

## MINUTES

Organizational Communication Interest Group Business Meeting 2005  
Eastern Communication Association  
April 29, 2005 2:15-3:15 pm  
Omni William Penn Hotel – Pittsburgh, PA

Members Present (12): Jerry Allen, Joe Chesebro, Chas Koermer, Jim McCroskey, Amanda McKendree, Amber Peplow, John Sherblom, Joanne Slanchik, Candice Thomas-Maddox, Rob Whitbred, Sherry Wien, Kristi Lawrence Wilkerson

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shannon Brogan was unable to attend since she had to host Communication Day at Ohio University. Therefore, Candice Thomas-Maddox filled in as current chair and called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Corrections/Additions to the Minutes
  1. “USA Sparks Editor” should be “Lisa Sparks Editor”
  2. “Sherri Wien” should be “Sherry Wien”
  3. “NI” should be “NJ”
- B. Approving 2004 Interpersonal/Organizational Business Meeting Minutes
  1. Jim McCroskey - motion to approve
  2. Rob Whitbred – second
  3. Members unanimously approved

### III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- A. Since the split from Interpersonal Communication Interest Group, all members are new members to Organizational Communication Interest Group.
- B. On behalf of Chair Shannon Brogan, Candice Thomas-Maddox acknowledged chairs and respondents who served for this conference.
- C. Readers were acknowledged with gifts of appreciation:
  1. Linda McCroskey (California State University-Long Beach)
  2. Steve Koehn (Lycoming College)
  3. Bonnie Farley-Lucas (Southern Connecticut State University)
- D. Members were encouraged to attend the Top Paper Panel scheduled Saturday, April 30 at 1 pm. Top Paper Award certificates will be presented at the panel.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS (REPORTS)

- A. MEMBERSHIP FIGURES  
Secretary Sherry Wien reported there are currently 117 members in Organizational Communication according to the ECA website. Candice Thomas-Maddox reported earlier concern how the split between Interpersonal and Organizational would affect membership figures. However, the Interpersonal Communication Interest Group is estimated at 160 this year. Therefore, both interest groups are “healthy” after the split.
- B. CONFERENCE FIGURES  
For the 2005 conference, 9 papers were submitted and 7 were accepted while 2 panels were submitted and accepted.

C. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Candice Thomas-Maddox reported on business conducted at the Executive Council Meeting held Thursday, April 28.

1. Don Fishman, ECA President, reported the Taylor & Francis editorship of ECA journals has “kicked in” and is working well so far.
2. Danette Ifert Johnson, ECA Executive Director, is creating an operational budget for ECA. There has been a conference budget but never an organizational budget for ECA.
3. Don Fishman reported that more communication from ECA is being done online (such as e-bulletins to share interest group bylaws). Using Internet communication has saved lots of money on postage. Jim McCroskey commented on problems with ECA sending mass emails. His university sees ECA emails as “spam” and he doesn’t receive messages. He recommended format changes to ensure members receive messages from ECA.
4. The Past Officers Club has begun planning the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, which will take place at the 2009 ECA conference in Philadelphia.
5. ECA is working on an agreement with EBSCO to digitize all journals since the first issues and make them available in electronic format. Jim Chesebro, ECA Archivist, has been working with EBSCO on digitizing 25 boxes of paper archives stored at the University of Utah.
6. Ron Jackson, ECA First Vice-President Elect, reported on the 2006 convention in Philadelphia at the Sheraton Society Hill.
7. Jerry Allen, ECA Representative to NCA Legislative Council, reported that Martha Watson, NCA President, wants to create certification or accreditation options for communication programs. She seeks feedback from members. Jerry Allen presented the pros and cons of having certified or accredited programs. He encouraged members to attend the session on this issue on Saturday, April 30 at 11:30 am.
8. The 2007 conference will be held at the Westin Providence in Rhode Island. Mary Kahl, ECA Immediate Past-President is continuing to negotiate with the hotel since it has been recently sold. It is still uncertain how this will affect the conference. For 2008, hotel negotiations are underway for New York City. ECA members are reminded to book hotel rooms through ECA in order to meet the room block quota for group rates. ECA loses money if members book their rooms through travel websites.
9. Janette Muir is the new editor of Communication Quarterly and Susan Drucker is the new editor of Qualitative Research Reports in Communication. Jerry Allen reminded members that Muir does not take over the editorship until Allen fills two and a half more issues. Allen stated for the record (in good humor) that he “filled his issues a year and a half ahead of schedule and wants that monkey on the back of future editors.” Members should send manuscripts to Jerry Allen until the call for papers from Janette Muir is given.
10. Two new ECA interest groups are being proposed: Public Relations and Communication Ethics.
11. An anonymous donor has offered to establish 2 scholarships for graduate students to attend ECA conferences.

