Southern States Communication Association Executive Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 5:00 to 8:00 PM
2025 NCA Annual Convention, Aurora, CO
Location: Crest 01 Gaylord Resort & Convention Center

Patrick Wheaton, Georgia Southern University, Presiding

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Patrick Wheaton

2. Welcome

3. Approval of Minutes of SSCA Executive Council Meeting

a. Published on the SSCA website at Our Story>Business Meeting Minutes and here

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Officers' Reports

5.1 President – Patrick Wheaton

5.2 Vice President – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter

5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Carl Cates

5.4 Vice President Elect – Leland Spencer

5.5 Executive Director – Frances Brandau

5.6 Strategic Communication Director – vacant

5.7 SCJ Editor – Rebekah Fox

5.8 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives –Laurie Metcalf, Ryan Tabrizi, and Antonio Spikes

5.9 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Heather Hayes

6. Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Committee on Committees – Patrick Wheaton

6.2 Constitution – David Nelson

6.3 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Mary Meares and Kimberly Johnson

6.4 Finance – Nakia Welch

6.5 Nominating Committee – Carl Cates

6.6 Publications – Keven James Rudrow

6.7 Resolutions – Breann Murphy

6.8 Resource Development – Michelle Groover

6.9 Time and Place – Scott Christen

7. Division & Interest Group Reports

7.1 African American Communication Division – Keven Rudrow

7.2 Applied Communication Division – Mai Nou Xiong-Gum

7.3 Argumentation & Forensics Division – Gabby Lamura

7.4 Communication Theory & Methodology Division – Dennis McCarty

7.5 Community College Division – Karen Hill

7.6 Freedom of Speech Division – John Banister

7.7 Gender Studies Division – Cassidy Ellis

7.8 Health Communication Division – Tyana Ellis

7.9 Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division – Joshua Miller

7.10 Instructional Development Division – Colleen Mestayer

7.11 Intercultural Communication Division – Amy Heuman

7.12 Interpersonal Communication Division – Erin Basinger

7.13 Mass Communication Division – Umisha KC

7.14 Performance Studies Division – Colin Whitworth

7.15 Political Communication Division – Matthew Farmer

7.16 Popular Communication Division – John Saunders

7.17 Public Relations Division – Kelly Williams

7.18 Rhetoric & Public Address Division – Sara Baugh-Harris

7.19 Association for Communication Administrators Interest Group – Chris McCollough

7.20 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group – Jason Myres

7.21 Ethnography Interest Group – Pamela Dykes

7.22 Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group – Alex Morales

7.23 Language & Social Interaction Interest Group – Robert Agne

7.24 Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group – David Impellizzeri

7.25 State Associations Interest Group – Shaquille Marsh

8. Old Business

9. New Business

10. Announcements and Adjournment

Officers' Reports

5.1 President – Patrick Wheaton

SSCA President's Report

Over the past six months, I have communicated with and met with members of the SSCA Administrative Committee, individually and as a committee. The Administrative Committee, as a committee, has met via Zoom three times between mid-August and early November.

In the interest of transparency and open communication, there are six matters about which I report.

1. The 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

    A draft of the new Strategic Plan was developed and discussed. That draft is attached. Comments are welcome. Please send any comments to me at ssca2025norfolk@gmail.com

2. The Call for the next Editor of the *Southern Communication Journal*

    Rebekah Fox's tenure as Editor concludes with the last issue of volume 91 in Fall 2026. The Publications Committee was charged with drafting a call for the next editor and that Committee will review applications/nominations and make a recommendation to this Council at our next meeting, in Birmingham in April 2027. Per the Constitution, the EC appoints the Editor on a recommendation from the Publications Committee.

3. Status of the DEI Committee

    Given our current national and higher educational climate and following our discussions in Norfolk about DEI, about the Association's purpose and role, and about how the Association can protect its members doing the work, I asked the DEI Committee and the Constitution Committee to review these issues and any possible changes. My take from your comments in Norfolk was that, as an association, we remain committed to our current initiatives and to the free and open discussion of them; the question is whether we can/should strategically reframe any public facing statements to reduce the risk of any members being targeted by outside entities.

4. Communication between SSCA leadership and members

    Beyond the EC meetings and the association-wide business meeting at the annual conference, we remain committed to communication with the members of SSCA. AT the last several conferences, we have programmed a time for the SSCA Officers to be available for conversations with concerned members. Additionally, in Norfolk we programmed two additional sessions (one on SSCA's role, and one on the Strategic Plan) to facilitate such conversations. Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, the 1st Vice President and Birmingham planner, and I have discussed programming for Birmingham to continue offering opportunities for members

to communicate with SSCA leadership. We will once again have a dedicated time slot for SSCA Officer Office Hours and a "town hall" session to discuss matters of concern.

5. Finances, Costs, and the Future of the Conference

The Executive Director, the Time and Place Committee, and the Finance Committee have been reviewing assorted issues related to costs and the conference. Their reports include some of that information, but I wanted to note how information from those three intersects. The ED and T&P Committee have worked with bids to host the 2030; those bids include significantly greater Food & Beverage costs. The Finance Committee has also reviewed Convention income and expenses over the past several years and noted that we "loss" money on the convention each year. As F&B costs increase, those losses will only increase. The concern is that while the Association is in good financial health currently, we do not want these losses to build collectively and place the Association in financial straits in the future and face tough decisions like some other associations have faced. Discussions about possible changes to membership and/or convention fees are ongoing.

6. Celebrating Our Centennial

The Association will hold its 100th conference in 2030, just prior to our 100th anniversary. We would like to celebrate that anniversary, and that requires planning – planning that should not wait until the 2030 planning cycle in 2029. To that end, we should appoint an ad hoc committee. Per the Constitution, ad hoc committees appointed by the President expire with the end of the President's term, but "the Executive Council may authorize the appointment of special committees to serve longer than one year" (Article IX. Section 4B). I request that the EC authorize the appointment of a special committee, the Centennial Celebration Committee, to serve until the end of the 2030 conference. The charge of the committee will be to gather Association history, including oral histories, and assist in planning conference programming to celebrate our centennial. A call will then be issued for volunteers to serve on the committee. Per the Constitution, the chair of such a committee will also serve on the Executive Council (Article V. Section 1D).

SSCA 2026-2030 Strategic Plan Draft – Fall 2025

Background

The SSCA Constitution states that the officers shall meet for the purpose of strategic planning and that no more than five years shall elapse between such meetings. Prior to the work on this strategic plan, the last strategic planning meetings were held in 2016, 2021, and 2022.

