

*91st* Annual Convention

Southern States Communication Association

Norfolk Online

**Executive Council Meeting**

***Part One: Monday April 5, 2021 (Noon to 3:45 p.m. eastern)***

***Part Two: Tuesday April 6, 2021 (10:00-11:15 a.m. eastern)***

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**a. Meeting called to order at 11:04**

**2. WELCOME TO NORFOLK ONLINE!**

**a. This year’s convention planning has been anything but conventional**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.**

*Minutes of the SSCA Executive Council Mid-year Meeting* at NCA November 2020

a. Motioned to approve minute and seconded by zoom crowd.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**a. Pam Bourland Davis motioned and Abby Brooks seconded approval of the agenda**

**5. OFFICERS’ REPORTS**

5.1 President – Shawn Long, Kennesaw State University

a. John Haas comments on Shawn Long’s work. John shares some condolences.

5.2 1st Vice‐President – Wendy Atkins-Sayre, University of Memphis

a. Wendy Atkins-Sayre read a commentary (crafted with Pam Bourland-Davis) about Shawn Long’s

b. Thanks to all our organization’s leadership. Patience was necessary and appreciated.

c. We changed the dates of submissions last fall and plan to keep a later submission date.

d. 356 total submissions – 175 total panels were created.

e. Special panels – Hope panels in tandem with conference theme; Professionalization panels were crowdsourced.

f. We need moderators for every panel – not traditional chair position. Any divisional officers who can volunteer to help out are greatly appreciated. Wendy will send out instructions.

g. A SSCA officer will be joining each of the business meetings.

5.3 2nd Vice President – Tina Harris, Louisiana State University

a. Tina thanks Wendy Atkins-Sayre for help guiding through the process.

b. Thanks reviewers for UHC

c. 38 students are presenting

d. Shirley Award winner will be recognized at the banquet

e. Next year’s conference theme is “Resilience in Resistance”

1. focus on different forms of systemic oppression, reflections on how to move forward and the various ways we have been affected (pedagogy, scholarship, teaching, personal lives, etc.)

f. Call for participation for next year will be hosted on SSCA’s website

1. CFP from division/interest group planner) Deadline is May 7th

2. CFP submissions will be due on Oct. 1st and planners panels will be due Oct 29th.

3. We will be using the XCD platform that we’ve used the past two years now.

g. Dec 14th will be the deadline for UHC submissions

5.4 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Pamela Bourland-Davis, Georgia Southern University

a. Thanks all the officers for continued work. Wendy is pulling double duty and that’s just tremendous.

b. The DEI committee wording to be added to the constitution will be submitted to the membership for their consideration. Same with the ethics statement.

c. Thanks to everyone for submitting names for elected positions

Eletra Gilchrist-Petty and Anne Burnette won the NCA LA Rep and 2nd Vice President respectively.

d. Nominating committee meeting will be Tuesday at 4pm eastern

5.5 Executive Director – John Haas, University of Tennessee, Knoxville–Report to be attached

*5.5.1* Account Balance Sheet

*5.5.2* Profit and Loss Statement

*5.5.3* Financial Statements from Harvard and Associates, C.P.A.’s

*5.5.4* Award Balances

*5.5.5* Membership Numbers

5.5.6 Informational items

a. John Haas explained that the budget was approved based off of the previous year’s budget. We didn’t know how this year’s cost would be different so included in the epacket are the association’s tax paperwork.

b. Canceling with Norfolk cost roughly $45,000, but roughly $21,000 will be applied to a deposit for rebooking at Norfolk the Main in 2025.

c. The new cost for a virtual conference with ConferenceDirect is about $28,000.

d. Our membership numbers are in flux this year. We extended a free membership to all current members and any member who was active within the last three years. This caused several members to be renewed that would not have otherwise. The membership numbers should level out next year.

e. If the member hasn’t yet registered, due to time constraints, they were sent a unique link. We will track the logins and if you attended SSCA with your login link, you’ll receive an invoice.

f. It was suggested that we suspend the membership requirements for divisions in new business.

5.6 Strategic Communication Director – Andrew Pyle, Clemson University

a. Could not attend, but has been working hard on collecting institutional members and social media post.

5.7 *SCJ* Editor – Benjamin Bates, Ohio University

a. Thanks to Jennifer Samps for passing along the infrastructure

b Report included in packet

c. 91 submissions over the past year.

d. submissions to regional journals are becoming more competitive

e. About 20% of submissions are from international researchers.

f. Almost done with current issue of SCJ.

