

New York State Communication Association Constitution and By-Laws.

Proposed Revisions April 2013.

Submitted by the Constitution Committee

Ari Kissiloff, Chair

Cheryl Casey

Sue Jasko

Viviane Lopuch

* The document "NYSCA2013-constitution+bylaws.docx" contains all of the modifications with Microsoft Word "track changes" enabled.

CONSTITUTION

PROPOSAL A

Article I (Name and Purpose), Section 2: Purposes

Original:

The purposes of this organization shall be: to encourage communication education in New York State, to serve the interests of the members of the Association, to speak for the profession in matters of policy, to set goals and standards for the profession in the state, and to promote close relations with other educational organizations in the field of communication.

Revision:

The purposes of this organization shall be: to encourage human communication scholarship and education in New York State, to serve the interests of the members of the Association, to foster student interest in the academic and applied fields of communication, to nourish a community of students, scholars, and practitioners, to promote cross discipline connections, and to promote close relations with other educational organizations in the field of communication.

Rationale:

The original was vague, and referred to things the organization does not currently do, nor does it seem interested in doing (vis a vis setting standards). This aligns more closely with actual practice.

PROPOSAL B

Article IV, Section 1: Officers (and many others)

Change “Director of New Media” to “Director of Web and Social Media”

Rationale: Original title vague, yet all encompassing. This title better describes the duties and responsibilities of this position.

PROPOSAL C

Article IV, Section 5: Vice President-Elect

Original:

The Vice President-Elect shall assist the Vice President in his/her duties. In particular, the Vice President-Elect shall coordinate the solicitation of sponsorships to raise revenue in connection with the convention and be responsible for coordinating and presenting the Excellence Awards for undergraduate and graduate student research at the annual convention.

Revision:

The Vice President-Elect shall assist the Vice President in his/her duties. In particular, the Vice President-Elect shall assist with conference preparation as directed by the Vice President and will coordinate all of the awards committees and the nominating committee by getting updates from the chairs in June, August, and written reports in September; as well as coordinating and presenting the Excellence Awards for undergraduate and graduate student research at the annual convention.

Rationale:

To bring position description in line with past and current practice, to ensure a clear succession path for conference coordination.

PROPOSAL D

Article IV, Section 6: Recording Secretary

Original:

The Recording Secretary shall record and keep accurate minutes of all Executive Council and Association meetings and transmit copies of all minutes to the Executive Council, the Archivist, and the Editor of Reports. The Recording Secretary shall also keep an updated list of the Association officers.

Revision:

The Recording Secretary (or designee) shall record and keep accurate minutes of all Executive Council and Association meetings and transmit copies of all minutes to the Executive Council, the Archivist, and the Editor of Reports. The Recording Secretary shall also keep an updated list of the Association officers.

Rationale:

The recording secretary has not always been able to be at every meeting, and this codifies current practice of designating a temporary replacement so that notes are taken and logged.

PROPOSAL E

Article IV, Section 9: Director of Outreach and Promotion

Original:

The Director of Outreach and Promotion shall coordinate the annual new member drive; maintain contact with the chairs, Deans, and directors of community college, 4-year undergraduate, and graduate communication programs throughout the state; develop relationships with other organizations where cross-promotion is in the best interest of the Association; and cultivate the image of the Association.

Revision:

The Director of Outreach and Promotion shall coordinate the annual new member drive; coordinate the solicitation of sponsorships to raise revenue in connection with the convention; maintain contact with the chairs, Deans, and directors of community college, 4-year undergraduate, and graduate communication programs throughout the state; develop relationships with other organizations where cross-promotion is in the best interest of the Association; and cultivate the image of the Association.

Rationale:

This function had never been explicitly assigned to a board member in the past and there has been confusion as to who is responsible for this important outreach.

PROPOSAL F

Article IV, Section 11: Archivist (and others)

Original:

The Archivist shall serve as the historian and archivist for the Association. He/she shall be responsible for maintaining all of the printed records of the Association, and for providing such information to the Executive Council as requested.

Revision:

The Archivist shall serve as the historian and archivist for the Association. He/she shall be responsible for maintaining all of the printed **and digital** records of the Association, and for providing such information to the Executive Council as requested. The Archivist will be appointed by the Executive council every three years at the annual conference.

Rationale:

The position of archivist has been listed as “ongoing” and as such is the only non-elected or appointed position in the organization. While ideally this person would take the position for an extended period of time (for consistency) there should be a mechanism for new persons to be appointed. This revision provides that mechanism. In addition, the term “digital” has been added to records, as the majority of our official output is now in non-paper form.

