



## **OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES!**

### **Southern States Communication Association Conference 2026 Communication Theory and Methodology Division Business Meeting**

**NOTE: NOT A SINGLE WORD OR PUNCTUATION MARK OF THE FOLLOWING TEXT  
WAS CREATED OR EDITED BY ANY FORM OF AI.**

**Chair: Dennis McCarty  
Vice Chair: Mike Kotowski  
Vice Chair Elect: Amanda Walsh  
Secretary: Steven McCornack**

**Other Attendees: Jenny Crowley, Emily Scheinfeld, Laura Miller, Curt Anderson, Tim Levine, Kellie Brisini, Angelyn Cantrell, Xiaoti Fan, Kelly Morrison, Fan Yang, Jen Kopfman**

### **PROLOGUE**

All those entering the room were astonished by the lavish spectacle that awaited them: a LIGHTED MARQUEE SIGN (!!) spelling out the letters all hoped to someday have tattooed upon their very souls: **CTM!** Shortly thereafter, the K&J's Elegant Pastries CUSTOM CUPCAKES (graciously provided by former Chair Morrison) were put on display, including: ooey-gooey buttercake, red velvet, banana pudding, lemon, key lime, peanut butter cup.



Jenny Crowley revealed that she had brought inflatable beachballs; and then proceeded to bop herself in the face with one. Vice Chair Elect Walsh suggested that perhaps “boinked” would be a less provocative verb than “bopped” to describe the incident. Things were getting wild, and the meeting hadn’t even officially begun! No longer wishing to socialize with the mere peasants, Vice Chair Elect Walsh suddenly and dramatically left her seat and headed to the front of the room to rest upon her rightful throne. The cork on the chilled Chardonnay was promptly popped, and the gavel dramatically sounded the opening of the meeting @ 4:17PM CST!

Chair McCarty suggested “a moment of reflection” as people gobbled their cupcakes and guzzled their wine. Former Chair Morrison moved to approve the minutes “unless it’s an act of nepotism.”

Almost all those present voted “Yay” to approve the minutes; but the Scribe voted “Nay” just to be pointlessly self-defeating. The minutes were passed.

## NEW NEWS!

Chair McCarty apologized for not sending out agendi. The SSCA total membership is 493, and we’re currently at “the tail end of a steady decline.” Next year’s theme will be “Curiosity.” Vice Chair Kotowski punned that “he is curious as to why?” Chair McCarty suggested an “Incurious George” panel; after which “drama at the Executive Counsel session” was discussed. Chair McCarty described “lots of bloviation;” then revealed the horrifying truth that all feared but most suspected: he “would be a ventriloquist dummy!” – after which former Chair Morrison exclaimed, “Curious!” Despite (or perhaps because of) his “ventriloquist dummy” status, Chair McCarty “was appreciated” by Vice Chair Kotowski.



Following this frivolity, a unanimous and hearty shoutout was given to John Haas for the idea of having SSCA sponsor more than one journal; as the journal is a major revenue source for the organization. Various journal names then were discussed. Tim Levine suggested “The Southern Research Journal,” after which Emily Scheinfeld argued that “it should have y’all in the title.” Former Chair Morrison suggested “all y’all,” and Scheinfeld argued for further contractions, with “all y’all’ve researched.”

[ NOTE: a general consensus was reached later in the lobby followed several drinks that the new journal should be entitled: **ALL Y’ALL’S RESEARCH**. Editors will mark accepted submissions as “Done did” and rejections with “Bless your heart.” ]

Proving that he has no fear whatsoever of mixing money and *camellia sinensis*, Chair McCarty described “financial tea.” Apparently ECA has a \$2 million endowment. NCA’s financial profligacy was discussed. Jenny Crowley noted how “those darned millennials would be able to buy a house if they just didn’t buy so much coffee!” Emily Scheinfeld described our “good humored environment,” after which Chair McCarty revealed the provocative secret that many present long had suspected: “IPC says we have a vibe that is attractive.” Deftly pivoting to a new revelation, he then noted that “Dillard came here thinking he was going to beat us at Quiz Bowl!” Much gloating and chortling ensued regarding our last minute, come-from-behind, glorious victory over the defeated IPCers!



