

**Instructional Division Business Meeting Minutes
Eastern Communication Association 2019
Providence, RI**

Members in Attendance:

Scott Myers, Jordan Atkinson, Sara Pitts, Zachary Johnson, Sara LaBelle, Katie Dunleavy, Michael Sollitto, Ann Frymier, Candice Thomas-Maddox, Sara Weintraub, Sean Horan, Stephen Kromka, Margaret Thorwart, Stephen Jackson, Mckay West, Kevin Knoster, Jennifer Waldeck, Steve Granelli, Nicole Blau, Mary Toale, Melissa Brockelman-Post, Kishi Rey, James Baker.

- I. Meeting called to order.
 - a. Jordan Atkinson called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. on Friday, April 12, 2018.
- II. Approval of 2018 meeting minutes.
 - a. Corrections were made for the names in attendance from last year's ECA business meeting
 - b. Zac J. motioned to approve, Sean seconded.
 - c. Minutes were approved
- III. Acknowledgements.
 - a. Top Four Papers were acknowledged by Jordan Atkinson.
 - i. "Classroom Storytelling: Exploring Relevant and Irrelevant Instructor Narratives in the College Classroom" Stephen M Kromka, Jaime Banks, and Alan K Goodboy, West Virginia University (TOP PAPER)
 - ii. "Exploring the Potential for Mediation/Moderation in the Humor-Learning Relationship" Mckay S West and Matthew M Martin, West Virginia University
 - iii. "Laughing at Oneself: Outcomes of Instructor Self-Disparaging Humor Use in the Classroom" Stephen Kromka, Melanie Booth-Butterfield, West Virginia University
 - iv. "'Honestly Didn't Learn Shit': A Typology of Negative Course Evaluations" Heather Carmack, Leah LeFebvre, University of Alabama
 - b. Jordan Atkinson thanked the reviewers, chairs, and respondents.
 - i. Jordan handed out certificates to show the division's appreciation for these individuals.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Paper and Panel Submissions

- i. The Instructional Interest Group was originally assigned 11 slots this conference. Jordan talked to Katherine and was able to secure one extra spot for a total of 12 slots (including one reserved for the business meeting). There were 18 paper submissions, 15 papers were accepted for an acceptance rate of 83%. There were 8 panel discussion proposals and 7 were accepted for an acceptance rate of 87%. Jordan mentioned that during executive council on Thursday he saw that the instructional division (with the exception of G.I.F.T.) had the highest number of submissions for the entire conference.
- b. Membership Numbers
 - i. Jennifer Waldeck pointed out that it is difficult to track the numbers for the divisions. When she went through our numbers we were down a lot (close to 30 people). She urged everyone to make sure they belong to the instructional division. The instructional division was one of the only divisions that went down, while other divisions were increasing. Again, these numbers will be more accurate in July.
 - ii. Jordan commented back that during last year's business meeting we had about 120 people signed up as members of the instructional division. However, only a small number came to the business meeting. He mentioned to the members to encourage their colleagues to come to the instructional business meeting next year and to submit their work to the division.
- c. Scheduling of business meeting and papers/panels
 - i. Sara L. added that based on the minutes from last year that this year's business meeting would be at 4:00 pm. She mentioned that the timing of the business meeting really makes a difference for the number of attendees. Next year we should really make sure to secure a 4:00pm slot for the business meeting. There should be a rotation for the times at which business meetings take place.
 - ii. Zac J. added that he was presenting for the instructional division at the exact same time of the top papers panel. Jordan mentioned that of the four paper panels all were scheduled for Saturday. Additionally, of these Saturday panels two were scheduled at the same time in the morning and another two were scheduled at the same time in the afternoon. This was not revealed to the members until further inspection of the program grid in Attendee Interactive.
- d. Accessing the program information
 - i. Jennifer Waldeck mentioned that ECA used the Attendee Interactive for the first time for this conference and the scheduling issues were probably due to getting comfortable with this system.
 - ii. Members discussed the difficulty of gaining access to the convention program and getting to Attendee Interactive. Members agreed that making the program more accessible may resolve some of the issues with scheduling and/or help make corrections.

