

Draft

Minutes

Western States Communication Association
Legislative Assembly meeting
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Monday, February 21, 2005
San Francisco, CA

- I. Called to Order—Myron “Ron” Lustig, President at 6:39 p.m.
- II. Announcement of Recording Secretary—Allison Searle, Colorado State University, and Parliamentarian—Robert Cherny, San Francisco State University Department of History.
- III. Review of Legislative Assembly (LA) procedures by Ron Lustig, President.
- IV. Credentials Committee Chair Annegret Horsch reported that 40 delegates were present.
- V. 2004 Legislative Assembly Minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.
- VI. Information items
 - A. Association-wide election results were announced by Ron Lustig:
 1. Sara Hayden—First Vice President
 2. Lisa Flores—Second Vice President
 3. LA Members-at-Large:
 - Karen Ashcraft, University of Utah
 - Howard Giles, University of California, Santa Barbara
 - Karen Lovaas, San Francisco State University
 - Helene Shugart, University of Utah
 - Stephen Yoshimura, University of Montana
 - B. Ron Lustig reported that the Publications Committee continues to pursue an appropriate editor for *Communication Reports*, and members were ask to contact Brian Ott, Chair, Publications Committee, with any suggested names to include in search.
 - C. Executive Council actions were reported by Sue Pendell, Executive Director:
 1. In addition to the action items on this agenda which were passed by the Executive Council, the Council decided to institute a new set of financial procedures and have an audit conducted of the WSCA finances at the end of the term of the current Executive Director.
 2. In addition, the Council adopted a set of recommendations from the Futures Committee regarding sustainability issues.
 - D. 2008 convention hotel, announced by Sue Pendell, will be The Omni Interlocken Resort between Denver and Boulder with Colorado State University as Local Host.
 - E. Heather Hundley, Acting Chair, Time & Place Committee, reported that the Committee will recommend to the Executive Council having the 2009 convention in Phoenix, AZ with Arizona State University as Local Host.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to support having the 2009 convention in Phoenix.

F. Heather Hundley reported that the Time & Place Committee is examining recommending to the Executive Council having the 2010 convention in Anchorage with the University of Alaska, Anchorage as Local Host.

Molly Gray, Alaska Convention & Visitor's Bureau, gave a presentation about Anchorage, the perspective dates for the convention, and local hotels.

Discussion centered on concerns about the location, including its effect on the Western Forensic Association tournament which is held in conjunction with WSCA's convention, the feasibility of students affording airline tickets, and Alaska's distance from western cities.

Doug Parry, University of Alaska, Anchorage, explained that they've held a number of forensic tournaments in the past with successful turnout.

Hans Hohmann, San Jose State University, and Karen Lovaas, San Francisco State University, presented strong reservations about having the convention in Anchorage because Anchorage isn't as accessible or economical as locations in the lower 48 states, and they would be worried people that wouldn't show up.

Molly Gray explained that the plane tickets to Anchorage are not as expensive as people think, that Alaska is very accessible from most major cities, and that the hotel rooms are less expensive than most convention cities, so, if people have to pay a bit more for plane tickets, they would balance that out with the lower cost of hotel rooms and no tax. She also outlined different activities that our members would find exciting, such as the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the Fur Rendevous Carnival.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to support having the 2010 convention in Anchorage.

G. Convention registration, announced by Sue Pendell, is 781 total, the highest turnout in about 10 years.

H. WSCA membership, announced by Sue Pendell, is currently at 1111, with 659 renewed for 2005 before the convention.

I. WSCA's assets, announced by Sue Pendell, were \$198,999.05 as of 12/31/04, & the Association is in good financial shape.

J. WSCA's National Communication Association Legislative Council representatives—Tasha Van Horn (representing Community Colleges, 2002-2004), Robert Stockton (representing K-12, 2003-2005); Deanna L. Fassett (representing 4+ year institutions, 2004-2006), reported:

1. NCA's meeting on the East Coast is not friendly for people traveling from the West Coast, and they need to make a change in meeting locations and/or times.
2. Bob Stockton was elected to the 2005 Committee on Committees. He announced that they need members who are willing to serve on NCA committees & urged members to provide him with resumes to take to Boston. He doesn't guarantee people will be appointed, but their willingness to serve gives WSCA higher visibility in NCAA
3. A new Nonverbal Communication Division was approved.
4. NCA is discussing a Certification and Accreditation Program. Bob Stockton suggested that this issue merits consideration by every department.

