

SSCA 2026 | Birmingham, AL
Philosophy and Ethics of Communication Interest Group
Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, April 10, 2026

Time: 4:15 PM – 4:48 PM

Location: East N

Attendance

- David Impellizzeri, Chair
- Andrew Tinker, Vice Chair
- Nick Sciullo, Vice Chair-Elect (Absent)
- Jodeyah Mills, Secretary
- Audience Members: 5 (see end of document for names, contact info, & willingness to serve our interest group)

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM. Attendance was taken, and contact information for all present members and attendees was collected (see bottom of this document for details).

Reports

Chair Report

The Chair provided updates on several major organizational matters, including constitutional discussions, financial decisions, and future conference planning.

- **DEI Constitutional Motion Discussion:**

A significant portion of the discussion focused on a motion to revise language in the SSCA Constitution by removing references to “DEI” and replacing them with “community building.”

- Members raised concerns regarding potential implications for free speech.
- Discussion included reports of professionals losing employment in connection with broader institutional responses to state-level DEI-related legislation/policies.
- Concerns were also expressed regarding funding restrictions in certain states, where faculty may be denied funding for attending conferences or events that explicitly use DEI language.
- Additional perspectives and issues were raised during discussion.
- PEOC Chair departed prior voting results were announced but indicated a desire to follow up and obtain the results.

- **Financial Report and Fee Increase Vote (reported from Nikia Welch):**

A motion was introduced to increase conference fees, with two proposed options:

- Increase most fees by \$10–\$15
- Increase most fees by \$20–\$25

The proposal was brought to a vote on the latter (i.e., higher) increase, and the motion passed with more than a two-thirds majority.

- **Conference Planning and Future Locations:**

- 2027 Conference: Mobile, Alabama
- 2028 Conference: Memphis, Tennessee
- 2029 Conference: Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2030 Conference (Centennial, 100th Anniversary):
 - Proposed location: Hilton Myrtle Beach, oceanfront property
 - Intended as a single-site, family-inclusive event
 - Members were encouraged to bring families
 - Food and beverage minimum currently projected at \$50,000, with acknowledgment that costs are continuing to increase

- **Conference Attendance:**

A question was raised regarding overall conference attendance. While an exact number was not available, estimated attendance was approximately 400 participants.

Vice Chair Report

The Vice Chair reported on submission and review outcomes for the interest group:

- Three (3) individual paper submissions were received, and all were accepted
- One (1) panel submission was also received and accepted
- No submissions were rejected this year
- All submissions were described as high quality
- Each submission was reviewed by two reviewers
- Two panels/sessions (1 paper panel, 1 business meeting) have already been granted to PEOC for next year's conference. If another is needed (as was the case this year), we can request it.
- If submission numbers increase, an additional panel may be requested

Vice Chair-Elect Report

No report was given due to absence.

Old Business: None

New Business

- **Vice Chair Contingency Planning:**

Uncertainty was expressed regarding Nick Sciullo's availability to serve in the upcoming term as Vice Chair. He is the current Vice-Chair Elect (2025-26).

- A proposal was made to identify a backup plan
- Jodeyah Mills was informed of the possibility of filling the role if necessary
- Following the meeting, Sciullo accepted his nomination and election to serve as Vice Chair-Elect again for 2026-27.

- **Nominations and Elections:**

Nominations, including self-nominations, were opened for all officer positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Vice Chair-Elect, and Secretary.

Nominations Received:

- Chair: Andrew Tinker
- Vice Chair: Jodeyah Mills
- Vice Chair-Elect: Nick Sciullo
- Secretary: Reagan Weaver

- **Election Process:**

Elections were conducted via voice vote ("all in favor" / "opposed").

Election Results:

- Chair: Andrew Tinker elected
- Vice Chair: Jodeyah Mills elected
- Vice Chair-Elect: Nick Sciullo elected
- Secretary: Reagan Weaver elected

Recruitment Discussion and Goals

Discussion focused on strategies for increasing participation and strengthening the interest group:

- Outreach efforts were conducted to schools throughout Alabama and schools with graduate programs or departments aligned with our interest group.
 - Resulted in one paper submission from an Alabama school (Mir Hasib, University of Alabama) and one paper from a department/graduate program (Andri Kosasih, Duquesne) aligned with PEOC.
 - Additionally, the panel submission was initiated by a professor from an aligned department (Fritz, Duquesne).
 - Thus, our strategic efforts were rewarding, even though our overall annual submission rates did not significantly increase.
- Members were encouraged to remain aware of potential conference scheduling overlaps that may impact participation
- Interest was expressed in gaining access to prior outreach materials and efforts to better support ongoing recruitment and networking

- The theme for the next conference will be “Curiosity”
- Discussion should be had about how our committee will connect with next year's theme
- Discussion should be had about increasing the attendance at our committee meetings

Announcements

- The Top Paper Award was presented by the incoming Chair (Tinker):



“Algorithmic Trust and the Ethics of Misinformation: A Dialogic Ethics Approach to AI-Mediated Civic Communication”

Andri Kosasih
Duquesne University

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.

Attendance & Interest in Serving:

Name	Affiliation	Email	Chair	Respond	Review
Andrew Tinker	Pellissippi St. Community Col.	atinker1@pstcc.edu	Y	Y	Y
Jodeyah Mills*	Abilene Christian U.	jim23a@acu.edu			Y
Nick Sciullo	Texas A&M Univ., Kingsville	nick.sciullo@tamuk.edu			Y
Reagan Weaver*	Abilene Christian U.	rew20a@acu.edu		Y*	Y
David Impellizzeri	Regent University	dimpellizzer@regent.edu			Y
Dorothy Andreas	Abilene Christian U.	dca20a@acu.edu	Y	Y	Y
Jessi Boaz*	Abilene Christian U.	jdb20b@acu.edu		Y*	Y
Andri Kosasih	Duquesne Univ.	kosasiha@duq.edu			Y
Richard Thames	Duquesne Univ.	thames@duq.edu	Y	Y	Y

* Graduate (MA) student at the time of the 2026 SSCA conference (Birmingham).