

**Instructional Development Division Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Southern States Communication Association – Norfolk, VA**  
**4:15 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**  
**Saturday, April 5, 2025**

Jacob Metz, Tennessee Tech University, Presiding

1. Call to order
  - a. 4:21pm ET
  - b. Attendance
    - i. Alex Rister
    - ii. Scott Christen
    - iii. Jessica Rogers
    - iv. Cynthia Sampson
    - v. Sean Upshaw
    - vi. Antonia Steele
    - vii. Laura Morrison
    - viii. Twyla Coy
    - ix. Jessica Beckham
    - x. Jacob Metz
    - xi. Elizabeth Hanson Smith
    - xii. Lakelyn Taylor
2. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion: Scott
  - b. Second: Jessica
  - c. Vote: 10-0-0
3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
  - a. Motion: Scott
  - b. Second: Jessica
  - c. Vote: 10-0-0
4. Officer Reports
  - a. Chair, Jacob Metz
    - i. SSCA Executive Council Meeting, Part 2 Information
      1. Meeting on Thursday morning
      2. Vast majority was discussion on DEI committee and if we want to change the name of that. If so, what would we change it to?
      3. In short, we didn't come to a definitive conclusion. It comes down to whether we need to change it for the sake of members who come from states who have mandates against DEI and/or to preempt any targeting that may take place.
      4. On the other hand, the Association isn't currently under attack so there it doesn't feel warranted to change the name. If we do change the name, then we need to change the title of panels, papers, and sessions. Which also prompts a discussion of changing the words in research.
      5. We are still trying to figure all of that out.
      6. Discussion

- a. Lakelyn: What does this mean and who gets to figure this out?
  - b. Jacobo: Still in discussion phase everyone and no one is doing anything specifically.
  - c. Cynthia: Added that the committee wasn't formed in part because we were going to talk about it in the strategic plan meeting. We will see a copy of this to mid-year session at NCA.
  - d. Elizabeth: Strategic plan is on the website and has been pending since approximately 2016 (?)
  - e. Jessica: What is the catch 22 for all of those different areas?
  - f. Jacob: There was about 7 or 8 different suggestions of titles. If we obscure it from the government, do we obscure it from the membership? And will changing the wording just make other words targets?
- ii. SSCA Business Meeting Information
- 1. There were 4 items on resolutions, 3 of which were brought forward this year and 1 was tabled from last year
    - a. 3 were to amend the constitution
      - i. Article 6 – number of business meetings (passed); and
      - ii. Article 4 – about the Executive Director responsibilities and the \$10,000 stipend (passed); and
      - iii. Article 7 – process for resolutions (passed with amendment)
        - 1. All resolutions need to be submitted at least 45 days prior to the business meeting at SSCA. Must be seen by committee, then sent to Executive Council, then sent to membership.
        - 2. Amendment to delete the 45 day timeframe (passed)
        - 3. Resolutions committee is only meant to clean up the resolutions and present them to the Executive Council. After review by the Executive Council, the resolution is presented to the membership at the business meeting.
        - 4. Concern: Will we as the membership actually get to see what gets sent from the Resolutions Committee to the Executive Council?
    - b. 1 resolution was tabled
      - i. Ceasefire resolution
      - ii. Short version: Went to committee and the conclusion was that legally we can't do anything with it to protect our non-profit status.

- iii. Division Membership Numbers
      - 1. As of the most recent report, membership is down overall for SSCA
        - a. 582 last year
        - b. 554 this year
      - 2. Our numbers are down as well
        - a. 72 last year
        - b. 61 this year
    - b. Vice Chair, Colleen Mestayer
      - i. Division Conference Submission Numbers
        - 1. 18 Submissions
        - 2. 10 panel sessions
        - 3. 4 faculty papers
        - 4. 4 student papers
        - 5. 17 accepted | 94.4% acceptance rate
      - ii. Program Structure
        - 1. 12 panels
        - 2. 1 business meeting
    - c. Vice Chair-Elect, Elizabeth Hanson Smith
      - i. SSCA Executive Council Meeting, Part 1 Information
        - 1. President's report main concern is the strategic plan
          - a. Out of date
          - b. Hasn't been brought to the membership
          - c. We will see how it becomes a priority over the next year.
          - d. Carl is rolling out and Pat is rolling in.
      - ii. Conference Theme, Date, and Location for Next Year
        - 1. 96<sup>th</sup> year and 8<sup>th</sup> convention at Birmingham
          - a. Date: April 8-12
          - b. Location: Birmingham, AL
          - c. Theme: AI, community, and location (combo)
          - d. Hotel: Sheraton
        - 2. Conference will take place at the conference center right across the street from the Sheraton
      - iii. Call for Reviewers, Chairs, and Respondents
        - 1. Please sign up to review, chair, and/or respond.
        - 2. It's a great CV line and those are coming up soon.
- 5. Old Business
  - a. Katherine Grace Hendrix Award
    - i. Standing Committee
      - 1. Nothing has been formalized.
      - 2. We haven't made it a part of our by-laws
      - 3. Motion to discuss the creation of a standing committee for this award: Scott
        - a. Second: Cynthia
        - b. Vote: 10-0-0
        - c. Jacob: We can't approve an amendment in this meeting per our by-laws but we can put it to an email vote.
        - d. Elizabeth: It would be worth doing to create a structured process. We need to vet the rubric. It is both a division and

Association award. At the moment, it's not a money award because there aren't sufficient funds for it.

