

Minutes for ICA Game Division Business Meeting, June 12, 2016, Fukuoka

Led by: Nicholas D. Bowman (Chair) and Julia Kneer (Vice-Chair)

1 Call to Order – Nicholas D. Bowman (Chair)

2 Minutes Review – Nicholas D. Bowman (Chair)

- A motion to approve the 2015 GS business meeting minutes had no objections. The minutes can be found online on the GSD website:

<http://game.icahdq.org/ohana/documents?guid=C3337C48-32F6-49FA-B081-269567FE6EAO>

3 Chairs Report – Nicholas D. Bowman (Chair)

a) Game Studies News:

- Bowman noted that the Annual report to ICA Executive Director Laura Sawyer can be found on the GSD website: <http://game.icahdq.org/ohanaFiles/file/Annual%20report%20GSD-2016-STATSINCLUDED.pdf>
- Report on the board meeting will be online soon
- Membership rate is steady and above 5% of total ICA membership to retain division status at the moment.
- Financial Report: GSD has about 540 USD in the bank. It is no longer possible to roll over preconference dollars, so excess money was spent on Banners (100 USD), T-Shirts and Paper Awards prizes. With the money saved (500 USD, more than any other year before) and the additional funds from ICA (see below), finances are stable and sustainable for GSD.
 - Elson asked about whether or not GSD's budget was sustainable, given Ivory's efforts to balance budget items
 - Bowman responded that GSD's budget is healthier and more robust in 2016 than it's ever been, even without the additional support from ICA and/or an increase in dues.
- Voting on three different GSD-specific events via ICA's web-based voting system in autumn 2016 was discussed in depth:
 - New division Vice-Chair (four-year term effective at the end of ICA 2017 with two years as Vice-Chair and two years as Chair). One candidate was nominated before the business meeting (Johannes Breuer, U of Cologne, Germany). There were no other nominations from the floor at this point.
 - Amendments to GSD By-Laws. Given the recent "promotion" to Division status and the addition of a few different appointed officers to GSD (International Liaison, Graduate Student/Early Career Representative, Communications Officer), a series of amendments to GSD By-Laws were proposed. With the help of ad-hoc parliamentarian Shane Tilton (Ohio U, USA), all proposed changes available can be found online: <http://game.icahdq.org/ohana/documents?guid=79E3A86E-7E9D-4C79-8CD0-6A7EFA083E34>. There were no objections or challenges on these amendments from the floor.
 - Membership dues increase. Right now, GSD members pay a 3 USD membership fee (the lowest in ICA), and that money is passed to the GSD budget directly. As of ICA 2017, ICA is going to give an additional 2 USD per member, which stands to add between 150 USD and 250 USD to the annual GSD budget. This is a great step in the right direction in terms of GSD's ability to offer graduate student assistance and more attractive member recognitions (this year, the registration fees for GSD's top reviewer and student Flashlight winner was waived), but it is a rather small increase. A potential for GSD to raise its membership fee to 5 USD was discussed with no major objections to a vote.

b) ICA News

- New regulations for finances: ICA gives 5 USD per member to division, while only charging 3 USD per member, resulting in more money for divisions. The floor approved very much.

Additionally, it is now possible to roll over finances for divisions from year to year, abolishing the previous two-year limit. However, preconference funds cannot be rolled over anymore.

- The Communication yearbook is becoming a new ICA journal.
- There were discussions about ethics in ICA journals (double submissions) which resulted in an ICA level statement on publications and one retraction
- ICA now has 100 living ICA fellows with 12 new fellows accepted by the board in 2016. Bowman reminded the division members that fellow nominations can come from anybody in ICA. ICA fellows represent the “elite cream of the crop” or “best of the best”. Bowman also reminded members that GSD can promote people for association-wide awards, mentorship awards, publication awards, and others.
- For the first time since 66 years, ICA is finalizing its archives with the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania
- ICA has approved publication of a new journal: “Communication History”
- ICA had 4000 submissions in 2016, 2300 registered participants of which 25% are new members. The decline in attendance for Fukuoka 2016 was not as severe as projected in 2015, although exact numbers weren’t available at the Board Meeting.

4 Conference Report – Julia Kneer (Vice-Chair)

- A new category of submission was introduced for 2016: Flashlight presentations are short presentations intended for an audience outside of Game Studies to present GSD work to attendees from other fields. In addition, the review system has been revised to better accommodate theoretical papers (i.e. no empirical data).
- A more rigorous/formal submission policy has been introduced for 2016 to limit paper length (only maximum of 25 pages allowed) and anonymization to allow for better/faster review of papers. Kneer reported that she received 4 positive and 1 negative reaction to desk rejects based on the stricter policy. The floor applauded Kneer for this procedure and expressed the wish to continue with this policy in 2017.
- 113 papers and 3 panels were submitted to Game Studies for the 2016 paper competition: 84 empirical papers, 6 poster proposals, 11 theory papers, and 10 flashlight presentations.
- There were 2 papers not uploaded correctly and 22 desk rejections:
 - Flashlights: 1 paper not anonymized, 1 too long
 - Empirical papers: 13 too long, 2 not anonymized
 - Poster proposals: 1 too long
 - Theory papers: 1 not anonymized
- 92 papers and 3 panel proposals went into the review process (2015: 87; 2014: 82), 60 were programmed (53% acceptance rate (2015: 56%), lowest average score of 3.3). Of the accepted papers, 56% had authors from an institution outside the U.S. (2015: 30%). One panel was accepted and all 6 posters.
- There were 65 reviewers (2015: 84), 22 of whom were students (6 non-U.S.) and 43 of whom were faculty (17 non-U.S.) Students were assigned 3 papers to review, faculty reviewed at most 5 papers each. Each paper was reviewed by at least one student and one faculty. All papers (but one) had 3 reviewers. 34 of 275 reviews were empty (less than 11%).
- A discussion was raised on the floor at this point:
 - Elson: punishment for bad reviews? Not let them review again next year?
 - Schierbach: No, rewarding good reviewers!
 - Newbury: encourage more quality reviews with prompts/guidelines.
 - Kneer: Better fit of submissions to reviewers through survey beforehand worked well! Will be done again.
 - Elson: Do we want to think about new formats, like results-blind papers?
 - Kneer: We have 6 different formats at the moment. How many types of categories should we have? We have 10 slots only.

