

Freedom of Speech Division Bylaws

Adopted March 26, 2011

Inclusive of Changes approved at the Division Business Meeting on April 10, 2026

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Freedom of Speech Division of the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA). The Freedom of Speech Division operates under the constitution and bylaws of SSCA and shall be bound by all applicable rules and decisions of that association.

Article II: Mission

The Freedom of Speech Division supports scholarship that examines approaches to understanding freedom of speech and the First Amendment as well as issues regarding freedom of speech in contemporary society. This division provides an academic home for legal, ethical, rhetorical, historical, and other approaches to the study and application of free speech in society.

Article III: Membership

Membership in the division shall be open to all members of SSCA who are interested in freedom of speech issues.

Article IV: Meetings

Section One: An annual business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the SSCA convention. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the First Vice President of SSCA.

Section Two: Those members present at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article V: Officers

Section One: The officers of the division shall consist of the chair, the vice chair, the vice chair elect, and the secretary. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the organization's bylaws.

Section Two: The chair shall preside at the business meetings of the division, shall attend all meetings of the SSCA Executive Committee scheduled by the SSCA First Vice President, shall chair the James Madison Prize committee, and shall discharge the duties normally adhering to this position.

Section Three: The vice chair shall plan the program for the division at the annual meeting of SSCA to be held one year from the date of the officer's election, shall be responsible for ordering plaques for the top faculty and student paper submissions, as well as the James Madison Prize, shall attend all meetings of program planners scheduled by the SSCA First Vice President Elect, and shall discharge the duties normally adhering to this position. These duties include undertaking special assignments delegated by the division chair and assuming the role of chair should the duly constituted chair be unable to perform the requisite duties of that office.

Section Four: The vice chair-elect shall plan the program for the division at the annual meeting

of SSCA to be held two years from the date of this officer's election.

Section Five: Succession shall be automatic from the vice chair to the chair and from the vice chair-elect to the vice chair.

Section Six: The secretary will serve a two-year term and is responsible for maintaining division records and coordinating with the SSCA Webmaster to post updated documents on the website.

Article VI: The Executive Committee

Section One: The officers of the division shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Section Two: The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the division between its annual meetings and shall perform such other duties as are specified by these bylaws.

Section Three: The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of any one of its officers. Business may be conducted by postal mail, phone, fax, Internet, or by any other medium of communication that permits such meetings to occur.

Article VII - Representative to the SSCA Executive Council

Section One: The Freedom of Speech division chair is the representative to the association's Executive Council.

Section Two: The division chair shall serve a one-year term on the SSCA Executive Council.

Section Three: The division chair is responsible for attending all meetings of that body at the association's convention and at other prescribed times during the year when the SSCA Executive Council convenes (e.g., National Communication Association convention).

Section Four: The division chair shall present timely reports to the Freedom of Speech division about the deliberations at the Executive Council at the business meeting held in conjunction with the annual conference. She or he shall undertake any special tasks assigned by the President of SSCA.

Article VIII – Communication Law Review

The *Communication Law Review* is an online publication of the Southern States Communication Association's Freedom of Speech Division. The editor shall be elected at the division's annual business meeting for a 5-year term. The journal shall publish a minimum of one issue per calendar year. The journal functions through a timely process established by the editor as an online refereed publication (www.commlawreview.org).

Article IX – Awards

Section One: The top student paper submitted to the Freedom of Speech division shall be forwarded by the division vice-chair to the SSCA Vice-President for inclusion in the Donald P. Cushman Award competition, which honors the most outstanding paper submitted to the convention each year by a graduate student.

Section Two: The author's name and title for the top student paper submitted to the Freedom of Speech division shall be forwarded by the division vice-chair to the SSCA Executive Director, who will prepare the plaque of recognition.

Section Three: The author's name and title for the top faculty paper submitted to the Freedom of Speech division shall be forwarded by the vice-chair to the SSCA Executive Director, who will prepare the plaque of recognition.

Section Four: The division shall award the James Madison Prize for the top publication (book, article, or book chapter) published on First Amendment/freedom of expression issues by a member of SSCA during the previous calendar year. The award winner will be determined by an ad hoc committee composed of three members of the division and chaired by the Division Chair, who serves as a non-voting member. Nominations must include a citation of the work and 100-200 words supporting the nomination. If the nomination is for an article or book chapter, a PDF of the full work shall be submitted for reviewers. If the nominated work is a full book, nominators shall submit a sample chapter. The annual deadline for submissions shall be January 15th.

Article X - Parliamentary Authority

The division shall adhere to American parliamentary practice as set forth in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article XI - Amendment of the Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the division by a majority vote, provided that written notice of the proposed changes has been distributed to members at least thirty days prior to the meeting, or by a two-thirds vote of member present without prior notice.