

89th Annual Convention
Southern States Communication Association
Montgomery, Alabama
Executive Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, 2019, Alabama B
Thursday, April 4, 2019, Alabama B
President Jason Munsell, Presiding

1. Call to Order—President Jason Munsell called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.
2. Welcome to Montgomery, Alabama!

President Munsell welcomed Executive Council Members to Montgomery. He expressed appreciation that Jerry Hale was able to attend this year's meeting. He thanked Past President Vicki Gallagher for her work in that role including as Chair of the Nominating Committee. He thanked 1st Vice President Pam Bourland-Davis for planning an outstanding program. He thanked 2nd Vice President Shawn Long for planning the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference. He thanked Marketing Director Ashli Stokes both for her work marketing the Association and conference, and for her work reimagining marketing and strategic communication for SSCA. He congratulated Wendy Atkins-Sayre for her election to the office of 2nd Vice President. He thanked Jennifer Samp for her ongoing work as Editor of SCJ.

Members present introduced themselves and indicated the office, division, or interest group they were representing.

3. Approval of the Minutes

President Munsell entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the Midyear meeting held at the National Communication Association conference in Salt Lake City. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes of the midyear meeting passed without revision.

4. Approval of the Agenda—A motion was entertained to approve the agenda for the Executive Council Meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The EC agenda was approved. President Munsell asked about changes to agenda for Breakfast Business Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to add an item to the Breakfast Business Meeting agenda related to a constitutional change regarding election ties. The motion passed without objection.

5. Officer's Reports—Oral comments supplement written reports found in the epacket which is appended.

5.1 President's Report—Jason Munsell, University of South Carolina Aiken

The President's report began with a query, "In what state was the very first SSCA convention held?" 1st Vice President Pam-Bourland-Davis correctly answered that it was held in Alabama. President Munsell reported that Past President Vicki Gallagher would present a rationale for why John Haas, University of Tennessee Knoxville was well suited to serve as Executive Director of SSCA if his appointment is approved by the membership. President Munsell indicated that he would lead a discussion of some ethical issues related to conference submissions later in the meeting. He offered congratulations to award winners and encouraged EC representatives to attend the annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday.

5.2 1st Vice President's Report—Pam Bourland-Davis, Georgia Southern University

Vice President Bourland-Davis encouraged EC members to be proactive in encouraging submission for next year's conference in Frisco, Texas. In discussing the current program she indicated there will be a sing along after one of the pop culture division panels. She indicated there are now three business meetings panel time slots so those that want to attend more than one business meeting can more easily do so. She discussed efforts to plan a bus trip to Selma and indicated she was still looking at bus sharing for such a trip. She made brief comments regarding the Keynote speaker for the Awards Luncheon, Pulitzer Prize winning author Hank Klibanoff. She thanked President Jason Munsell for his helpfulness as she planned the conference.

5.3 2nd VP Shawn Long's Report, University of North Carolina Charlotte

There were 110 submissions to the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference and 70 were accepted. Sixty members served as reviewers for the submissions. Sixteen panel slots were for paper panels. The submission and evaluation processes were electronic. There will also be a session for UHC participants to learn about how the larger conference works. There will also be a new award for the top submission submitted by a Lambda Pi Eta member. Vice President Long thanked members who helped with reviewing and who agreed to convene and respond to panels. He made special note of a collaborative panel co-sponsored by the Argumentation and Forensics Division featuring the region's State Champions.

5.4 Past President's Report – Vicki Gallagher, North Carolina State University

President Gallagher commented on report about the election results and the impending election that will be conducted on Friday's Business meeting. She highlighted a panel about a tour of historic civil rights monuments—a double panel where they will meet, then tour, then reconvene at a later panel slot to share their experiences.

5.5 Executive Director's Report—Jerold Hale, College of Charleston

The ED walked council members through the Association financial documents and membership counts (see epacket). He made note of a change in CPAs, still using Harvard and Associates, but John Harvard has retired. New CPA asked for W9 forms for any SSCA award with a financial payout more than \$600. Currently that is Rushing Award only. The ED offered special thanks to Kevin Bryant and Carl Cates for helping in his absence at the Nashville convention.

5.6 Marketing Director's Report – Ashli Stokes, University of North Carolina Charlotte
SSCA has 24 additional institutional memberships, an increase in exhibitors for the year, and a slight increase in the number of sponsors for the UHC breakfast. She offered special thanks to Dave Nelson for his hard work on the SSCA podcasts. EC members were encouraged to get a conference bingo card from Abby Brooks, to fill the cards and enter for chances to win SSCA Montgomery t-shirts and swag. She proposed a significant reorganization of the Marketing Director's position, changing the name to Strategic Communication Director, changing the name of the Resource Development Committee to the Resource Development and Membership Committee, and presented a rationale for three functions (strategic communication, membership, and resource development) that would operate under the direction of the Strategic Communication Director.

5.7 SCJ Editor's Report—Jennifer Samp, University of Georgia

The journal is doing very well. Some difficulties we were experiencing with Taylor and Francis seem to have been worked out since meeting with the Taylor and Francis team in Salt Lake City.

The report included as part of the epacket is quite detailed and EC members were encouraged to review it.

5.8 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives Report—Nakia Welch San Jacinto Community College

Legislative Assembly Rep to NCA's report – Nakkia Welch

The Legislative Assembly meetings in Salt Lake City were relatively uneventful. Proposals for three new divisions (communication anxiety, military communication, and Chinese communication) all failed. A request for a statement about academic expression and freedom occurred. After lengthy discussion no progress was made and the discussion at NCA was tabled.

5.9 NCA Nominating Committee Representative Report—Christi Moss, University of Memphis

SSCA members were well represented in nominations for governance and committee positions.

