

**Argumentation and Forensics Division**  
**Business Meeting**  
**Southern States Communication Association – Virtual**  
**April 5, 2021**

- I. Call to order and welcome
  - a. 4:05pm
  - b. Attendance
    - i. Nick J. Sciullo
    - ii. Kevin Bryant
    - iii. Lakelyn Taylor
    - iv. Pat Wheaton
    - v. Nina-Jo Moore
    - vi. Jonathan Bridenbaker
    - vii. Richard Cook
    - viii. Michael Grat
    - ix. Nayonya Listach
    - x. John Koch
    - xi. Ryan Goke
- II. Approval of minutes from 2019
  - a. Motion to amend the minutes to reflect accurate membership numbers - Kevin
  - b. Second – Pat Wheaton
  - c. Approved – 10/0/0
  - d. Approval of the Minutes – 10/0/0
- III. Officer reports
  - a. Nick Sciullo – Chair
    - i. We have retained the status quo from the pandemic (whoop whoop!)
    - ii. Notes from the executive council meeting
    - iii. Submissions – only 4 this year (bummer) → 2 papers and 2 panels; we accepted all of them
    - iv. Had to hustle to get reviewers because of the conference planning
    - v. Non-unique to other divisions throughout SSCA
    - vi. Top Reviewers
      1. Lakelyn Taylor
      2. John Koch
      3. Jacob Justice
    - vii. 2022 Conference
      1. Theme: Resilience through Resistance
      2. Dates:
        - a. May 7<sup>th</sup> deadline for calls

- b. October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for submissions
    - c. October 29<sup>th</sup> conference planners assign panels
    - d. November is the award deadline and the program will be announced at the NCA business meeting
    - e. April 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> conference
  - b. Kevin Bryant – Vice Chair
    - i. Should be coming from Hannah Tabrizi
    - ii. 3 panels created in total
    - iii. Overall, panels down 50%
  - c. Ryan Goke – Vice Chair Elect
    - i. No report
    - ii. Had to step away for the Planners meeting
  - d. Secretary – Lakelyn Taylor
    - i. No report
- IV. Old business
- a. 2020 Un/Convention
    - i. Commiserating
    - ii. Appreciate everyone for their continued support
    - iii. Town Hall debate Wed. April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm – be there!
      - 1. Nick says this is a traditionally well attended panel
      - 2. Nina-Jo confirms the Town Hall is a popular tradition with this division and everyone needs to be there
  - b. 2021 Convention program
    - i. Submissions, Panels, & Slots
      - 1. Submissions – 4; 2 Invited panels were created (Townhall and CRAFTS)
      - 2. Panels (paper and discussion) recommended for inclusion (100%)
      - 3. Slots – 5, including business meeting and co-sponsored sessions
    - ii. Appreciation for reviewers
      - 1. Nick and Kevin reaffirms appreciation for reviewers
      - 2. All submissions received at least 3 reviews → all were lengthy and of high quality
      - 3. Nina-Jo volunteered to be a reviewer
      - 4. Nick put a call out for other reviewers
  - c. 2021 Top Paper Awards
    - i. Racism and Discrimination in Debate and Forensics: The Art of Persuasion is Not Always Beautiful and Just – Autumn Zimmermann
    - ii. Race-based Arguments: Race, Judging Norms, Assessment, and Policy Debate – Nick J. Sciullo

- iii. Did not assign a Top Paper between the two → similar to 1/3 of the other divisions at SSCA
- iv. Discussion about how we are awarding/non-awarding
- d. 2021 Forensic Educator of the Year
  - i. 2 nominations
  - ii. Award winner: Jonathan Bridenbaker
  - iii. Congratulations Jonathan!

V. New business

- a. SSCA Business meeting update
  - i. Executive Council meeting announcements
    - 1. Refer to the announcements Nick made above
    - 2. Passed 7 changes to the constitution → most are minor and nothing that really impacts the division → ethics statements about not submitting the same paper to different panels
    - 3. So...don't be unethical AFD members
  - ii. Division numbers – Highest membership in over 10 years!!!
    - 1. Reach out to individuals to become members of SSCA and join our division
    - 2. Especially graduate students → We love student scholarship!

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
23	26	20	48	32	45	42		56

- b. Elections
  - i. Vice-Chair Elect
    - 1. John Koch self-nominated
    - 2. Move to close nominations – Pat Wheaton
    - 3. Motion un-seconded so is dropped
    - 4. Kevin nominated Michael Gray – accepted
    - 5. John rescinds self-nomination
    - 6. Motion to close nominations – Pat Wheaton
    - 7. Seconded – Lakelyn
    - 8. Michael Gray approved – 9/0/0
  - ii. Secretary
    - 1. Lakelyn nominates Jonathan
    - 2. Jonathan's cat is also nominated but is disqualified for being over qualified for the position
    - 3. Jonathan Bridenbaker approved – 9/0/0
  - iii. Congratulations to our new Vice Chair Elect and Secretary!
- c. 2022 Convention in Greenville, SC April 6-10 – Hyatt Regency
  - i. Location
    - 1. Should be in Greenville, SC
    - 2. Should be in-person

- ii. Brainstorming with theme: “Resilience in the Resistance”
  - 1. Nick explained what this theme may mean for our division
  - 2. Jonathan offered the suggestion of “getting people comfortable with being uncomfortable” in forensics
  - 3. Michael offered the suggestion of people choosing not to partake in certain formats of debate because of its issues of inaccessibility → possibly a panel presentation
  - 4. Keep brainstorming and coming up with ideas!!!
- iii. Serving the Argumentation and Forensics Division
  - 1. Reviewers, Chairs, and Respondents
    - a. Help Ryan out by volunteering
    - b. You don’t have to do everything, but something is better than nothing
    - c. Ryan will send out an email to entire AFD membership about signing up → so, if you aren’t a member of AFD yet, wait until May to update your membership
    - d. Students are also welcome to volunteer!
  - d. Out-going chair remarks by Nick Sciallo
    - i. Nick recognized the hard work of this division and advocated we must preserve this division as well as the activity of forensics in general
    - ii. He said it was his great honor to serve this division and wished everyone luck with the rest of the conference!

#### VI. Passing of the gavel

- a. Nick passed an imaginary gavel to Kevin
- b. Kevin sent us off with a word of encouragement – “Do well!”

#### VII. Adjourn

- a. Kevin motioned to adjourn
- b. Seconded – Michael
- c. Approved – 8/0/0
- d. Adjourned at 5:08pm