***TO THE VICTORS, THE SPOILS!*** Left to Right: Tim Levine, Mike Kotowski, Dennis McCarty, and Tyler Deverell celebrate their glorious winning of the much-coveted *MORRISON/SOLOMON CAULDRON OF KNOWLEDGE!*

### **MORE NEW NEWS!!**

Chair McCarty suggested forming a strategic planning committee geared toward having a set of goals, and it was moved that we nominate two people “to engage in strategic planning for our division.” The motion was unanimously approved, and the gavel gently tapped. It was suggested that the Vice Chair and Vice Chair Elect should serve in this capacity, after which Former Chair Morrison queried, “Could we get grad student input?” Jenny Crowley reminded people that she was “the last person to have changed the by-laws, and we took out the committees – but we just threw them out because they weren’t getting filled.” Emily Scheinfeld made up new words; describing “being very finaglely.” Vice Chair Elect Amanda Walsh was voted in as committee member. Former Chair Morrison likened Mike Kotowski and Amanda Walsh to “Obi-wan and Luke.” Chair McCarty asked Mike Kotowski if he “was OK with being nominated,” and Mike lamented, “I have no choice!” The vote was held, and all present voted “Yay” except for Jenny Crowley, who shocked those present by boldly lifting her wine glass aloft in protest and voting NAY against her beloved lifemate! Emily Scheinfeld asked Chair McCarty if he “knew what to do with abstentions?” Curt Anderson asked, “What if *everyone* abstained?” Chair McCarty “finished his shenanigans.”

### **EVEN NEWER NEW NEWS THAN THE NEW NEWS REPORTED ABOVE!!!!**



Vice Chair Kotowski noted that “our numbers are up!” – and in fact, we are the third largest division! Enthusiastic shouts of “We’re #3! We’re #3!” resounded throughout the room. We had 8 paper submissions this year; 3 reviewers per paper; and an acceptance rate of 100%. Vice Chair Kotowski then exclaimed, “We had a slot TAKEN from us!!!” Emily Scheinfeld reported that she had since Lindsey Aloia, our division’s Outstanding Scholar, “walking VERY quickly in the other direction” prior to the meeting. Xiaoti Fan and Miranda Rouse were celebrated for their top paper. Jenny Crowley enthusiastically shouted, “Let there be beach balls!!!”



Chair McCarty presenting Top Paper Award to Xiaoti Fan

Chair McCarty thanked all those who served as reviewers. A new Vice Chair for planning (Memphis '28) was needed, and nominations were solicited. Secretary McCornack suggested former Chair Morrison, but she stunned those present by declaring, “I am retiring!” – then clarified that she “just likes saying it.” Jenny Crowley was nominated, and all those present, save one, voted for her – the outlier being Vice Chair Kotowski, who voted NAY in retaliation. And the gavel made it so.

Chair McCarty then mentioned “a silly little point” and queried additional new business. Much discussion ensued regarding poster sessions, research in progress, and abstracts. Emily Scheinfeld declared “We are INSANE for submitting and reviewing full papers!!” Kelly Brisini asked about boundary conditions on what constitutes “theory” – specifically, could this include performance studies? Chair McCarty revealed a shocking truth long suspected: he is “a master manipulator who could bring those people into the fold.” Curt Anderson agreed, noting that Chair McCarty *does* teach about cults. Jenny Crowley suggested having sessions on learning how to teach.

Chair McCarty engaged in performative masculinity. Vice Chair Kotowski was described by former Chair Morrison as “a riverboat captain.” Chair McCarty clarified that “the egg is commonly used within nonbinary spaces,” then boldly and dramatically gestured with the MORRISON/SOLOMON CAULDRON OF KNOWLEDGE. Engraving the cauldron was discussed, as was adding artistic embellishments. Secretary McCornack declared the cupcakes to be “ridiculously delicious.” Lindsay Aloia’s Top Scholar panel was described as “wonderful.”

Not a dry eye was to be found as the gavel and MORRISON/SOLOMON CAULDRON OF KNOWLEDGE were passed from Chair McCarty to Vice Chair Kotowski. New Chair Kotowski then handed (now) former Chair McCarty a Certificate of Appreciation.



Suddenly, in a stunning attempt to reclaim his recently-forfeited power, former Chair McCarty declared the meeting adjourned – at which point New Chair Kotowski scolded, “WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!??” A vote was held, and although the majority voted YAY, Tim Levine voted NAY and Curt Anderson abstained.

The meeting was gavelled to a close @ 5:09PM CST; and there was a gnashing of teeth and rending of garments, as those present bitterly lamented the fact that they would have to wait yet another year before once again experiencing the ecstatic and inestimable heights of joy and pleasure that had been shared in the preceding hour.