6.0 Standing Committee Reports

Prior to the presentation of standing committee reports, President Munsell asked that anyone interested in serving or nominating someone for service on an SSCA committee let he or Pam Bourland-Davis know of that interest in advance of the Sunday morning Committee on Committees meeting.

6.1 Constitution Committee Report – Leslie Pace, University of Louisiana, Monroe
Indicated that changes addressed by the Marketing Director related to titles, duties, and functions of the Marketing Director and Resource Development Committee will be taken up in new business. Proposed changes to constitution related to elections will also be taken up during new business.

6.2 Finance Committee – Wendy Atkins-Sayre, University of Southern Mississippi
Thanked the ED for presenting data to the committee related to the budget. Thanked committee colleagues Jennifer Mize-Smith and Patrick Wheaton for their service. Indicated that the proposed budget for FY 2020 would be the same as the FY 2019 budget. The 2019 convention in a destination city did not allow adequate reflection on whether the budget, after changes in dues and conference fees, would work for smaller market or non-destination cities, and so no changes were proposed.

6.3 Publications Committee – Daniel Grano, University of North Carolina Charlotte
SCJ is going well. The committee is working collaboratively with Ashli Stokes and Dave Nelson on the SSCA podcasts.

6.4 Resolutions Committee – Larry Moore, Auburn University, Montgomery
Asked anyone with resolutions of service or “in memory” of colleagues to please submit them before the Awards luncheon where the resolutions will be orally presented.

6.5 Resource and Development Committee's Report – Abby Brooks, Georgia Southern University

Members were encouraged to play conference bingo where squares could be filled by visiting exhibitors, attending a division or interest group business meeting, special panels, and the like. Members were also asked to submit ideas for a new applique for Caring Connections. Caring Connections are on sale near the conference registration desk and members were encouraged to purchase Caring Connections.

6.6 Time and Place Committee's Report – Francis Brandau, Sam Houston State University

Reported that she, Jerry Hale, and Janet Fisher toured several properties in Houston, Texas. Most of the properties were workable but had characteristics or flaws that kept them from being viable for SSCA. One property that was well suited to the Association's needs was cost prohibitive after lengthy negotiations. Subsequently, the same trio toured the St. Petersburg, Florida Hilton Hotel. Amenities to the hotel included a \$179 a night room rate, a very reasonable food and beverage minimum, its proximity to attractions including baseball, soccer, a beautiful waterfront areas, shopping, art galleries including the Salvador Dali museum, and proximity to many restaurants and bars.

7.0 Divisional Reports—Oral comments were abbreviated and in most instances supplemented a written report contained in the appended epacket.

7.1 Applied - Andrew Pyle, Clemson University

Reported that submissions were down for the division.

7.2 Argumentation and Forensics Division – Kevin Bryant, Tennessee Tech

Highlighted a collaborative panel in conjunction with the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference.

7.3 Comm Theory – T. Phillip Madison, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Summarized the number of panel and paper submissions. Also indicated the review process and discussed panel, competitive paper, and special programs that were paneled.

7.4 Community college Laurie Metcalf, Blinn College

See midyear meeting report.

7.5 Freedom of Speech—Pat Arneson, Duquesne University

Briefly summarized paper and panel submissions and referred members to the epacket report.

7.6 Gender Studies—Ashton Mouton, Sam Houston State

Referred EC members to the midyear report.

7.7 Instructional – Scott Christen

Summarized the report from the midyear meeting and also made a suggestion for preparing next division chairs.

7.8 Intercultural – Mary Meares, University of Alabama

Referred members to the midyear meeting report, indicated the top paper winners, and also indicated a desire to collaborate with other divisions and interest groups moving forward.

7.9 Interpersonal – Garry Beck, Old Dominion University

Indicated that submissions to the division were down. Referred EC members

7.10 Language and Interaction – Lori Stallings, University of Memphis

Reported that submissions to the division were down. Referred members to the midyear report.

7.11 Mass Comm – Michelle Groover indicated a report was submitted and in the epacket.

7.12 Performance Studies—Brigitta Brunner indicated a report was in the Sarah K. Jackson, Catawba College deferred to the midyear meeting report.

7.13 Political Comm – Ryan Neville-Shephard, University of Arkansas indicated a report was submitted in the epacket.

7.14 Popular Communication – Danielle Williams, Georgia Gwinnett College Indicated that a report was in the epacket.

7.15 Public Relations—Amber Smallwood, University of West Georgia indicated a report was in the epacket.

7.16 Rhetoric and Public Address – Kevin Marinelli reported that submission numbers are up. Has asked for help in preparing a call for papers within the division.

7.17 Association for Communication Administrators—Nelle Bedner, Central Arkansas University. The interest group programmed three panels including a co-sponsored Vice Presidential Spotlight panel.

7.18 American Society for the History of Rhetoric—Andre Johnson, University of Memphis reported that submissions were steady relative to previous years. The interest group programmed three panels, two of which were invited and one focused on Alabama State University. He asked if official hashtag is #SSCA2019.

7.19 Ethnography – Elizabeth Stephens, Middle Tennessee State University reported that submissions were down. She indicated the group’s programs included a double panel related to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

7.20 Philosophy and Ethics – Jim Pickett, Flagler College indicated that Andrew Tinker presented at the midyear meeting and no changes have been made.

7.21 Association for State Associations – Keith Perry, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College made reference to the midyear report.

7.22 Kenneth Burke Society – No report.

Final Comments and Announcements– Jerry Hale indicated that the Starlight Foyer panels had been rescheduled and asked EC members to pay special attention to this year’s program addendum.

There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting until the morning session. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.