1. **Report from the ICA Executive Committee (by Elisia Cohen)**

   a) The 75th ICA conference will be held in Denver, Colorado, USA.
   b) Thomas Hanitzsch will be the planner.
   c) The theme is: Disrupting and Consolidating Communication Research.
   d) The deadline for submission will be November 1, 2024 (Friday).
   e) The dates will be June 12-16, 2025.
   f) Depending on submissions, the format will be hybrid, in-person and virtual.
   g) The location will be Hyatt and Hyatt Regency which is a six-minute walk.
      i. Same as previous years, hotel block will be available in March 2025.
      ii. The room block is huge but there are overflow hotels.
      iii. There are other rental options available, but attendees will be booking those options at their own risk. Travel insurance is recommended.
      iv. The hotel block rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the conference at $206 per single or double room.

2. **Welcome and introduction of officers (by Tim Coombs)**

   a) Meeting called to order by ICA PRD Chair, Prof. Tim Coombs at 4:36 PM.
   b) The PRD officers were introduced:
      i. Chair and ICA Board Member: W. Timothy Coombs, Centre for Crisis and Risk Communications, USA
      ii. Vice Chair and Program Planner: Erich Sommerfeldt, University of Minnesota, USA
      iii. Secretary: Lisa Tam, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
      iv. International Liaison: Claudia Labarca, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Chile
      v. Student and Early Career Representative: Julia Stranzl, University of Vienna, Austria
   c) Incoming Officers starting their terms in June 2024 were also introduced:
      i. Secretary: Yang (Alice) Cheng North Carolina State University
      ii. International Liaison: Yuan Wang, City University of Hong Kong

3. **Announcements from the ICA Board meeting (by Tim Coombs)**

   a) The budget was accepted.
   b) There were 5 major talking points from the Strategic Plan Draft Report which will be sent out.
   c) A Data Privacy Policy was adopted to limit the data collected from members.
   d) The 2026 ICA annual conference will be held in the Global South but not South America.

4. **Division Report: Report from Chair (by Tim Coombs)**

   a) As of August 2023, the number of PRD members is 350.
   b) The budget for 2024 is $23,176.72. It helps to sponsor substantial hors d'oeuvres for the reception.
   c) Thank you to the Plank Center for sponsoring the top student paper award.
5. Report from Secretary (by Lisa Tam)

a) Since the implementation of the Division’s revised communication policy in August 2022, the Secretary now manages three channels: (a) the email monthly update, (b) the Facebook page, and (c) the website. Additionally, the Secretary prepares the minutes for the Business Meeting. The Student and Early Career Representative (SECR), Julia Stranzl, manages the X channel.

b) Handover with the Incoming Secretary: Lisa Tam will be meeting with Alice Cheng (North Carolina State University) to be held on Zoom on June 26 (Wed).

i. Recommendation #1: To conduct an online questionnaire to identify members’ preferences of communication from the Division.

ii. Recommendation #2: The ICA PRD website has a “history” section that lists all the members who have served in the Division’s leadership team since 1985. To acknowledge the service by members of the award committees, their names should also be made recorded on the website.

6. Report by SECR (by Julia Stranzl)

a) Some identified challenges for PhDs which we want to address:

i. Publishing pressure, especially in different national settings

ii. Disorientation/information overload concerning the academic world (where to start and where to go?)

iii. Barriers to connect (language, subject of interest, conference/workshop attendance limitations)

iv. Lack of in-depth feedback and paper development discussions on an individual level

v. Mental health

b) Have had virtual events to address these issues. We started a virtual PhD get-together series with a focus on different topics and lengths to connect and engage young scholars. We are always open for ideas and contributions.

i. #1 PhD get-together (October 2023): Submitting to ICA2024 (guest speakers: Erich Sommerfeldt, Sophia Volk)

ii. #2 PhD get-together (April 2024): Preparing and presenting at ICA2024

iii. #3 PhD get-together (June 2024): Publishing, mental health in academia, slow science, global collaboration (guest speakers: Jens Hagelstein, Christopher Ruppel, Julia Stranzl, Franzisca Weder, Claudia Labarca Encina)

c) Future outlook:

i. #4 PhD get-together (September 2024): Publishing pressure in the US (panel discussion: Cen (April) Yue and Luke Capizzo)

ii. #5 PhD get-together (October 2024): Submitting to ICA 2025 (guest speakers: tbc)

iii. #6 PhD get-together (December 2024): Open house – get to know each other

iv. #7 PhD get-together (February 2025): Paper development workshop

7. Report from International Liaison (by Claudia Labarca)

a) Following the preconference about PR and Org Comm in Toronto 2023, we had a call for a special issue in an ICA affiliate journal Cuadernos.info. with the main theme “Organizational Communication, Strategic Communications and Public Relations in Latin America: convergences and divergences.”
i. We received 28 works from all around Latin America, especially Brazil and Colombia.
ii. The special issue is published in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.
iii. Appreciate all the help of the division for this special issue.
iv. Within the editorial we highlighted the role of ICA in it.
v. We appreciate the help from the Division to promote this special issue.
vi. Contributions were received in Spanish and Portuguese.

b) With other international liaisons, we formally asked for access to have information about our own members. However, this is not possible, but we got the permission to ask our own members by doing a survey.
   i. So, we started this Google Form that we kindly invite all members to respond to the survey. (We need more communication in our social networks though).
   ii. Cooperation with Julia in the café she is organizing with PhD students.
   iii. A virtual get together hosted for newcomers international scholars on June 7th.