12. ECA is seeking ways to improve the nomination process. Currently, the process is unorganized and the candidates are not given enough notice to see if they are capable of serving. One suggestion is to structure the process similar to NCA. Jerry Allen commented that changing the nomination process requires a bylaw change. Nominations will occur in the fall instead of during the conference in the spring.
13. Candice Thomas-Maddox, ECA Representative to NCA Nominating Committee, reported two national positions that need nominations: NCA Second Vice President and At-Large Members for NCA Legislative Assembly. She invited members to email her with recommendations.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. APPROVAL OF ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION BYLAWS

1. Corrections/Additions to Bylaws
  - a. Article II – change to “organizational communication”
  - b. Article V, Section Four – change “Executive Secretary” to “Executive Director”
2. Approving Organizational Communication Interest Group Bylaws
  - a. Jim McCroskey - motion to approve
  - b. Rob Whitbred – second
  - c. Members unanimously approved

### B. PASSING THE GAVEL TO NEW CHAIR

Candice Thomas-Maddox (substituting as current chair for Shannon Brogan) passed the imaginary gavel to the new Organizational Chair Kristi Lawrence Wilkerson. Chair Wilkerson thanked Shannon Brogan and everyone involved for “getting this interest group off the ground.”

### C. PREVIEW OF 2006 CONFERENCE

1. Kristi Wilkerson announced that the 2006 ECA conference would be hosted in Philadelphia at the Sheraton Society Hill, April 26-30. The hotel rate should be around \$149/\$159 per night similar to rates in Pittsburgh. The theme will be “Transforming Communication and Community.”
2. One issue for conference planning is increasing the number of slots available with various formats (such as Spotlight Series, Town Hall Meeting, Book Signing). The Organization interest group is encouraged to collaborate with another interest group for more slots. Members are encouraged to contact Kristi Wilkerson with ideas.
3. The October 15 deadline for submitting papers and panels will remain the same. Kristi Wilkerson reported that Ron Jackson has left deadline decision-making up to the interest groups. Jerry Allen and Amber Peplow expressed their concern with ECA deadlines not being consistent among interest groups. Kristi Wilkerson responded that she would relay their concerns to Ron Jackson. Jim McCroskey asked if submissions would be electronic or paper. Kristi Wilkerson responded she would prefer paper submissions.

### D. ELECTIONS

The attendance sheet was passed around at the beginning of the meeting. Members indicated their interest in serving as chairs, readers, and respondents.

1. Readers – Names were taken from the attendance sheet

2. Vice Chair (plans sessions for 2007 conference in Providence)
  - a. Jerry Allen nominated Chas Koermer
  - b. Jim McCroskey second
  - c. Members unanimously approved
- E. NOMINATIONS FOR ECA POSITIONS
  1. First Vice President Elect-Select –  
Names were mentioned, but members did not formally nominate anyone.
  2. ECA Representative to NCA Nominating Committee -  
Ann Frymier was nominated and approved by members.
  3. ECA College/University Representative to NCA Legislative Council -  
Tim Mottet was nominated and approved by members.

## VI. DISCUSSION

### A. ECA Budgeting Problems

Jim McCroskey, speaking as the Organizational Communication Representative to ECA Executive Council, commented on the issue of budgeting. For several years, ECA has not been operating with a budget. ECA needs better organizational records. Jerry Allen responded that ECA has been losing money on conferences. Recent conferences have spent excessive money on meals for Executive Council. He encouraged members to “start making some noise about this sort of thing” and use their representatives to “rein in conference planners.” Members should not expect to be entertained at conferences, but should use conferences for professional development and networking. Jerry Allen is very concerned about the ECA organization and what it means to people following in his leadership. Jim McCroskey added that the ECA President and Executive Director should have more power and need to authorize all spending. Jerry Allen reported that for the past 6 years, ECA has been “operating in the red and living off reserves.” He stressed, “Don’t let the planners spend more than the budget allows.” Jim McCroskey suggested that former ECA leaders should share their wisdom with current leaders and guide conference planning.

### B. Conflicting Interest Group Meeting Times

Jerry Allen re-introduced the problem with interest groups meeting at the same time. For example, the Interpersonal Interest Group should not meet at the same time as Organizational. Several years ago, ECA members requested that there should be three or four sections available for meetings. The past few conference planners have not responded to the voted wishes of members. Members are still frustrated with the conflicting meeting times. Kristi Wilkerson responded with the plans for the next year’s conference and reported that three sections are tentatively set, but she will definitely stress the issue to Ron Jackson.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kristi Lawrence Wilkerson adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Wien  
Organizational Communication Interest Group Secretary