

**NCA 2015 LSI Las Vegas, Nevada
Language and Social Interaction Division Business Meeting**

Friday, November 20, 2015 12:30PM - 1:45PM

Rio Hotel, Amazon I

1. Call to order. Approval of agenda

12:32 call to order/ approved agenda

2. Approval of minutes for 2014 LSI Business Meeting at NCA, Chicago approved

Minutes from 2014 business unanimously approved.

3. Report from Chair (Jay Leighter)

a. Legislative Assembly Update

Job Advertisement Provision – a recent provision was added to CRTNET posting to require inclusion about whether or not benefits would be provided to same sex spouses or domestic partners. LGBTQ caucus asked that this language be removed. LA declined to remove it but made amendments, adding a dropdown menu for job posts that includes the relevant options to clarify to whom benefits apply.

Addendum:

At the NCA LSI Business Meeting on Friday, Jay Leighter (Chair) reported that the NCA membership would be voting in January to dissolve the NCA constitution in order to adopt a new set of by-laws. The primary feature of the by-laws is the creation of a new Board of Directors (see below). However, at the Saturday meeting of the Legislative Assembly, the members voted to rescind the by-laws amendment in favor of another year of deliberation on the makeup of the Board of Directors. There will be a vote on the by-laws in 2016. For now, the governing document of the NCA is still the document found here: <https://www.natcom.org/ConstitutionAndBylaws/>.

b. NCA Interest Group Fair

Following this year's interest group fair, there are discussions about whether next year's NCA leadership would want to continue with the fair or consider how to improve it. Some suggestions for improvement have been discussed, for example, to not hold the interest fair and the graduate student fair at the same time and serve food. The division spent no money on marketing materials this year, not knowing what kind of event it would be.

c. Governing Documents

Currently there are two governing documents – the constitution and the by-laws (summarized on attachment). NCA membership will soon receive a request to vote on whether to integrate documents so there will no longer be two working documents. LA members expressed concerns about having a more centralized governing body and thus lose some decision making power, but in practice the executive committee which meets once a year was acting as a centralized body to address concerns.

It was noted that marginalized groups are represented as “caucuses” of NCA. By-laws raised intercaucus directors from 2 to 6 and directors from 8-12; these individuals were elected by the LA to enhance representation of those groups. By-laws currently do not clarify rules for caucuses or new ones.

There was an amendment to enhance the recall power of elected board members, which will require 2/3 vote of the Elective Assembly. All amendments are pending current review.

Christine Beck noted that the LA voted to approve the new by-laws; however, it is up to the membership to vote and eliminate the constitution to have only one governing document.

Leaders were asked their views on the amendments from the membership. Christine Beck remarked that she appreciates the LA and the dialogue that happens there and was on the fence for a long time. She ultimately came to support the amendments because the all day meetings held 3 times per year of a large body of 108 individuals likely fosters less productive conversations. With the most recent by-laws, there is a provision have to investigate and report back to LA. New body will have judiciary responsibility.

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4. Updates from Mark Fernando, Chief of Staff at National Office

Mark is the primary contact for all 61 interest groups of NCA. He provided an update on the NCA Learning Outcomes in Communication (LOCs) project, which is a multiyear grant funded and faculty driven initiative on learning outcomes for communication. The project set out to answer the question *what should graduate with a com degree be able to*

know, understand and be able to do? A packet was put together to answer this question and if you are interested (and were not able to pick up a copy at the NCA Convention this year), the National Office can mail copies or it can be accessed online at natcom.org/LOC Mark noted that the learning objectives are not descriptive, and they are not standards but ways to start conversations on your campus about the relevance and mission of communication as a discipline.

5. Report from Vice Chair (Paul Denvir)

a. 2015 Convention Program

57 paper submissions this year (up by 2 from last year); 40% acceptance this year (compared to 61% last year). 6 panels were submitted, 5 accepted; one panel discussion submitted and accepted. This year we had 15 conference slots (last year 17). There was a concerted effort to accept fewer papers presented this year to include higher quality papers and more time for discussion. Please provide feedback about this change.

Current LSI membership is 351.

b. Presentation of Top Paper Award

Karen Tracy (University of Colorado, Boulder), “Storytelling and Social Change”

c. Top Student Paper

JhuCin Jhang (UT Austin), “Neither Good nor Bad, Neither New nor Old – Coming Out News Delivery Sequences”

5. Report from Vice Chair-Elect (Galina Bolden)

a. 2016 Convention Programming Updates

Next year’s convention will be held November 10-13, 2016 in Philadelphia. The theme is “Communication’s Civic Callings” to highlight how communication can advance civic engagement, social justice and grass roots activism. NCA is encouraging panels that include guests from community (community members will have a reduced convention fee) to foster more innovative discussion.

