

**Bylaws of the Political Communication Interest Group  
Eastern Communication Association**

**Article I – Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Political Communication Interest Group (PCIG) of the Eastern Communication Association (ECA). PCIG operates under the constitution and bylaws of ECA and shall be bound by all applicable rules and decisions of that association.

**Article II – Purpose**

The purpose of the interest group is to explore the various theories and practices pertaining to the research, teaching, and praxis of political communication and to facilitate the dissemination and discussion of theories, methods, and analyses of political communication both within the field proper and larger academic and/or public communities.

**Article III – Membership**

Membership in the interest group shall be open to all members of ECA who are interested in issues relating to the advancement of knowledge about political communication.

**Article IV – Meetings**

Section One: An annual business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the ECA annual convention. The time and place of the annual meeting shall be determined and advertised by the First Vice President of ECA

Section Two: Those members present at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum.

**Article V – Officers**

Section One: The officers of the interest group shall consist of the chair, vice chair, and secretary. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the organization's bylaws.

Section Two: The chair shall preside at the business meeting of the interest group, shall plan the program for the interest group to be featured at ECA's next annual meeting, shall attend all meetings of the nominating committee of ECA scheduled by the first ECA First Vice-President, and shall discharge the duties normally adhering to this position. At the annual business meeting, the chair will present a report from the chair. This report includes relevant information pertaining to the interest group, including data pertaining to interest group program submissions, acceptance rates, and slots programmed.

Section Three: The vice-chair shall plan the program for the interest group at the annual meeting of ECA to be held two years from the date of the officer's election, shall attend all meetings of program planners scheduled by the ECA First Vice-President-Elect in the year following the officer's election, and shall discharge the duties normally adhering to this position. These duties include undertaking special assignments delegated by the interest group chair and assuming the role of the chair should the duly constituted chair be unable to perform the requisite duties of the office.

Section Four: The secretary shall plan the program at the annual meeting of ECA to be held three years from the date of this officer's election and also shall be responsible for maintaining a written record of the business meetings of the interest group held at the annual meeting of ECA in the year following this officer's election. It shall also be the responsibility of the secretary to maintain a record of attendance and to solicit names of potential reviewers, program chairs, and program respondents on behalf of the chair. The secretary shall be responsible for transmitting these records to the chair of the interest group and to the President of ECA within a reasonable period of time following the business meeting of the interest group but no later than the deadline for program submissions established by the interest group and ECA. It shall also be the responsibility of the secretary to coordinate the hosting of the Wine & Spots reception in conjunction with the annual meeting of ECA in the year following this officer's election.

Section Five: Succession shall be automatic from the secretary to the vice chair to the chair.

Section Six: The offices of vice chair and secretary may be combined in any given election at the annual meeting of the interest group so as to accommodate differing sizes of nominee pools or other mitigating circumstances. The process for combining the offices shall be by a motion offered and seconded by members of the interest group and passage by a simple majority. In the event that the office is combined into two offices, it shall be understood that the rule of succession in section five shall apply.

Section Seven: Officers shall be elected at the annual business meeting. The term of each office shall be for one year. Officers shall assume their positions at the appropriate time near the end of the business meeting at which they have been elected. Only individuals who are members of ECA and the PCIG (as designated at the time of convention registration and membership renewal) are eligible for elected office.

Section Eight: Persons having served in the offices of chair, vice chair, and secretary are eligible for nomination and election to those offices again following completion of their full successive cycle of terms—secretary, vice chair, and chair--in elected office.

Section Nine: The outgoing chair of the PCIG shall serve as the interest group representative to the ECA Nominating Committee.

## **Article VI – The Executive Committee**

Section One: The officers of the interest group shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Section Two: The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the interest group between its annual meetings and shall perform other duties as are specified by these bylaws.

Section Three: The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of any one of its officers. Business may be conducted by postal mail, e-mail, phone, fax, or by any other medium of communication that permits meetings of the officers to occur.

## **Article VII – Representative to the ECA Executive Council**

Section One: The interest group shall select a Representative to ECA's Executive Council in accordance with the principle of rotating membership in that body.

Section Two: The Executive Council member shall serve a two-year term.

Section Three: The Executive Council member is responsible for attending all meetings of that body at ECA's convention and at other prescribed times during the year when the ECA Executive Council convenes.

Section Four: In the event that the duly elected interest group Representative to ECA's Executive Council cannot attend one or more meetings of the ECA Executive Council, a temporary replacement for the Representative for one or more meetings shall be appointed by a motion offered at the interest group's business meeting and seconded by members of the interest group and passage by a simple majority.

Section Five: The Executive Council member shall present timely reports to the interest group about the deliberations of the Executive Council and undertake any special tasks assigned by the President of ECA. These reports typically occur during the annual meeting of the interest group at the ECA convention but may be communicated to the membership at other times through other means.

## **Article VIII – Parliamentary Authority**

Parliamentary practice as set forth in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the procedural conduct of the business group and its deliberations at its meetings.

## **Article IX – Amendment of the Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the interest group by a motion offered and seconded by members of the interest group and passage by a simple majority,

provided a previous notice of at least thirty days has been given, or by a two-thirds vote without prior notice.

**Adopted: April 29, 2005**