**Southern States Communication Association Executive Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 17 5:00 to 8:00 PM**

**2021 NCA Annual Convention, Seattle, WA**

Wendy Atkins-Sayre, University of Memphis, Presiding

1. Call to Order
   1. Wendy Atkins-Sayre called to order at 5:02 pm
2. Welcome
   1. Glad to see so many people in-person here in Seattle
3. Approval of Minutes of SSCA Executive Council Meeting, Virtual April 2021
   1. Motion to approve by Andrew Pyle and seconded with no opposed

Published on the SSCA Web Page at <https://www.ssca.net/business-meeting-minutes>

4. Approval of Agenda

a. moved to accept the agenda by Tina Harris and seconded by Ben Bates with no opposed votes

5. Officers’ Reports:

5.1 President – Wendy Atkins-Sayre

a. Wendy reviewed the strategic planning committee progress

b. We are open to creating a task force with regular updates to ensure fruition.

i. Looking at strategies for inclusion, support, and developing the DEI committee

ii. Provide additional mentoring opportunities for faculty and students

iii. Continue Professional Development - website updates, Fall Mini Conference

iv. Improve communication with membership through on-going website curation, email blast, social media feeds, and officer manuals

v. Increasing revenue growth for the association

\*Thanks to efforts of past and current Executive Director for financial stability

vi. Determining the conference modality options (virtual, in-person, hybrid) with the membership through surveys – please give us your feedback

5.2 Vice President – Tina Harris

a. General overview of the XCD

i. 335 total submissions with 293 accepted (~85% acceptance rate)

ii. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the submission process

\*Audience members asked about the spam filter issue with blocking emails and a better way to implement co-sponsored panel sessions across divisions within the XCD platform.

iii. Should have a program draft available by January

5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Pamela Bourland-Davis

a. Pam couldn’t be here in Seattle, but she has made good progress on names for 2nd Vice President and Nominating Committee member and LA Reps to NCA

5.4 Vice President Elect – Ann Burnette

a. Highlighted the submission guide and deadlines for UHC on the website

b. Asked for volunteers to review for the UHC submissions

i. should be able get the reviews out before winter holiday and due early next year

5.5 Executive Director – John Haas

a. Thanks to Jerry Hale for being a constant guide for issues that keep coming up

b. Brief explanation of the membership numbers which were artificially inflated due to free membership from COVID hardship

c. ~ $375K dollars in bank accounts after the penalties that were paid due to cancelations

d. Harvard Associates give a clean bill of financial stability

e. Are looking at new website platforms. Already sampled a few companies, but haven’t found a good fit yet.

f. Currently negotiating new contract with T&F

i. Looking for better price with both online and print options for journals

5.6 Strategic Communication Director – Andrew Pyle

a. Welcome to everyone and if we don’t know each other yet, we’ll be best frands by end of week.

b. We are looking at new ways to recruit graduate students

c. Institutional Membership solicitation emails have been sent

i. If you haven’t done that yet or if your dept. does not usually get a membership, consider supporting SSCA in this way.

d. We still are selling ads for the program – front and back cover are already taken

e. Podcast is being created by Dave Nelson at VSU for the spring – In memory of Chuck Tardy and Shawn Long

f. We need to beef up our social media presence – this should be delegated to one of the resource and development committee members

5.7 SCJ Editor – Benjamin Bates

a. Journal is doing good

i. Was only using 55% of pages in journal, but now have ~95% (T&F is happier)

ii. 6 different continents are represented by authorship

iii. Current acceptance rate is ~36%

iv. Have an average turn-around rate of 35 days

5.8 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives – Eletra Gilchrist-Petty, Patrick Bennett, and Andrew Pyle

a. Carribean and SWANA caucuses were approved today

b. Communication and Race is a new journal that was approved and published by T&F

C. New mentorship and leadership council was approved

d. Comic studies was approved as a new affiliate to NCA

e. NCA’s budget has an intentional built-in deficit, but it was approved anyways

i. Current nest egg is 8 million dollars, but they are liquidating up to a quarter million dollars to cover the planned deficit

5.9 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Position wasn’t filled this year, but will be voted on in January

5.10 NCA Regional Advancement and Promotion Advisory Board Representative – Kathryn Anthony

a. Anytime the Executive Committee of SSCA has something to share, she will forward that info along to NCA.

6. Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Committee on Committees – Wendy Atkins-Sayre

a. We had to clean up the committee memberships over the past year

b. All committees are filled and contact info is on the website

c. Please volunteer, nominate, self-nominate – plenty of leadership opportunities with limited work

6.2 Constitution – Amber Smallwood

a. working on some new proposed changes, but nothing as of yet since changes were just ratified (current constitution is available on the website).

6.3 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Eletra Gilchrist-Petty

a. Eletra and Spencer will be rolling off the committee next year

b. SSCA is only regional association without a division focused on DEI

i. IISJD Inclusion, Identity, and Social Justice Division was proposed and collected signatures of supporting members – needed 5%, but received ~20%.

ii. That will be voted by the membership at large at SSCA’s conference in April

6.4 Finance – Patrick Wheaton

a. Wasn’t able to attend, but finance was covered by John Haas

6.5 Nominating Committee – Pamela Bourland-Davis

a. covered in the Past President’s report

6.6 Publications – Brigitta Brunner

a. No report

6.7 Resolutions – Verlaine McDonald

a. No report

b. Please submit your resolutions so we can announce/honor those where appropriate

6.8 Resource Development – Abby Brooks

a. exciting new designs for SSCA caring connections

b. Will be selling Caring Connections online and in-person in Greenville, SC in April

6.9 Time and Place – Michelle Violanti

a. Discussed several issues about negotiations for new properties

b. looked at Little Rock and Louisville for the next slated convention host city

i. considerations were made for room rates, local attractions, food and amenities, and F&B cost

ii. Louisville was arguing for $200/night room block and $100k F&B contracts

iii. We need more meeting rooms than hotel rooms which is tricky for properties to provide.

7.0 Division/Interest Groups Reports – Only oral reports are recorded below

7.1 Interpersonal Division – Emily Schienfeld

a. 8 paper submissions

b. Scholarly Quiz Bowl panel will be a neat new format

7.2 Comm Theory –

a. 11 papers were submitted and accepted

b. Co-sponsoring the Scholarly Quiz Bowl with the Interpersonal Division

c. Changing name to Communication Theory and Research Methods

7.3 Argumentation and Debate – Ryan Goke

a. Mostly panel submissions

b. Highlighted the Town Hall Debate which will be presented by graduate students

7.4 States Advisory Interest Group

a. Normal submission numbers

7.5 Philosophy and Ethics Interest Group

a. Thanks to Pat Arneson and others for their help

7.6 Freedom of Speech Division – Ann Burnette

a. lots of participation by graduate students

7.7 Instructional Development Division – Kevin Bryant

a. Thanked the reviewers and pointed out that we had more than enough volunteers so no one was overly taxed

7. New Business

a. No new business was conducted

8. Announcements and Adjournment

a. John Haas reported that Greenville, SC is ready and open for business. Please let people know that this SSCA is going to be something they don’t want to miss.

b. Andrew Pyle commented that faculty at Clemson are available to help connect practitioners that are somewhat local to Greenville for potential panels/ideas

c. Memphis reception at NCA is Friday 7-9pm. All are welcome to attend!

d. Lakelyn Taylor motioned to adjourned with great enthusiasm

e. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm

Attendance: Kevin Bryant, Wendy Atkins-Sayre, John Haas, Jerry Hale, Tina M. Harris, Andy Tinker, Ann Burnette, Colin Cameron, Kathryn Anthony, Andrew Pyle, Ryan Goke, Lakelyn Taylor, Nick Sciullo, Eletra Gilchrist-Petty, Patrick Bennett, Michelle Violanti, Emily Schienfield, Brandon Boatwright, Quentin Bernhold, Rebekah Fox, Benjamin Bates