Current Planning Process

The 2024-2025 Administrative Committee, under the leadership of President Carl Cates, started the process of planning. At the 2025 Norfolk convention, a session was held to discuss the strategic plan and receive input from the SSCA membership. The 2025-2026 Administrative Committee, under the leadership of President Pat Wheaton, processed the members' input, studied previous strategic plans, developed ideas relevant to the organization today, and developed and finalized the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

The SSCA officer's involved in this two-year process included:

Frances Brandau, Sam Houston State University
Ann Burnette, Texas State University
Carl Cates, University of Texas-Permian Basin
Xiaoti Fan, University of Alabama in Huntsville
Rebecca Fox, Texas State University
John Haas, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Jerry Hale, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
Heather Hayes, University of Alabama
Kimberly Johnson, Tennessee State University
Mary Meares, University of Alabama
Laurie Metcalf, Blinn College
Leslie Pace, Southeast Missouri State University
Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, Texas Tech University
Leland Spencer, University of South Carolina
Antonio Spikes, Georgia Southern University
Ryan Tabrizi, Syracuse University
Nakia Welch, San Jacinto College
Pat Wheaton, Georgia Southern University

Accountability for this plan includes:

- Reporting strategic plan accomplishments at the mid-year Executive Council business meeting and the annual convention business meetings
- Scheduling a session on strategic planning at the annual conference.

1. Planning for an Engaged Community

SSCA's officers and members have repeatedly expressed their commitment to making SSCA a welcoming and inclusive organization. To accomplish this strategic goal, we will:

- Recruit in different areas to expand membership, including recruiting at HBCUs, community colleges, and institutions located in the area of the annual conference.

DRAFT

- Develop resources for SSCA leadership, sharing such resources through convention sessions and a web page section
- Develop engagement plans to engage communities outside of the membership, including but not limited to K-12 teachers and forensic educators
- Develop conference sessions with scholars, including scholars to discuss engagement, inclusion, and leadership
- Enhance relationships with state associations, including offering speaker resources for state associations (focusing on past presidents)
- Plan a conference session for the Undergraduate Honors Conference on selecting and applying to graduate programs, perhaps in conjunction with the UHC Breakfast
- Plan a conference session spotlighting previously selected awardees of SSCA teaching and scholarship awards, such as recipients of Sisco teaching Award, Freshley New Teacher Award, Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award, Osborn Community College Educator Award, Rushing Early Career Research Award, and Hendrix Instructional Development Award

2. Continue Improving Communication

Although SSCA has made improvements in our communication channels (web site, emails, podcasts, and newsletters) in recent years, we recognize that there is additional, important work to do to communicate with our members more effectively and more consistently. To improve these channels of communication (because, after all, we are communication scholars), we will:

- Assess and budget for a new website that may include our convention planning functions
- Improve and expand our communication, including the use of social media to communicate, with members and other external stakeholders
- Plan conference informational and listening sessions pertaining to SSCA business and other association-related matters beyond the formal discussions of the AC, EC, and the annual business meeting
- Send quarterly emails to include
    - Updates on association matters and progress on strategic initiatives
    - Updates on conference planning
    - Reports from committees, divisions, and interest groups
    - Spotlights on member accomplishments, including awards and other honors both within and outside the association
- Develop Crisis Communication plans

3. Increase Revenue for the Association

Although SSCA is financially strong, we know that it is imperative that the leadership continue to bring in revenues to keep membership and conference rates as low as possible. We will:

- Explore more options for revenue streams more broadly, including options that provide revenue throughout the year, rather than just at the time of the conference, such as web advertisements and other member services
- Transition away from the costly production of the printed program without sacrificing the income that program advertisements bring.

DRAFT

- Fundraise for named awards and for conference receptions so that less funding is required in the SSCA annual budget
- Continue to reassess the role and duties of the Strategic Communication Director
- Investigate the legal option for establishing a foundation/endowment to financially support SSCA

4. Study the Future of our Conference

With changes in communication technology affecting the way we communicate, and in light of the instability of institutional support for faculty travel, we will:

- Survey members to better understand their needs and desires pertaining to the annual conference
- Explore the practical and financial implications of offering online or hybrid options for participation in the annual conference, including
    - the effect of online or hybrid options on room block and food & beverage requirements in contracts with host sites
    - the audiovisual requirements for supporting online or hybrid options, including availability of equipment and costs
    - the possibility of day rates for members, particularly graduate students, who may not be able to attend or afford to attend a multi-day conference
- Survey members post-conference to gather conference feedback to improve future conference planning and delivery
- Review the current conference planning and development process, including
    - Site selection and planning timeline
    - Review of online platforms for submission, review, and programming
    - Planner and reviewer training, particularly in the use of the online platform
    - Development of alternative session options including poster sessions, scholar-to-scholar sessions, and research-in-progress roundtables
    - Revision of review forms to be more applicable to submission types (competitive papers, panels and roundtables, posters, research-in-progress)

5. Prepare for the 100th Conference of the Association

SSCA was founded in 1930 and held its first conference that year in Birmingham, Alabama.

Our 100th conference location has yet to be determined but will occur in the Spring of 2030. To celebrate our centennial, we will

- Solicit members to serve on an ad-hoc Centennial Committee, to be appointed by the Executive Council per the provisions of the SSCA Constitution for ad hoc committees serving more than one year
- Gather information and oral histories to create a "History of SSCA"
- Develop special programming for the 100th conference

DRAFT

5.2 Vice President – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter

The First Vice President will provide a more detailed report about the 2026 Convention planning at the meeting. But the draft program is now available for Division and Interest Group planners and EC members to review. The draft program is available at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/program/6Vc9wD2/index.cfm

Tallies for SSCA 2026

African American Communication Division	4
American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group	2
Applied Communication Division	8
Argumentation & Forensics Division	4
Association for Communication Administration Interest Group	3
Communication Theory & Methodology Division	5
Community College Division	6
Ethnography Interest Group	5
Freedom of Speech Division	5
Gender Studies Division	7
G.I.F.T.S.	2
Health Communication Division	9
Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division	7
Instructional Development Division	14
Intercultural Communication Division	5
Interpersonal Communication Division	11
Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group	3
Language and Social Interaction Interest Group	2
Mass Communication Division	7
Performance Studies Division	11
Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group	3
Political Communication Division	7
Popular Communication Division	6
Public Relations Division	7
Rhetoric and Public Address Division	12
State Associations Interest Group	2
Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric	2
Poster Sessions	2
President/Vice-President Spotlights	7
Undergraduate Honors Conference	16

5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Carl Cates

Will report at meeting

5.4 Vice President Elect – Leland Spencer

Invite your students to submit to the Undergraduate Honors Conference.

The deadline is December 15th.