- e. Katherine Thweatt stopped by the business meeting to thank Jordan for his service and working with her. The instructional division thanked Katherine for putting together this great conference.
- f. Executive council report
 - i. President's reports – Leanne mentioned that ECA had about 800 attendees for the conference last year. One of her biggest initiatives is to make more connections with state associations in our region. The undergraduate conference is continuing to grow and please continue to urge your undergraduate students to submit their work and members please volunteer to review their work. Jennifer mentioned that she will be working with all of the previous planners of the undergraduate conference to have a session next conference to document what has been done to make the job easier for upcoming planners.
 - ii. Vice President's report – Katherine mentioned that the basic course conference on Wednesday went well. Instructional division members congratulated Candice and Sara W. for planning the basic course conference. Over 600 people have registered for ECA this year. There are about 721 people scheduled in the program. This year's conference had about 252 events planned. The instructional division had the top number of submissions for the conference this year.
 - iii. Membership & Financial Report – Our total assets as an organization is around \$987,000. There was a lengthy discussion about how and where to spend the money. Jordan mentioned that ECA might want to consider what Central States does by including another event for a catered business meeting. Jordan opened the business meeting to members for other potential ideas for spending to bring back to executive council.
 - 1. Sean Horan asked about student travel grants. Ann Frymier mentioned that executive council approved money last year to help offset students' cost of coming to ECA. Specifically, students who have asked for funding and who came to the conference would get a check back for about \$200. There was a discussion about also providing support for faculty, specifically adjunct faculty. Jennifer stated that adjunct faculty will pay the student rate for the conference. This was actually approved last year, but was forgotten.
 - 2. Sara W. asked about the amount undergraduate students had to pay to register and suggested to remove the registration fee if their paper was accepted. Ann cautioned about making things too free, because it may back fire and cause people not to come to the conference. Members agreed that the reimbursement should always be given after or at the conference to help motivate people to attend the conference.
 - 3. Another suggestion from members was offering hotel accommodation for students. Jennifer mentioned that this

would become difficult because of the amount of rooms given to ECA and the fact that pricing would increase really fast.

4. About 67 students applied for travel grants this year, but some students did not respond to Katherine's email, so she had no idea if they were coming to the conference or if they were currently at the conference. Last year executive council approved \$15,000 for student travel grants and \$5,000 for community college students.

V. New Business

- a. Welcoming new chair for 2020 – Sara Labelle, Chapman University.
 - i. Jordan thanked the division for allowing him to serve and passed the gavel (crab mallet) to Sara Labelle.
 - ii. Sara Labelle along with the division thanked Jordan for his service and his efficiency.
- b. Sara Labelle's report - The conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from April 1st – 5th. The conference theme is "Harboring innovation." We are slotted to again have 11 panels plus one business meeting for a total of 12 slots. We will be at the Hyatt in Baltimore and the cost of the room will be \$189 a night. Jennifer talked about the conference theme and encouraged submissions focused on innovations in research, teaching, rhetorical criticism, and service, leadership, and outreach. She urged members to look at the call and think about what they are doing that is innovative the ways in which we need to innovate in terms of our methods, theories we uses, the topics and questions we explore to meet challenges, anticipate challenges, and keep the field relevant. Candice added that members of executive council should bring back to the EC meeting that the next year that we are in Cambridge, ECA is scheduled for the same weekend of Central. She encouraged members to go back to EC and see if either organization could make changes to their dates.
- c. Nominations
 - i. Vice Chair, will plan 2021 conference in Cambridge
 1. Candice nominated Nicole Blau, but she had to turn down the nomination.
 2. Sean Horan nominated Steve Granelli, who accepted nomination.
 - a. Sara W. moved to close nominations, Ann seconded.
 - b. Steve was elected as Vice Chair and will plan 2021 conference.
 - ii. ECA Representative
 1. Scott nominated Katie Dunleavy, who accepted
 - a. Zac J. moved to close nominations, Sean Horan seconded.
 - b. Katie was elected ECA representative.
 - iii. Sara L. and Jordan were looking for names for legislative assembly and nominating committee
 1. Nicole Blau put name in for ECA representative to NCA legislative assembly.

2. Sean Horan put name in for ECA representative to NCA nominating committee.

VI. Meeting Adjourns.

- a. Sara Labelle moved to adjourn meeting, Sara W. seconded.
- b. Meeting ended at 8:38 am 4/12/19.

Respectfully submitted by James Baker, Instructional Interest Group Secretary 2019-2020.