

2021 Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division Business Meeting

National Communication Association Annual Conference

Seattle, WA

Friday, November 19, 2021, 3:30-4:45 p.m. Pacific

Washington State Convention Center, 612

MINUTES

- 1 - Call to Order (Caitlin Bruce, Vice-Chair)
 - Caitlin called the meeting to order at 3:38pm
 - Introduced Linda Taliaferro as NCA Representative
 - o Linda invited meeting attendees to keynote lecture
- 2 - Candidacy Statements (delivered at virtual meeting only)
- 3 - Division Election Results (Noor Ghazal Aswad, Nominating Committee Chair)
 - Awards Committee- One Candidate:
 - o Michael Lechuga
 - Nominating Committee Candidates- 5 candidates
 - o Alison Cheung (chair)
 - o Antonia Tomas De La Garza
 - o Michelle Colplean
 - o Sara Baugh
 - o Vipula Chari
 - Rhetorical Scholarship Selection Committee Candidates- one candidate
 - o Josue David Cisneros
 - Vice-Chair Elect Candidates- one candidate
 - o Suzanne Enck
 - Wichelns Memorial Award Committee Candidates - one candidate
 - o Jose Ángel Maldonado
- 4 - Legislative Assembly Report (Caitlin Bruce, Vice-Chair)
 - 2022 proposed budget was adopted
 - New journal, *Communication and Race*, was approved
 - Mentorship and leadership council approved
 - Two new interest groups approved: Caribbean Caucus and SWANAME Caucus
- 5 - Division Awards Delivery (Kundai Chirindo, Awards Committee Chair)
 - Kundai thanked the awards committee (Whitney Gent and Godfried Asante)
 - Distinguished Scholar Award (two winners): Dr. Cara A. Finnegan and Dr. Robert Rowland
 - Early Career Award: Dr. Joshua Trey Barnett
 - Faculty Mentorship Award: Dr. Karrin Vasby Anderson
 - Nichols-Ehnniger Top Student Paper Award *and* Division Top Paper Award: Joey Konrad
- 6 - Old Business (none from Caitlin; none from floor)
- 7 - New Business and/or Announcements from the Floor (Caitlin Bruce, Vice-Chair)
 - Proposed Bylaws Amendment (Kundai Chirindo, Awards Committee Chair)
 - o Confusion about award eligibility—some people are unclear about whether recipients need to be division members (they do!)
 - o Want to encourage as many nominations as possible, members or not, then if people aren't members, the awards committee will check roster and encourage people to join the division

- Section 4, article 7 is where awards are described; two of three awards imply membership; faculty mentorship award is explicit; awards committee proposes to add this sentence to the other awards (article 7, section 2 (early career) and 3 (dist scholar))
 - This proposal was distributed via email as a petition, then brought to committee
 - Move to add to bylaws
 - Seconded and passed (votes only from those who did not vote at the virtual meeting)
- Proposed Bylaws Addition (Kundai Chirindo, Awards Committee Chair)
 - Recognition that Dan Brouwer served on awards committee, won mentorship award, and served in chair, vice-chair, and other roles in division and discipline
 - Committee proposes renaming faculty mentorship in honor of Dan Brouwer: add “Daniel C. Brouwer” between “the” and “Faculty Mentorship Award” throughout Section 4, Article 7 of bylaws
 - Discussion
 - Rob Asen described Dan as “a builder of community in life and in death”; emphasized that it is particularly appropriate to attach his name to a mentorship award, given his dedication to mentorship in his teaching, scholarship and service: he often collaborated with junior scholars as a form of mentorship; suggested that this is a way of allowing Dan to continue teaching us about the importance of mentorship, especially since the academy often focuses on the individual rather than community
 - Bridget Liddell, Dan’s last advisee, spoke in favor of the motion; described how graduate students “all clamored for Dan’s attention” and hoped that he would take them on; Dan could have said “no” based on his workload, but “he said ‘yes’ over and over again, up until his death,” even working with students the week he died
 - Roberta Chevrette, Dan’s former advisee, shared an excerpt from her letter of support; described his teaching, organizing, and fashion sense as impeccable; recounted Dan’s ability to make students feel seen, recognized, and affirmed while challenging them to think beyond existing boundaries; recalled Dan’s ability to articulate what students were trying to say, even when they weren’t yet able to do so themselves; concluded by emphasizing his ability to foster individual identities and ideas in ways that were mutual and reciprocal
 - Caitlin called for a motion to vote
 - Motion passed overwhelmingly
- Announcement from Jenna Hanchey, shared by Caitlin Bruce
 - Request for donations for new award: Brenda J. Allen Travel Grant Endowment for Women, Trans, and Non-Binary Graduate Students of Color; award will fund four \$250 travel grants per year to attend WSCA and present research with ORWAC
- Program Planning Report (Amira de la Garza, Vice-Chair Elect)
 - Theme will be “Honoring Place: People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment”
 - Dates have been revved up in preparation for program planning, including five webinars program planners are asked to attend
 - Mid December, call for submissions out
 - January 10, open for submissions on NCA cite
 - March 30, deadline for submission
 - Thirty-five slots at present for programming (before cosponsorships, etc)—encourage cosponsorship or other innovative programming ideas
 - April 6, reviewers assigned (link to sign up)

- May 4, reviews due
- July 1, registration available on NCA website
- August, formal program available
- Amira emphasized that Walid Afifi's plans for the conference are exceptional, the call beautiful

8 - Adjournment (Caitlin Bruce, Vice-Chair)

- Caitlin thanks co-officers, chairs, reviewers, and respondents and adjourns the meeting

2020 Division Officers: Chair: Megan Morrissey, University of North Texas, Vice-Chair: Caitlin Bruce, University of Pittsburgh; Vice-Chair Elect: Amira de la Garza, Arizona State University; Secretary: Amanda Nell Edgar, University of Memphis; Past Chair: Nina Lozano, Loyola Marymount University

2020 Awards Committee: Kundai Chirindo, Lewis & Clark College (Chair); Whitney Gent, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Godfried Asante (San Diego State University)

2020 Nominating Committee: Noor Ghazal Aswad (Chair); Katie Lind, Scarlett Hester, Matthew Houdek