setting the agenda for the annual meeting, and ensuring continuity in the operation of the Division. The immediate past chairperson shall serve as a representative of the Division on the Legislative Assembly of the Association. The term of office shall be one year.

Section 7. The treasurer will oversee budgetary allocations and expenditures for the Division. The term of office shall be **three years**.

Section 8. The webspinner will be responsible for finding a host for and maintaining the Division's web site, which will include a copy of the by-laws, announcements and news relevant to the Division, convention previews, and other materials as requested by the officers or of interest to the members. The webspinner will be recruited and confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Division. The term of office shall be **three years**. The webspinner may serve consecutive terms.

Section 9. In the event that Division membership allows more than three representatives on Legislative Assembly, the nominating committee of the Division will provide at least two nominees for each available position on Legislative Assembly. Members elected to Legislative Assembly will serve a term of two years (or until representation is decreased).

Section 10. In the event of the incapacity of an officer, the Executive Committee of the Division shall, at its discretion and in accordance with the by-laws of the Association, divide the uncompleted duties among existing officers, elect a replacement to serve until the next business meeting, or establish a nomination and election procedure for selecting a replacement.

ARTICLE VI. Committees of the Division

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the chairperson, the vice chairperson, the vice chairperson elect, the immediate past chairperson, the secretary, the treasurer, the Nominating Committee Chair, and any elected representatives to Legislative Assembly. It shall, between annual meetings of the Division and of the Association, serve as the chief administrative authority of the Division.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall consist of **three (3) members** elected at the annual business meeting of the Division.

Sec. 2.1. The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the person receiving the largest number of votes in its election. That person shall also serve as the Nominating Committee representative to NCA for the Division.

Sec. 2.2. Except for the provisions of these By-Laws, the Nominating Committee shall proceed without instruction to select a slate of at least two (2) confirmed nominees for each position to be filled at the election to be held at the next annual meeting. A confirmed nominee is one who has agreed to be nominated and to serve if elected.

Sec. 2.3. The Nominating Committee shall slate candidates for each of the following positions as they become vacant: vice chairperson elect, secretary, treasurer, nominating committee (members as required), and Legislative Assembly Representative (when a third representative is required).

Section 3. The Division in its annual meetings, the Executive Committee, or the officers individually may appoint, or propose the election of, such ad hoc committees as any of them deems appropriate in furthering the purposes of the Division.

Section 4. The Division in its annual meetings may, upon application by interested members or on its own initiative, create additional standing committees or other subsidiary bodies as it shall deem appropriate in furthering the purposes of the Division. The Executive Committee may create such committees or bodies on an interim basis only, subject to definitive action at the next annual business meeting.

ARTICLE VII. Representatives and Liaisons of the Division

Section 1. The Division shall elect representatives as are appropriate to serve as liaisons to or representatives on committees of the Association, of other Divisions within the association, or of affiliate organizations to the association.

ARTICLE VIII. Parliamentary Authority

In the absence of any provision to the contrary in the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association or in the By-Laws of the Division, all business meetings of the Division and of its committees or other subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE IX. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these By-Laws may be initiated by the Executive Committee or by a petition addressed to the committee and signed by twenty-five members of the Division.

Section 2. For the adoption of a proposed amendment, a two-thirds majority vote of the Division at any regular business meeting will be required.

Section 3. Any fifty members of the Division may present a petition that shall mandate that the Executive Committee submit a proposed amendment to the full membership. Such an amendment shall be adopted, if it is approved by a majority of the members voting.