5.8 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives – See attached reports

Pat Arneson, Paragould High School, K-12 Representative

Patrick Bennett, Midlands Technical College, Community College Representative;

Andrew Pyle, Clemson University, 4 Year-College/University Representative

a. No reps were present

5.9 NCA Nominating Committee Representative –Christi Moss, University of Memphis (elected for 2018-2021)

a. Christi was not present

5.10 NCA’s Regional Association Promotion and Advancement Committee– Bridgetta Bruner, Auburn University

**6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1. Committee on Committees – Pamela Bourland-Davis, Georgia Southern University

a. This will be Wendy Atkins-Sayre and she request that you submit names for positions.

6.2. Constitution – Ray Ozley, University of Montevallo

a. Will have proposed items during new business.

6.3. Finance – Patrick Wheaton, Georgia Southern University

a. Committee was reduced to two members and Tina M. Harris left this committee due to becoming the Vice President.

b. Pat Wheaton has agreed to stay on the Committee for next year with two new committee members. Dr. Sheldon – Alabama Birmingham, Dr. Durham – Southern Florida

6.4. Publications – Stephanie Kelly, North Carolina A & T State University

a. Report was included n the e-packet

b. Pui Charoenesap-Kelly will be joining this committee

6.5. Resolutions – Michelle Groover, Georgia Southern University

a. Report included in e-packet

b. Wants to include the transition for Andrew Pyle and the appreciation of Jennifer Samp for 3 years of service with SCJ.

6.6. Resource Development – Abby Brooks, Georgia Southern University

a. Abby Brooks suggested that everyone can still purchase Caring Connections.

b. SSCA has a new emblem for next year’s in-person conference – Blue stars

c. The money from the Caring Connections will go to the Freshley Award account.

6.7. Time and Place – Michelle Violanti, University of Tennessee

a. Michelle Violanti said that they had pick two properties and then we canceled with Frisco and Norfolk. So during the time and place committee at this years conference, they expect that we will look at Louisville or Birmingham for the 2026.

**7. DIVISION REPORTS—Most reports made at midyear meeting with no modifications (see minutes)**

7.1. Applied Communication, Darren Linvill, Clemson University

a. Not present

7.2. Argumentation and Forensics, Nick Sciullo, Texas A &M University-Kingsville

a. Check out Townhall on Wednesday at 12:30pm central

b. Nick Sciullo thanked the reviewers

7.3. Communication Theory, Leah LeFebvre, University of Alabama

a. Submissions were lower than expected, but 7 total paneled.

b. Will retroactively announce the winners of the division award.

7.4. Community College, Nakia Welch, San Jacinto College

a. Vice Chair resigned without telling anyone

b. Nakia Welch reminded everyone that GIFTS are apart of this division

12 submissions of GIFTS (3 total panels) and 3 other panels

7.5. Freedom of Speech, David Dewberry, Rider University

a. Report was submitted in e-packet

b. please join the division

7.6. Gender Studies, Caroline Sawyer, University of South Carolina-Beaufort

a. Not present

7.7. Instructional Development, Jill Bergeron, University of Tennessee

a. Jill Bergeron reported on the division and thanked Kevin Bryant for submitting the report

7.8. Intercultural Communication, linda jurczak, Valdosta State University

a. Jon Braddy 100% acceptance rate for submissions – (20 ish papers and 3 panel submissions).

7.9. Interpersonal Communication, Josh Pederson, University of Alabama

a. Josh Pederson recommended attendance at a health panel and an undergraduate student centered panel.

7.10. Language and Social Interaction, Mark Ward, Sr., University of Houston-Victoria

a. Mark Ward thanked Craig Stewart as Vice Chair

b. Had 7 submissions and 5 papers were accepted

c. This isn’t a catch-all division. Last year a new call was crafted to provide a better understanding of the scope and fit of the division.

d. Officers all re-up for another year of service in current position.