Here is the Call for Papers:
https://ssca.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/2026/CFPs/UHC_CFP_2026-Birmingham_corrected.pdf

And here is the link to submit: https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member/

5.5 Executive Director – Frances Brandau

At the recommendation and with the assistance of Dr. John Haas, I have been working with X-CD to move SSCA from MemberClicks to a WordPress platform managed by X-CD. After consultation with the Finance Committee (especially Chair Dr. Nakia Welch), former Executive Director Dr. Haas, and the Administrative Council, the transition to the new website platform and program app was approved at the August 29, 2025 Administrative Council meeting. This change will enhance the website's appearance, improve ease of editing and updates, and streamline the management of backend data and organizational processes.

We anticipate using a convention app similar to that used by NCA, allowing us to communicate program changes and updates through real-time notifications rather than inserting loose pages into printed programs. Once fully implemented, we expect long-term cost savings, as we will no longer incur the more than $8,000 in annual expenses for layout, printing, and shipping of paper convention programs.

X-CD Pricing	Current (2024-25)	Proposed (2025-26)	Proposed (2026+)
Abstract & Speaker Management (Core Module)	$3000	$3000	$3000
Track Chair Module	$1000	$1000	$1000
Print Output Generator	$500	$500	$500
Container Mobile App	$2500	$2500	$2500
Membership & Assoc. Management (Core Module)	-	$5000	$5000
Attendee Registration (Core Module)	-	$3000	$3000
Website Develop & Design	-	$7500***	
Website Hosting & Database Integrations	-	$3500	$3500
X-CD Total	**$7,000**	**$26,000**	**$18,500**
Memberclicks and Printed Programs			
Memberclicks (2024)	$6800		
Printed Programs (2024, including shipping)	$9200*	$3000**	
Donation to offset migration		($5000)	
TOTAL COST TO SSCA	**$23,000**	**$24,000**	**$18,500**

**Estimated charges based on 2024 pricing; these costs have been rising in recent years and it is expected to continue to increase year after year.*

**$3000 fee for printed programs is a complete guess – we will provide a basic printed program in 2025, in addition to the use of the phone app.

**$7500 charge is fee to convert website over from Memberclicks to X-CD; one year only charge

Current as of 3Nov25

Membership Categories											
Category	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Regular	187	158	165	226	214		375	255	244	271	230
Sustaining	197	233	178	170	126		92	66	91	75	87
Patron	20	15	16	14	12		8	12	8	7	8
Student	172	204	171	192	173		168	148	151	148	117
Life	61	65	69	73	73		77	78	81	78	86
Emeritus	24	28	27	27	29		28	27	27	3	4
Total	658	703	626	702	628		678*	594	606	582	532
Regional Journal	17	15	8	9	7		5	8	7	7	10
Category	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Institutional	22	12	13	31	27		14	17	22		17
Renew-Inactive							70				

*Due to COVID, memberships were renewed for free - last row is number of memberships renewed that were not counted

Divisions											
Division	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
African Amer										36	47
Applied Comm	159	46	134	139	117		124	96	84	81	59
Arg & Forensic	20	48	32	45	42		56	38	35	37	33
Comm Theory & Meth	101	209	92	81	88		95	73	60	60	62
Community College	38	123	36	44	31		43	29	39	36	28
Freedom of Speech	21	30	25	39	28		32	32	22*	24	25
Gender Studies	69	75	89	106	91		96	58	57	59	45
Health Comm									24*	51	39
Ident, Incl, Soc Justice									31	59	37
Instructional Dev	57	97	66	72	71		97	70	76	72	56
Intercultural Comm	52	64	58	72	59		63	48	37	62	34
Interpersonal Comm	105	86	114	117	107		107	80	96	95	73
~~**Lang & Social Interaction**~~	~~50~~	~~74~~	~~45~~	~~41~~	~~26~~		~~30~~	~~30**~~	~~21*~~		
Mass Comm	73	46	75	93	72		90	70	58	58	49
None Selected		175	97	124	95		102	97	229	57	74
Performance Studies	46	32	49	53	49		43	41	27*	42	27
Political Comm	61	63	73	78	85		77	66	46	44	46

Division	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Popular Comm	140	74	51	56	56		64	56	47	45	41
Public Relations	35	44	51	47	45		51	44	41	41	49
Rhetoric & Public Address	221	*§]*	166	19	129		197	169	151	118	113

Interest Groups											
Interest Group	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Am. Soc. Hist Rhetoric	349	474	298	278	272		244	209	183	167	150
Assoc. Comm. Admin.	141	140	110	109	96		106	86**	89	80	74
Burke Society	145	119	104	119	101		103	86	67	61	59
Ethnography	152	165	151	159	141		146	132	109	114	92
None Selected		20	407	534	454		541	291	543	133	106
Lang & Social Interaction	50	74	45	41	26		30	30*	21*	87	73
Philosophy & Ethics of Communication	154	167	148	155	143		138	124	107	87	103
States Association		38	36	50	49		46	42	66	49	61

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional status

** First year probation for not electing officers

5.6 Strategic Communication Director – **vacant**

No report submitted

5.7 SCJ Editor – Rebekah Fox

Southern Communication Journal
Editor Report
Rebekah Fox
10/20/25

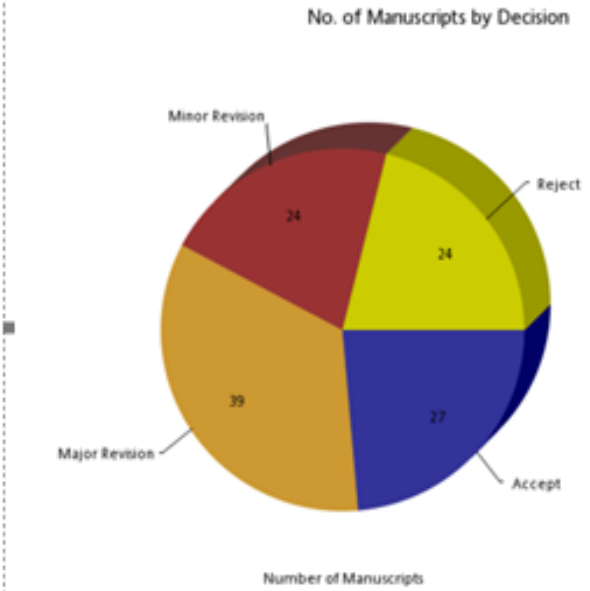
Statistics at a glance

Manuscripts Decided for Southern Communication Journal

Estimated Data Date: Oct 23, 2025 3:48:02 PM

formation based on all manuscripts whose submission date is On or after Oct 23, 2024 and decision date is On or after Oct 23, 2024

rouped by: Manuscript Decision



Manuscript Decision	Number of Manuscripts	Percentage of Total
Accept	**27**	**23.7%**
Major Revision	**39**	**34.2%**
Minor Revision	**24**	**21.1%**
Reject	**24**	**21.1%**
Total:	**114**	**100.0%**

Notes:

