

NCA Political Communication Division Business Meeting  
November 16, 2019: 2:00 pm, Baltimore, MD  
*Meeting Minutes, prepared by Diana Zulli, Purdue University*  
*Approximately 59 People in Attendance*

**Call to Order (2:06)**

- Chair, Benjamin Warner, University of Missouri

**Approval of 2018 Minutes (Diana Zulli, Purdue University)**

- 2018 minutes were circulated via email and hard copies were distributed at the meeting
- No corrections from the floor
- Motion to approve: Josh Scacco
- Second: Wm. Bryan Paul
- Approved by voice at 2:08pm

**Nominations Committee**

- Nominations Committee Chair, Natalie Stroud, The University of Texas, Austin
  - Presented by Josh Scacco on behalf of committee chair.
    - Thanked the committee for providing service to the division and to the national organization as a whole.
  - 11 Vice-Chair nominations (1 accepted)
    - Ashley Muddiman
    - Statement from Muddiman: Assistant professor at the University of Kansas, an NCA member for approx. 12 years, served in many of the positions in the division.
    - Muddiman will be on the ballot after the business meeting.
  - 16 nominations for the nomination committee (8 accepted nomination for committee)
    - There will be 5 spots on the nominations committee. The person with the most votes will become the chair.
  - Message from Stroud: “Urge people for next year to nominate themselves and to accept nominations.”

**Officer reports**

- Chair Report, Benjamin Warner, University of Missouri
  - Legislative Assembly Business
    - The legislative assembly unanimously adopted a military communication division at NCA. Division was proposed in 2018 but failed by a narrow margin. Concerns about the division were addressed during the year. The division is now more representative of the broad interests of NCA. Overwhelmingly passed.
    - Also passed was a resolution condemning white supremacist communication, to be included on NCA’s website.
    - The legislative assembly amended the bylaws. Changed the election date of the second-vice president elect so that the election would happen within a month when second-vice takes the vice president position. Bylaws amended to reflect this change so that elect would not be listed as part of the legislative assembly.
- Vice-Chair and Program Planner, Sumana Chattopadhyay, Marquette University
  - For graduate students traveling to NCA: NCA has more money for travel awards. All grad students should apply.
  - Publications and diversity council to talk about editor hiring. Also looking for a greater way to promote diversity and representation in citations.

- Discussed the seed grants that are available for assistant professors at NCA.
- Announced the caucus reception that night.
- Use of division funds
  - Budget was not very large (Just over 1k year). Half of the money was spent on plaques. The other half went to award checks for the top student papers. The division decided on this structure two years ago. This is the second year that PCD has divided budget this way.
- Membership decline
  - 668 members in 2015
  - 399 members in 2019
  - Division only has two legislative assembly representatives due to low numbers. NCA membership is down 10% across the board and all divisions. PCD division is down a little more than that.
  - Explanation for declining numbers: PCD is one of largest divisions and have more room to lose membership.
  - Urged the division to think of ways to encourage the study of political communication, conference attendance, and PCD membership.
- Conference information
  - 27 Slots (Same as 2018)
    - 21 paper sessions
    - 5 panel sessions (6 paper panels, 2 discussion panels)
    - 1 business meeting
  - Paper Submissions
    - 76 papers submitted (102 in 2018)
    - 56 accepted (74%) (72 in 2018, 70%)
    - 4 transferred to Scholar to Scholar
  - Panel Submissions
    - 15 discussion or paper panels submitted
    - 12 accepted (80%)
  - Submissions down (105) from 2018 (117), 2017 (138), and 2016 (138)
  - 69 reviewers; 26 chairs and respondents.
- Vice-Chair Elect, Colene Line, Kansas State University
  - Looking ahead to NCA 2020 in Indianapolis
    - “Communication at the Crossroad”
    - 1<sup>st</sup> theme: Connection and convergence. Submissions that have an affinity for overlap in scholarship or approaches.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> theme: Crossroads as a choice point.
    - We are down two slots in 2020 (25) due to submissions and members
      - Convention site is smaller so fewer slots for entire conference
    - Reviewers will be sent Qualtrics survey for area of expertise. A piece of paper was sent around for new members to sign up for the listserv.

Benjamin Warner, University of Missouri

- Proposed amendments to the bylaws
  - The old version used artificial binaries for pronouns. The singular pronoun is superior to inclusion and grammar.
  - Call for discussion: none
  - Motion was moved and seconded
  - 1 opposition

- Amendment passed.

## Awards

- **Roderick P. Hart Outstanding Book Award (FIRST)**

Chair: Mitchell McKinney

Submissions: 9 books

Committee: Joel Penney, Ryan Neville-Sheppard

**WINNER: Kathleen Hall Jamieson**

*Cyber-war: How Russian hackers and trolls helped elect a president—what we don't, can't, and do know.*

**WINNERS: Sharon Jarvis and Soo-Hye Han**

*Votes that count and voters who don't: How journalists sideline electoral participation (without even knowing it).*

- **Michael Pfau Outstanding Article Award (SECOND)**

Chair: Ben Warner

Committee: Michael Lee and Dianne Bystrom

**WINNERS: Ashley Muddiman & Natalie Stroud**

“News values, cognitive biases, and partisan incivility in comment sections.”