- Discussion did not come up with new action points.
- Top paper winners were:
 - 1) Mia Consalvo, Jason Begy, Sarah Ganzon, & Rainforest Scully-Blaker (top faculty)
 - 2) Vivian Hsueh Hua Chen, Claudia Wilhelm, & Sven Joeckel (top faculty)
 - 3) Kevin Koban (student) & Peter Ohler (top student)
 - 4) Opeyemi Dele-Ajay (student; top poster)
- GSD Special Awards:
 - Top reviewer: Nathaniel Poor
 - PreCon Dungeon Master: Teresa Lynch

5 ICA 2017 Conference Preview – Paula Gardner (ICA President Elect-Select)

- Gardner visited the GSD meeting briefly on behalf of the ICA executive committee and shared information about the ICA 2017 conference in San Diego, U.S. The conference will have a new thematic format parallel to the opening reception and asks for submissions in the category “art, demonstration, visual”
- ICA aims to add gamification elements to ICA 2017. So far, GSD was not approached to help in this regard, but Gardner extended an invitation to be involved.
- Other points of emphasis included the quality of food and restaurants, affordability of lodging (conference hotel: 149 USD per room/night)

6 Pre-Conference Report – Teresa Lynch (Preconference Organizer)

- For fourth consecutive year, GS held a successful preconference event with competitively-selected papers (as well as a preconference event with invited speakers in 2012). The event was held June 8th at Nihon University, Tokyo. The conference theme was “Just Games?”
- The preconference featured a paper competition with 47 submissions in total, 33 of whom were accepted. At the event, 25 research reports and 8 game demonstrations were presented. Additionally, one invited keynote talk was held.
- Preconference sponsors were: University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism; University of Muenster, Department of Communication; Northeastern University, Department of Communication Studies & PLAIT Lab; West Virginia University, Department of Communication Studies; Michigan State University, Department of Media & Information; Nihon University College of Art; Indiana University, The Media School
- Finances: After the event, 940 USD were left which were rolled over into the GSD budget (one-time possibility, will not be possible to roll over again in the future)

7 International Outreach Liaison Report – Malte Elson (International Outreach Liaison)

- Elson will be stepping down as International Outreach Liaison after the conference. Any member with interest in this position was invited to contact the GSD Chair by July 1.

8 Graduate Student/Early Career Scholar Liaison Report – Elizabeth Newbury (SEC Representative)

- Newbury wrote a report, which can be found online: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bx8GB9S6TMQkTFIYb2dBcHV4WU0/view?usp=sharing>
- All GS/ECS Representatives and committee met for first time this year. Newbury noted, that Game Studies Division is good ahead of other divisions by both formalizing the role through a bylaws change, as well as maintaining open communication with the board.
- Newbury noted, that GSD should have a committee of several people for this task and asked members to come forward to collaborate.

9 New Business

- Nominations for Vice Chair available online until July 1st
- Discussions of proposed by-law changes. All changes were explained in detail. Only after a vote, the positions will be formally created. Two language issues were raised on the floor as well as one duplication issue. Also: Take “age” out of the “young scholar positions”
- A discussion was initiated on a possible increase of membership dues. There were no real feelings about the topic on the floor, so the issue will be voted on (see GSD news above)
- Last year, GSD members requested to move GSD business meeting to not coincide with the CAT business meeting. ICA did not grant this request. It was noted that GSD members insist on trying to move the meeting again for ICA 2017.
- An issue with sponsorship of ICA presentation was raised. There were concerns from a few ICA members (of GSD and other Divisions/Interest Groups) that they were being solicited for sponsorship of GSD presentations – at least one scholar requesting financial support (travel and housing funding) in exchange for promoting other’s logos and/or websites in his/her presentation. While this might have been well-intentioned given the expenses of an international conference, the practice is generally viewed as being in poor taste in most academic circles. To be clear, GSD does not – and has never - encourage or support the practice, and we’ll be working with ICA to clarify and codify sponsorship regulations regarding the conference moving forward (NOTE: GSD Chair Nick Bowman already serves on the ICA Sponsorship Committee).
- There were discussions about a possible name change for GSD to also include “virtual worlds” instead of only games. No change was formally requested or addressed by GSD members, so there will be no vote for a name change in the near future.
- GSD “office hours” were again very well received. However, they were not mentioned in the ICA program. All agreed that these office hours (“scholar-to-scholar”) should be formalized and added to the program for ICA 2017.
- During the business meeting, no members officially stepped forward to lead a task force to arrange a preconference event for ICA 2017. Members were asked to contact Nick Bowman by July 1 if interested in organizing such an event.

10 Old Business

- No old business was raised from the floor

11 Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Daniel Pietschmann, secretary.