1. 46 unsubmitted manuscripts (IRB, bad fit, etc.)
2. Restrictions around special issue (I will discuss this in the meeting)
3. Issues with T&F production
4. AI issues with authors is one thing, but reviewers submitting AI generated reviews will need to be addressed.
5. Publication committee may need to help craft policy language.
6. International IRB approval remains a problem

5.8 NCA Legislative Assembly Reps –Laurie Metcalf, Ryan Tabrizi, & Antonio Spikes

NCA Legislative Assembly Report
SSCA Mid-Year Executive Council Meeting
November 2025, Denver, CO

Report from April 2025 Legislative Assembly Meeting

I. Journal editor approvals
   A. *Communication and Race,* Sudeshna Roy, Marquette University
   B. *Communication Education,* Narissra Punyanut-Carter, Texas Tech University
   C. *Journal of Applied Communication Research,* Rahul Mitra, Wayne State University
   D. One-year extension: *Journal of International and Intercultural Communcation,* Mahuya Pal

II. Strategic Planning Sessions—Unclear on what, if anything, will happen with the results of these discussions
   A. LIFT Leading with Imagination and Forward-Thinking--What should NCA be most forward thinking about?
      1. Regarding response to controversial issues, responses were varied including:
         a) be more collaborative
         b) respond to political environment and its effect on members' teaching and research
         c) " needs to move from 'is it an atrocity?' to 'how radical should our response be?'"
      2. Support members' careers
         a) Through involvement in NCA
         b) Supporting under-represented and under-privileged members
      3. Support the basic course
      4. More financial transparency
   B. Assessing the progress with regard to NCA's strategic plan
      1. Majority voted that the most progress has been made on embracing and enacting diversity, equity, and access
      2. The least progress has been made on promoting communication's value

5.9 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Heather Hayes

No report submitted

6. Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Committee on Committees – Patrick Wheaton

Committee on Committees Report

The Committee on Committees, consisting of the members of the Administrative Committee, met on April 6, 2025 in Norfolk, Virginia. In May and June the following individuals were appointed:

- Finance Committee: Jean Dehart
- Publications Committee: John Saunders
- Resolutions Committee: Dinah Tetteh
- Resource & Membership Development Committee: Jessica Beckham
- Time and Place Committee: Scott Christen was asked to chair following the death of the 2025-2026 chair. Scott will chair again in 2026-2027, in what would have been his normal year to chair. Jerry Hale was asked to serve a 1-year term, filling the unexpired term of Pam Bourland-Davis.
- Constitution Committee: Dave Nelson was asked to serve a 2nd year as chair as Todd Goen stepped off the committee to serve as Parliamentarian. Chris McCollough was appointed.
- Johnson-Paget Award Committee: Kevin Davis-Bryant
- Rushing Award Committee: Jonathan Edwards
- Sisco Award Committee: Brian Lain
- Long Award Committee: Ashli Stokes
- Freshley Award Committee: Wesley Buerkle
- M. Osborn Award Committee: Andre Johnson
- S. Osborn Award Committee: Shaquille Marsh
- Ragsdale Award Committee: Ryan Neville-Shepherd

6.2 Constitution – David Nelson

a. Constitution found on the website Our Story>Constitution & Bylaws and here

Constitution Committee

To: Frances Brandua, Executive Director – SSCA; Patrick Wheaton, President - SSCA

From: David R Nelson, Chair – Constitution Committee

Date: 08/11/2025

Re: Constitution Committee Mid-Year Report

During this past year, the Constitution Committee remained in constant communication (email, via Teams, etc.) to discuss identified topics regarding the SSCA Constitution to put forward to the Executive Council for adoption consideration by the organization's membership. The committee discussed three changes/updates to the constitution.

I. Proposed change one: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5. 2024 and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.

II. Proposed change two: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5. 2024 and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.

III. Proposed change three: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5. 2024 and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.

IV. Proposed change four: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5. 2024 and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

David R Nelson
Chair – Constitution Committee

Summary of SSCA Constitutional Changes

Item #: Provides the proposed amendment number and a general explanation of the change. The order is in the order in which the proposed changes occur in the constitution, not as an indication of the rank or importance level of the change.
Recommendation: Provide the revised version of the phrasing as changed. The Article. Section information in the left column provides the position within the revised constitution where the proposed recommendation is located. For easy identification, the recommendation section uses ~~a strikethrough~~ to identify words to be changed/removed and blue to identify words that are added/changed.
Justification: provides a brief explanation of why the change is recommended

Item #1	
Recommendation Article V Executive Council Section 1	A. Officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Executive Director, Journal Editor, Strategic Communication Director, Community Building ~~Diversity Equity & Inclusion~~ Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, the National Communication Association (NCA) representatives
Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.

Item #2	
Recommendation Article IX: Committees Section 1.	A. Administrative Committee, whose purpose shall be to lead the strategic planning and direction of the Association. The Administrative Committee shall be comprised of the Officers of the Association, the Community Building ~~Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion~~ Committee Chair, and the Finance Committee Chair.
Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.

Item #3	
Recommendation Article IX: Committees Section 1.	J. Community Building ~~Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion~~ Committee, whose purpose shall be to promote the global engagement diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives for the Association, including soliciting committee and leadership nominees, advising the organization on increasing opportunities ~~diversity, equity, and inclusion~~

	~~interests~~, and determining the recipient of the ~~Minority~~ Community Building Recruitment/Retention Award.
Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building and increasing opportunities preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.

Item #4	
Article IX: Committees Section 2.	C. Members of the Standing Committees, except the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Rose B. Johnson Award Committee, the Resource and Membership Development Committee, and the Community Building ~~Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion~~ Committee, shall be appointed for a term of three years, with staggered terms, are eligible for reappointment, and shall have each member ascend in seniority each year until serving as the chair of the committee during the final year of service.
Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.

6.3 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Mary Meares and Kimberly Johnson

DEI Committee Report for the NCA Mid-Year EC Meeting 2025

- **Members**
  - Mary Meares (co-chair), University of Alabama
  - Kimberly P. Johnson (co-chair), Tennessee State University
  - Janine Armstrong, Manchester University

- **Point of Interest**
  - New Members: We are working on naming two new members.

- **DEI Keynote Speakers:** The DEI Committee has committed to creating events that promote the knowledge and education around diversity, equity, and inclusion.
  - We were delighted to have Dr. Heather Hayes present the 2024 DEI Keynote in Norfolk. She spoke on Mapping Accessibility in the Communication Discipline: Reframing Inclusion for the Future We Want, in a two-part session with a keynote and workshop.
  - We are currently negotiating with a potential keynote speaker for the Birmingham Convention. More details will be available soon.

- **DEI Committee Name:** Due to the controversies around the concepts and terminology of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, a number of discussions were held at Norfolk about the potential re-naming of the committee. These discussions have continued as the attacks on DEI

have escalated in many of our states. The DEI Committee has been discussing alternatives and we will share our recommendations at the Denver Mid-Year meeting.

