

Public Address Business Meeting Minutes, November 13, 2009

- I. Approval of Minutes from 2008. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.
- II. Chair's Report: Chuck Morris
 - A. Introduced the leadership and thanked the membership, esp Mari Tonn for planning the 31 panels, Vanessa Beasley for serving as Nominating Committee Chair, and the Nichols and Winans-Wichelns committee. Wishes Kirt Wilson success in planning. Membership: 663, down from 696 in 2008, 298 in 2007. Will revisit declining membership in New Business.
 - B. Public Address report: conference theme is Human Rights Rhetoric: Controversy, Conflicts, and Conundrums. PA will honor DZ. Check www.pitt.edu/something. Lestor Olsen announced the many fine speakers and respondents for the PA conference.
 - C. Budget: Shrinking, \$530, down from \$580 in 2008. PAD is \$10 deficient. We need more members, please submit proposals for the 2010 conference in San Francisco.
- III. Report from the PA Nominating Committee, Vanessa Beasley, Chair. Committee Members were thanked and ballots were distributed. The membership voted. Ballots were collected.
- IV. Vice-Chair's Report: Mari Boor Tonn (available online: <http://blog.umd.edu/ncapublicaddress/files/2009/11/2009-Vice-Chairs-Report.pdf>)
 - A. Thanked Susan Huxman for substituting, thanked Kirt Wilson. Thanked paper and panel reviewers. Submissions were up and we had three reviewers for each submission.
 - B. 129 total submissions, 34 more than 2008. 94 individual papers. Public Address division was allotted 31 sessions, also submitted one for 5 years out program. Division accepted 74% papers, 88% panels. Rejected about the same number of papers and panels as last year. Lots of interesting papers, panels, topics. Lots on Obama, but many other important issues. The breath of topics was quite diverse. Encourage that breath for next year. Intellectual appeal of PAD is strong.
 - C. Noted that she has difficulty getting respondents due to budget tightening across the country. If you volunteer to review, know that is an obligation.
 - D. MBT liked working with All Academic, but there were some problems with Scholar to Scholar, transfers from other Units. The national office was very helpful in resolving problems.
 - E. Wished the membership the best for an enriching convention.
- V. Vice-Chair Elect's Report: Kirt Wilson. The next NCA convention will be in San Francisco Nov 14-17, 2010. The theme will be: Building Bridges. Expects that to be in every title, regardless of topic. We've lost 2 panels. Submit, to the conference! SF is far away, but that is ok, come anyway. Urged membership to sign up to review proposals, will continue to use All Academic, and will aim to have 3 reviewers for each. Email wilso092@umn.edu with questions

and suggestions. Reported that this year as many as 750 were dropped from program for not pre-registering.

- VI. Immediate Past Chair's Report: Lester Olson. Last year was a difficult conference for us. The officers met at the Public Address Conference in Madison and decided that the Leadership should use their best judgment in boycotting and finding replacement options. We survived the difficult conference.
- VII. Resolutions Committee Report: Tasha Dubriwny. Confusion at the Resolutions Committee Meeting, nothing seemed to happen.
- VIII. NCA Nominating Committee Report: Lester Olson: John Lyne agreed to serve as the at-large member. There are 3 VP candidates instead of 2, which might mean that there will be a run off.
- IX. Legislative Assembly Report: Lisa Hogan. Several resolutions were discussed: 1) solitary confinement and torture; 2) short course resolution, eliminate fee. Both failed. Discussed an amendment to NCA by-laws that would change how the Boards are composed. James Darsey argued that the Boards should submit candidates rather than the Committee on Committees. This was approved. Also discussed increasing dues for all NCA members, this overwhelmingly failed. We were asked to talk with membership about early registration policy.
- X. Research Board Report: James Darsey.
- A. Sponsored a pre-conference workshop about getting money from the NEH. Everyone was thrilled with the advice. Where are the proposals? NEH has more money this year (an increase of 60%), but the Communication and Rhetoric applications were down. We're the only ones who aren't taking advantage of monies available from the NEH. Contact Darsey for help with proposals.
- B. NCA has things up on iTunes U, but we need to develop 50 items, we only have 22. If you have an idea for a webinar, please follow up on it. Think about your own research interests and find ways to link them to the public. Public scholarship!
- XI. Awards Presentations. Mari Tonn presented the Robert Gunderson Award (Top Student Paper): Kashif Powell, *CSU-Long Beach*, "*E Pluribus Unum: Barack Obama's Use of Constitutive Rhetoric.*" Powell accepted a plaque and a check.
- XII. Wrage-Baskerville Award (Top Paper): Tammy Vigil, *Boston University*, "FDR's 1932 Commonwealth Club Address: Building Ethos by Offering Stability through Change." Vigil accepted plaque and check.
- XIII. Lester Olson announced the Marie Hochmuth Nicols was awarded to Mary E. Stuckey, Georgia State University, *Jimmy Carter, Human Rights, and the National Agenda* (Texas A&M University Press).
- XIV. Old Business: Marty Medhurst, awards. Benson-Campbell research award. NCA rules require that all awards be funded at the level of 5,000. Now that the markets have begun to recover. Membership will receive a letter soon..Marty sang...about pulling together.

