

Political Communication Interest Group
Eastern Communication Association
Business Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2014
Omni Providence, RI

The meeting was called to order by immediate past chair Jason Edwards. Current chair and program planner Janis Edwards was unable to attend.

1. Minutes from the 2013 meeting were distributed and a contact sheet for paper reviewers and panel respondents the 2015 meeting. The minutes were corrected for spelling errors approved by acclamation.

2. Jason Edwards reviewed the 2014 program and submissions.

a. The division was allocated 10 panels for the 2014 program.

b. Jason provided details on submissions and paneling. 14 papers and 2 panels were submitted; all of the papers and panels were accepted. This represents another low year in submissions and there was some discussion about how to encourage more paper and panel submissions. Our IG membership numbers are stable but could use boosting, and submissions are still down. Comments included making more efforts to co-sponsor panels and identifying and recruiting future submissions from authors of papers presented outside PolComm that would 'fit' within PolComm. A suggestion was made to contact the Communication Law and Rhetoric and Public Address IGs and encourage joint panels in 2015.

3. Old Business:

a. Jason Edwards opened a discussion of the Wine & Spots annual event. We have external funding with a commitment for two additional years at \$500 / year. Those funds are held separately from ECA funds. We agreed to accept funding from ECA when available provided few 'strings' are attached.

b. Professionalism at conference was discussed; issues continue with no shows, but some tied to late acceptances and funding. A proposal to ban an unexplained no show from submitting for 1 year and to remove names from the online program was discussed.

4. New Business was opened.

5. Lisa Gring-Pemle presented Executive Council updates.

a. We have 95 members as of this conference.

b. Site selection for 2016 is Baltimore (but not locked in yet) ECA site committee is discussing a 3 year agreement with Omni hotels for Boston, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia with a rate lock.

c. The ECA logo and FB page have been redesigned, and the ECA archive moved to Ball State.

d. We need to elect new Executive Council representation in 2014.

6. Incoming 1st Vice-President Kanan Sawyer made a brief presentation about 2015 in Philadelphia. Kanan suggested that Wine and Spots be held in a movie theatre venue as a VP

spotlight panel. Some discussion ensued about the effect of this venue on the discussion and commentary on the ads. No decision was reached pending election of then new secretary.

7. Elections were held for a new Secretary to plan W&S in 2015 and do program planning for 2016 and a new representative to Executive Council. Scott Dunn from Radford University was elected Secretary and will chair in 2016. Tracey Holden will serve as representative to Executive Council beginning on the Thursday before the 2015 conference. Rod Carveth agreed to attend the Sunday EC meeting in place of Lisa Gring-Pemle.

8. Jason Edwards opened comments on the 2015 conference and theme, "Deliberation".

Suggestions for panels were offered, including:

2016 Campaign (crystal ball predictions, positioning candidates rhetorically)

Pedagogy of Political Communication

Political Satire

Off Year Elections (results from the 2014 midterms)

8. Jason Edwards passed the chair to Tracey Holden for 2015. The meeting was adjourned and members encourage to attend Wine and Spots later.