

***National Communication Association
Freedom of Expression Division's
Bylaws***

Article I – NAME and AUTHORITY

Section One: The name of this organization shall be the Freedom of Expression division of the National Communication Association (NCA).

Section Two: The Freedom of Expression division operates under the constitution and bylaws of NCA and shall be bound by all applicable rules and decisions of that association.

Article II – MISSION and PURPOSE

Section One: The mission of the division is to provide an academic home for legal, ethical, rhetorical, historical, and other approaches to the study and application of free expression in society.

Section Two: The basic purpose of the Freedom of Expression division is to advance the understanding of free expression and the First Amendment by providing a forum for investigation, analysis and dialogue among communication scholars.

Section Three: The division will play a major role in the program planning of the annual NCA convention; conduct activities as deemed appropriate by the membership and represent its interest in the Legislative Assembly.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the division shall be open to all members of NCA who are interested in Freedom of Expression and First Amendment issues.

Article IV - MEETINGS

Section One: An annual business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the NCA convention. The time and place of the meeting shall be posted in the printed and on-line convention program.

Section Two: The division's members present at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

Section Three: The division shall adhere to American parliamentary practice as set forth in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section Four: Officers may meet at the call of any one of its officers to conduct special or unfinished business. These meetings may be conducted by postal mail, phone, fax, Internet, or by any other medium of communication that permits such meetings to occur efficiently. At the close of the meeting, the division's secretary

should publish minutes of the meeting to the division's membership.

Article V – OFFICER ELECTIONS

Section One: The officers of the division shall consist of the chair, the vice-chair, the 2nd vice-chair, immediate-past chair, secretary, and the editor of the Journal of First Amendment Studies.

Section Two: Nominations for offices that become vacant shall be solicited at the annual business meeting.

Section Three: Balloting shall be conducted at the annual division meeting with results being announced at the time of the election. A majority of the members in attendance shall be sufficient to elect officers for vacant positions.

Section Four: Succession shall be automatic from the 2nd vice-chair to the vice-chair, from the vice-chair to the chair, and from the chair to the immediate past chair. Each position is a three-year term. The secretary will be elected for a two-year term. The journal editor shall be appointed by NCA.

Section Five: An officer may resign their position by sending a written letter of resignation to all of the division's officers. Upon receiving the letter of resignation, a special meeting of the remaining officers shall be called to determine the best option for fulfilling the duties of the vacated position. The position shall remain vacant until the division's membership votes.

Article VI – OFFICER DUTIES

Section One: The division's officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the organization's bylaws.

Section Two: The division chair is responsible for advocating and raising the profile of the division throughout the year. The chair is responsible for presiding over the division's business meeting and preparing an agenda for the meeting. The Freedom of Expression division chair is the representative to the association's Legislative Assembly and shall present timely reports to the Freedom of Expression division about the deliberations at the Legislative Assembly. The chair is responsible for requesting the check for the recipient of the top student paper award, preparing the division's expense report, division report and division leadership report, all of which will be filed with NCA's national office. The chair shall undertake any special tasks assigned by the President of NCA.

Section Three: The Vice-Chair shall, in cooperation and consultation with appropriate officers of the Division and the Association, plan the program of the Freedom of Expression division for the annual NCA convention. The vice-chair will organize the paper/panel review committee and will be responsible for compiling the ratings and ranking for the papers/panels submitted for competitive evaluation. The vice-chair is responsible for securing awards for the top papers

submitted to the division. The vice-chair shall present the convention report at the division's business meeting. The vice-chair shall represent the division at the Legislative Assembly. These duties include undertaking special assignments delegated by the division chair and assuming the role of chair should the duly constituted chair be unable to perform the requisite duties of that office.

Section Four: The immediate past chair shall serve as the division's representative to the NCA Nominating Committee. The officer shall serve, as the division's alternate to the Legislative Assembly if either the chair or chair-elect cannot attend the meetings.

Section Five: The Secretary shall perform the customary duties of that office and shall be responsible for internal communication among the members. The Secretary shall prepare minutes for the business meeting to be distributed for review and preliminary approval by division's officers within two months following the annual meeting. The Secretary shall send announcements, memoranda, and newsletter information to members of the Division via email and shall channel appropriate information to Spectra. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that business meeting agendas and minutes, along with important announcements and newsletters, are posted to the division's website. The Secretary shall serve, as the division's alternate to the Legislative Assembly if either the chair or chair-elect cannot attend the meetings. The position is elected to a two- year term.

Section Six: The Editor of the *Journal of First Amendment Studies* shall serve as an officer to the division and will present a journal status report at the division's annual meeting. The Editor will also supply a copy of the call for publication in the division's newsletter and complete the Publication Board's report, which is published in the agenda of the Legislative Assembly. The Editor is nominated by the NCA's Publication Board and elected by the full NCA membership for a four-year term.

Article VII – COMMITTEES

The chair may create ad-hoc committees to facilitate conducting the division's business.

Article VIII – CONVENTION and AWARD

Section One: The Vice-chair will be responsible for solicitation of panels and papers for the annual National convention. The papers and panels should represent the division's best scholarship.

Section Two: In order to further the division's mission, the Vice-chair should encourage division members to submit pre-conference workshops, seminars and Scholar-to-Scholar presentations for inclusion in the National's convention.

Section Three: The top student paper submitted to the Freedom of Expression division shall be forwarded by the division's vice-chair to the NCA Vice-President for inclusion in the Donald P. Cushman Award competition, which honors the most outstanding paper submitted to the convention each year by a student. The individual receiving the top student authored paper will receive a plaque of recognition and registration to the annual convention.

Section Four: The author's name and title for the top student and top professor papers submitted to the Freedom of Expression division shall be forwarded to the NCA Vice-President by the division's vice-chair, for recognition at the awards program at the annual convention.

Section Five: The chair of the division shall solicit nominees for the Franklyn S. Haiman Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Freedom of Expression presented by NCA. The award is given to outstanding scholarship that has appeared in the *Journal of First Amendment Studies*, which broadly defines the spectrum of eligible scholarship. While the *FAS* serves as a model for defining the scope of eligible scholarship, the award may also recognize published scholarship in other journals, books or monographs. Although the award is an annual award, it may be given to authors of scholarship published over the prior three years.

Article IX – JOURNAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT STUDIES

In 1962, the *Free Speech Yearbook* was founded as a publication to showcase the best research on free speech and First Amendment issues. It soon became and remains to this day a vital publication for the communication discipline. In 2013 the publication entered a new era by changing its title to the *Journal of First Amendment Studies* which will be published by Taylor & Francis twice a year and will be posted on-line. The publication will remain a peer-reviewed journal that publishes original essays, which make a significant contribution to theory and/or policy, on all aspects of free speech.

Article X – AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS

Section One: Amendments to these bylaws may be initiated by a majority of the officers or by a petition signed by ten members of the division. The petition shall be provided to the division's chair two weeks prior to the annual business meeting.

Section Two: Proposed amendment changes shall be submitted to the division's membership ten days prior to the annual business meeting.

Section Three: These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote. If the proposed changes are not provided to the division membership ten days prior to the annual meeting, ratification may occur only by a two-thirds vote.

Section Four: Amended bylaws shall become effective on the first day of December following ratification.

Adopted - 11/2012