

## **NCA Activism and Social Justice Division Business Meeting**

National Communication Association  
Philadelphia, TX, November 2017

### **Preliminary Business:**

1. Welcome and call to order (Lawrence Frey)
2. Introduction of Division Officers (Lawrence Frey)
3. Introduction and Statements by NCA's Candidates for Second Vice President: David McMahon and Brad Mello
4. Approval of the 2016 Business Meeting Minutes

### **Chair's Report (Lawrence Frey)**

#### State of the Division

1. The Division is incredibly healthy
2. As of Friday, November 18, the division had 322 members.
3. According to NCA's figures (November 2017), the Activism and Social Justice Division is the 14th largest of the 44 divisions.
4. The number of members is expected to rise significantly after the convention, as many people renew their NCA and division memberships at the convention.

### **Vice Chair's Report (Kristen Blinne)**

#### 2017 Convention Programming

1. This year, the division was given 10 slots for the convention
  - a. The division received **87 submissions** (55 competitive papers, 22 panel discussions, 8 paper sessions, and 2 performances)
  - b. **48 people served as reviewers**, and they all provided written feedback to submissions, in addition to ratings.
  - c. **17 submissions were accepted** and divided into 2 competitive papers panels (including a Top Four Papers panel), 11 panels (8 discussion and 3 paper-oriented). 5 of these panels were co-sponsored

- d. One panel slot was allocated for the Division's business meeting.
- 2. Congratulations to all those who had their papers and panels accepted, especially to the authors of the Top Four Papers Panel
  - a. Rachel Elizabeth Presley-Ohio University: Top Student Paper ("Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Rhetorical Strategies for Environmental Protection and Cultural Resistance in the Dakota Access Pipeline Movement")
  - b. Timothy Paul Huffman-Saint Louis University and Sarah Jane Tracy-Arizona State University: Top Division Paper (Making Claims that Matter: Heuristics for Theoretical Social Impact in Qualitative Research)
  - c. Allen Brizee-Loyola University Maryland, Paola Pascual-Ferra-Loyola University Maryland, Giuliana Caranante-Clemson University (High-Impact Civic Engagement: Assessing the Effectiveness of Community-Based Work in Technical Communication)
  - d. Paola Pascual-Ferra, Loyola University Maryland (Thinking Critically About Fundraising: Using Communication Activism Scholarship to Facilitate Brainstorming and Reflection in a Public Relations Course)
- 3. Finally, with regard to this convention, the division's budget was \$770, with \$471.33 spent on Top Paper Award plaques and \$300 going to coffee for this meeting.

### **Vice-Chair Elect's Report (Jason Del Gandio)**

#### 2018 Convention Programming

- 1. The theme of NCA's next convention will be "Communication at Play." The conference will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah – November 8-11, 2018.
- 2. For the 2018 NCA Convention, the Activism and Social Justice Division was awarded **13 program slots**.
- 3. If you have the time, please **volunteer** to be a reviewer. This is an important service because it can give you a feel for what people are working on in the Division, and allows you to shape the nature of the Division's scholarship.
- 4. Jason will be looking for some **local people** in Salt Lake City or near-by areas to possibly organize a local panel with activists and/or organizations from the area. This could be a regular panel slot or a preconference. So, if you want to volunteer or perhaps know someone, please contact him ASAP.

5. Submit some **preconference ideas**. The division officers would be happy to speak with you about your ideas. A preconference is great exposure of the Division and allows participants to really delve into the details of a topic

### Initiatives

1. **Advocacy and Engagement Committee:** Jason is thinking about forming some kind of “Advocacy and Engagement Committee.” The idea is to harness the passions of the Division and try to organize some collective activism—to actually do some activism together.
  - a. For example, we choose an issue and then organize a week or a month of actions.
  - b. Participants act in their own locales, and can do anything they want—teach-ins, workshops, panel of experts, direct actions if they want, legislative work, etc.
  - c. We then utilize social media and contact traditional media and get some exposure and have a real impact.
  - d. We could then write about our efforts and get some kind of publication out of it.
2. **Tenure and Promotion Support:** Jason is also thinking creating a committee that could provide support for Division members who are going up for Tenure and/or Promotion. The details are very fuzzy at the moment, but the Performance Studies Division has something like this. The basic idea is to support each other as we move through institutional channels. How do we evaluate our work and how do we explain what we do in this Division to colleagues, departments, and administrators?

### Membership

1. We will continue our efforts to **expand the Division’s membership**. As per our By-laws, this is a responsibility of the Vice-Chair Elect, but the other executives are willing and wanting to help. And we should all help in this effort. There are material gains for expanding our numbers.

### **New Business (Lawrence Frey)**

#### By-Laws Change

Change Article VIII. Amendments, Section 2, from current to proposed (with the change bolded):

- *Current:* Section 2. Proposed amendments to these bylaws are to be published/distributed by email to all Division members at least **60** days prior to the Division’s annual business meeting. The adoption of a proposed amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of those present at the Division’s annual business meeting.
- *Proposed:* Proposed amendments to these bylaws are to be published/distributed by email to all Division members at least **30** days prior to the Division’s annual business meeting. The adoption of a proposed amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of those present at the Division’s annual business meeting.

- *Rationale:* Sixty days prior to the NCA convention (mid-September) is too early in the fall semester to complete the work that is needed for proposed amendments. Moreover, the quarter system often does not start until that time in September. Changing the bylaws to 30 days prior to the Division's annual business meeting will facilitate whatever changes need to be proposed to be voted on by the members at the Division's annual business meeting.

### **Election of New Vice-Chair Elect (Lawrence Frey and Kristen Blinne)**

1. Sarah Jackson (Emerson University) and Patricia Parker (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) introduced themselves and offered statements.
2. Voting took place by written ballot, and Patricia Parker was elected to serve as the Vice Chair Elect for the Division.

### **Election of Secretary (Lawrence Frey and Kristen Blinne)**

1. Jennifer Guthrie (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) and Billie Murray (Villanova University) introduced themselves and offered statements.
2. Voting took place by written ballot, and Jennifer Guthrie was elected to serve as the Secretary for the Division.

### **Passing of Gavel**

### **Closing**