

Intercultural Communication Division

2023 SSCA Convention

St. Petersburg, Florida

Saturday, 15 April

Division Business Meeting Minutes

Margaret Miller Butcher called the room to order at 5:47 PM EDT and welcomed everyone to meeting. She then asked Badu Smith to call the room to engage/participate. He invited participants into the space with a West African call and response.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Butcher introduced the officers and asked everyone to review the minutes of the 2022 division business meeting in Greenville. Smith (previously secretary of the division) provided an update to the minutes distributed to everyone. Amy Heuman moved to approve the amended minutes and Mary Meares seconded. Approval was unanimous.

ELECTION

Vice-Chair Elect

Smith opened the floor for nominates for vice-chair elect. Meares overviewed the role of the vice-chair. There were questions from the floor regarding the roles and responsibilities, which Butcher and Meares answered. Heuman self-nominated. Todd Lee Goen moved to close nominations, Meares seconded. Heuman was elected by acclamation.

REPORTS

Chair's Report – Executive Council Meetings: Margaret Miller Butcher

Butcher provided an overview of the discussions from the Executive Council (EC). SSCA is in good financial shape with solid reserves. The division has 37 current members (prior to on-site registration). The association has 525 members. Of the membership, 229 are unaffiliated with a division or interest group. She asked all members to encourage others to affiliate with the division to ensure its continued success.

The EC discussed providing a stipend for the SSCA Executive Director (ED). SSCA is the only one of the regional associations that does not currently do so. An ad hoc committee has been formed to consider this. SSCA is also actively searching for its next ED. The ad hoc committee will issue its recommendations prior to the selection of the next ED. The ED role is a five-year commitment with one year of shadowing, three years of service, and a year of the new ED shadowing them.

SSCA is also in need of a web editor. This individual could be a graduate or undergraduate student. While the association is not able to pay the web editor, this could be something completed for internship credit. If anyone knows of someone who could fulfill this role, please have them contact the ED.

SSCA's convention will be in Frisco, TX in 2024. The 2025 convention will be in Norfolk. The Frisco and Norfolk conventions are returns to locations missed during the COVID-19 pandemic and with whom the association negotiated cancellation agreements requiring return to those cities for future conventions. The 2026 convention will be in Birmingham. The 2027 convention location is yet to be determined. The goal was Atlanta, but the property options did not work. The search for the 2027 location is ongoing and will be sent to the membership for approval via email.

Butcher then presented Badu Smith with the top paper award for the division (see Meares' report for details about the paper).

Vice-Chair's Report: Mary Meares

Meares noted the new Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice division and the proposal for an African American division as well. The addition of these divisions is important for the overall health of SSCA, yet simultaneously poses a challenge for the division with regard to membership as well as paper submission. The intercultural division's focus/call is very broad, and needs to encourage members to affiliate with the intercultural division as well as the new divisions. Meares submitted the following report (italicized) in writing at the meeting:

We had nine papers submitted to the division. After review, all were accepted. These were divided into the Top Paper panel, and two panels: (a) Culture, Religion, and Communication, and (b) Intercultural Communication in Popular Culture. We also had two panels accepted.

- *Our Top Paper was "Zora Neal Hurston's Barracoon: Towards a Cosmopolitan Ethics of Language, Race, and Culture" by Lionnell "Badu" Smith from the University of Memphis. Awards for top papers will be given out at the Business Meeting.*

We had one additional time slot allocated for the business meeting.

Thanks to Jon Braddy, Eunhui Kim, Pavica Sheldon, Todd Goen, Margaret Butcher, and Margaret D'Silva for reviewing.

Meares informally proposed assigning the previous vice-chair the responsibility of putting together special interest panels to increase the number of panels and to alleviate some of the pressure on the current vice-chair with regard to conference planning. There was general agreement this is a good idea and Meares indicated she will start that process next year.

Meares is also putting together a timeline and guiding document for future division officers. She will share with Smith. The goal is to make this a living document for all the officers. There was discussion of how to manage this with the primary strategy being a Google site for the division. Google provides the option to create a listserv as well, which could be used to communicate with those interested in the division.

Vice-Chair Elect's Report: Lionnell "Badu" Smith

The 2024 conference theme is *Communicating Belonging*. Carl Cates is the conference planner. The deadline for submissions is September 16, 2023 at 11:59 PM EST. The projection for next year is six slots, one of which must be the division meeting. Hopefully, the division can also co-sponsor panels with other divisions to increase its visibility. Smith is also interested in moving beyond papers and panels – for example, a short film or performances.

OLD BUSINESS

- I. Butcher reminded all members to use the Facebook page. She noted she has posted some information to the page from this convention.
- II. Butcher asked everyone to review NCA's COMMnotes and to send any ideas for information to share with the division officers.
- III. Butcher noted that there was one undergraduate paper focused on intercultural communication. She asked everyone to work to increase the number of intercultural submissions from undergraduate students.

NEW BUSINESS

- I. Ideas for 2024
 - A. Smith asked everyone to consider local community groups to connect with the division for future conventions. Meares noted that the division used to offer informal dinner options as well for anyone interested in participating. Friday night seems to be the most viable option.
 - B. There was discussion of options for expanding opportunities for panels. For example, attendees noted there is a large Indian population in Frisco and Dallas has a large refugee community. Smith made detailed notes regarding specific ideas. Given some of the options discussed, there are potential opportunities for co-sponsorships with the Performance Studies Division as well as the SSCA Vice-President. There was discussion of different types of exhibits (e.g., photographic/artistic exhibitions).
 - C. There was also discussion of performance options as well as options for viewing media. Given limitations with regard to time as well as audiovisual equipment, one consideration is to ask participants to review an online film prior to the conference and engage in discussion of it during a session.
 - D. A focus on the sense of belonging dominated much of the discussion.
 - E. Multiple modalities for presentations emerged. Smith also asked for content to include in the call. Religion, media, film, and music all emerged as necessary for inclusion in the call. There was discussion of creating a YouTube channel to permit media submissions/panels to be included as part of the conference. QR codes could be included in the conference program.
 - F. Smith is going to send a Google form to the membership list to solicit additional information from the division about what members would like to see.
- II. Butcher passed out the sign-up sheet for reviewers for the 2024 convention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

There was a motion to adjourn and a second. With no objections, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM EDT.

2023-2024 OFFICERS

Chair: Mary Meares, University of Alabama

Vice-Chair: Lionnell “Badu” Smith, University of Waterloo

Vice-Chair Elect: Amy Heuman, Texas Tech University

Secretary: Todd Lee Goen, Virginia Military Institute

Immediate Past Chair: Margaret Miller Butcher, University of Arkansas

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Lee Goen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Todd Lee Goen
Division Secretary