VII. Action Items

A. The 2005 revised & 2006 budgets were presented by Sue Pendell. She discussed the Taylor & Francis (T&F) contract, the Integrated Membership Database, and revenue. She

explained that there is no food and beverage guarantee for the 2006 convention, and all expenses will go down as Palm Springs is not as expensive as San Francisco.

The 2005 revised & 2006 budgets were moved, seconded, and approved.

B. Proposed change to the WSCA Bylaws Article VIII. Standing Committees (additions underlined; deletions struck out) (Approved by the Executive Council, February 17, 2004) (Bylaw changes require a 2/3 vote of Legislative Assembly present and voting):

Section 7. The Member Services Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the President, one each year, who serve for three years and the Second Vice President as a non-voting member. Members should represent the heterogeneity of members of WSCA, with suggested groups to be represented including K-12, community colleges, four-year schools, comprehensive universities, and doctoral-granting universities. The Member Services Committee is responsible for developing new WSCA members, retaining current WSCA members, periodically determining how the Association can better serve members, and developing information for members on the WSCA web site.

Section 7 8.

Rationale: While Association membership is relatively steady, many students and faculty members in our discipline and in our region do not belong. According to the Bylaws, the Second Vice President "shall direct efforts at increasing membership" and traditionally has done so via a mailing to members and department chairs in the fall encouraging them to recruit new members. Recently, coordinating the Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference, the Graduate Student Workshop, and the Graduate Programs Open House have been added to the Second VP's duties as these are considered partially efforts at "growing our own" members.

But membership development is only part of providing good member services in an association, hence the need for a committee to assist the Second VP as well as to ascertain how to better serve members.

Moved, seconded, and approved by the required 2/3 vote.

C. Proposed change to the WSCA Bylaws to be inserted as Article IX. Executives Club (additions underlined). (Approved by Executive Council November 10, 2004; Bylaw changes require a 2/3 vote of Legislative Assembly present and voting):

Article IX. Executives Club

Section 1. Members of the Executives Club must be members in good standing of WSCA, have served on the Executive Council of WSCA, and paid a one-time initiation fee to the Executives Club.

Section 2. The Executives Club shall maintain a separate constitution and bylaws and slate of three officers: President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Procedures for election of officers shall be specified in the Club's bylaws.

Section 3. The assets of the Executives Club shall be held by the Association separately from any Association funds or other Association assets. Procedures for disbursement of assets shall be specified in the Club's bylaws.

Section 4. The Executives Club shall meet annually.

Section 5. If the Executives Club disbands or otherwise ceases to exist, any remaining assets shall be combined with the general funds of the Association.

(Subsequent Article numbers will be changed accordingly.)

Rationale: Former officers of the Association provide unique support for the general welfare of WSCA, and the Executives Club serves to organize former officers' efforts in that area. The Executives Club generally is recognized as an auxiliary group of the Association but has no official standing in the WSCA Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed Article will provide that standing.

Moved, seconded, and approved by the required 2/3 vote.

D. Proposed change to the WSCA Bylaws Article I. Membership (additions underlined; ~~deletions struck out~~) (Approved by Executive Council November 10, 2004; Bylaw changes require a 2/3 vote of Legislative Assembly present and voting):

Section 1. The Association shall have eight classes of membership: student, regular, contingent faculty, life, honorary, retired, and departmental.

Proposed change to the Policies and Procedures Manual MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (additions underlined; ~~deletions struck out~~), insert between Regular Membership and Student Membership:

Contingent Faculty Membership: Available to any contingent faculty member (temporary and/or part-time, non-tenure track faculty) interested in the purpose of the Association upon payment of annual dues. Contingent faculty members shall have all rights and privileges of Regular Membership.

