Freedom of Speech Division Business Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

* In Attendance
  + David R. Dewberry,
  + Rebekah Fox
  + Ann Burnettey
  + Chad Tew,
  + Chandra Maldonado
  + Ben Medeiros
  + Pat Wheaton,
  + Stephen Smith
  + Camisha (moderator)
* Announcements
  + Program Planner Report
    - We had 13 paper submissions and accepted all of that high quality work.
    - We also had two roundtable submissions that were both accepted.
  + Awards
    - Top Student Paper
      * Megan Montgomery, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee
      * “Predators Need Privacy, Too: The Perversion of Hidden Camera Investigations”
    - Top Faculty Paper
      * Joshua Frye, Humboldt State University
      * “How Did We Get Here? Polarization, Public Communication, and (Un)Civil Society”
    - James Madison Prize for Outstanding Research in First Amendment Studies
      * Ben Medeiros, State University of New York at Plattsburgh, and Pawan Singh, Deakin University
      * Addressing Misinformation on Whatsapp in India Through Intermediary Liability Policy, Platform Design Modification, and Media Literacy, published in Journal of Information Policy (2020)
  + Next Year’s Conference
    - The theme is Resilience through Resistance
    - Deadline is around 10/1
  + General
    - There is a new SSCA Website coming
  + Report on the division
    - According to initial reports, we had 32 members. It was noted that we are in our first year of being below the 10% membership requirement for divisional status. That was according to the information sent out to members of the executive committee, but the constitution says 5% is the threshold.
    - After some discussion at the executive council, we decided to wait until more credible data comes in. If we get below the threshold we go on probation for two years. After that we may lose divisional status and become an interest group.
    - At the executive committee, there was also some concern about why the association limits how many divisions you can join. But that might be a website issue (you had to call in or email SSCA to add other divisions). A new website is coming along and that might help.
    - Regardless, please get people to join and submit.
  + Running meetings
    - Every panel should have a moderator. Panels open up 20 minutes before they start, and all times are listed based on your time zone. When you click on the panel, you can click manage on the top right and get everything set up, test things out, etc.
* Elections.
  + Officers for 2021-2022
    - Past Chair Dave Dewberry
    - Chair: Rebekah Fox
    - Vice Chair: Chandra Maldonado
    - Vice Chair Elect: Pat Wheaton
    - Secretary: Ben Medeiros