

Rhetoric & Public Address Interest Group  
Minutes from the Annual Business Meeting  
April 25, 2014, 5:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order (Heather Stassen and Valerie Schrader)
  - A. Those in attendance: Tim Barney, Benjamin Bates, Jennifer Biedendorf, Taylor Hahn, Christine Hirsch, Mike Hostetler, Jade Olson, Trevor Parry-Giles, Alane Presswood, Valerie Schrader, Brent Sleasman, Giuliana Sorce, Heather Stassen, Michael Tumolo, and Jill Weber
- II. Old Business
  - A. Approval of minutes
    1. Jill Weber will serve as secretary again this year
    2. Approved minutes and position change
  - B. Report on Programming (Heather Stassen and Valerie Schrader, 2014 Program Planners)
    1. 10 panels total (top paper panel, spotlight panel on Benjamin Bates, two co-sponsored panels)
    2. 25 submissions total
      - i. 21 papers and 4 panels submitted
      - ii. 17 papers and 4 panels programmed
    3. The submission numbers were low despite multiple attempts to generate submissions
      - i. May be a result of 2014 RSA conference being held this year
      - ii. Optimistic about next year's submission numbers increasing
    4. Thanks to everyone who served as paper reviewers, chairs, and respondents.
  - C. Report from Executive Council (Christine Hirsch attended in place of Valerie Schrader)
    1. 750-800 Attendees
    2. Kanan Sawyer discussed the 2015 conference
    3. Next year will be a basic course conference
    4. Pam Lannutti (LaSalle University) will be new editor of *Communication Quarterly*
    5. Site selection
      - i. Philadelphia in 2015
      - ii. Baltimore in 2016
      - iii. Boston, Pittsburgh, or Philadelphia in 2017
        1. Boston rooms would be \$259 a night, but the goal is to get the cost down to \$200 a night
          - a. There are concerns about the costs especially concerning undergraduates and graduates
        2. Considering a three year contract with Omni Hotel
    6. Still looking at the logo
    7. The nominating committee is looking for strong candidates to serve
    8. ECA created an ad hoc about targeting and increasing membership
      - i. Exploring questions regarding how much outreach to undergraduate and graduate students
        1. What do we currently do in terms of outreach? How will additional outreach affect scholarship? How will it affect the conference?

#### D. Awards

1. Three top paper awards
  - i. “Overcoming Global Dissent: Diplomatic Cosmopolitanism at the United Nations General Assembly” by Andrew D. Barnes, James Madison University (Top Competitive Paper)
  - ii. “Exile, Preservation, and Qualification: The Role of Beauty in Plato’s Symposium” by Taylor Hahn, University of Pittsburgh (Top Student Paper)
  - iii. “A Losing Battle: Jimmy Carter as a ‘War-Time’ President in ‘Energy and the Crisis of Confidence’” by Whitney Gent, University of Wisconsin – Madison (Top Debut Paper)

#### E. Elections

1. Michael Tumolo and Jill Weber were elected last year to serve as RPA Program Co-Planners for 2016
2. Christine Hirsch was elected to serve as Executive Council Representative (two-year term)
3. Giuliana Sorce was elected to serve as RPA Secretary for 2015
4. No nominations for ECA Vice President Elect

### III. New Business

#### A. 2015 Conference (Tim Barney)

1. A sign-up sheet for reviewers, respondents, and chairs was circulated.
2. 2015 conference theme is "Deliberation"
3. Suggestions for conference intersections, topics and panels include:
  - i. Intersections/co-sponsorship with Political Communication, Argumentation and Forensics, Kenneth Burke, Law and Ethics, American Society for the History of Rhetoric,
  - ii. Topics including the Constitution, Obama’s “Perfect Union” speech, historical topics, Constitution Hall, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts (SCA/NCA’s historical role in NEA’s creation, current questions about humanistic research funding), possible attendance at theater shows that have a political message or theme, Kanan Sawyer requested more creative programming like debates, issues related to voice and social media (who can deliberate), radical rhetoric, may incorporate Twitter/live conversation/social media
    1. There may be a Sunday morning NPR program about politics and media
  - iii. Spotlight panel topics including “Is rhetoric dead?” that asks questions about citizenship, civil discourse. May ask John Gastil (Penn State) to serve on a spotlight panel; spotlight panel on *Voices of Democracy* project; bring in area kid’s debate teams; National Issues Forum session (Rosa Eberly at Penn State and Sarah Drury at Wabash); roundtable discussion
4. We want to increase submissions numbers. Send any ideas to Tim Barney.
5. ECA has reviewed blind reviews of panels, but our interest group historically has not used it
  - i. The division decided to keep open submissions
6. Reminder: Submission deadline is October 15

#### B. Brent Sleasman (Second Vice-President for Planning Team)

1. Concerns about recycled panels and short courses including individuals trying to sell books)
  - i. ECA will send out a survey about topics of interest for short courses

2. ECA is piloting a digital app for the 2015 Convention Program; print programs will be available
  - i. Paper/panel submission process is still the same
  - ii. Danette Ifert Johnson appointed an ad hoc committee/task force to study distinctions between paper program and mobile app program. Trevor Parry-Giles is head. Contact Trevor if interested.

IV. Comments for the good of the order

- A. Reminder to attend Benjamin Bates' spotlight panel
- B. Thank you to all who served as reviewers, respondents, chairs, and other volunteers
- C. The interest group thanks Heather Stassen and Valerie Schrader for a job well-done as conference planners

V. Move to adjourn