- e. Elizabeth: We can create a special committee to handle the award and charge that committee to determine and propose the by-law amendment for approval next year.
- f. Motion that the previous Hendrix Award special committee be re-instate for the 2025-2026 year and create the rules for the Award to be presented for approval to the membership at the 2026 IDD business meeting: Scott
  - i. Seconded: Jessica
  - ii. Vote: 10-0-0

ii. Deadlines

- 1. As we've had the award deadline published, the award nominations are due Jan. 15.
- 2. Other NCA awards are due Dec. 5
- 3. Motion to move the deadline for the Hendrix Award to Dec. 5 to align with the other NCA award deadlines
  - a. Seconded: Jessica
  - b. Vote: 9-1-0

iii. Evaluation Standards

iv. Special Committee for this Year

v. Hendrix Award Spotlight Panel for Next Year

6. New Business

a. Secretary Position Term Length

- i. Lakelyn didn't know that this was FOR LIFE.....
- ii. Our by-laws don't specify the term length for the Secretary
- iii. We can't vote on the amendment now because it's a change to the by-laws.
- iv. Discussion
  - 1. Jessica: Can we give the secretary a secretary-elect?
  - 2. Elizabeth: She can just step down.
  - 3. Jacob: Referred to Article IV, Section 5 that she can step down and the office can be filled.
  - 4. Lakelyn officially stepped down from the Secretary position for the 2025-2026 year.
  - 5. Jacob: Do we want to set it at a 3-year term moving forward?
- v. Motion that a by-law changed be proposed to the membership that would include a term limit of 3-years for the secretary at the next IDD business meeting (2026): Scott
  - 1. Seconded: Jessica
  - 2. Vote: 11-0-0

b. Recruitment/Division Advertising

- i. Our numbers are down a little bit compared to where they were at.
- ii. Talk to folks to get interested in the division.
- iii. If you know the people who are not affiliated with any division, encourage them to select IDD for their membership affiliation.

c. Election for Vice Chair-Elect

- i. Elizabeth overviewed the Vice Chair-Elect position.
- ii. Motion to open the floor for nominations: Lakelyn

1. Seconded: Jacob
2. Nominations
  - a. Cynthia Sampson
    - i. Self-nominated
3. Move to close the floor for nominations: Lakelyn
  - a. Seconded: Jacob
  - b. Vote: 11-0-0

**iii. Nominated: Cynthia Sampson**

- d. Appointment for Secretary
  - i. The Executive Membership will make an appointment to fill this vacancy for 2025-2026 instead of it being elected.
  - ii. It will be officially elected at next year's business meeting
  - iii. Jessica Rogers expressed interested in filling this vacancy.
  - iv. **The Executive Council appointed Jessica Rogers as Secretary for the 2025-2026 year.**
- e. Discussion Regarding Next Year's Theme
  - i. Ideas:
    1. How do we use AI as professors?
      - a. Two panels: What is good about AI? What is bad about AI?
      - b. Could co-sponsor with Argumentation and Debate
    2. Discussions on campus about workshops where students tell faculty how they are using AI to help faculty develop better activities.
    3. What are incoming/prospective students' perceptions of AI? Can they tell when AI has been used in recruitment material? What do they think about programs or institutions that use AI?
    4. Using AI instead of meeting with an advisor?
    5. How do we as instructors use AI to be more efficient?
    6. Administratively, do you use AI? How do administrators feel about the use of AI by students, faculty, and staff?
    7. Workshop about AI tools that we don't use and could play with.
    8. AI and presentations
    9. AI in instructional contexts outside of the classroom
    10. Poster session for AI and use as a professor
      - a. Instead of it being a research poster, it's a how to
      - b. Great Ideas For Professors
    11. Not supporting AI in instructional contexts
    12. It's about community and AI, so where is the community?
    13. What is the communal exchange of ideas from academic to corporate?
    14. Middle ground of AI
      - a. Human in the loop
      - b. How do we as a community of academics accept it and navigate it?
      - c. Maybe the need to not have AI?
  - ii. Elizabeth will ruminate on theses.
7. Announcements
  - a. Katherine Grace Hendrix Award
    - i. Announced in the Award Luncheon

- ii. Awardee: Dr. Shawn Upshaw
    - iii. Article: *Communication Education* (2024) “Centering Culture in Health Promotion Education: A Pedagogy Conversation about Health Promotion Education, Culture and Health Equity”
  - b. Top Paper Award
    - i. Awardee: Alex Rister
    - ii. Paper: “Anchoring Effective Communication: A Preliminary Exploration of Facework in Student Perceptions of GenAI versus Human Instructor Feedback”
  - c. Top Student Paper Award
    - i. Awardee: Antonia Steele
    - ii. Paper: “Social Media Richness and It’s Impact on GenZ College Enrollment”
- 8. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to adjourn: Jessica
  - b. Seconded: Cynthia
  - c. Vote: 10-0-0
  - d. Adjourn at 5:41pm ET