



PUBLIC DIALOGUE
AND DELIBERATION
DIVISION

Interest Group Name: Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division

Name of person making report: Elesha L. Ruminski, Ph.D.

Submitter's role in the interest group: Chair

Submitter's email: elruminski@frostburg.edu

List of Interest Group Awards and winners for 2019:

Student Paper Award (1st time to be awarded): ““Publicity and Transparency for Social Justice and Equity in Denver Participatory Budgeting.” The authors are Vincent Russell and Therese Gardner from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Did your Interest Group engage in any fundraising efforts in 2019? If yes, for what purpose?

No. One member offered a contribution to help cover the cost of a promotional item (ink pens) ordered this year.

Did or will your interest group engage in any recruitment or retention efforts? If yes, please describe your efforts:

We interacted through Facebook posts, division listserv messages, CRTNET messages; networked across NCA divisions and with external partnering organizations including the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights when developing a short course proposal and seeking co-sponsors for convention sessions; and networked across other organizations (National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation, Kettering Foundation, National Issues Forums Institute). We also had ink pens with a message promoting our division printed for distribution at the annual convention (“Support Democratic Engagement: Join NCA’s Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division”), which will add to our other promotional items, badge stickers and a banner we put outside the door of business meeting.

Additional Comments about your interest group for the 2019 Legislative Assembly:

The Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division, in its fourth year of existence, has a division membership of 103 members. Current leadership, coming from a vast array of higher education institutions from across the nation, has worked well together to keep division business moving forward:

Elesha L. Ruminski (Frostburg State University, elruminski@frostburg.edu), chair Tim Steffensmeier (Kansas State University, steffy@ksu.edu), vice chair Tim Shaffer (Kansas State University, tjshaffer@ksu.edu), vice chair elect Cheryl Maiorca (New Mexico State University, cmajorca@nmsu.edu), secretary Laura Black (Ohio University, blackl1@ohio.edu), immediate past chair Becky Kuehl (South Dakota State University, rebecca.kuehl@sdstate.edu), Nominating Committee chair

We will be electing a new vice chair elect and nominating committee members during our business meeting this year. Past chair Laura Black added a position rotation document guided by bylaws term information to help us keep track of our election results. We added a Student Award this year and will work to update our bylaws to incorporate a standing committee to handle this process (our Nominating Committee served as an ad hoc selection committee this year). We also plan to explore if our division wants to nominate a member to serve on the NCA Nominating Committee and how we might have alternatives for Legislative Assembly participation if our designated leadership is unable to attend. We reached out to NCA administration to offer expertise assistance as needed to address tensions online or at the convention; President Star Muir responded seeking expert advice on “1) Why would a listserv be needed? There are many discussions and discussion forums available, so why an aging technology, and why NCA control? 2) What are some best practices from other moderated scholarly discussions? What kinds of Terms of Use work best? How have others addressed these challenges of forum abuse and personalization? 3) What legal constraints operate here and how have some Terms of Use fared in court?” He plans to attend our convention business meeting, which will conclude with the usual dialogic exchange when members will be invited to discuss challenges in NCA and how our discipline can help this organization, democratic engagement in classroom and community contexts, and collaborative ideas to plan for NCA proposals for next year. We continue to focus on supporting practice and scholarship through our division, work we find is increasingly relevant to sustaining local and national democracy, or “communication for survival.”