

**Eastern Communication Association
Organizational Communication Interest Group
2014 Business Meeting Minutes
Providence, RI**

Meeting Data: Saturday, April 26, 2014

Members in Attendance: Stacy Smulowitz, Angie Corbo, Robin Smith Mathis, Michael Sollitto, Gregory A. Cranmer, Zachary W. Goldman, Cristina Gonzalez Alcala, Jason Wrench

- I. Meeting was called to order by Jason Wrench, chair of the organizational Communication interest group, at 11:31PM.
- II. Jason Wrench calls for an impromptu election for the position of Secretary of the Organizational Communication interest group because acting secretary (Corey Liberman) was not able to attend the meeting due to personal matters. The person elected to this position was designated to take over for Corey Liberman at the 2014 conference, as well as continue their role as secretary at the 2015 (Philadelphia) and 2016 (Baltimore) conferences. Michael Sollitto nominated Gregory A. Cranmer, Jason Wrench seconded the nomination, and all remaining members approved the nomination.
- III. Jason Wrench asked if there were any changes to the 2013 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by Jason Wrench, seconded by Cristina Gonzalez Alcala, and then unanimously accepted by the remaining interest group.
- IV. Jason Wrench reported the number of submissions within the interest group to the Providence conference. Paper submissions increased from last year as 20 papers were submitted and 15 were accepted this year (75% acceptance rate), which topped last year's numbers of 12 submissions and 9 programmed papers. However, panel submissions were down from last year as only one panel submission was received and programmed. Jason Wrench asserts that the interest group appears healthy with 79 members and increased submissions.
- V. Jason Wrench recognizes the authors of the top papers in the interest group for the 2013 conference: (a) Gregory A. Cranmer & Scott A. Myers for their paper "Sports teams as organizations: A leader-member exchange perspective of player communication with coaches and teammates," (b) Michael Sollitto & Scott A. Myers for their paper "Peer coworker relationships: Influences on use of latent dissent messages," & (c) Zachary W. Goldman & Scott A. Myers for their paper "Organizational assimilation as a predictor of employee dissent."
- VI. Jason Wrench reported the update from executive council. The costs of future conferences were a major topic of discussion. It was indicated that Boston was a leading candidate for the location of the 2017 conference, but concerns with the cost of attendance were a salient issue for many on the council members. It was suggested

that the conference was negotiating prices with the Omni in Boston and a preliminary financial plan was being voted on by members on Sunday 4/27. Additionally, the council discussed plans to revise the ECA logo citing that the current logo is dated and does not format well when blown up on posters and signage. Several potential designs are suggested to be in developmental stages and graphic designers are working on revising these logos for council members to vote on.

- VII. Jason Wrench then passed the gavel to Cristina Gonzalez Alcala, who was introduced as the new Organizational Communication interest group chair.
- VIII. Cristina Gonzalez Alcala begins discussing plans for the 2015 conference in Philadelphia. She introduces the topic of the conference (i.e., Deliberation) and asks authors not to submit papers with deliberation in the title. The highlights of the 2015 conference planning meetings were that ECA authors may display their books at an author table, for the first time the program for ECA will be available in digital form (Jason Wrench would like to encourage attendees not to get both formats, as this defeats the purpose of going digital), there will be spotlight sessions that highlight ECA scholars and will be linked via social media to scholars who are not attending, and there will be a special panel on the last Sunday regarding communication and democracy that will be covered by WHYY/NPR.
- IX. Next, Cristina Gonzalez Alcala informed attending members of the projected timeline for submissions to the interest group for ECA 15. The timeline is recorded below:
 - a. May 2014, First call for papers will be made
 - b. September 10, Second call for submissions
 - c. October 15, Submission deadline
 - d. October 16, Receipts will be delivered to authors that submitted papers and panels
 - e. October 20, Reviewers will begin reviewing papers
 - f. November 8, All chairs and respondents will be contact
 - g. November 20, Deadline for all reviewers to have completed their reviews
 - h. November 27, Decisions on which papers & panels will be programed
 - i. January 15, Authors of papers and panels that are accepted will be notified
- X. Cristina Gonzalez Alcala then seeks potential ideas for panels for the ECA 15 conference. The media and traits divisions are interested in co-sponsoring panels for the conference; potential topics were limited. Jason Wrench proposed a panel on addressing disconnect between the field of organizational communication on the national level and the scholarly tradition of ECA organizational scholars. Michael Sollitto and Gregory A. Cranmer voiced support for such an idea.
- XI. Next, Cristina Gonzalez Alcala called for nominations for the position of interest group planner for the 2016 convention in Baltimore, MD. Jason Wrench nominated Michael Sollitto, Gregory A. Cranmer seconded, and all remaining attendees approved.

- XII. A special election for executive council member was called for by Jason Wrench. Given Jason Wrench is becoming Vice President elect he could not occupy the interest group's position on the council. This election will be only for the final year of Jason Wrench's term and a new executive council member will be elected next year. Robin Smith Mathis nominates herself, Jason Wrench seconded, and all remaining members approved.
- XIII. Cristina Gonzalez Alcala calls for nominations for potential Vice President Select, Elect. No nominations were forwarded.
- XIV. Cristina Gonzalez Alcala opened the floor to new business. Angie Corbo informed the present members of the Sunday panel in Philadelphia 2015. She informed the members of the topic of the panel, the role of NPR at the event, the difficulty in finding an outside media member but her optimism for finding someone, and an interest in potential ideas for a similar even at the 2016 Baltimore conference.
- XV. With no additional business Cristina Gonzalez Alcala called for adjournment, Jason Wrench seconded, and all members agreed. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gregory A. Cranmer (Secretary of Organizational Communication Interest Group).