

Eastern Communication Association

Communication Administration Business Meeting
March 31, 2023

Minutes

Present: Mary Kahl (Chair), Janie Harden Fritz, Sally Vogl-Bauer, Andrew Herman, Mary Mino, Janette Kenner Muir

Old Business:

Three program slots were available for the 2023 Convention (however two were scheduled at the exact same time!):

- 1) Lunch & Learn – very helpful, good to continue
- 2) Round table discussion – organized by Mary K.
- 3) Leadership and managing crisis – organized by newer ECA leaders

Special thanks to reviewers – Rebecca Townsend, Jason Wrench and Kristen Campbell Eichhorn.

Only two panels were submitted. Part of the challenge was the removal of Comm Administration from the ECA website, so no one could submit (including the interest group chair). When asked why this occurred, it was explained that an executive decision was made by the 2023 First Vice President (ECA program planner) because she was told by the outgoing (2022) Comm. Admin Interest Group Chair that the group was defunct and that it was going to be taken “in a different direction.”

The ECA Bylaws indicate that no unilateral decision like this could be made without the endorsement of the Executive Council. As a result, discussions ensued among current ECA leaders and the current (2023) interest group chair. The interest group was placed back on the website some months after it had been removed.

New Business:

- Sally Vogl-Bauer will continue on Executive Council as the Comm Admin IG representative. She will attend the ECA meeting at NCA in November (2023), and the early ECA meeting next Spring (2024)
- Elections:
 - Janie Harden Fritz agreed to be Interest Group Chair (program planner) for 2024. Nominated by Sally, seconded by Mary Mino. All approved.
 - Andrew Hermann agreed to be Interest Group Chair (program planner) for 2025. Nominated by Sally, Janie seconded. All approved.
 - Janette agreed to be Secretary. Nominated by Mary M., seconded by Janie. All approved.
- Comm Admin Rep to ECA Executive Council
 - Serves from Sunday, 2024 through Thursday, 2025.
 - Mary Mino nominated Sally to serve for next two years. Unanimously approved.
 - A new IG representative to the ECA Exec. Council will be selected in 2025.

- Membership numbers
 - We need to make a solid effort to recruit others to the interest group in order to ensure long-term survival.
 - Suggestion was made to write to the attendees of the Lunch and Learn, reminding them to support the interest group.

New Ideas for future programs:

1. All agree we should continue to host a luncheon next year.
2. Suggestions about workshops regarding “what to do post-tenure” (could be a short course)
 - a. 1st year – becoming a chair or dean
 - b. 2nd year – how to deal with different issues as leader
3. Consider a wine and cheese happy hour (wine and whine), or cookies and caffeine later in the day to encourage group interaction.
4. Consider a preconference workshop – afternoon – 2 sessions (add without impact to other program allocations.)
5. NYSCA model was suggested “administrators’ confessional” (Gumpert model)
 - space for a sounding board about relevant issues
 - a place for lamentations – could be cathartic

Lots of great ideas – Janie will take these and carry the ideas forward for great programming next year.

Many thanks to Mary Kahl for stepping up and addressing the Comm Administration Interest Group challenges. And for serving delicious cookies at the meeting!

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janette Kenner Muir.