8. Report from Vice Chair (by Erich Sommerfeldt)

   a) ICA PRD program at 2024 Gold Coast conference:
      i. Conference Allocations
         • Number of research session slots allocated: 15
         • Number of poster slots allocated: 3
         • Number of co-sponsored sessions: 0
      ii. If you would like to propose a co-sponsored session, please contact Erich Sommerfeldt.
      
      i. Review Process
         • Number of reviewers: 187
         • Average number of submissions per reviewer: 3.65
         • Thank you for reviewing! It is a heavy lift!

      iv. Paper Submissions
         • Number submitted: 106
         • Number accepted: 54
         • Acceptance rate: 50.9%

      v. Panel Submissions
         • Number submitted: 6
         • Number accepted: 3
         • Acceptance rate: 50%

      vi. Abstract Submissions
         • Number submitted: 43
         • Number accepted: 6
         • Acceptance rate: 7.16%

      vii. The overall Division’s acceptance rate is about 40%, matching ICA’s acceptance rate.

9. Award Recognitions

   a) Top Faculty Paper Awards 2024
      i. “Who asked for this?”: Authenticity and Race-Centered CSR (by Ajia Meux, Natalie Tindall)
      ii. Harnessing Wild Public Networks in the Age of Communicative Capitalism: The Case of Patagonia and “Earth is Now Our Only Shareholder” (by Veronica Dawson, Elizabeth Brunner)
b) **Top Student Paper Awards 2024**
   i. Crisis Blame Avoidance in the Digital Platform: A Focus on the Zhengzhou 7-20 Rainstorm Incident in China (by Ze Lai, Jizhou F. Ye, Yuyuan Lai, Yujie Hou)
   ii. What Drives Stakeholders’ Participation in Different Type of Online Firestorms? The Role of Expectation and Self-Relevancy (by Jiayu G. Qu)
   iii. Prosocial or Pro-Platform? Examining the Effect of Platform Affordance on Public Engagement in the Disasters (by Silvia Chen Zhang)

c) **Top Reviewer Award 2024**
   i. Dr. Michael Kent

d) **James E. Grunig and Larissa A. Grunig Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards 2024** (Report by Committee Chair, Regina Chan from Hong Kong Baptist University)
   i. 5 thesis (two rolled over from last year) and 11 dissertation submissions
   ii. The dissertation award winner is Dr. Jeannette Iannacone (PhD awarded by University of Maryland; Advisor: Dr. Erich Sommerfeldt). Dissertation title: Public mobility and the impact on social networks: Understanding the societal and transnational communication of migrant networks from a qualitative approach.
   iii. The thesis award winner is Ms. Caroline Siegel (MA degree awarded by Leipzig University; Advisor: Dr. Ansgar Zerfass). Thesis title: Is communication maturity the next big thing? A critical review of maturity models in strategic communication and their contribution to measurement & evaluation and excellence.
   iv. A big thank you to our committee members:
      - Amy O'Connor (University of Minnesota)
      - Ganga Dhanesh (University of Maryland)
      - Don Stacks (University of Miami)
      - Silvia Ravazzani (IULM University)
      - Weiting Tao (University of Miami)
      - Aimei Yang (University of Southern California)

e) **New Award: Crisis Communication Think Tank (CCTT) University of Georgia Top Paper Award** (Report by Yan Jin from the University of Georgia)
   i. Sponsored by the Crisis Communication Think Tank (CCTT) at the University of Georgia, this $500 award is for the top paper that advances excellence in crisis communication theory and practice.
   ii. It will be awarded to the best crisis communication paper in the open category (full paper submission only)
   iii. Award review committee: 5 reviewers (at least one practitioner), to be appointed by the CCTT Director and PRD Head, representing North American [NA], Asia/Pacific, and Europe [EU]; chair of the committee to be appointed by the CCTT Director in consultation with PRD Head. Each reviewer serves a 3-year term (renewable upon CCTT Director’s recommendation and PRD Head approval).
   iv. Inaugural committee member appointed by the CCTT:
      - LaShonda Eaddy (NA, CCTT scholar member)
      - Lucas Held (NA, CCTT practitioner member)
      - Winni Johansen (EU, CCTT scholar member)
      - Augustine Pang (Asia, CCTT scholar member)
      - Yijing Wang* (EU, CCTT Scholar member) [*Committee Chair]
      - Ex officio: Yan Jin, CCTT Director; Timothy Coombs, PRD Head
   v. The pool of papers to be considered: The "top 5" highest rated crisis/risk full papers from the ICA PRD peer review process.
   vi. Additional award evaluation criteria: These 5 papers were further evaluated according to an evaluation criteria based on the *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*
(JCCM)’s “original article” evaluation criteria. The winning paper will be offered the opportunity of being fast-tracked review for publication in a regular issue of the JCCM.

