

**2021 Master's Education Section Business Meeting**  
**National Communication Association,**  
**Zoom Room #02,**

**Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021**

**12:30-1:45pm Pacific standard Time (3:30-4:45 pm Eastern Time)**

**Orange Text represents topics discussed/added in the business meeting to the meeting agenda**

**Meeting Minutes**

**9 attendants at the Business Meeting**

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair, Alice Fanari
- II. **Approval of 2020 Minutes:** Jen Anderson (Secretary) – Meeting minute approval for 2020 presented by Alice  
Approve minutes
- III. **NCA Guest:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Candidate – Dr. Marnel Niles Goins
- IV. **Officer Reports:**
  - a. Chair Report: Alice Fanari
    - Excited to continue a discussion to advance strong master's education programs.
    - Did our best to adapt to the virtual/in-person conference to accommodate everyone
  - b. Vice-Chair 2021 Program Planner's Report: Fatima Albrehi
    - In 2019, only had three sessions: 1) top papers 2) business meeting 3) panel session.
    - In 2020, we added two more slots by moving the business mtg and growing section awarded a fifth slot.
    - # of papers submitted (In 2020, last year, 12 papers submitted).
    - # of panels submitted (In 2020, last year, 6 panels submitted, we were only able to have one panel present at the conference).
    - # of papers submitted (In 2021, this year, 2; 2 accepted)
    - # of panels submitted (In 2021, this year 4; 4 accepted)
  - c. Vice-Chair Elect - 2022 Program Planner: James Cherney
    - New Orleans, 2022
    - Likely to be held in-person, but no official announcements have been made.
    - Options for fully online pre-conference
    - Theme – Honoring Place [People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment]
    - Number of sessions we will have – likely to lose 2 slots for the 2022 convention. Therefore, we need to explore whether we can have another virtual business meeting next year when the time comes. – Dr. Cherney is on a committee to explore alternative ways of presenting in the future and

open to hearing suggestions. .

**V. Old Business**

- a. Last year (2020), we had the pre-conference which brought a lot of new ideas. That pre-conference session is being continued through a panel session this conference.
  - This year, we have a panel session “One year later”, Saturday, 11/20 @3:30-4:45pm PST
- b. Co-sponsored session with the Intercultural division -Saturday @8:00-9:15am
- c. **Anything else?**

**VI. Division Awards:** Chair, Alice Fanari

Master’s Education Section  
*2021 Outstanding Mentor in Master’s Education Award*  
Dr. Ryan Neville-Shepard, University of Arkansas

**Master’s Education Top Thesis Awards – physical awards provided at the in-person NCA conference for the MA students present**

Top Qualitative Thesis Award Presented to  
Danielle Biss of San Diego State University for  
*“Bridging Trauma-Informed Organizing and Accessible Practice: A Qualitative Study of Dialectical Tensions”*

Master’s Education Section  
Top Quantitative Thesis Award Presented to  
Jade Larson of South Dakota State University for  
*“Veracious Verdicts: An Expansion of Cognitive-Experiential Self-Theory in Jury Decision-Making Using Attribution Theory”*

Master’s Education Section  
Top Rhetorical Thesis Award Presented to  
Charlotte Castro of University of Arkansas for  
*“Ancestral Pursuits: A Multicultural Celebration of Identity & Race”*

Did not have any submissions for the *Outstanding Master’s Program Award*

**VII. Passing of the gavel to Fatima Albrehi**

- a. Keep the synergy going.
- b. Grateful for the 2021 reviewers.
- c. Need reviewers for papers and panels for 2022 NCA, Please write your name, institution, and email address in the chat, typically pretty light load.

**VIII. New Business (Fatima)**

- a. Figure out a more efficient way to communicate with Master’s Education

Section? (The MA listserv created quite a bit of problems this year)

- Create a new listserv by asking Justin Donowski the roster of members for MES and creating a listserv from that.
- b. Bring up idea of awarding money for next years awards and how Fatima will look into that process to see if it's possible.
- c. **Recommendations to grow our division:**
  - Reaching out to MA only section around the US to gather their attention on our division
  - Masters in com website may have a list of MA programs
  - Publicizing through press and spreading the word
  - What are we offering to the membership of the MA program? Consider whether we can have zoom seminars on how to that we can advertise (ex. panel of MA grad directors sharing their experiences/advise)
  - Consider someone taking over the initial efforts of Drs. Elton and Dunker to hold monthly meetings on MA programs where people can discuss their programs casually to learn from one another (a monthly working group)
  - Based on Jessica's panel we also requested a special issue of Journal of Communication Pedagogy on master's ed... they are in between editors and the new editor should give us a decision any time now.
  - Having another preconference for the MA conference
- d. **Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of the Master's Education Section,** Submitted by Jim Cherney, Vice Chair Elect, November 2021 – **approved in meeting**