PROPOSAL G

Article IV, Section 16: Chair of the Nominating Committee

Original:

The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be charged with steering the duties of the Nominating Committee (as outlined in Article VI., Section 1.). The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall also assist in providing nominees for those offices appointed by Executive Council (as outlined in Article V., Section 3.) and present these at the Spring Executive Council meeting.

Revision:

This role will be fulfilled by the previous Immediate Past President. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be charged with steering the duties of the Nominating Committee (as outlined in Article VI., Section 1.). The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall also assist in providing nominees for those offices appointed by Executive Council (as outlined in Article V., Section 3.) and present these at the Spring Executive Council meeting.

Rationale:

Makes official common previous practice.

PROPOSAL H

Article V (Executive Council), Section 2: Meetings

Original:

Regular meetings of the Executive Council shall be held semi-annually: during the annual convention, and during the Spring, at the site of the upcoming convention when possible.

Revision:

Regular meetings of the Executive Council shall be held semi-annually: during the annual convention, and during the Spring, at the site of the convention of the Eastern Communication Association (or other location as announced at the annual convention). The Spring meeting may be attended virtually if travel to the ECA site is not possible.

Rationale:

Codifies past and consistent practice.

PROPOSAL I

Article VI, Section 1: Nominating Committee

Original:

A three-person Nominating Committee shall be nominated and elected by the membership at the general business meeting of each annual convention, with one person nominated and elected to serve as Chair of the Committee. The Nominating Committee shall then nominate candidates, and report on their nominations at the Spring meeting of the Executive Council, according to the following schedule: annually, at least two candidates for Vice President-Elect, Recording Secretary, Student Representative, and one of the three Members-at-Large; and two candidates every third year for Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Director of Outreach and Promotion, and Director of New Media.

Revision:

Two members of the Nominating Committee shall be nominated and elected by the membership at the general business meeting of each annual convention, with the previous Immediate Past President to serve as Chair of the three person committee. The Nominating Committee shall then nominate candidates, and report on their nominations at the Spring meeting of the Executive Council, according to the following schedule: annually, at least two candidates for Vice President-Elect, Recording Secretary, Student Representative, and one of the three Members-at-Large; and two candidates every third year for Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Director of Outreach and Promotion, and Director of New Web and Social Media.

Rationale:

Clarifies practice and who is in charge of the committee.

PROPOSAL J

Article VI, Section 2: Publications Committee

Original:

Section 2. Publications Committee

The Publications Director shall appoint one member of the Executive Council and one non-officer member of the Association to serve on the Publications Committee, with at least two members of the Committee also serving in some official capacity for The Atlantic Journal of Communication. All members shall serve a three-year term. The Publication Committee shall serve as NYSCA liaison to the Atlantic Journal of Communication; monitor NYSCA membership on the journal's Editorial Advisory Board; consult with the Executive Council on all matters pertaining to the Association and the journal's publishing agreement with Lawrence Erlbaum Associates; help Council secure candidates for the offices of Editor of Proceedings and Editor of NYSCA Reports; help the Nominating Committee secure candidates for the office of Director of New Media; and provide oversight for all of the Associations publications, including its website.

Revision:

Section 2. Publications and Communications Committee

The Publications Director shall appoint one member of the Executive Council and one non-officer member of the Association to serve on the Publications and

Communications Committee, with at least two members of the Committee also serving in some official capacity for The Atlantic Journal of Communication. All members shall serve a three-year term. Additionally, the Director of Web and Social media will sit on this committee (concurrent with their elected term). The Publication Committee shall serve as NYSCA liaison to the Atlantic Journal of Communication; monitor NYSCA membership on the journal's Editorial Advisory Board; consult with the Executive Council on all matters pertaining to the Association and the journal's publishing agreement with Taylor & Francis; help Council secure candidates for the offices of Editor of Proceedings and Editor of NYSCA Reports; help the Nominating Committee secure candidates for the office of Director of Web and Social Media; and provide oversight for all of the Association's publications, including its website.

Rationale:

Streamlines the print and electronic publications personnel. Allows for better communication between print and web divisions.

PROPOSAL K

Article VI, Section 7: Constitution Committee

Original:

The Chair of the Constitution Committee shall be elected on an ad hoc basis at the Spring meeting of the Executive Council. The chair, in turn, shall select two members of the Executive Council and two non-officer members of the Association to serve on the Committee.

Revision:

The Chair of the Constitution Committee shall be elected on an ad hoc basis at the Spring meeting of the Executive Council. The chair, in turn, shall select two members of the Executive Council and up to two non-officer members of the Association to serve on the Committee

Rationale:

Five people is overkill for this committee, which does not conduct business on a regular basis. This allows for a size of 4-5 people on the committee.