Next year, LSI has 16 slots (120 total slots distributed across divisions). Deadline for papers submission is March 30, 2016.

b. Presentation of Outstanding Dissertation

Ingrid Li Soto (UC Santa Barbara, advisor: Geoffrey Raymond), “Social Relations and Institutional Structures and in Modern American Political Campaigns”

Six dissertations were submitted. Benjamin Bailey, Richard Buttny and Anita Pomerantz served as reviewers.

Soto's dissertation focuses on the 2008 Presidential Election campaign speeches and provides a fine grained analysis of interaction between the speaker and the audience. It demonstrates how a successful speech depends on properly timed audience response to the speaker's communicative actions, whether they are boo's for the bad guys or applause for the candidate and his/her ideas. The dissertation shows how LSI research into the organization of social interaction can help us understand a form of political power. It makes important contributions to several strands of communication scholarship, including political speech making and public oratory, research into the interactional foundations of social institutions, studies of collective action and social coordination, and to Conversation Analysis.

6. Report from Information Officers (Lisa Mikesell & Brion van Over)

- a. **Newsletter:** Updates, news and announcements have been being circulated through the newsletter which is sent to the membership via email. There are currently 351 members of the LSI interest group that receive the newsletter. The information officers are working on creating an official listserv and a pdf newsletter that can also be archived on the website. These are plans for the upcoming year.
- b. **Social Media:** Updates, news and announcements are also regularly updated on the LSI Facebook page. There are currently 411 individuals following the LSI Facebook page, 76 more (335) than last year. Anyone can post to this page. There will be a slight delay because the posts are now moderated and approved by the officers to prevent trolling posts.
- c. **New Site, Same URL:** You may have noticed that the NCA LSI webpage has been temporarily inactive as we worked to transfer the site to a new platform. The website was revealed during the business meeting and comments and suggestions were solicited. The intent is to feature the people, recognize their accomplishments and highlight their awards. The new platform will allow easier to transition to new officers as they will not need to know html coding to make updates. The site is also being built to support crowdsourcing – the new platform allows multiple users who can post updates and announcements. Please provide suggestions/feedbacks on the site once it goes live.

The site will have the same URL as it has had in the past: www.nca-lsi.org. The site is also linked our from the NCA site.

- d. **Spotlight:** Please send recommendations for the Spotlight feature – if you have new graduates and upcoming scholars you think should be recognized, please forward those recommendations to Lisa Mikesell (mikesell.lisa@gmail.com). The

new spotlight is on **Jessica Robles** who recently took at position at Loughborough and will be heading there in the fall.

- e. Suggestions from the membership
 - include a section for scholars to highlight their ongoing research/works in progress to help scholars find partnerships and create dialogue with scholars working in similar areas
 - include a wiki/discussion board on site for member dialogue

7. Elections (Jay Leighter)

- a. Information Officer (nominees; nominations from the floor)
Lisa Mikesell was elected as Information Officer
- b. Vice Chair-Elect (nominees; nominations from the floor)
Alexa Hepburn was elected as Vice Chair-Elect

8. Report from Immediate Past Chair (Heidi Kevoe-Feldman)

a. Presentation of “Old Chestnut” Award

Donal Carbaugh, “Cultures in Conversation”

Jay Leighter; Michelle Scollo; Christopher Pudlinski served as reviewers.

About the book: Donal Carbaugh’s *Cultures in Conversation* represents the fundamental role of ethnography in understanding social interaction, and the central place of “culture” within our division. It is a foundational work in the area of culture and communication. The combination of ethnography and discourse analysis and its successful attempt to bridge the micro-macro distinction, especially with respect to intercultural communication, is strong. It successfully introduced a new approach to discourse, Cultural Discourse Analysis. It highlights for LSI scholars how “a cultural view” illuminates microanalyses of talk. The book builds bridges – between CA-identified phenomena and ethnographically-uncovered cultural patterns; between communication studies, anthropology, and linguistics; and between the various (and quite diverse) discourse practices the book investigates, including Finnish-US American greetings, Blackfeet “listening,” and talk show discourse in the US and Russia. *Cultures in Conversation* displays the range and ongoing influence of Carbaugh’s research, showing the diversity of issues and questions worthy of study in the area of discourse and culture, and introducing productive methods and concepts. This work exceeds all three criteria: scholarly merit, contribution to knowledge in LSI, and current impact.

