

Journalism Studies Division of ICA

Minutes of the Business Meeting at the 2014 annual convention, in Seattle, WA, USA, on May 25

1. CHAIR STEPHANIE CRAFT OPENS THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE JOURNALISM STUDIES DIVISION

The agenda was approved.

2. 2013 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ICA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stephanie summed up key things learned at the board meeting:

- There is a new membership category called “employment exception” that is now in effect. It is a new membership fee category for those who are no longer students, but are also not yet fully employed as faculty. This new category comes with a 25% discount on the full fee.
- There are proposed changes to representation on the ICA board. As part of this, the currently designated five slots designated for regional at-large board members would instead become three board positions that would be elected by membership. Members will vote on this change in September.
- There has been discussion among Publications Committee members and others about how journals become affiliated with ICA. This would include forms of affiliation for journals published in languages other than English. Notably, this is separate from other activities underway to establish a new journal that would be a compendium of research in languages other than English.
- There is a new division (Environmental Communication Division) and interest group (Sports Communication Interest Group) as of this ICA convention.
- Importantly, there will be a post-conference survey that will not only gauge feelings about the conference but also assess how members feel about the conference format and how it might change in the future. The basic challenge is that ICA continues to grow in size and submissions; as that happens, the acceptance rates are falling below what many members feel is appropriate (as a point of reference, the Journalism Studies acceptance rate hovers around 40%). Some divisions experience this acceptance-rate problem more harshly than others, raising questions about how the conference structure might be tweaked—in length, in the format of debates and presentations, etc.—to address these concerns. Members are strongly encouraged to indicate their preferences for changes on the survey that will come. The underlying challenge is that, for the vast majority of ICA members, being on the conference program (to present a paper or as part of a panel) is virtually essential in order to receive institutional funding to attend the conference. Until a resolution is found, the high number of submissions will create pressures on the current structure of the conference.
- The divisions are encouraged but not required (though they may be later) to have a divisional graduate student representative and internationalization liaison. There are graduate students already working with the ICA board to improve outreach, and that has been quite successful—providing a model for what grad student representatives might do for divisions in the future.

4. NEXT UP: SAN JUAN

- Amy Jordan, president-elect select of ICA and lead organizer for the next convention,

presented the theme for the 2015 convention: “Communication Across the Life Span.”

- The hotel is the Hilton Caribe in San Juan, which has the only private beach on the island. There is a second hotel, with a casino, that is on a strip with clubs and restaurants. Further details will be forthcoming.
- Planning is being done in conjunction with 12 universities to highlight local scholarship and energy.

5. BUDGET

- Journalism Studies 2014 budget: \$3,624
 - Outstanding Article Award, \$500
 - Travel support for top 3 student papers, \$1,050
 - Tier C travel support, \$750
 - Journalism Studies reception
- Matt Carlson, Stephanie noted, “is our budget hero”
 - He raised additional reception funding from Sage and Taylor & Francis
 - He found a good deal for the reception at Rock Bottom Brewery

6. CARLSON TAKES OVER AS NEW CHAIR

- Matt Carlson was introduced as the new chair of the division. He thanked Stephanie for her service and welcomed Henrik Örnebring as the new vice chair.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Fall elections
 - There will be an election for division secretary (a two-year commitment)
 - Also on the ballot will be proposed changes to bylaws
 - Addition of graduate student representative
 - Addition of internationalization liaison
- This year’s paper competition
 - The division received 256 papers and 18 panel proposals.
 - 40.3% of papers were accepted (29.7%, or 91, for students; and 46.1%, or 165, for faculty)
 - 33.3% of panels were accepted
- Acceptance rate, now and going forward
 - The challenge, Matt said, is what to do about the growing number of submissions, on the one hand, with the flat (or even declining) slots for papers and panels, on the other. Asking for more spaces or slots simply isn’t an option.
 - Historically, the division has had student and faculty papers mixed together on panels—but a discrepancy in acceptance rates has emerged. How to accommodate more student papers? The division hasn’t been keen on the high-density format. Would it make more sense to move from 5 to 6 papers per session (i.e., from 12-minute to 10-minute presentations)? Or, to get rid of discussants altogether?
 - Members discussed the matter. Among the suggestions:
 - holding 8 a.m. sessions;
 - rethinking higher-density sessions to make them focused on 5-minute discussion of findings;
 - creating ways of allowing members to indicate that they had “research in brief” kinds of papers that would work well in a high-density format;

