

Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group
Minutes of the April 28, 2007 Business meeting at ECA in Providence, RI.

Attending:

Todd Allen

Neil Butt

Carl Hyden, EC Representative

Kimberly Korcsmaros

Fran Mindel

Julie Morgan

Ted Sheckels, 2008 Interest Group Planner

Barbara Sims, Chair

1. Barbara Sims called the meeting to order.
2. Neil Butt was selected as interest group Secretary.
3. The attendees introduced themselves.
4. Carl Hyden, Executive Committee Representative, relayed the following information:
 - a. Upcoming ECA Conventions
 - ECA 2008 will take place in Pittsburgh at the William Penn Omni
 - ECA 2009 will take place in Philadelphia.
 - ECA 2010 will take place in Baltimore.
 - ECA 2011 will take place in either Providence, Washington, DC, or Boston.
 - b. A Self-Study Questionnaire was being circulated.
 - c. Information about the 100th Anniversary Logo Contest
 - d. The Human Information Technologies interest group changed their name.
 - e. Interest groups that fail to maintain 25 members for 2 consecutive years will be cut.
Our group is down to 27 members, which is a cause for concern.
 - f. Next year's ECA theme will be "Making a Difference"
5. Ted Sheckels, the 2008 Planner, indicated that our interest group should have four slots (perhaps more if we are creative, or come up with a good "Spotlight" session).
6. Sheckels asked the group to come up with paper and session ideas, and said that he wants to include more specific ideas in the call for papers in the hope of generating a better response. He provided some examples and then ask the group for additional ideas.
The list included:
 - Argumentation Courses
 - Starting New Forensics and Debate Programs

Communication Analysis Student Session
Stage a Debate on Outrageous and Offensive Communication
Look at Argumentation in Various Contexts (For Example Presidential Debates)
Making a Difference (Examples of Debate and Forensics Success Stories)
Argument on the Internet/Blogs
Argument and Critical Pedagogy

- Scheckels requested that we e-mail him with additional ideas.
Butt indicated that he would press current debate coaches to submit more.
Fran Mindel suggested that we might get more involvement with student panels.
Scheckels added that that (student panels drawing more interest) might be especially true of current forensics competitors.
7. Sims suggested getting in contact with former coaches to convince them to at least check the argumentation and forensics box on their membership form.
 8. Sims asked if we had any nominees for the nominating committee.
Scheckels indicated that the procedure for nominations was different this year.
 9. Sims indicated that we need a planner for the 2009 convention in Philadelphia, and briefly described the planners responsibilities.
Kimberly Korcsmaros was elected to be the interest group planner for 2009.
 10. Sims asked if there was any additional business. There was none.
 11. Scheckels collected suggestions for possible “Spotlight” panels.
 - 12 Sims concluded by asking the members to encourage their friends to check the argumentation in forensics interest group box on their membership forms.
 13. The meeting adjourned.