

**CSCA: “Communication Ethics and Freedom of Expression” Interest Group
Business Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 8, 2011**

Members Present: Ken Andersen, Beth Messner (Vice Chair), Krista Phair (Chair), Laura Russell, Laura Terlip (Secretary), Elizabeth Tolman, Paula Tompkins

Business:

- I. Officer Elections: Elizabeth Tolman was unanimously elected to serve as secretary for 2011-2012. Beth and Laura assumed their roles as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively
 - Chairperson – Beth Messner (Ball State University)
 - Vice Chairperson – Laura Terlip (University of Northern Iowa)
 - Secretary – Elizabeth Tolman, South Dakota State University

- II. Programming for Milwaukee 2011:
 - Beth reported that while submissions were down slightly, they were still healthy. We were able to co-sponsor a panel with the Political Communication Interest group as well as sponsor other panels
 - Beth reported good attendance at our panel presentations.

- III. Program Ideas for Cleveland 2012: We brainstormed the following ideas to fit the conference theme of “Connecting in Cleveland: Exploring Intersections that Unite a Discipline”
 - Much discussion surrounded ways that our group might “connect” with other interest groups. Ideas included ideas for papers/panels and/or joint sponsorship of programming in areas such as:
 - Health Communication – Laura Russell suggested that the Health Communication Interest group was very interested in collaborating with us in examining various ethical dimensions of communication. Examples of possible topics included the ethical dimensions of the *national health care debate* (e. g. talk about murder panels, media coverage of the area, etc.). Other areas included panels which addressed *communication and bioethics* including such recent issues as *patenting of genetic codes*, issues such as *confidentiality, privacy, and disclosure on communication* and/or family decision making related to *hospice care, organ transplants, and end of life issues*. Other topics brought up as possibilities included examining *family issues and health care dynamics*.
 - Social Media and Ethics – the group discussed the appropriateness of making connections with members of interpersonal , organizational, and/or media interest groups by examining the continuing *emergence of ethical dilemmas* associated with the growth in use of social media.
 - Issues in Higher Education was another area discussed at the meeting. Among the topics brought up were issues related to *academic freedom, collective bargaining, budget negotiations, and recent state and federal legislation*. In particular the implications of the assault on collective bargaining and it’s impact on academic free speech was pointed out as an area to explore. Other suggestions related to examining the implications of recent legislation such as that mandated publication of required

textbooks and other *attempts to make higher education more transparent and/or accountable.*

- Issues of Free Speech continues to be one area where individuals can easily make connections to other interest groups. Discussion included the need to *examine freedom of expression for groups such as the Westboro Baptist Church* and the implications of recent court rulings. In addition, the rights of others to respond to groups such as Westboro also are of interest. Krista shared information about a documentary underway to address this and possibilities for creating a session around the film. Other ideas about creative programming were discussed including a poster session about *ethical issues in visual rhetoric* (examples included the Koran burning). The suggestion was made that these all of these topics provided opportunities to *create jointly sponsored sessions* and also were very suitable for more non-traditional formats such as screenings, poster sessions, debates, etc.
- Mock Court (could be formatted as a complete panel or made part of the Undergraduate Research Conference)
- Teaching Resources (perhaps co-sponsored with Communication Education): Sessions could be sponsored that provided *ideas for teaching communication ethics* (similar to G.I.F.T.S).

IV. Scheduling Business Meeting at Cleveland 2012: We agreed that we should avoid scheduling the business meeting against the business meetings for the Burke Society, Political Communication, Rhetorical Theory/Criticism, and Organizational Communication and Health Communication divisions.

V. Members present reached consensus that \$100.00 amount made available to the division should be used as an award for the top paper and that the award should be included in the call for papers.