



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Doctoral Education Committee  
New Orleans, LA  
Saturday, November 19, 2011**

Attendees: Edward L. Fink (Chair), Pat Arneson, Linda Putnam (guest), Mary Ann Danielson (guest), Kate Hawkins, Carole Blair, Tom Goodnight, Ron Lee, Betsy Bach (NCA staff), John Meyer, Lynn Disbrow (guest), Kristine Muñoz (guest), Larry Frey, Tim Kuhn (Vice-Chair & recorder)

Chair Ed Fink called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Approval of Agenda.  
Attendees approved the agenda by acclamation.
  
- II. Linda Putnam: Report ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) and Web of Knowledge (Thompson Reuters)
  - A. Linda Putnam reported on changes in the Communication subject category.
  - B. There are currently 67 Communication journals on the ISI list (2 years ago, there were 54).
  - C. Average impact factor of these journals is 0.954; the total number of articles published in 2010 was 2,087; and the year with the highest number of citations was 2007 (3,527 citations).
  - D. Among the new journals on the list, 2 are Spanish journals and one is a South African journal.
  - E. Three journals are currently under review by ISI for inclusion.
  - F. Putnam invited the DEC to nominate additional journals. Betsy Bach asked about other indicators beyond impact factors to represent quality, and Putnam's committee is working on alternatives.
  
- III. Educational Policies Board (EPB) Initiative: Lynn Disbrow, Chair; Mary Ann Danielson, Vice-Chair
  - A. Two years ago, the EPB created an initiative to develop materials for doctoral students. The study found that the materials weren't as accessible as they could, or should, be. The committee's next step includes checking when the new NCA Web site goes live to assess the adequacy of the information posted.

- B. The EPB sees the DEC not as a separate group or link, but rather to help doctoral students have information on a blog and direct them to sources on the site. The purpose is not to segment doctoral education but to get these students familiar with the materials on the site, and then get a sense if there are other topics that are missing. The EPB can get feedback from the DEC and students, and perhaps survey students after the site is up and running.
- C. The site can also get information relevant to doctoral chairs. Tim Kuhn will serve as liaison with the EPB on updating the site.

#### IV. Research Board: Kristine Muñoz

She presented a summary of Research Board activities.

- A. Outreach: Members of the Research Board attended National Humanities Advocacy Day in March and met with representatives of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Three panels at the New Orleans conference were submitted as a result of those meetings.
- B. Profiles of areas of research were prepared, which included abbreviated versions of white papers and summaries of research programs.
- C. The Woolbert Award was won by Malcolm Parks and Kory Floyd for their 1996 article, "Making friends in cyberspace" (*Journal of Communication*, 46, 80-97). Muñoz discussed how the Board plans to increase the number of nominations for next year.
- D. On the new NCA Web site, the Research Board will be posting brief video messages intended to bring members' expertise to the attention of the public. This function is to be called Topics in Communication Talks (TIC-Talks).
- E. A day-long seminar on writing for grad students, to be conducted by Sonja Foss and Laura Ellingson (both of whom have led workshops of this sort in the past), is to be submitted to the 2012 NCA conference.
- F. At the New Orleans conference, the Research Board sponsored or co-sponsored 5 panels.

#### V. Report of the Dissertation Award Committee

- A. The Gerald Miller Dissertation Award Committee consisted of Ronald Lee (chair), Kay Hawkins, & Carole Blair.
- B. 14 dissertations were nominated, of which 9 were rhetorical-critical and 5 were communication research.
- C. There was consensus on the two winners, so no additional winners were selected, the rules stipulate that up to 3 awardees may be selected, but the committee has rarely given 3.
- D. Award winner: Michael Serazio, U. of Pennsylvania (Barbie Zelizer, director): *Your ad here: The cool sell of guerrilla marketing*.
- E. Award winner: Allison Scott, U. of Illinois (John Caughlin, director). *Family conversations about end-of-life health decisions*.

- F. We don't currently do blind reviews for the dissertation award. Lee is presently working on instructions to move to blind review. He encourages the next chair to use blind reviews.
- G. Getting reviewers: Advisors (and nominators) should be expected to serve as reviewers, as professional responsibility.
- H. Larry Frey was selected as 2012 chair of the Miller Dissertation Award.

VI. Report on the 2012 Doctoral Honors Seminar (DHS)

- A. It is to be held at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, July 10-13, 2012.
- B. The submission deadline is April 1, 2012.
- C. The on-site planners are Thomas Goodnight and Larry Gross.

VII. NCA Updates: Betsy Bach

- A. Pertinent issues: The DEC will have a Section for Doctoral Chairs on the NCA Web site, including guidelines for hosting the DHS.
- B. The NCA office has made a push for improving research resources. They would like to have information on everyone in the discipline who's received grants. Bach encouraged DEC members to encourage their colleagues & graduate students to send that information, through the new Web site, to NCA.

VIII. Elections:

- A. Vice-Chair-elect: John Meyer, U Southern Mississippi, elected by acclamation.
- B. The DEC nominated five people to the Committee on Committees for membership in the DEC:
  - 1. Tamara Afifi, Univ. of California – Santa Barbara
  - 2. Patrice Buzzanell, Purdue
  - 3. Deborah Cai, Temple
  - 4. Jeffrey Child, Kent State
  - 5. Sarah Tracy, Arizona State

[After the meeting, the DEC was informed that Afifi, Buzzanell, Cai, and Tracy were selected by the Committee on Committees]

IX. New Business:

- A. Doctoral Chairs Breakfast: With all the excellent information presented, there was a shared belief that more doctoral chairs should attend. Perhaps information isn't getting out, perhaps the event suffers from a problem of cost, lack of time, or lack of knowledge, but, in short, we need to figure out a way to get greater attendance. To address this issue, Tim Kuhn (incoming DEC chair) will get a letter out to doctoral chairs, perhaps in July. Perhaps the DEC should ask conference planner Steven Beebe to see if we can get publisher to defray costs.

- B. The committee also discussed having NCA defray some of the costs to participants or to consider having the breakfast outside the conference hotel. Dr. Bach indicated opposition to these suggestions based on NCA's contracts with hotels.
  - C. There were complaints about the graduate school open house: the small space, dim lighting, and inaccessible location. The DEC will follow up with program planners to address these problems so that they can be corrected for the Orlando conference.
- X. Fink adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.