PROPOSAL L

Article VII (Amendments), Section 2: Procedure

Original:

The proposed amendment, approved by a majority of the Executive Council, or signed by fifteen members, must be submitted to the Archivist in writing prior to the Spring meeting of the Executive Council. It shall be published in NYSCA Reports and/or distributed by mail to the full membership at least three weeks prior to the annual convention of the Association. It shall be placed on the agenda of general business meeting of the annual convention.

Revision:

The proposed amendment, approved by a majority of the Executive Council, or signed by fifteen members, must be submitted to the Archivist in writing prior to the Spring meeting of the Executive Council. It shall be published in NYSCA Reports and/or distributed by [email](#) to the full membership at least three weeks prior to the annual convention of the Association. It shall be placed on the agenda of general business meeting of the annual convention.

Rationale:

Email is the currently accepted practice for communication with the membership. Distribution of these amendments by mail causes a financial burden in terms of printing, collating, and postage.

BYLAWS

PROPOSAL M

Article I (Membership, Dues, and Fees), Section 1: Categories of Membership

Original:

There shall be eight categories of membership in the Association: regular, joint, sustaining, life, emeritus, student, affiliated association, and institutional.

Regular membership. Any person interested in promoting the purposes of the Association may be admitted to regular membership.

Joint membership. Any person who is a member in good standing of both the Association and its sister organization, the New Jersey Communication Association, may be admitted to joint membership, as subscription to The Atlantic Journal of Communication is a member benefit of both organizations.

Revision:

There shall be five categories of membership in the Association: Standard, Student, Joint, Institutional, Sustaining, Emeritus, and Life.

Standard. Any person interested in promoting the purposes of the Association may be admitted to regular membership.

Joint membership. Any person who is currently a member in good standing of our sister organization, the New Jersey Communication Association, may be admitted at a discount to joint membership, as subscription to The Atlantic Journal of Communication is a member benefit of both organizations.

Rationale:

Many of these membership options are not supported by our membership forms or used anymore, and are confusing. The process for interaction with NJ joint membership was also clarified.

Also specified that undergraduate students do not receive the journal, but graduate students do.

Also removed “affiliated membership” as we don’t have any and there is no practice for dealing with them administratively.

PROPOSAL N

**Article V (Procedures for voting and reporting of vote on elections),
Section 3: Tabulating and Reporting**

Original:

The President shall appoint a committee of at least three tellers to tabulate the vote and report the results. The results of the election shall be published in the next issue of NYSCA Reports

Revision:

The President shall appoint a committee from the general membership of at least three tellers to tabulate the vote and report the results. The results of the election shall be published in the next issue of NYSCA Reports.

Rationale:

Did not specify from membership or executive committee, so specified in favor of a larger pool of participants.

PROPOSAL O

Article VIII (Amendments)

This section duplicated the amendments from the constitution section and was removed and the subsequent section renumbered from IX to VIII.

**THE ABOVE PASSED BY ELECTRONIC VOTE ON
4/21/13**

**ADDENDUMS TO ABOVE VOTE – ALREADY INCORPORATED INTO ABOVE TEXT
NO NEED TO VOTE ON THIS INDIVIDUALLY**

PROPOSAL H

Article IV Section 11. Archivist

Change archivist to a 3 year term.

Rationale: By it's nature, this position needs experience and continuity to be effective.

PROPOSAL I

Article VI: Section 1. Nominating Committee

Change instances of “at least two” to “at least one” and “two candidates” to “at least one”

Rationale: Ok to have elections if multiple people interested, but not ok to force nominating committee to find 2 people when difficult sometimes to find even one.

Proposal J

Article VII (amendments) Section 2 Procedure

Original text

The proposed amendment, approved by a majority of the Executive Council, or signed by fifteen members, must be submitted to the Archivist in writing prior to the Spring meeting of the Executive Council. It shall be published in NYSCA Reports and/or distributed by email to the full membership at least three weeks prior to the annual convention of the Association. It shall be placed on the agenda of general business meeting of the annual convention.

Updated text

The proposed amendment, approved by a majority of the Executive Council, or signed by fifteen members, must be submitted to the Archivist (in person, by mail, or email) at the Spring meeting (or within one week of it's conclusion) of the Executive Council. It shall be published in NYSCA Reports and/or distributed by email to the full membership at least three weeks prior to the annual convention of the Association. It shall be placed on the agenda of general business meeting of the annual convention.

Rationale

There was no clear rationale for having the voting have to happen PRIOR to the Spring meeting and it makes much more sense to conduct this business AT the Spring meeting.

**THE ABOVE ADDENDUM PASSED BY ELECTRONIC
VOTE ON 4/24/13**