6.4 Finance – Nakia Welch

To: Frances Brandau, Executive Director – SSCA
Patrick Wheaton, President - SSCA
From: Nakia Welch, Chair – Finance Committee
Date: 10/17/2025
Re: Finance Committee Mid-Year Report

The Finance Committee remained in constant communication since the start of the fall semester, having met via Zoom on 8/21/2025 and continued communicating via email subsequently. The committee members have read-only access to the bank accounts, but the chair also sends updates of the financials during the first week of each month for convenience. The approximate balances of the checking accounts, organization CD and Award CD balances are provided in Appendix A.

The Finance Committee discussed the financial pros/cons of adopting X=CD as the web hosting provider (currently it is Member Clicks) as well as moving away from a printed program and adopting an electronic app (phone app) for the convention. Ultimately, the committee recommended the move, but to provide both a printed program and the app for the 2025 convention to better prepare membership for the eventual move of no longer providing a printed program.

In the absence of a Strategic Communication Director and/or Marketing Director, the Finance Chair has been working with the Executive Director and the Chair of the Resource Committee in creating pricing guidelines for advertising and sponsorship for the upcoming convention, which includes both printed program advertising options and convention app sponsorship options (in addition to the traditional sponsorship options, such as exhibit tables, etc.). Additionally, an option for a lanyard sponsor has been added, which would allow a sponsor to provide branded lanyards with the SSCA name badges to attendees. The goal in these moves is to increase revenue through sponsorships for the organization.

Finally, the Finance Chair has evaluated the financials of the convention for the past few years as provided by Harvard & Associates and has identified an issue that warrants a recommendation to the organization to evaluate and consider a change to its fee structure. The organization has been losing an average of about $50,000 hosting the convention each year, with the total losses increasing year over year. The prediction is this trend will continue as hotel Food & Beverage requirements for future convention sites have doubled and tripled from just five years ago. A chart/table has been provided (appendix B) that shows the convention revenue and expenses, as reported by Harvard & Associates.

Chair – Finance Committee **Appendix A**

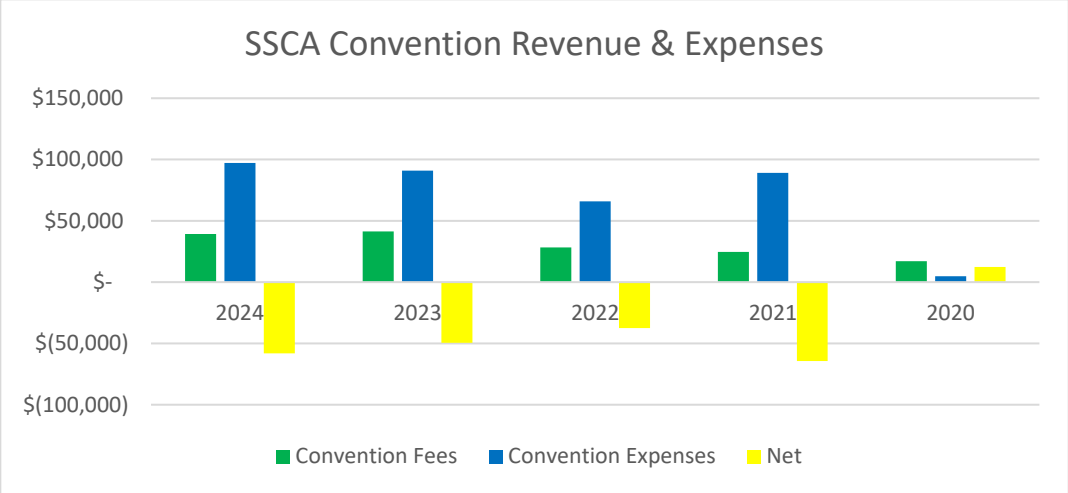
Checking Accounts	
Truist	$81,387.51
PNC	$80,759.93
Checking Total	**$162,147.44**
CD – SSCA Organization	
PNC	$54, 666.02
CD – Awards	
Theodore Clevenger Jr. UHC (not an award!)	$8,501.00
Franklin Shirley Award (Top CUHC Paper)	$7,195.00
Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award	$8,083.00
Minority Recruitment and Retention (DEI)	$11,171.00
Shawn D. Long Outreach Award	$8,347.00
Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award	$6,746.00
T. Earle Johnson- Edwin Paget Distinguished Service Award	$6,677.00
J. Donald Ragsdale Mentorship Award	$10,785.00
Rose B. Johnson SCJ Article Award	$7,011.00
Suzanne Osborn Community College Award	$10,440.00
John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award	$10,695.00
Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award	$15,365.00
Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award	$79,514.00
Katherine Grace Hendrix Instructional Development Article of the Year Award	$1,800.00
CDs Total	$246,501.02
TOTAL BALANCES	**$409,148.46**

Appendix B

Convention Revenue & Expenses

	Frisco, TX	*St. Pete., FL*	*Greenville, SC*	*Virtual*	**Covid**
	2024	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
Convention Fees	$ 39,350	$ 41,468	$ 28,355	$ 24,770	$ 17,189
Convention Expenses	$ 97,334	$ 90,822	$ 65,827	$ 89,230	$ 4,741
	$ (57,984)	**$ (49,354)**	**$ (37,472)**	**$ (64,460)**	**$ 12,448**

(Data pulled from Harvard & Associates Financial Reports)



6.5 Nominating Committee – Carl Cates

Will report at meeting

6.6 Publications – Keven James Rudrow

No report submitted

6.7 Resolutions – Breann Murphy

No report submitted

6.8 Resource Development – Michelle Groover

This is the mid-year report for the Resource & Membership Development Committee.

Since SSCA currently does not have a Strategic Communication/Marketing person, Michelle Groover, chair of the committee, has been meeting via email with Nakia Welch, finance chair, and Frances Brandau to discuss pricing for print ads and ads for the new conference app (see below for draft)

Michelle and Jessica Beckham, committee member, have met to discuss next steps regarding selling/promoting the ads, as well as sales for and promoting the Caring Connections program. The committee has developed a list of all graduate schools with communication programs in the states which represent SSCA, as well as a list of publishers to contact to sell ads, exhibition tables, etc. These entities will be contacted once the price list is finalized.

Caring Connections can be pre-purchased through the SSCA website or in person at the conference.