XV. New Business.

- A. Membership recruitment. Discussion. Stuckey, "Membership is falling everywhere because they used to allow multiple affiliations, but now they make you pay." Zaeske, "Are there a lot of PAD people who got cut from the program?" MBT, "There were a number, but some of them contacted folks and got back in." Ray, "Is membership falling across NCA?" Darsey, "fewer and fewer programs are still doing public address. A lot of programs aren't hiring in public address. As an area that has long been at the root of the discipline, we are losing a lot of members to critical/cultural studies." Wilson, "I agree, but scholarship across NCA generally is looking increasingly like work we've been doing for a long time." Zaeske, "The number of papers is increasing while the membership is decreasing." Unknown, "Should we still call it rhetoric and public address?" Morris, "The diversity of scholarship indicates that we're getting things that might have gone to other divisions." MBT, "we got a host of submissions on so many different kinds of things. Gender, GBLT, international, native American." Unknown, "naming and definition is important here. I don't want to lose our traditions, but maybe the renaming..." Darsey, "I want to continue the conversation with Kirt, "Balkanization of our discipline. We have too many divisions. We divide according to topic rather than method or philosophical approach (Communication about Sports). My problem is that with re-naming, rather than making the case for the value of PA, is that we will miss the opportunity like we did with the rhetorical turn in the 80s and 90s." Olson, "Are there ways in which the PAD could serve the membership better than it already does. One unit sends an email announcing panels. We could also have a membership only listserv. Informal reception." Zaeske, "My comment is that I wouldn't want my colleagues to have extra work to do." Murphy, "People are dissatisfied with NCA as a whole and are instead committing to RSA." Olson, "I attended the RSA Board meeting this morning and it was an incredibly productive meeting. Two rhetoric related groups will no longer attend NCA, but will instead attend RSA." Darsey, "I want to make this pitch for NCA: we are the biggest organization representing communication. Do remember that nobody else is going out banging on the doors trying to raise the profile of communication scholarship. We're 8,000 scholars." Morris, "Be an advocate for public address in other divisions." Medhurst, "it is a structural issue, NCA limits the number of affiliations. What is the possibility for getting NCA to expand it and then seeking out these other people who are presenting PAD work." Darsey, "we can do it, we just need 25 signatures and we can present it to the Legislative Assembly."
- B. We need the membership's opinion about the pre-registration question. The 750 dropped was about 20% of the total. Accuracy of the program, problems of free riders, problems of cost, problems of first paychecks of the year. Graduate students don't have the money often. Another graduate student says that graduate students can afford it. NCA layaway: put 50 down!
- C. Announcement: Jim Jasinski: Critical Pedagogy Conference. U of Puget Sound, teaching rhetorical criticism, July 22-25, 2010. Plenary presenters include many people. Feb 1 deadline for submissions. Registration priority will be made for people who are teaching, rather than graduate students. Email jjasinski@ups.edu

XVI. Election Results.

Vice-Chair Elect: Angela Ray

Secretary: Kristy Maddux

Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award Committee: Cara Finnegan & Shawn Parry Giles

NCA Nominating Committee: Susan Huxman
Nominating Committee: David Cisneros, Davis Houck, Marty Medhurst (Chair),
Belinda Stillion Southard, and Paul Stob

XVII. Meeting adjourned, *sine die*.