

Argumentation and Forensics Division Business Meeting

Southern States Communication Association – Frisco, TX
Friday April 5th, 2024 – 4:15 pm – Room BUSH

1. Gabby called the meeting to order at 4:20 PM
 - a. .
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Mik Davis - Chair (unable to attend due to conflicting commitments)
 - b. Gabby - Vice Chair
 - c. Rob Tabackman - Secretary
 - d. Vice Chair Elect - Bryan Lain
 - e.
3. Approval of 2024 minutes ?
 - a. Kevin motions to approve
 - i. Ryan seconds
4. Officer Reports:
 - a. Chair: Mik Davis - Absent due to institutional commitments. Vice Chair Gabby Lamura delivered report from Chair,
 - b. Vice Chair Elect: Gabrielle Lamura
 - i. Planning for conference - discussion deferred for later
 - c. Secretary: Robert Tabackman- Present
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - d. Discussion of next year -
 - i. Mobile Alabama!
 - ii. Bryan will speak on particular theming -
 - iii. Not sure about addendums to Constitution -
- 5.. Conference - Planning for Alabama.
 - e. Focus of discussion on virtual participation
 - f. Vice chair elect plans to push aggressively for submissions. it is noted that dicision has much tro contribute to discussion of argumentation and AI
 - g. VC Elect floated plan for virtual participation - plans to push hard to include this in the call for next year's NCA
 - h. Call for input from meeting membership
 - i. Some rooms are being listed virtual friendly - this is currently "extremely difficult" - EV rental is currently very expensive per room. This, alongside loss of revenue for direct conference attendance, is a barrier. VC Elect proposes "low tech solutions" - Zoom or other accommodations are possible.
 - j. Question to floor - is there opposition to virtual attendance?

- k. Kevin Bryant - notes that its anachronistic at this point to not have virtual access. Only upside.
- l. Question from floor - what type of format is envisioned?
- m. VC Elect - ideally, contribution from exec itself. Current idea is keeping it open-ended encouraging virtual participation at time of call, then take 'zoom-room' approach.
- n. It is notable that the division only had seven submissions this year - particularly given the crossover between debate scheduling and conference scheduling, virtual participation would help this division in particular thriving.
- o. Question from floor - cost:
- p. Will association ask virtual members to pay full rate?
- q. This was discussed in planning meeting - consider maybe having fees. They are still considering how to approach making payment fair for virtual participation.
- r. Kevin Bryant - opinion from floor is to attempt to make fee equivalent. Concern is also that we might see recouped fees with non-equivalent equipment committed.
- s. Question from floor: If we're doing virtual specifically for presenters, rather than for just attendance at panels as a whole. The idea is this would be more palatable based on saving costs.
- t. Contribution from floor: need to consider factor of accessibility - having zoom enables good presentations from people who might otherwise be unable to attend/deliver.
- u. Still looking for broader sense from division - email follow up to division at large.
- v. Again noted that VC elect plans to raise this to planning committees. The big concerns overall are cost, fear of less attendance, avoiding ancillary costs. Possibility of monetization of virtual participation.
- w. Maybe make our division a test case? In any case, would be good to have a "mandate" for advocating on this.

5. Conference!

- i. Seven submissions -
- ii. Top Paper Award - Scott Thompson, Texas Tech.
- iii. Top Student Paper - Lindsay Anton, Liberty University. *Anchoring Influence: Understanding the Impact of Rhetorical Techniques in Collegiate Forensics for Enhanced Argumentation Pedagogy*
- iv. **Ongoing thing is encouragement of submissions. Noted ask of getting membership to encourage submissions - especially given close**
- v. **In that regard: more reviewers would be nice, respondents, chairs needed. Build that supportive ecosystem.**

- vi. BBQ Debate with Pop. Culture Division - attend! Perhaps make an ongoing tradition.
 - vii. Shoutout to Gabby for planning!
- b. Discussion from Strat Plannning
 - i. Looking for more engagement from undergrads. Few bites on outreach to local debate teams nearby. Noted that it important to cultivate collaboration/sharing with local teams.
 - ii. Proposal for a round-robin tournament (for undergrads we think). This is something that Western does - would be a test case for whether we can carve out ground.
- 6. New Business
 - a. 37 current members - dip
- 7. Elections
 - a. We need a secretary, and a vice chair elect
 - b. Secretary
 - i. Nomination of Kevin Bryant - confirmed by acclimation
 - c. Vice Chair Elect
 - i. nominations:
 - 1. Jessica Rogers, Tennessee Tech self nominates - 4
 - 2. Nomination of Scott Thompson from Texas Tech - 5
 - 3. Scott confirmed by 5-4 vote. Congratulations Scott!
 - d. No need for elect for Chair (Gabby in line for resumption) or Treasurer.
 - e. Outgoing Remarks by Brian Lain
 - i. Birmingham is a great city. We would love you to come out!
 - f. Signing up for reviewing – do it!! We need reviewers
 - i. Gabby will be sending out information and asking for reviewers as the 2025 planning gets underway.
 - ii. Please consider volunteering as a reviewer. All divisions need reviewers always!
 - g. Passing of the gavel
 - h. Adjournment
 - i. Kevin Bryant moves to adjuourn
Gabby seconds
 - ii. Dismissed at 5:16