CONVENTION SUPPORT
TIERS
PLATINUM
$1,800
Exhibitor table for three days
Two full page ads in printed program
Inside or outside cover of printed program
Banner ad on the app
Splash ad on the app
Listed in the program as a convention sponsor
logo included at bottom of official membership emails
Push notification ads via the app 3-4 times/year, after the convention
GOLD
$1,200
Exhibitor table for three days
Full page ad in printed program
Banner ad on the app
Listed in the program as a convention sponsor
Push notification ads via the app 3-4 times/year, after the convention
SILVER
$900
Exhibitor table for two days
Half page ad in printed program
Banner ad in the app
Listed in the program as a convention sponsor
BRONZE
$600
Exhibitor table for one day
Half page ad in printed program
Listed in the program as a convention sponsor
SSCA
SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
EVENT SPONSORSHIPS
SSCA WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR
$300
Listedlogo on the signage at the event
Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor
SSCA MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING SPONSOR
$300
Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the breakfast
Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor
PANEL SPONSOR
$100
Sponsor a specific panel
Listed in the program and app as a conventionsponsor
UNDERGRADUATE HONORS CONFERENCE BREAKFAST SPONSOR
$300
Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the breakfast
Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor
AWARDS LUNCHEON SPONSOR
$300
Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the luncheon
Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor
DIVISION/INTEREST GROUP BUS. MEETING SPONSOR
$100
Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the meeting
Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor
A LA CARTE PRICING
TABLES
$325 Exhibitor table for one day
$500 Exhibitor table for two days
$600 Exhibitor table for three days
$150 Graduate Fair recruitment table
$150 UHC Recruitment table
PRINTED PROGRAM ADS
$400 Inside cover of printed program (limit of 2)
$450 Outside cover of printed program (limit of 2)
$250 Half page ad in printed program
$300 Full page ad in printed program
$400 Two full pages in printed program
LANYARD SPONSOR*
$2,000
Lanyard with publisher's name/logo
Banner ad on the app
Half page ad in the printed program
Exhibitor table for two days
Listed in the program as a convention sponsor
*Limit 1 lanyard sponsor per conference
CONFERENCE APP ADS
$200 Splash ad
Logo appears at app launch
$100 Banner ad
Logo appears on certain screens in the app
Interested?
Need more info?
www.ssca.net
Director@ssca.net
©2025 Southern States Communication Association

6.9 Time and Place – Scott Christen

To: Dr. Frances Brandau, Executive Director, SSCA
From: Lauralee Shapiro, ConferenceDirect Global Account Executive
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Re: SSCA Time & Place Committee Report for 2030 Convention

Request for Proposal sent to Myrtle Beach SC, Charleston SC, Amelia Island FL and Jacksonville FL.

South Carolina:

* RFP sent to 5 hotels in the two above-mentioned cities in South Carolina
* 4 hotels turned down the RFP for various reasons
* Received bid from Hilton / Embassy Suites complex in Myrtle Beach, SC
* After the site visits, it was determined that the Embassy Suites was a better option than the Hilton

Florida:

* RFP sent to 2 hotels in the two above-mentioned cities in Florida
* Only the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville could accommodate the RFP needs

Site inspections of the top two choices, Hilton / Embassy Suites complex in Myrtle Beach, SC and the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville in Florida. The site visits were conducted September 14 – 16, 2025 with Frances Brandau, Scott Christen and Lauralee Shapiro from ConferenceDirect.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach Ocean Front Resort

- Beachfront resort with 7 swimming pools, tennis, pickleball, golf simulators, golf courses in the area, and a free shuttle within a 2-mile radius.
- 30 minutes from the airport. Uber is about $0. CVS is 1.2 miles from hotel.
- Barefoot Landing is an entertainment area with tons of dining, bars and shopping.
- Asking CVB for sponsorship funding but it is too far out for them to commit.
- Dates offered are March 26 – April 1, 2030 (avoids all holidays)
- Room rate is $230 – includes breakfast and managers reception. All rooms are suites so attendees can easily share.
- Daily resort fee, $45, is waived.
    - Includes basic Wi-Fi in guest rooms, resort recreation and shuttle.
- Self-parking has been reduced to $15 per day.
- Staff rooms discounted to $215 (6).
- Up to 15 total break-out rooms. Good flow with the meeting rooms – all in one area.
- Charging $4,000 rental for meeting space on top of F&B minimum
- Food and beverage minimum is $50,000.00
- $5 per user, per day for internet in meeting space
- Complimentary hard wired internet for registration – 3 lines
- Three (3) VIP upgrades to oceanfront rooms
- 1:40 comp policy
- $100 one-time charge for all table for vendors / grad fair
- 10 comp easels
- 10% off in house AV and 2030 banquet menus

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville

- 25 minutes from airport
- Uber about $35
- Downtown location, walking distance to dozens of bars, restaurants and entertainment options
- Hotel lobby bar is very large and conducive to networking
- Asking CVB for sponsorship funding but it is too far out for them to commit.
- Offered April 2 – 7, 2030
- Room rate $189.00
    - Room rate is for two beds, city view.
    - Upgrades available for additional fees
        - City View King: $20.00 Additional per room, per Night
        - River View Queen: $30.00 Additional per room, per Night
        - River View King: $40.00 Additional per room, per Night
- Staff room $129.00 (6)
- Minimum 12 breakout rooms
- No resort fee
- Self-parking $34.00 overnight – there are public parking garages in the area
- Food and beverage minimum is $60,000.00
- Complimentary internet in meeting space
- Complimentary hard-wired internet for registration – 3 lines, not to exceed 4MBPS per line
- Three (3) VIP upgrades to oceanfront rooms
- 1:45 comp policy
- 15 comp table for vendors / grad fair
- 15 comp easels
- 15% off in house AV
- Hotel has discounted association menus but will also customize menus to meet budgets

7. Division & Interest Group Reports

7.1 African American Communication Division

No report submitted

7.2 Applied Communication Division

No report submitted

7.3 Argumentation & Forensics Division

No report submitted

7.4 Communication Theory & Methodology Division

I. SSCA Communication Theory and Methodology Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

II. Officers

a.	Past Chair:	Kelly Morrison	U. of Alabama Birmingham	kmmcc@uab.edu
b.	Chair:	Dennis McCarty	U. of Florida	d.mccarty@ufl.edu
c.	Vice Chair:	Michael Kotowski	U. of Tennessee Knoxville	Mkotowk@utk.edu

d. Vice Chair-elect: Amanda Walsh U. of Southern Mississippi amanda.walsh@usm.edu
e. Secretary: Steve McCornack U. of Alabama Birmingham smcc911@uab.edu

III. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions

a. We are afforded, apart from the business meeting, four sessions for use at 2026 SSCA.
   i. Our paper submissions were organized into two sessions, one for theory and one for methodology.
   ii. Our panel submissions was organized into one session.
   iii. One session was set for the Communication Theory and Methodology Outstanding Scholar for 2026 presentation.
b. We received eight individual paper submissions.
   i. We accepted eight individual papers. I
   ii. We rejected zero individual papers.
   iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.
c. We received one panel submission.
   i. We accepted one panel.
   ii. We rejected zero panels.
   iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.

b. The review process

a. We had three reviewers who each conducted nine reviews.
b. Each submission had at least three reviewers.

c. Awards and recognitions

a. No student papers were submitted, so no Top Student Paper will be awarded (considering that papers with faculty as secondary authors do not qualify as "student" papers).
b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as part of our theory panel:
   Xiaoti Fan (U. of Alabama Huntsville) - "Truth-Default in Communication Studies: Rethinking Public Speaking Anxiety Management".
c. 2026 Outstanding Scholar in Communication Theory and Methodology: Lindsey Aloia (U. of Arkansas).