vii. CCTT UGA Top Paper Winner: Retelling the past crisis: Crisis memory and its influences on organizational reputation and public responses (by Xing Zhang from School of Media and Communication at Shenzhen University)

f) Heath Award Update from Flora Hung-Baescke
i. Last year, there were discussions about how editors nominated articles for the Heath Award. This was based on citations. However, in last year’s review this process was called into question as citations do not reflect the impact of an article. We decided to further discuss with editors on how to revise this process to make it more effective.

ii. Editors of JPRR, JCM PRR IJSC, CCIJ PRI have been meeting to discuss this. Based on many discussions we decided that articles that are well-cited may not be as impactful from a research perspective, therefore citations should not be a criterion. Instead, editors will nominate 3 articles each and provide a rationale for each article they nominate.

iii. The process is not solidified but another meeting is scheduled to finalize it in time for the ICA elections.

10. New Business: The ICA Public Relations Division is seeking 2–3 candidates for the following roles.

a) Vice-Chair (2025–2027)
- Term: May 2025–May 2027, followed by serving two years as the Division Chair, May 2027–May 2029
- Four-year commitment, two to plan the conference as vice-chair and two as chair.
- Will become part of the Division’s leadership team after the 2025 Denver conference
- Will be the program planner for ICA conferences 2026 in TBD and 2027 in Chicago, IL (arranging the review process and the program)
- Will be responsible for organizing social events (Reception and PR Dinner) in the same years, usually supported by members on the ground, and help securing sponsorship
- Profile: an active member of the division and senior academic with capacities and resources to fulfill the roles and attend the conferences mentioned above
- Will be Chair and ICA Board Member for 2028 and 2029 ICA Conferences

i. Flora Hung-Baescke nominated Oyven Ihlen.

ii. Katerina Tsetsura nominated Petra Theunissen.

b) Student and Early-Career Representative (2025–2027)
- Term: May 2025–May 2027
- Should be either a PhD student or a junior/early career faculty member in 2025.
- Will become part of the Division’s leadership team after the 2025 Denver conference
- Will help the division liaise with doctoral students and early career members, and provide suggestions on how to support them
- Will help organize the ICA PRD PhD Student Workshop as a preconference for the annual conference
- Profile: The candidates should be doctoral students, active ICA student members, and able to attend the ICA conferences 2026 and 2027.

c) Self-nominations from active members or nominations by members for a third person should be sent to Tim Coombs and Erich Sommerfeld by July 14, 2024.

d) When submitting nominations, please make sure to copy the nominated candidate and confirm that nomination consent was sought prior to the nomination.

e) According to the ICA guidelines, “an ideal ballot will have 2–3 candidates per role.” The
officers need to make a pre-selection if more than three nominations are received for one role.

f) According to the ICA’s guidance to divisions, the candidates and the leadership team should reflect the diversity of the membership, e.g., regarding nationality, regional identification, gender, and ethnicity.

g) Elections will be conducted virtually in September/October 2024. All elections are centralized through ICA.

h) Responses from PRD members: (1) A member asked a clarifying question about the start term date which was answered by Erich and Tim. (2) A member asked whether SECR could be a part-time faculty which Erich will follow up on. (d) A member made a motion to close nominations from the floor.

11. Announcements

a) HYBRID SESSIONS → please provide feedback about hybrid sessions. Concerns have been expressed about them and they are very expensive to run. 10-15k per hybrid session. ICA wants to know about people’s experiences with the hybrid sessions. This is one of the priorities for the executive committee
   i. A member asked about data on virtual submissions. Erich noted that only 6-7 virtual papers were accepted.
   ii. There was another question about visas and a virtual option for those who are unable to attend because of visa issues.
   iii. Erich: Another concern is folks saying they will be in person but going virtual last minute. folks submitting with no intention of attending in person.
   iv. The Denver conference will still be hybrid. This feedback is for 2 years down the road.
   v. Please provide your feedback.

b) A member notes that this is the 40th year of the PR Division.

c) Erich notes that we are in the top third of divisions in ICA.

d) University of Zurich is looking for a PhD student in communication.

e) University of Oklahoma is also hiring.

f) University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill is hiring assistant or associate professor.

g) University of South Carolina is hiring advanced associates or full. Open rank in AI. Lecturer in AI.

h) Journal of Communication Research has announced a special issue on readiness for issues and threats and will start receiving proposals in September.

i) Thank you to Flora Hung-Baesecke for organizing the pre-conference in Sydney. There were over 200 submissions and 250 participants.

12. Adjournment

a) The meeting was adjourned at 5:39.