- **Lynda Lee Kaid Outstanding Dissertation Award (THIRD)**

Chair: Shannon McGregor

Committee: Robin Rowland, Katherine Haenschen

**WINNER: Kaiping Chen (Stanford University)**

“When people’s voices matter: Examining mini-public deliberation and digital crowdsourcing with machine learning tools.”

- Top Paper Award

**Josh Guitar, Christopher Newport University**

“The Snowden Ideograph: How the state survived Snowden’s attempt to save democracy”

### Top Paper Panel

- “Investigating how person-to-person communication transforms frames: A combined social transmission, content analysis, and eye movement monitoring approach”-Jason Coronel, Jared Ott, Matthew Sweitzer, Austen Hubner, Ohio State University
- “Predictors of cross-cutting discussion on Facebook: Political interest, news use, and strong-tie heterogeneity”-Yanqin Lu, Bowling Green State University; Jae Kook Lee, Sungkyunkwan University
- “U.S. presidential debates 1948-2016: An issue of interpersonal respect and formality”-David Scott, Northeastern State University; Mike Chanslor, Northeastern State University; Jenny Dixon, Marymount Manhattan College.

- Top Student Paper Award

**Ethan Morrow, University of Missouri; Jihye Park, University of Missouri, Columbia; Iuliia Alieva, University of Missouri, Columbia**

“Crossing Realms: The effect of Facebook activity on offline political engagement”

- Top Student Panel
  - “Setting the media agenda: How international news agencies covered the 2016 U.S. presidential election via Twitter”-Jason Stamm, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
  - “Measuring with incomplete rulers: revisiting dimensions of source credibility for political figures”-John Brooks, Northwestern University; Daniel Trielli, Northwestern University
  - “Sanders in March and Trump in November: A test of populist ideology as an explanatory mechanism for cross-party vote switching”-Dakota Park-Ozee, University of Texas, Austin
- **Outstanding Service to the Division (FOURTH)**
  - Kevin Coe, The University of Utah, Political Communication Division Chair 2018

New Business, Ben Warner

- Nomination of PCD members to the Distinguished Scholar list
  - Issued a call to think intentionally about identifying PCD members to put forward for this nomination.
  - Called for nomination to reflect the diversity of the PCD division.
  - Recommendation: the nominating committee should nominate the names for this award.
- PCD Awards
  - Issued a call to be more intentional about the PCD awards as well.
- Conference submissions review and selection process
  - Stressed importance of PCD division to be a welcoming academic home to anyone who wants to study political communication, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, background, etc.
  - Reminded PCD members of how biases affect submissions, acceptance, and awards. Encouraged reflexivity of biases and review processes.
- Growing PCD membership intentionally (hiring and graduate admissions)
  - Encouraged PCD members to be intentional about hiring and membership.

Comments from the floor

- Comments from Richard Vatz
  - Senior member of the PCD group and NCA member for 50 years.
  - Claims about NCA:
    - NCA is run by power abusing executive director; there is persecution of moderate and conservative ideologies at NCA.
- Point of order by Kathy Kendall: Body doesn't accept personal insults.
- Ben Warner requested that Vatz concludes remarks
- Concluding remarks by Vatz:
  - Proposed two motions:
    - #1: Move for a resolution to support freedom of speech in market place of ideas for conservative points of view, which is not included in NCA mission statement.
      - Motion seconded by Eric Grabowsky
    - #2: Move to resolution of no confidence in the executive director of NCA
      - Motion seconded by Eric Grabowsky
- Motion #1 general discussion:
  - There was discussion about how motion #1 was a response to the controversy over 2019 summer and how there is an overwhelming number of liberal voices and small percentage of conservative

voices. Supporters of motion #1 suggested that conservatives are vilified to the point that they feel they cannot speak out on CRTNET or NCA. Suggested that organization should protect this threatened group.

- Some members took issue with the definition of the conservative viewpoint.
  - There were questions related to how the legislative assembly addressed white supremacy
  - Ben Warner: Clarified that the resolution passed from legislative assembly provided clear definition of white supremacy.
  - Urged that there should not be a false equivalency between white supremacy and conservatism.
  - The language of the mission statement was read for clarification.
- Amendment to motion #1: Katherine Haenschen
    - Proposed that motion #1 be placed on the same electronic ballot used for voting for officers so members can have more time and privacy to make a decision.
    - Discussion about amendment to motion #1
      - The virtue of the amendment to motion 1 is that all PCD members should vote.
      - When division votes on other items, numbers aren't released. Should division release voting numbers related to this motion?
      - Discussed where the division goes if motion 1 is approved. Would motion become part of the bylaw or does motion simply affirm freedom of speech?
      - Goal of motion 1: To formally recognize conservatism.
      - Further support for closed ballots: Open ballots puts graduate students and pre-tenured faculty at risk. Secret ballots account for hierarchies of power. More people should be able to vote on motion.
    - Vote for amendment to motion #1
      - Call to Question: For amendment to put motion #1 on the ballot:
        - Questioned what "yes" and "no" vote meant.
        - Answer: "Yes" is a vote to put motion #1 on ballot; "No" is to not put motion #1 on the ballot
      - All in favor (yes): approx. 41 (hand vote)
      - Opposed: none opposed
      - Amendment to place motion #1 on ballot passed.

Adjourned at 3:16 PM