Proposed membership fee: Contingent Faculty \$30.00

Rationale: Contingent faculty are temporary and/or part-time, non-tenure track faculty. They may be referred to at your institution as adjunct faculty, lecturers, instructors, or by other names, but AAUP uses the term "contingent" faculty because their employment is contingent upon uncertain conditions. The numbers of contingent faculty are increasing steadily due to reduced funding for higher education and administrators' desire for more flexibility in staffing.

Generally, contingent faculty are paid less than tenure-track faculty, teach more classes, have no research requirement, and frequently do not have a service requirement. In addition, they may be teaching at more than one institution in order to approach making a reasonable income.

One effect of their contingent status may be that they lose touch with the discipline, and the discipline loses their possible contributions. Antidotally, one reason they do not maintain membership in our associations is cost, and no regional nor the national association has a reduced membership fee for contingent faculty.

There is a panel for contingent faculty at the 2005 WSCA convention, and this is also a step in encouraging their membership and involvement in WSCA.

With regular membership at \$40 and student membership at \$20, putting contingent faculty membership at \$30 hopefully will send the message that the Association values these individuals as well as understands their reduced financial wherewithal.

Discussion centered around two positions: this is positive because it will help out the adjuncts and lecturers who are taken advantage of by institutions, and this is negative because it

separates adjuncts and lecturers even further from regular members and seems patronizing, although the intentions are good. One member suggested that, if a person doesn't want to be considered a contingent member, s/he can sign up as a regular member.

Moved, seconded, and approved by the required 2/3 vote.

E. Proposed change to WSCA Bylaws, Article II. Finances (~~deletions struck out, additions underlined~~) (Approved by the Executive Council November 10, 2004; Bylaw changes require 2/3 vote of the Legislative Assembly present and voting):

Section 5. Should in any given year surplus revenue accrue, that surplus shall be carried over into the subsequent year's operating budget if necessary or deposited in an appropriate investment vehicle based on the policies detailed in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Rationale: One financial goal of the Association, adopted by the Legislative Assembly, is to have appropriate "savings" in case of emergency and for projects the Association might undertake. Consequently, we need to be able to invest surplus revenue.

Moved, seconded, and approved by the required 2/3 vote.

F. Proposed change to EBSCO contract (approved by Executive Council February 18, 2005):

Moved that WSCA negotiate an exclusive contact with EBSCO at the highest possible rate (but not less than \$11,600) per year for three years.

Rationale: WSCA's current contract with EBSCO is nonexclusive, which means they pay us relatively little for electronic reproduction of our journals. However, Taylor & Francis (who now publish our journals) uses EBSCO exclusively for for-profit electronic reproduction services. Therefore, for all practical purposes, EBSCO has exclusive access to our journals without paying for it.

Discussion centered on how this contract would influence our contract with T&F. Paul Siegel, Freedom of Expression & Legal Communication Interest Group, explained that T&F would be happy for us to sign this contract with EBSCO. Shiv Ganesh, Organizational Communication Interest Group, questioned whether EBSCO would be obligated to put back journals up electronically, and Ron Lustig said we would ensure that the contract obligates them to retrodigitize the journals.

Moved, seconded, and approved

G. Other—None.

H. Resolutions from Interest Groups—None.

I. Resolutions from the Floor

Hans Hohmann moved to let some convention attendees speak to Legislative Assembly about their concerns about the convention hotel. Anneliese Harper, Member-at-Large, questioned what the topic/concerns were and how long a time limit they have to speak.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to amend the motion to authorize an initial time limit of 15 minutes.

The amended main motion was approved.

Wenshu Lee & others told the Legislative Assembly that they understood that a union dispute made it almost impossible to move venues at last minute but that the membership should have had a chance to vote on whether or not to change venues. They presented two concerns: 1) the Time and Place Committee and leadership, when negotiating contracts, should include a clause that will let the Association out of the contract if there is a labor dispute, and 2) sending information out over email is not a good communication method. Specifically, the email sent about the labor dispute was vague and somewhat deceptive, letting members believe it wasn't a big deal.