IV. 2025 Business Meeting found here

7.5 Community College Division

SSCA Community College Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

a. Immediate Past Chair: Shaquille Marsh, Pellissippi State Community College somarsh@pstcc.edu
b. Chair: Karen Hill, Volunteer State Community College karen.hill@volstate.edu

c. Vice Chair: Samantha Chapuseaux, Florida Gateway College
samantha.Chapuseaux@fgc.edu
d. Vice Chair-elect: Brad Bailey, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
brad.bailey@mgccc.edu
e. Secretary: Twyla Coy, Lone Star College-Kingwood
twyla.m.coy@lonestar.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions
   a. We received 0 individual paper submissions.
      i. We accepted 0 individual papers.
      ii. We rejected 0 individual papers.
      iii. The acceptance rate was 0%.
   b. We received 18 panel submissions (5 panel submissions; 13 GIFTS submissions).
      i. We accepted 17 panels (5 panels and 12 GIFTS).
      ii. We rejected 1 panel (1 GIFTS).
      iii. The acceptance rate was 94%.
b. The review process
   a. Each submission had at least three reviewers.
c. Awards and recognitions
   a. The committee is currently accepting nominations for the Suzanne Osborn Community College Educator of the Year award.

III. 2025 Business Meeting: Posted

IV. New Information: The Division will be creating an online repository of GIFTS from each year's conference under the Division's webpage on the SSCA member site.

7.6 Freedom of Speech Division

I. SSCA Freedom of Speech Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

II. Officers

a. Immediate Past Chair: Ben Medeiros, State University of New York at Plattsburg
bmede001@plattsburgh.edu

b. Chair: John Banister, University of Georgia, john.banister@uga.edu

c. Vice Chair: Joshua Guitar, Kean University, jguitar@kean.edu

d. Vice Chair-elect: VACANT

e. Secretary: Chandra Maldonado, Campbell University, chandraannmaldonado@gmail.com

III. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions
    a. We received 8 individual paper submissions.
        i. The acceptance rate it pending final composition of panels.
    b. We received 2 panel submissions.
        i. The acceptance rate is pending final composition of panels.
b. The review process
    a. We had 11 reviewers who completed a total of 20 reviews.
    b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
c. Awards and recognitions
    a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
    b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
    c. A call for nominations for the James Madison Prize will be posted in December 2025 for award presentation at the 2026 Birmingham conference.

IV. 2025 Business Meeting:

Members conducted a business meeting in Norfolk, VA as directed by bylaws. Chandra Maldonado was elected the secretary; however, the position of Vice Chair Elect remains vacant.

V. Any other issues or business during the previous year?

Division reached double-digit submissions for the second consecutive year. Option to submit an extended abstract expanded interest in the division's conference events, but reviewers found it challenging to assess abstracts and full papers using the same criteria. I recommend revisiting review criteria for abstracts.

7.7 Gender Studies Division

No report submitted

7.8 Health Communication Division

No report submitted

7.9 Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division

No report submitted

7.10 Instructional Development Division

I. SSCA Instructional Development Division Mid-Year Report

II. Officers

a. Immediate Past Chair: Jacob Metz Tennessee Technological University jmetz@tntech.edu
b. Chair: Colleen Mestayer Tennessee Technological University cmestayer@tntech.edu

c. Vice Chair: Elizabeth Hanson Smith Austin Community College
ehansonsmith@yahoo.com
d. Vice Chair-elect: Cynthia Sampson Louisiana State University
csamps7@lsu.edu
e. Secretary: Jessica Rogers Tennessee Technological University
jlrogers44@tntech.edu

III. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions
1. We received 8 individual paper submissions.
a. We accepted 6individual papers.
b. We rejected 2 individual papers.
2. We received and accepted 12 panel submissions.
a. We CO-SPONSORED with Community College and IISJ
3. We received 5 poster submissions. A NEW submission category for IDD

b. The review process
1. We had 15 reviewers who all conducted 2-5 reviews.
2. Each submission had at least two reviewers.

c. Awards and recognitions
a. A SPOTLIGHT panel honoring Katherine Grace Hendrix was created
a. Invitees are the two award winners and Dr. Hendrix
b. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
c. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.

IV. 2025 Business Meeting: found here

7.11 Intercultural Communication Division

I. SSCA Intercultural Communication Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

II. SSCA ICD Officers

Immediate Past Chair: Lionell "Badu" Smith, San Francisco State University
lsmith1914@sfsu.edu
Chair: Amy N. Heuman, Texas Tech University
a.heuman@ttu.edu
Vice Chair and 2026 Program Planner: Curtis Chamblee, University of Memphis
c.chamblee@memphis.edu
Vice Chair Elect: Sophia Flemming, University of Georgia
sophiamf@uga.edu
Secretary: Carolina Perez, Texas Tech University
caro.perez@ttu.edu

III. 2026 Convention Programming

The Intercultural Communication Division received a total of 13 submissions for the 2026 Annual Convention. This included 11 competitive paper and 2 discussion/roundtable panel submissions. We accepted 10 competitive paper and 2 discussion/roundtable submissions. This translates to accepting 12 submissions (93%) and rejecting one (7%) competitive paper submission. These have been submitted as 5 paneled slots, including 4 presentation panels and 1 annual IC Division Business Meeting.

IV. 2025 Business Meeting

No other business to report at this time.

7.12 Interpersonal Communication Division

I. SSCA Interpersonal Communication Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

II. Officers

a. Immediate Past Chair: Lindsey Aloia, University of Arkansas aloia@uark.edu
b. Chair: Erin Basinger, University of North Carolina at Charlotte ebasinge@charlotte.edu
c. Vice Chair: Kellie Brisini, Louisiana State University kbrisini1@lsu.edu
d. Vice Chair-elect: Quinten Bernhold, University of Tennessee, Knoxville qbernhol@utk.edu
e. Secretary: Aubree Herman, Texas Tech University aubree.herman@ttu.edu

III. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions
    a. We received 20 individual paper submissions.
        i. We accepted 17 individual papers.
        ii. We rejected 3 individual papers.
        iii. The acceptance rate was 85%.
    b. We received 4 panel submissions.
        i. We accepted 4 panels.
        ii. We rejected 0 panels.
        iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.
b. The review process
    a. We had 18 reviewers who all conducted 2-3 reviews.
    b. Each submission had at least 2-3 reviewers.
c. Awards and recognitions
    a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as part of our top/contributed papers panel.
    b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as part of our top/contributed papers panel.

