SSCA Conference Cancellation FAQ – March 16, 2020

Dear SSCA Members and Friends:

**In light of the unfortunate need to cancel this year’s Conference in Frisco, TX, April 1-5 2020, due to COVID-19, we wanted to provide you with some answers to questions you may have.** With permission, we echo the member guidance shared by our regional sister organization, the Central States Communication Association. Please reach out to [director@ssca.net](mailto:director@ssca.net) with any questions or concerns.

Pam Bourland-Davis, President and Jerry Hale, Executive Director

**What about my registration fee?**

Conference cancellation presents a very difficult financial challenge for SSCA that the organization will have to shoulder for a long time. We'd love to accept your registration fee as a donation. Of course, we want to be sensitive to your financial needs. Please only reach out to [director@ssca.net](mailto:director@ssca.net) if you would like to discuss the issue with us.

**What about schools/organizations that paid for an ad or donation?**

Please consider letting us “hold” your ad or donation until next year. This would help the organization if we can spread the cost out over two years. Please reach out to Ashli Stokes at [aqstokes@uncc.edu](mailto:aqstokes@uncc.edu) to think through ideas.

**What about my hotel?**

You will need to cancel with your hotel.

**What about my flight?**

When you call your airline, be sure to tell them that your conference was canceled. Some airlines have been lenient due to COVID-19. You could always hold on to your ticket for a few weeks and see if the airlines cancel.

**How will division and interest groups elect new leaders?**

We are working on this and other related issues. We will have more information in the following weeks as we work through these issues. Please reach out to your division/interest group to volunteer!

**How much will this decision cost the organization?**

At this time, we have a rough idea and know that financially we can afford this action using reserves. After we sort out the complexities of this year, we will have a transparent accounting for the membership.

**What steps did SSCA take before this action?**

SSCA officers have been discussing COVID-19 for the last few weeks nearly every day. We have been in contact with our hotel consultants, emergency management experts, and insurance providers.

**Why was the decision made to cancel?**

With the CDC recommendations, multiple state declarations of emergency, and many members affected by university travel bans, we thought it was wise to make the decision as soon as we could to give members time to change flights, hotels, car rentals, etc. 

**Will my paper or panel still count on my CV?**

It depends on your particular school to be honest. One option might be to list it on your CV, followed by the phrase: [cancelled due to COVID-19]. Also, please encourage your committees to be lenient regarding this issue especially for graduate students and assistant/associate faculty. COVID-19 is a global pandemic…let’s have some grace and show kindness.

**What if I want to submit my paper or panel to another conference?**

If you remove your paper or panel from your CV, please feel free to submit to another conference.

**My paper or panel won an award. Will I still get recognition?**

We are working through how to manage this process. Please stay tuned.

**Finally, what can I do to help?**

Thank you for wanting to support our membership! First, please be patient as we sort out the issues of canceling our beloved conference. With the exception of a few amazing part-time member services people like Katie Monk, Janet Fisher, and Kevin Bryant, SSCA is an all-volunteer association. Second, promote your SSCA connection. This organization is strong because of our members. Finally, practice CDC health guidelines - wash your hands, don’t touch your face, practice social distancing, and stay home if you are sick! We want to see all of you next year in Norfolk when we navigate to safer harbors! Much love to all.