

## **Intercultural Communication Division**

2024 SSCA Convention

Frisco, TX

Friday, 5 April

### **Division Business Meeting Minutes**

Mary Meares opened the meeting at 4:18 PM CDT and welcomed everyone to the meeting by asking members to share something that engaged them during the conference thus far.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Meares introduced the officers and asked everyone to review the minutes of the 2023 division business meeting in St. Petersburg. She noted that the minutes were distributed via email to everyone who was a member of the division on February 2. Margaret Butcher moved to approve the minutes and Mindy Chang seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### **REPORTS**

#### *Chair's Report – Executive Council Meetings: Mary Meares*

Meares noted much of her report would be included in new business. She also highlighted that while division membership is down, the number of submissions and panels is up significantly. She also reported that the Intercultural Communication Division is one of the oldest divisions of SSCA.

#### *Vice-Chair's Report: Lionnell "Badu" Smith*

Smith reported that this year's SSCA convention proved very promising and productive for the Intercultural Communication Division (ICD). The division received a total of 25 submissions which is a 36% increase from the 2023 convention. To spread the submissions evenly across our Division's volunteers, he assigned two papers and two panel proposals to faculty volunteers; and he assigned one paper and two panel proposals to graduate student volunteers.

After the review process, 20 submissions (12 papers, 8 panels, & 1 poster session) were accepted which resulted in an 80% acceptance rate. Unfortunately, five submissions were rejected which resulted in a 20% rejection rate.

Initially, the Division was allotted six slots for the 2024 convention; however, after some reevaluation, the Division was provided an additional six slots which totaled 12 slots for the convention. Of the accepted submissions, the papers submissions were organized into three panels including this year's top paper panel. The division also slotted the eight panels, leaving one slot for the annual business meeting. Two panels were co-sponsored with the Instructional Development Division (IDD) and one panel was co-sponsored with the Popular Communication Division.

This year's top paper: "A Labor of Love: Blackness as a Confounding Factor for State Memory in Memorializing Martin Luther King, Jr." by Harrison Lucas (The Pennsylvania State University).

Smith thanked this year's reviewers, chairs, and respondents: Eugenie Almeida, Margaret Butcher, Curtis Chamblee, Mitch Combs, Evans Ankrah, Sophia Flemming, Amy Heuman, Natonya Listach, DiArron M., Mary Meares, Henry Njiru, Pavica Sheldon, Ryan Tabrizi, David Tarvin, and Shukura Umi.

Smith noted it was his pleasure to serve the ICD as the Division's planner this year, stating:

As I pass the torch to our vice chair-elect, I want to offer a recommendation and request.

First, for next year's call for submissions, it will be important to emphasize the parameters for paper submissions. Because we operate on a voluntary basis, it's important that papers don't exceed 25 double-spaced pages (including references). We want to be kind to our volunteer reviewers and respondents. Second, I am requesting that we all step up to volunteer as best as possible. When we have more volunteers, the planner is better able to spread the work so that no one volunteer is overwhelmed. This year I had to request help from colleagues outside the Division to assist with reviewing to avoid assigning more reviews to already taxed volunteers. With that, I look forward to next year's convention, and I offer the next planner best wishes and my support.

#### *Vice-Chair Elect's Report: Amy Heuman*

Heuman reported that the 2025 conference will be in Norfolk, VA and the theme is Anchors and Anchoring Communication. The program planning meeting is tomorrow and she will provide more details to the division after the meeting. She passed around a sign-up sheet for individuals willing to serve as reviewers, chairs, or respondents.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- I. Meares noted that Smith provided an overview of the 2024 program in his report.
- II. She also noted the division's top paper panel is in the morning, and conflicts with the DEI panel.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- I. Meares reported a number of items from the Executive Council and Business Meetings.
  - A. Dr. Frances Brandau will be the next Executive Director of SSCA. She will shadow John Haas next year and will take up the role officially after the conference in 2025.
  - B. DEI is integrated more broadly across the association. As of this year, there will be a budget item to support DEI initiatives at the annual SSCA convention.
  - C. The financial situation of the association is sound.
  - D. There is ongoing discussion of the role of the Strategic Marketing position and how we might better utilize that role to increase engagement and grow the membership.
  - E. Conference locations are under review. There is discussion of developing a strategy for selecting conference locations and potentially creating an anchor location.