Sue Pendell explained the Association's actions to try to get out of the contract with the Argent Hotel. Sue contacted the Argent to get out of contract, found a non-union hotel, and made arrangements to go there. The Argent said they would not let us out without our paying for the room guarantee and the food and beverage minimum, over \$168,000. We hired a lawyer from San Francisco who wrote two letters of opinion to Argent management saying it would be impossible for WSCA to perform as required by the contract due to the dispute, but the Argent still wouldn't let us out of contract. The lawyer said that we could go to court and most likely win, but no one has ever done so before, so we'd be setting a precedent. The leadership of the Association decided it was too great a risk for the Association to go to court. We did move some events out of the hotel and are attempting to get Argent to reimburse us for those costs.

Keith Nainby, Communication and Instruction Interest Group, said that this is helpful information and wondered why there wasn't more frequent communication of this process.

Anneliese Harper said that we have good leaders who have acted on our behalf.

Hans Hohmann said that, in the future, the contracts should also address WSCA's ability to perform.

Hans Hohmann moved that in the future, if there is a labor dispute at the hotel where the convention is to be held, the membership be fully informed of that fact and decide whether the convention be held at that hotel or not.

Discussion centered on the practicality of the motion.

Sue Pendell said that we can't get out of a hotel contract based on a vote by members unless we are willing to pay the room guarantee and food and beverage minimum and that voting probably wouldn't be representative of the majority anyway since under 20% of members vote in annual elections.

Mark Bergstrom, University of Utah, advised people to trust the leadership.

Bob Stockton, Elementary and Secondary Education Interest Group, asked, if we referred this issue to a committee, which one should it be? It was decided that the Time & Place Committee would be the appropriate Committee to take up this issue.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to refer the motion to Time & Place Committee, particularly to consider the issue of what information should be sent out to members in the event of a labor dispute.

Hans Hohmann moved that the Time & Place Committee explore the option of adding a contract clause that would allow the Association to withdraw from hotels that are having labor disputes.

The motion was seconded and approved.

J. The following Resolutions of Appreciation were moved, seconded, and approved:

Be it resolved that the Western States Communication Association expresses its heartfelt

appreciation to the following for their service:

Connie Bullis, Immediate Past President of WSCA,
 Myron (Ron) Lustig, President of WSCA,
 Mary Jane Collier, President-Elect, for convention program planning,
 Julie Yingling, Second Vice President, for planning the Undergraduate Scholars
 Research Conference, the Graduate Student Workshop, and the Graduate Programs
 Open House and for membership efforts,
 all outgoing committee members who have served during the year,
 Dan Canary, outgoing editor of *Western Journal of Communication*,
 Sue Pendell, outgoing Executive Director,
 Karen Lovaas, Amy Kilgard, and Geri Merrigan, Co-Chairs of the Local Host
 Committee, and the faculty, students, and staff of San Francisco State University for
 convention arrangements,
 Robert Trapp for coordinating the Western Forensics Association tournament,
 the staff and management of the Argent Hotel for their service and hospitality.

Be it resolved further that the outgoing President of WSCA be instructed to write letters communicating the appreciation of the Legislative Assembly to the above named persons and to their appropriate administrators.

VIII. Elections

A. At-Large Representatives to Executive Council—two members (to serve 2005-2007 starting with the meeting tomorrow morning, including an annual meeting at NCA the evening prior to the convention and an annual meeting at WSCA the day prior to the convention).

--Brian Ott, Colorado State University

--Nancy Oft Rose, Eugene District 45

Moved, seconded, and approved to elect by acclamation.

B. WSCA Nominating Committee—two members (to serve with Immediate Past President Ron Lustig, Committee Chair; two members elected by the Executive Council for 2005, and members from the Associations' Interest Groups as specified in the Constitution & Bylaws: for 2005-06, one representative each from Communication Theory, Community Colleges, Interpersonal, and Media Studies).

--Steve Yoshimura, University of Montana

--Anneliese Harper, Scottsdale Community College

Moved, seconded, and approved to elect by acclamation.

C. WSCA Representative to NCA Legislative Assembly—one member representing Community Colleges to serve 2005 through 2007 starting with NCA in Boston, including Wednesday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday morning meetings.

--Tasha Van Horn, Citrus College

Moved, seconded, and approved to elect by acclamation.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.