IV. 2025 Business Meeting: found here

The division met during the annual convention in Norfolk on Friday, April 4, 2025, 4:15-5:30pm to conduct division business, recognize award winners, and elect new officers.

7.13 Mass Communication Division

No report submitted

7.14 Performance Studies Division

I. SSCA Performance Studies Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

II. Officers

a. Immediate Past Chair: Nicole Costantini, Savannah College of Art & Design-Atlanta
ncostant@scad.edu
b. Chair: Colin Whitworth, Georgia College & State University
colin.whitworth@gcsu.edu
c. Vice Chair: Alex Davenport, Northern Virginia Community College
adavenport@nvcc.edu
d. Vice Chair-elect: Laura Oliver, Xavier University, Louisiana
loliver5@xula.edu
e. Secretary: Seth Knievel, Louisiana State University
cknievl@lsu.edu

III. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions
    a. We received 11 individual paper submissions.
    (including extended abstracts and Page to Stage submissions)
        1. We accepted 8 individual papers.
        2. We rejected 3 individual papers.
        3. The acceptance rate was 72%.
    b. We received 7 panel submissions.
        1. We accepted 7 panels. (on request, contingent on space)
        2. We rejected 0 panels.
        3. The acceptance rate was 100%.
    c. We received 2 individual performance submissions
        1. We accepted 2 individual performances
        2. We rejected 0 individual performances
        3. The acceptance rate was 100%
b. The review process
    a. We had 17 reviewers who all conducted between 1-6 reviews.
    b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
c. Awards and recognitions
    a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.

b. The Top Student Performance will be awarded as part of our top/contributed performances panel
c. The Top Competitive Debut Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
d. The SSCA Performance Scholar of the Year award will be awarded as part of our division's business meeting
e. The Outstanding Publication in Performance Studies award will be awarded as part of our division's business meeting

IV. 2025 Business Meeting: found here

V. Any other issues or business during the previous year?

The division undertook a fairly major revision of our by-laws, including a number of new awards. Additionally, the division has continued to host a digital symposium about performance practice, hosted in February, and represented at the conference through a response panel.

7.15 Political Communication Division

SSCA Political Communication Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

a. Immediate Past Chair: Carson Kay, Washburn University, carson.kay@washburn.edu
b. Chair: Matt Farmer, University of Memphis, mkfarmer@memphis.edu
c. Vice Chair: Colin Cameron, Ohio University, cc217821@ohio.edu
d. Vice Chair-elect: Shana Bridges, Georgia Southern University, smbridges@georgiasouthern.edu
e. Secretary: Melissa Smith, Mississippi University for Women, mmsmith@muw.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions
    a. We received 14 individual paper submissions.
        i. We accepted 11 individual papers.
        ii. We rejected 3 individual papers.
        iii. The acceptance rate was 78.6%.
    b. We received 4 panel submissions.
        i. We accepted 4 panels.
        ii. We rejected 0 panels.
        iii. The acceptance rate was 100 %.
b. The review process
    a. We had 2 reviewers who all conducted between x reviews.
    b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
c. Awards and recognitions
    b. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
        "Unpacking Digital Sovereignty: A Comparative Analysis of Left- and Right-Wing U.S. News Media Coverage of the TikTok Ban"

Mario Cerna, University of Alabama
Junyan LU University of Alabama

c. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
"How the 2024 U.S. Presidential Debates Shaped Candidate Brand Associations"
Josh C. Bramlett, University of Alabama
Benjamin Warner, University of Missouri
Breck Gillespie, University of Missouri

III. 2025 Business Meeting: found here

a. Held 4/4/25 at 5:30pm in the Imagination Room

7.16 Popular Communication Division
No report submitted

7.17 Public Relations Division

No report submitted

7.18 Rhetoric & Public Address Division

SSCA Rhetoric and Public Address 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

a.	Immediate Past Chair:	Jonathan Edwards, University of South Carolina jjedwards@sc.edu
b.	Chair:	Sara Baugh-Harris, Davidson College sabaugh@davidson.edu
c.	Vice Chair:	Lionell Badu Smith, San Francisco State University lsmith1914@sfsu.edu
d.	Vice Chair-elect:	Celnisha Dangerfield, Transylvania University cdangerfield@transy.edu
e.	Secretary:	Alyson Farzad-Phillips, University of Tennessee afarzadp@tennessee.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

d. Submissions
   a. We received x individual paper submissions.
      i. We accepted x individual papers.
      ii. We rejected x individual papers.
      iii. The acceptance rate was xx%.
   b. We received x panel submissions.
      i. We accepted x panels.
      ii. We rejected x panels.
      iii. The acceptance rate was x%.

e. The review process
    a. We had x reviewers who all conducted between x reviews.
    b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
f. Awards and recognitions
    a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
    b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.

III. 2025 Business Meeting: found here

IV. Any other issues or business during the previous year?
Updating bylaws and increasing interest in division, particularly among grad students.

7.19 Association for Communication Administrators Interest Group

No report submitted

7.20 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group

No report submitted

7.21 Ethnography Interest Group

No report submitted

7.22 Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group

No report submitted

7.23 Language & Social Interaction Interest Group

A. **Submissions and review process:** We had 5 good submissions and 5 reviewers. Four papers of comparable evaluations were slotted (the other was scored much lower).

B. **Accepted:** We have 2 panels for SSCA: one for the business meeting and one for the presentations.

7.24 Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group

No report submitted

7.25 State Associations Interest Group

I. SSCA Group State Association Interest 2025 Mid-Year Report

II. Officers

a.	Immediate Past Chair:	Name	Institution Email
b.	Chair:	Shaquille Marsh,	Pellissippi State Community College somarsh@pstcc.edu
c.	Vice Chair:	John H. Saunders	University of Alabama in Huntsville Jhs0011@uah.edu

d. Vice Chair-elect: Karen Hill, Volunteer State Community College
Karen.Hill@volstate.edu
e. Secretary: Ray Ozley, University of Montevallo
ozley@montevallo.edu

III. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions
    a. We received 0 individual paper submissions.
        i. We accepted 0 individual papers.
        ii. We rejected 0 individual papers.
        iii. The acceptance rate was 0%.
    b. We received 1 panel submissions.
        i. We accepted 1 panels.
        ii. We rejected 0 panels.
        iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.
b. The review process
    a. We had 2 reviewers who all conducted 1 review.
    b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
c. Awards and recognitions
    a. N/A