

Voices of Diversity
Eastern Communication Association
2014 Meeting Agenda

- I. **Greetings:** Welcome and calling to order. Thank you for submissions and for bringing such a great response for our division. Jason from the planning committee interjected and offered information about ECA Philadelphia 2015.
- II. **Minutes Approval:** Review the minutes from the last meeting. There were issues with the agenda and the minutes because of the issues with the date. The minutes, date, and format needed to be cleared, and were, in order to have elections. Clarification was given that a Truman Keys is the planner for 2015; Dan Strasser will be the secretary for this year.
- III. **Nominations and Voting**
 - When addressing the election there were other issues in continuity in the format of the election process and documents from last meeting. Other than the election section everything else is correct. The changes to the election format and documents were accepted by everyone and also accepted the position.
 - Need to elect Secretary 2015, to serve at 2015 ECA: Lance Bennett elected
 - Need to elect Executive Council Representative mid-point 2014 - mid-point 2015 serve this Sunday Morning at ECA * This person attends the ECA Exec Council Meeting and then the 1 Executive Communication Meeting at NCA and then the Thursday for ECA in Philadelphia * Lorin Arnold elected.
 - Need to elect Executive Council Representative mid-point 2015 - mid-point 2017 to serve at 2015 and 2016 ECA (Baltimore) and the first 2017 (Boston) ECA: Truman Keys elected.
 - Need to elect Vice Chair Elect for 2016 to take office at 2016 ECA to plan Boston 2017, Dan Strasser elected.
 - Conclusion of the election cycle for VOD meeting 2014
- IV. **ECA Executive Council Report, Andy**

- We are low on membership. We have reached an all-time low. We are down by 74 from last year. Due to lack of campus money and boutique conferences stealing people. Economy is to blame. However, ECA is very financially healthy. Marketing for the convention and Ron Arnett's investment strategies have been successful. Vote on the floor – looking at ways to spend money in terms of how it will benefit the membership. We are voting on a new logo. Some designs were bad; however, we are looking to get a new one.
- Andy encourages us to make Philly a great convention. And since Truman is the convention planner we need to be especially proactive in our engagement.
- ECA Journal Reports:
 - Communication Quarterly is up huge, with a 42% rejection rate; had a 35% increase in downloads
 - Communication Research Reports: 33% rejection rate (quant journal, 12% acceptance rate)
 - Qualitative Research Reports (21% acceptance rate)
- Big change for next year. There will be a digital program, an online program that will also utilize an APP for smartphones. Losa 2013 conference is the app sample. The APP will be more searchable. The proposition caused an uproar but it would move the conference forward. We will do both paper and the app next year.
- Furthermore, Kanan and Andy have moved for the conference and program to be more inclusive of GLBT.

V. 2014 Convention Planner Report

- Conversation moved to future conferences as well. For example, will our conference fee be reduced?
- All will be held at Omni hotels. The rates are fantastic except for Boston \$270 a night in Boston. They can have as many people in the room as possible was their response. No one has the money to go to the conference. It is far more expensive than ECA. This was why the membership is down.

- The issues of the \$77,000 budget of ECA - Could the association put money to our rooms?
- They voted on the three Omni package and Boston is only feasible if it goes down to \$200. The options are moving the date of the conference, or spend the money to reduce the rate further. We are going to increase the decline in attendance by having it at Boston. Can we boycott by staying at another hotel?
- New Haven and Newport were the alternatives. There was quite a bit of discussion about alternatives and whether or not we could find another city. It's not fair for membership; it would bring do attendance on all levels.
- When do they decide the next block of hotels? It will happen during Truman's tenure.
- Accessibility and the role of VOD - We can make a strong argument from the VOD. We are the only people who would be looking for accessibility for all diverse groups. We have the responsibility that all diverse groups, which gives us, voice within the larger executive committees. Watch the Pittsburgh hotel. Is there a pre-existing list that sites have accessibility? – Be sure to look into the difference services within the regions.
- *Chair's Report* – As a reviewer do you have to have a PhD? It is up to the planner. PhDs can only review PhDs. An argument was made that that you need to have PhDs and there is a way to turn your work around; however, it gives us more responsibility.
- Had great submissions. Thank for all of your work. She apologized for the late paper place.
- We got 27 submissions; but there were 4 that were discarded. It seemed Survey Monkey was fine and it worked out well.
- We accepted the majority of the papers. We had five panels and five papers panels. Please have panels with 3-5 scholars on the panel.
- Our acceptance rate was 60%. Reducing the number of panelist would reduce the acceptance rate and may also lead to not having enough people there. Thank you again for the volunteering.

VI. 2015 Convention Planner Report

- Truman - 4/22-4/26 for the conference in Philadelphia. *Deliberation* is the conference theme. Notes from the program planners meeting were offered to the group.

- You do not have to put the word deliberation into all of the titles. However, try to incorporate how deliberation provides a place where ideas can be discussed.
- Try to engage the audience more in you presentations. That is, try to be more creative, and audience involved.
- Reach out to local scholars and introduce local voices of diversity.
- The idea fro SPOTLIGHT PANELS was introduced as a way to make the conference more multi-media and far reaching. Every member of the panel would be willing to broadcast the panel presentations.
- We have nine slots for next year. But we can gain one for a spotlight panel. The NPR spotlight sessions will be broadcast by NPR.
- Other information \$179 for night at the Sheraton Society Hill. \$20 for each additional person. 15.5% tax per person. Lots of other hotels and the overflow hotels are nice. The shuttle from the airport is \$10 each way. \$28.50 for a cab from the airport. \$25 per day; \$35 for overnight parking.
- DEADLINE for submission: October 15th 11:59pm.
- Further information on SPOTLIGHT panels: If we could get one it would be great. Also if we could have interdisciplinary. We could co-sponsor a panel and Kanan will try and find a slot for the panel.
- Look out for the call.

VII: Election Results

- Lance Bennett was Elected Secretary to serve at 2015 ECA.
- Dan Strasser was elected as Vice Chair Elect for 2016. He will take office at 2016 ECA and will plan Boston 2017.
- Lorin Arnold elected to Executive Council Representative mid-point 2014 - mid-point 2015.
 - This person attends the ECA Exec Council Meeting and then the One Executive Communication Meeting at NCA and then the Thursday exec council meeting for ECA in Philadelphia

- Truman Keys was elected as Executive Council Representative mid-point 2015 - mid-point 2017.
 - He will serve at the 2015 ECA and the 2016 ECA (Baltimore) and will attend the first exec council meeting at the 2017 ECA in Boston.

VIII: New Business and Announcements

- We don't need to elect someone for Nominating Committee Representative because the current year's chair becomes the nominating committee rep for year that you are chair and the past year that you are chair.
- Wine and Spots tonight in this room at 6:30 in this room.
- Truman: There should be attendance in all of our panels and sessions. Be sure that we support our own.
- We need to emphasize the importance of the undergraduate scholars conference.
- The deadline is later for the UG conference.

IX: Move to Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel S. Strasser
Assistant Professor
Rowan University

In Attendance
Voices of Diversity Meeting ECA 2014

Name:

Daniel S. Strasser
Gina Castle Bell
Chizoba Udorji
Truman R. Keys
Lance Bennett
Lorin Arnold
Maria Simone
Joy Cypher
Annette Madlock Gatison
Celeste Lacroix
Andrew Spieldenner

Institution:

Rowan University
West Chester University
Kingsborough Community College
West Connecticut State University
West Chester University
Rowan University
Rowan University
Rowan University
Southern Connecticut State University
College of Charleston
Hofstra University