

Argumentation & Forensics Interest Group Business Meeting

ECA 109th Annual Convention

April 27, 2018

Pittsburgh, PA

In attendance:

- RJ Green, Purdue University
 - Taylor Hahn, Johns Hopkins University
 - Carl Hyden, Morgan State University
 - Sean Luechtefeld, Johns Hopkins University
 - Jade Olson, University of Maryland
 - Ted Sheckels, Randolph Macon College
- I. Jade Olson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.
 - II. Ted Sheckels (Vice Chair) moved to approve 2017 meeting minutes; Carl Hyden seconded the motion. Motion was approved by those in attendance.
 - III. Jade Olson (Chair & Executive Council Representative) delivered the Chair's report:
 - a. Had three panel submissions this year and two slots, so sent submissions out for review. Special thanks to those who helped review.
 - b. Interest Group has 20 members (ECA's minimum is 10); is not the smallest group in ECA.
 - c. Business meeting schedule was finally adapted to ensure Interest Group's Business Meeting isn't always at 8 am.
 - IV. Jade Olson (Chair & Executive Council Representative) delivered the Executive Council report:
 - a. Ongoing conversations about how we best spend the association's reserve (we have about \$860,000 in the bank) yielded a "smart spending" committee, which recommended the following approved initiatives:
 - i. ECA Speaker's Bureau – designed to cover speakers' expenses if you wanted to bring an ECA member to your institution to speak (with the

stipulation that the event be live streamed). First two years will be treated as a pilot; \$20,000 has been allocated.

- ii. Subsidies for student travel to ECA conventions – undergraduate and graduate students will be able to apply for sources from the fund, with \$5,000 of total \$20,000 earmarked for community college student participation.
- iii. Increased amount of funding for Centennial Scholarship, which hadn't been increased since 2004.

- b. Sponsorships for marketing and advertising declined this year, hence the smaller number of ads in the program book.
 - c. Funding for Wine & Spots was approved to be included as a permanent line item in the budget; sponsorships for the event will no longer be allowed/solicited.
 - d. Outgrowing our space at various hotels, so agreement in RFPs for 2022 convention and onward will include a minimum of 14 breakout sessions.
 - e. Membership data reporting can be skewed; Cheryl moving forward with a new reporting system.
 - f. Journal reports are available upon request.
- V. Taylor Hahn (representative to the Task Force) delivered the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force report:
- a. Group is focusing on definitions of diversity and inclusion; in this specific context, there's a big emphasis on smaller schools, community colleges and high schools.
 - b. Highlights from the Task Force's report include (more details available upon request):
 - i. Recent uptick in panels that incorporate LGBTQ+ perspectives.
 - ii. Recognition of need to be mindful of tokenism (many of the panels that include this are also scheduled Thursday at 8 am).

- iii. Baseball game and other events offsite events are great, but can we include more about activist groups and representation?
 - iv. Emphasis on funding – for travel, attendance, etc.
 - v. Need for more transparency around ECA norms and procedures.
 - vi. Discussion about making the D&I Forum an annual event.
- c. Additional information from the Task Force’s activities available upon request.

VI. Elections

a. Vice Chair

- i. Sean Luechtefeld (Secretary) nominated Taylor Hahn to serve; Carl Hyden moved to close nominations; Ted Sheckels moved to vote by acclamation. Motion was approved and Taylor Hahn was elected to serve as Vice Chair to plan the 2020 convention in Baltimore.

b. Secretary

- i. RJ Green nominated himself to serve; Carl Hyden moved to close nominations; Ted Sheckels moved to vote by acclamation. Motion was approved and RJ Green was elected to serve as Secretary during the 2019 convention in Providence.

VII. 2019 Convention Discussion

- a. Omni Providence Hotel, 1 West Exchange Street; \$179/\$199 per room per night plus tax for single/double occupancy, respectively
- b. Theme: Creating Our Future
- c. Ideas for Interest Group programming
 - i. Future of forensics
 - ii. Future of argumentation studies
 - iii. How might we bring in undergraduates?
 - iv. Could we have a debate like we’ve done in years past?

- v. How do we bring in more forensics and debate folks? Several Providence-area schools participate in APDA?

VIII. New Business

- a. Leeanne Bell McManus joined the meeting briefly to share her appreciation for Jade Olson's efforts in planning the Interest Group's programming for this convention by bestowing upon her a cookie plate.
- IX. Jade Olson adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.