

ECA Meeting Minutes
3/24/22
7pm-7:45pm
Via Zoom

Attendance:

Abbe Depretis
David Seitz
Raymie McKerrow
Tim Barney
Ben Bates
Ann Czerwinski
Trevor Parry-Giles
Rebecca Townsend
Valerie Schrader
Christina Knopf

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of 2021 meeting minutes YES

III. Acknowledgments

A. Reviewers, respondents, and chairs YES

Reviewers:

Timothy Barney
Benjamin Bates
Guillermo Caliendo
Anne Czerwinski
Trevor Parry-Giles
Jennifer Keohane
Christina Knopf
Corey Jay Liberman
Theodore Sheckels
Valerie Schrader
Heather Stassen
Michael Vicaro
Beth Walter
Goyland Williams

B. Top papers (Friday 12:30-1:45 Ballroom B) YES

1. "More Than Mere Child's Play: Youth Activism, Ephebic Appeals, and Environmental Communication" Christopher Scott Thomas, State University of New York Brockport
2. "Echo-chamber effect for Compliance Gaining: A Deliberative Analysis of Trump's 'Expert' Health Recommendations During a Public Health Crisis" Ifeoluwatobi Abiodun Odunsi, Ohio University - Chillicothe Campus
3. "Framing the Frenzy: A Rhetorical Analysis of Pandemic Gardening Media Coverage" Lisa Glebatis Perks, Merrimack College; Amanda Davis Gatchet, Montgomery County Community College; Roger Gatchet, West Chester University

IV. 2022 Chair's Report

Paper Submission Information:

- 13 paper submissions accepted
- 1 paper rejected immediately because it had identifying information that could not be removed/was submitted as the wrong type of submission
- 1 transfer paper
- 1 paper submission declined based on reviews

Panel Submission Information:

- 2 Panels submitted, both accepted

Roundtable Submission Information

- 2 Roundtables submitted, both accepted

Total programmed:

We were (initially) given 10 slots, we programmed 9:

- 2 Roundtable sessions
- 2 Panel sessions
- 4 Paper Panel Sessions with 14 competitive papers
- Business Meeting

V. Executive council report (Tim Barney)

- Because the Business Meeting took place prior to the conference, the Executive Council Report was submitted

after the Business Meeting. It is attached to the minutes below.

- VI. New business
 - A. Officer elections
 - 1. RPA planner for 2024 Valerie Schrader
 - 2. RPA Secretary for 2023 Abbe Depretis

- VII. Handover to Christina Knopf, planner for 2023 Conference in Baltimore, MD
 - A. Baltimore programming... 2022 midterms... 2024 presidential elections... political moods...
 - B. COVID?
 - C. UKRAINE?
 - D. Connection between rhetoric and performance/debate/public address?
 - E. Baltimore... JHU... health disparities with COVID... JHU with COVID...
 - F. 1856 Project
 - G. Celebrating Christy's Knopf book

- VIII. Adjourn

Executive Council Report, April 2022

Tim Barney (for ECA's Rhetoric & Public Address Interest Group)

The Executive Council Meeting of the Eastern Communication Association took place on April 7, 2022. The meeting began with welcomes and introductions. The first order of business was the President's Report (Amanda G. McKendree), which revolved around strategies for the organization in a post-pandemic climate, and contemplating ECA's future. The problems of declining membership and lack of member engagement were discussed, and the President talked about different programs during the past year like the Professional Development Series and the War in Ukraine Listening Sessions.

Next, the Executive Director of ECA (Stacy Smulowitz) discussed more specifically the numbers of declining membership and interest group affiliations, particularly through the challenge of the pandemic. The numbers were at their lowest during July 2020, with the good news being that numbers have started to go up (albeit slowly) in the wake of the peak point of the pandemic. The Executive Director also discussed briefly the financial picture of ECA, with the full report inside the 2022 EC Annual Report Packet.

Pamela Lannutti (First Vice President) also offered a report as the chief planner of the 2022 Convention. The summary noted 355 total registrations, with 442 submissions, 118 total conference sessions, and 8 short courses.

Jennifer Waldeck (incoming First Vice President) offered a report about next year's conference (Baltimore from March 30-April 2, 2023), which has the theme of "Harboring Innovation." It was noted that the 2023 convention will take on many of the qualities of the canceled 2020 convention. The Report Packet notes the members of the new planning team and information about the Hyatt Regency, which is the home of the upcoming conference.

The Social and Digital Media Director (Rikishi Rey) discussed the innovation of the new convention app, as well as strategies to engage members over social media. The report also referenced the number of followers on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The next order of business was editor's reports from *Communication Quarterly* (Zac Johnson), *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication* (Inci Ozum Ucok-Sayrak) and *Communication Research Reports* (Keith Weber).

After each of the reports, discussion was opened around the upcoming sites for future conferences. The discussion then turned to an in-depth exploration of the controversy around whether ECA should or should not make statements about political and controversial issues. The Executive Committee leadership noted the influx of requests for the organization to weigh in on

a number of issues, most recently about the crisis/war in Ukraine. The crux of the contested discussion was the extent to which ECA should potentially have a committee that these requests for statements are forwarded to. The debate was also about how much political statements from professional organizations are largely ineffective and only symbolic. In addition, there was debate over whether these political statements are at least somewhat more productive if it truly involves the necessary expertise of members and leaders, and not just to make a statement for public relations' sake. It was agreed that this would continue to be a point of discussion.