7.11. Mass Communication, Matthew Stilwell, Midlands Technical College

a. James Hicks is stepping in for the chair.

b. 13 submission (10 were accepted)

c. Friday panel at 3pm eastern was recommended for attendance

7.12. Performance Studies, Andrea Baldwin, University of Houston-Clear Lake

a. Andrea Baldwin reported the division had 9 panels (numbers were a little low)

b. recommended attendance at the business meeting

7.13. Political Communication, Michael Milford, Auburn University

a. Mike Milford reported a 84% acceptance rate

7.14. Popular Communication, Rich Knight, Shippensburg University

a. Danielle Williams reported 21 papers were submitted (100% acceptance)

7.15. Public Relations, Andrew Pyle, Clemson University

a. Not present

7.16. Rhetoric and Public Address, Stephen Heidt, Florida Atlantic University

a. Stephen Heidt is filling in for Sam Perry.

b. Recommended attendance for their business meeting

7.17 Association for Communication Administration, David Schlucter, Baylor University

a. Not present

7.18 American Society for the History of Rhetoric, Wanda Fenimore, University of South Carolina-Sumter

a. Report submitted in e-packet

7.19 Ethnography, Andrew Hermann, East Tennessee State University

a. Not present

7.20 Philosophy and Ethics of Communication, Andrew Tinker, Duquesne University

a. Not present

7.21 State Associations, Brad Bailey, MGCCC

a. Brad Bailey reported 46 current members.

b. Membership is basically officers (past and present) of State associations.

c. please check out their business meeting

7.22 Kenneth Burke Society, Ryan McGeough, Northern Iowa University

a. Not present

**8.** NEW BUSINESS

9.1 SSCA Constitution changes

a. Ray Ozley read the proposed changes to the constitution

b. Discussion occurred with the verbage of membership terms on Standing Committees

c. Mark Ward asked if there was a quorum requirement for committee work

Pam Bourland-Davis explained that the committees just make suggestions to the membership then the membership votes. She then explained the rationale why we wanted to have more or less committee members and the term limits.

d. Pat Wheatman suggested that we move the DEI committee up in the constitution with the other standing committees.

e. No questions or concerns were offered for number 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.

Ray amended the numbering for number 4 change

Pat Wheaton suggested that we change Article 9 of constitution where it stipulates that standing committees are three members.

f. Came to an agreement to add the resource committee and DEI committee to the list of exceptions in the standing committee.

g. Motion to accept amended edits to the constitution by Dave Dewberry and seconded by Pat Wheaton.

No down votes or abstentions.

h. The motion to amend the constitution was passed.

8.2 – Pat Wheaton suggested a motion to suspend the minimum membership requirement per division (Article 10 sec 2) and interest groups (Article 11 sec 2) for this year so there isn’t a penalty.

a. John Haas reported that the membership is influx so Pat Wheaton withdrew the motion.

1. Kevin Bryant seconded the motion.

8.2.1 – John asked how we should handle the membership dues that were waived for this year.

a. Michelle Violanti, Leland Spencer and others expressed that the constitution may cover the changes that took place due to emergency like circumstances over the past year.

Dave Dewberry suggested that John has done a wonderful job and should be given a congressional medal.

8.3 – What to do with printed programs for next year

a. Michelle V mentioned that if we have an electronic program that it should be accessbile.

It was commented that departments require a physical program for reimbursement

Wendy said with all the virtual conferences there should be a work around.

c. Dave Dewberry suggested that we have a hard copy at the conferences program at the hotel in case there are electronic issues.

d. Jerry Hale reminded us that several long-time perennial members may not like an electronic program – he said this number is small and we could perhaps have printed PDFs.

e. Nakia Welch suggested that we still have a scaled back form of the printed program.

8.4 Possible new SSCA code of ethics

a. The statement is in the files tab on Pathable platform.

b. Pam offered a brief description on why we needed to adopt our own Code of Conduct.

c. Leland Spencer suggested we add a line about paying for the registration and membership when we submit. Mark Ward Sr. echoed this sentiment.

d. A question was posed about what happens if we violate the Code of Ethics

We aren’t exactly sure about the enforcement mechanism as of right now.

e. John Haas suggested that we include a reference to striking any submissions that were entered for consideration in multiple divisions/interest groups.

f. Mark Ward Sr. asked if it was an ethical consideration for submitting more than 1 submission per division.

g. after group editing the document, a motion was made to accept the changes to the code of conduct and accepted for constitutional change.

8.5. Possible new SSCA Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

a. This was an old item and we’ve already ratified the DEI committee to be a standing committee rather than an ad hoc committee. This item was removed from discussion.

8.6. Other new business?

John Haas made a motion to adjourn – Pam Bourland-Davis seconded

Meeting adjourned at 2:51pm central