

Kenneth Burke Society Meeting Minutes

Date: April 2026

Officer Rotation and Appointments:

Alex Morales addressed questions regarding the upcoming officer rotation and clarified the proposed leadership structure for the Kenneth Burke Society.

The following officer roster was proposed:

- Chair: Wesley Burkle, East Tennessee State University
- Vice Chair: Amber "AD" Alston, University of Memphis
- Vice Chair-Elect: Richard Thames, Duquesne University
- Secretary: Samantha Guajardo, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Discussion included the upcoming planning responsibilities associated with the officer rotation. AD Alston will serve as Program Planner for the 2027 convention in Mobile, Alabama. Richard Thames will assume planning responsibilities during the subsequent convention cycle.

Leadership Transition:

Alex announced the conclusion of his service as an officer and expressed willingness to remain available as a resource for the division.

SSCA 2027 Convention:

Members reviewed information regarding the Southern States Communication Association's 97th Annual Convention, which will take place April 7-11, 2027, at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza in Mobile, Alabama.

The conference theme is "Curiosity."

Kenneth Burke Society Call for Participation

AD Alston distributed the division's call for participation via email. The call invites scholarship engaging Burkean theory and philosophy, with particular attention to questions, possibilities, and contemporary applications connected to the convention theme.

The division will accept submissions in the following categories:

- Competitive Papers
- Extended Abstracts

- Thematic Panels
- Roundtable Discussions

The Kenneth Burke Society will continue to recognize Top Faculty Paper and Top Student Paper awards. The recipient of the Top Student Paper Award will also be nominated for the SSCA Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

Submission Information:

Members reviewed conference submission requirements and deadlines.

- Submission Deadline: September 15th, 2026, at 11:59 P.M. PDT
- Submission Portal: SSCA Conference Submission System

The call outlines requirements for competitive papers, extended abstracts, panel proposals, and roundtable submissions, including anonymity standards, formatting expectations, and eligibility requirements for student papers.

Additional Announcements:

Members were reminded that audio-visual requests should be reserved for presentations requiring technological support. The call also reiterates conference policies concerning original research and division-specific submissions.

Adjournment:

No additional business was reported.