- limiting acceptances to one per person;
 - and preserving the respondent function, as well as allowing for more time for Q&A (in the style used by the qualitative preconference)
 - Stephanie noted that the programming needs to be done such that, even if it's a high-density paper, it shows up on the letter as a "regular paper"—so as to ensure that people can secure institutional funding.
 - There will be questions about changes of these kinds on the next survey for reviewers.
- There were 3 reviews per paper for Seattle. The third reviewer helps ameliorate issues, ensuring a fairer review process. Matt asked for help in reviewing to make that three-reviewer format functional in future years.
 - A note on membership: In Phoenix (2012), we had 600 members; now, we have 720 members—but we have fewer slots this year!

8. JOURNALISM STUDIES DIVISION AWARDS

- The Gene Burd Outstanding Dissertation in Journalism Studies Award (\$1,000 award)
 - Note: The award has been renamed as such to reflect its journalism studies-wide opportunity. Adrienne Russell announced the winner:
 - Matthew Powers (Washington), for his dissertation conducted at NYU: "Humanity's Publics: NGO's, Journalism and the International Public Sphere"
- Outstanding Journal Article of the Year in Journalism Studies (\$500 award)
 - Wolfgang Donsbach, chair of the review committee, introduced the winner of the third annual award:
 - Lilie Chouliaraki, for her article: "Remediation, Intermediation, Transmediation: The cosmopolitan trajectories of convergent journalism," published in *Journalism Studies* 14:2
 - Honorable mentions
 - Seth C. Lewis & Nikki Usher
 - Homero Gil de Zuniga & Amber Willard Hinsley

9. JOURNALISM STUDIES DIVISION AWARDS FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

Carlson distributed the prizes for top papers, as follows:

- Top 3 Student Papers (which comes with money to cover registration and some travel expenses)
 - Tanja Aitamurto, U of California, Berkeley
 - *"Open Investigative Journalism and the Reciprocal Panopticon: Citizens As Watchdogs"*
 - David Conrad, U of Pennsylvania
 - *"The Freelancer-NGO Alliance: What a Story of Kenyan Waste Reveals about Contemporary Foreign News Production"*
 - Rodrigo Zamith, U of Minnesota
 - *"What is the 'Elite Press'? A Network Analysis of High-Circulation Newspapers in the U.S."*
- Top 3 Faculty Papers
 - Andrea Umbricht and Frank Esser, U of Zurich
 - *"The Push to Popularize Politics: Comparing Public Affairs Coverage in Six News Systems since the 1960s"*

- Michael Opgenhaffen and Harald Scheerlink, U of Leuven
 - *"Social media guidelines for journalists. An investigation into the Sense and Nonsense among Flemish Journalists"*
- Katharina Emde, Daniela Schluetz and Christoph Klimmt, Hanover U of Music, Drama and Media
 - *"Does Storytelling Help Adolescents to Process the News? Comparing Narrative News and Inverted Pyramid"*
- Finally, Carlson noted that a JSD paper won ICA's Top Poster award:
 - Tine Ustad Figenschou and Audun Beyer
 - *"The Limits of the Debate: How the Oslo Terror Shook the Norwegian Immigration Debate"*

Directions to Rock Bottom Brewery were given. Then the meeting was adjourned.

Business meeting minutes submitted by Seth Lewis, division secretary