- F. Relatedly, there is discussion of whether convention business meetings should be held in person at the conference as well as the structure of those. There is an attempt to diversify the timing of those next year at the convention.
- G. Many of these discussions are directly related to questions of accessibility and the associate will be administering a survey to assess members' perspectives on a variety of these issues.
- H. The African American Communication Division received approval this morning at the business meeting. As there are now more divisions related to intercultural communication, there is potential for the division to face membership challenges. Members need to ensure they maintain their membership in the division and encourage others to join the division.
- I. Reported membership numbers (33) do not reflect actual current membership given registrations immediately prior to and during the conference.
- J. Terry Thibodeaux noted the need for other members to convey to the association that they wish to remain members of the association, and that he would address it with the incoming Executive Director.

## **ELECTIONS**

### *Vice-Chair Elect*

Meares overviewed the role of the vice-chair elect as well as the chair stream responsibilities that will follow in subsequent roles. She also provided an explanation of the benefits of serving as chair of the division. Meares opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair elect. Curtis Chamblee self-nominated. Smith moved to close nominations, and Thibodeaux seconded. Chamblee was elected by acclamation.

### *Secretary*

Meares overviewed the role of secretary, noting it is a two-year position. Meares opened the floor for nominations for secretary. Heuman nominated Carolina Perez. Butcher moved to close nominations, Chamblee seconded. Perez was elected by acclamation.

## **INTRODUCTIONS & 2025 CONFERENCE IDEAS**

Meares asked each member present to introduce themselves and to provide some context for their interest in intercultural communication as well as thoughts on the 2025 conference theme.

Responses were as follows:

- Mary Meares – University of Alabama – interesting to think about culture as an anchor
- Amy Heuman – Texas Tech University – focuses on cultural identity negotiations & how groups use communication to mobilize for social justice
- Margaret Butcher – University of Arkansas – focuses on pedagogy and teaching for
- Stefan Wink – liberatory pedagogy for middle school, micro-school
- Akie Wink – Louisiana State University – interracial friendship – interested in studying the macro and micro
- Henry Njiru – Georgia State University – African post-colonial intercultural communication builds bridges across technologies
- Mindy Chang – Western Union University – intercultural organizational communication – focused on DEI programming and decision-making processes and conflict resolution –

maybe there should be programming that assists non-White faculty members engage as they depart graduate programs

- Eunhui Kim – Texas A&M – cultural adaptation and negotiation of identity as well as American audience understandings of Korean pop culture
- Terry Thibodeaux – Sam Houston State University – allows students to engage with Cajun and Creole cultures in Louisiana
- Ramesh Raoul – Columbus State University – much of the anchoring challenge is centered around ferment in the field – what is the goal: bring together or separate – hostage negotiations (originally), but now focused on Indian culture and society – content analyses of the coverage of India and Hindus/Hinduism
- Varaidzo Nyamandi – how Zimbabweans living in the US communicate about aging
- Carolina Perez – Texas Tech University – diasporas & diaspora identities – anchors are access points to multiple places and expand borders
- Curtis Chamblee – University of Memphis – impact of place on representations – approaches culture from a broader perspective – anchoring: grounding culture in place (as next year is SSCA's 95th year)
- Badu Smith – San Francisco State University – Africana communication scholar – teaching & pedagogy; language, faith, & power; and spirituality – anchors as sites of cultural contestation
- Todd Lee Goen – Virginia Military Institute – historically, mobility for education abroad programming was tied to anchors and 2023 celebrated 100 years of US study abroad

There was a general discussion of goals and desires for the 2025 conference sessions as those present shared ideas and made plans for collaboration on a variety of topics.

Smith suggested the possibility of adding awards for research and pedagogy that might promote the work of the division.

Meares noted the need to review the bylaws to ensure that the division is operating in line with the bylaws. Goen noted they should also be examined to ensure they are consistent with the association's constitution.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Meares announced the University of Alabama reception and passed out flyers.

## **OUTGOING REMARKS**

Meares noted her excitement for where the division is and thanked those who served with her during her tenure in the chair stream. She then passed the gavel to Smith.

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:28 PM CDT.

## **2024-2025 OFFICERS**

Chair: Lionnell “Badu” Smith, San Francisco State University

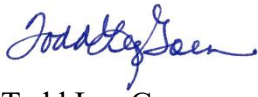
Vice-Chair: Amy Heuman, Texas Tech University

Vice-Chair Elect: Curtis Chamblee, University of Memphis

Secretary: Carolina Perez, Texas Tech University

Immediate Past Chair: Mary Meares, University of Alabama

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Lee Goen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'G'.

Todd Lee Goen  
Division Secretary