**Rationale:** Our bylaws specify that the transition between officers takes place at the beginning of the convention, but current NCA practice assumes that the transition takes place after the convention ends (or after the business meeting at which new elections are held). For example, according to the current wording, the person voted Vice Chair Elect in 2020 becomes the Vice Chair in 2021 when the convention begins, and thus participates in the planning meeting, conducts the planning for the 2022 convention, and serves as the NCA Representative and attends the Legislative Assembly meeting in 2021. NCA assumes that the person invited to the Legislative Assembly is the person who was the Vice Chair at the time the convention will begin (i.e., the person elected Vice Chair Elect in 2019), which creates confusion. Moreover, the current wording (if we were to follow it) means that the same person who must attend the planning meeting must also be at the Legislative Assembly, which makes that person's convention schedule unwieldy. Because of all this, our practice has been to follow NCA's lead and have the person who was Vice Chair prior to the convention attend the LA meeting and the person who was Vice Chair Elect prior to the convention be the planner, which – although reasonable – does not follow the bylaws.

I propose that we rectify this by amending the bylaws so that the transition between officers takes place at the end of the convention, which makes the planner the person who is Vice Chair Elect at the beginning of the convention and the NCA representative the person who is Vice Chair at the beginning of the convention. The responsibility for attending the planning meeting will shift from the Vice Chair to the Vice Chair Elect.

**Text of changes:**

**Article V. Officers reads in part:**

Excepting the Secretary, the Officers shall serve a term of the duration between their

election or the beginning of the NCA convention at which they assume office and the beginning of the next NCA convention.

**As amended, this part will read:**

Excepting the Secretary, the Officers shall serve a term of the duration between their election or the end of the NCA convention at which they assume office and the end of the next NCA convention.

As this means that the person who is Vice Chair Elect will remain in that office at the time of the planning meetings, the second part of the amendment is to make the following changes to “Article VI. Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers” and move the responsibility for attending the planning meeting from the Vice Chair to the Vice Chair Elect.

A. Strike as follows:

The Vice Chair shall engage in the activities and complete the duties associated with planning for the NCA conference of the coming year. In particular, the Vice Chair will cooperate with the First Vice President of NCA as required for planning the conference ~~and will attend the planning meeting held at NCA in the year she or he assumes office.~~

B. Add as follows:

The Vice Chair-Elect shall assist the Vice Chair as necessary with planning the NCA conference of the coming year, cooperate with the Second Vice President of NCA as necessary and attend the planning meeting to prepare to plan the conference of the year after that, and prepare for the Office of Chair by becoming familiar with these bylaws and other Section procedures

Vote? By chat (private to Fatima)

- Need for clearer submissions guidelines/evaluation criteria for Outstanding Master’s Program Award (or other awards). For instance, a rubric can be introduced for reviewers, as well as a short qualitative response/feedback to make evaluation more consistent. – **consensus that having more open-ended, qualitative, easily accessible criteria should be used instead of hard, point rubrics**
  - No consecutive submissions should be allowed for Thesis Awards (need for clearer guidelines). For instance, if an individual submitted for an award this year and received feedback but didn’t win, they cannot submit that same paper for an award for the next conference, as they would have an unfair advantage over other submitters. They can, however, submit a different paper (that was not reviewed). – **consensus to allow individuals to submit twice (year after year) to give them more opportunity for running for awards.**
- e. Opening for discussion on “What to do” for the in-person business meeting in Seattle -giving physical awards but no business carried out
- Meet & Greet? – plan is to see how attendance works out. Similar to other sections, nothing substantial will take place in the in-person meeting.

- f. Opening for a discussion on other MES business?
  - Facebook Page? Open up floor to any ideas to promote MES?

**IX. Elections**

- a. Second Vice-Chair Elect: Dr. **Ryan Michael Neville-Shepard**

**X. Adjourn**