Freedom of Speech Division

Southern States Communication Association

2023 Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2023

6:10pm Eastern – Meeting officially called to order

Members Present:

Chandra Maldonado (Chair), Patrick Wheaton (Vice Chair), Benjamin Medeiros (Vice Chair Elect), Joshua Guitar (Secretary), Ann Burnette, Rebekah Fox, John Banister, Cole Franklin

- Opening remarks by chair Chandra Maldonado

- Approval of 2022 Business Meeting Minutes

- Recommended for approval by Ann Burnette

- Seconded by Rebekah Fox

- Minutes unanimously approved

- Chair Report

- Chandra reports there is no chair report.

- Vice Chair Report

- Per SSCA executive meeting, SSCA is in good financial shape.

- FOS member Rebekah Fox has been elected as the new editor for Southern Journal of Communication.

- Discussions occurred on SSCA Executive Director position

- New Executive Director will shadow John Haas

- Executive Committee will solicit Executive Director Elect

- SSCA only regional association of National Communication Association that does not provide a stipend for the Executive Director position. Discussion ongoing.

- Discussion on updating SSCA conflict of interest forms, handled by Executive Directors at their institutional level, to allow for stipend.

- SSCA Constitution Committee is reviewing policies, but no formal proposals to date.

- Divisional membership needs to be at least five percent of total SSCA membership.

- SSCA membership currently around 550

- FOS Division is currently around 24, needs to be at least 28

- Members are urged to help FOS grow membership

- Request was made to update SSCA website to reflect accurate division numbers

- Discussion:

- Ben Medeiros will email FOS members to try and increase enrollment

- Joshua Guitar asks if SSCA membership can be increased to allow for additional included divisional memberships. SSCA membership fee currently includes just one divisional affiliation. Each additional affiliation is five dollars. Proposal to increase SSCA by five to ten dollars to allow an additionally included affiliation or two.

- 2027 SSCA Planning

- Two site visits occurred in Atlanta; neither site proved worthwhile

- No city or site yet determined

- 2023 FOS Division

- Three panel submission

- No individual paper submissions

- No top paper awards or student paper awards

- Discussion

- Chandra asks how long division is on probation if membership requirements not met.

- Patrick Wheaton cites SSCA Constitution, noting that divisions are given one year to achieve minimum required numbers after formal notification. No formal notification has been received.

- Ann contends that membership is actually increasing, despite feelings to the contrary.

- FOS will likely receive four slots for 2024 SSCA

- Future calls for submissions need to include ethics policies which will include requirements for IRB reference numbers if human subjects are involved.

- 2023 James Madison Award given to John Banister

- Elections

- Vice Chair Elect

- John Banister nominated by Rebekah

- John Banister nomination seconded by Ann

- John Banister unanimously elected to Vice Chair Elect position

- Secretary

- Joshua Guitar nominated by Ann

- Joshua Guitar nomination seconded by John

- Joshua Guitar unanimously elected to Secretary position

- New Business

- James Madison Award

- Discussion on if a committee should be formed

- Concluded that current practice works until membership grows

- Adjournment called at 6:48pm, Eastern by Chandra