9. Discussion Items from Officers

Paul Denvir raised for discussion the often taken-for-granted assumption that we want to grow the division. It was encouraged for membership to discuss the implications that growth has regarding budget, composition, etc. Should we focus on more papers and/or quality papers as a priority? Do we want our goal to be 25 panels? If the latter, we may want to consider what that means for the budget.

From the membership:

One way to have quality AND grow is to take advantage of resources available in NCA such as Scholar-to-Scholar. We can be more involved there. NCA's paper call has a box to check if you are willing to present in a Scholar-to-Scholar forum. We should make more effort to explain and spread the word about this opportunity.

A concern was raised about the consequences of our membership dipping below a certain level in order to maintain resources through NCA. A related concern was that accepting less papers may also reduce our attendance rates since many people are not reimbursed for conference travel unless they are presenting.

Another point was raised that if we want to grow, we will need to discuss whether we want to open our doors to other scholars who might want to join our division but may not feel welcome because they don't do the kinds of work that might be considered "interactional" by LSI traditionally.

It was encouraged to think about why our division is getting less submissions than we have had in years past. A solution was suggested: to reintroduce the possibility of submitting extended abstracts and include clearer criteria about what constitutes extended abstracts. This might encourage more participation. Incentives to submit full papers can be given (e.g. extended abstracts are not eligible for awards or top panel papers).

10. Announcements

a. Upcoming Conferences

- American Sociological Association (ASA) will be August 20-23, 2016 in Seattle. EMCA (Ethno/CA) section abstract submission is open and closes January 6, 2016.
- Conflict Conference at University of Texas, Austin is April 8-9, 2016; abstract submission deadline is January 24, 2016

b. Job Announcements:

- Syracuse University is looking to fill an Assistant Professor position in LSI and ethnicity and/or culture.
- Cal Poly Pomona is hiring in training development and open to LSI approaches

11. Adjournment

Summary of Proposed Governing Bodies

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(n varies, 193 based on current Interest Groups)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(n=17)

Composition	Who Elects	Composition	Who Elects
<i>Interest Group Reps (134 at present)</i>		<i>Officers (6)</i>	
Caucuses	Caucuses	President	Full membership
Divisions	Divisions	First Vice President	Full membership
Sections	Sections	Second Vice President	Full membership
<i>Reps from related organizations (14)</i>		Immediate Past President	Full membership
Regional associations	Regional associations	Finance Committee Chair	Legislative Assembly
National States Advisory Council	National States Advisory Council	Executive Director (non-voting)	Board of Directors
Assoc. of Comm. Administration	Assoc. of Comm. Administration	<i>Council/Committee Representatives (8)</i>	
<i>Journal Editors (12 at present)</i>	Legislative Assembly	Intercaucus Council Chair, 2 IC Directors	Legislative Assembly
<i>At-Large Representatives (9)</i>	Full membership	Publications Council Chair	Legislative Assembly
<i>Board of Directors (18)</i>		Research Council Chair	Legislative Assembly
Current (see right columns)	7 Full membership; 9 LA; 1 Board	Teaching & Learning Council Chair	Legislative Assembly
Second Vice President-Elect	Full membership	2 Finance Committee Directors	Legislative Assembly
<i>Balanced Representation Reps (6)</i>	Legislative Assembly	<i>At-Large Directors (3)</i>	Full membership

DUTIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly shall have the authority to:

- Provide guidance and direction to the Board of Directors
 - Bring issues and recommendations to the Board for discussion that the Board must consider
 - Provide recommendations to the Board on programmatic disciplinary initiatives that the Board must consider
- Elect the majority of NCA's leadership
 - Approve the annual slate of candidates recommended by the Committee on Committees, which includes more than 50% of the Board of Directors and approximately 150 positions on 30 committees
 - Approve editor nominations recommended by the Publications Council
- Adopt public statements (resolutions) on behalf of the Association regarding public policy, ethics, and academic/professional issues
- Create new Divisions, Sections, and Caucuses
- Establish and maintain lines of communication with Interest Groups

(see Article V, Section 3)

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall exercise fiduciary responsibility over the affairs of NCA and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and policymaking of the Association.

(see Article III, Section 3)

SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

Shall have the authority to take action and transact time-sensitive NCA business between meetings of the Board of Directors

n=6, the Officers, with Executive Director non-voting

Finance Committee

Shall provide guidance and information to the Board of Directors on the financial affairs of the Association

n=3, Chair and two Directors

(see Article III, Section 7)