I. Call to Order at 8:05 a.m.

II. Introductions
   A. Kerry Byrnes-Loinette and Cheryl Wilson were unable to attend the conference. Tobi Mackler read welcome messages by both of them.
   B. Chair for Community College – Cheryl Wilson
   C. Chair for GIFTS, and Chair elect for Community College – Kerry Byrnes-Loinette
   D. Secretary – Susan Ward
   E. Community College Interest Group Representative to the ECA Executive Council – Jessica Papajcik,
   F. Community College Interest Group Representative to NCA Legislative Assembly – Nyia Lacey

III. Old Business
   A. Approval of 2016 meeting minutes
      1. Jenny Warren moved for approval and Nancy Willets seconded the motion.
      2. Minutes were unanimously approved.
   B. Report from 2017 Community College – Cheryl Wilson (read by Tobi Mackler)
      1. Six submissions were received for four slots.
      2. The reviewers remarked that our panel submissions were of high quality and reflected a wide variety of interest, much like our interest group, from research to teaching to assessment.
   C. Report from 2017 GIFTS – Kerry Byrnes-Loinette (read by Tobi Mackler)
      1. GIFTS submissions for 2017 were similar to 2016 numbers. This year, we received 43 submissions.
      2. Reviewers used a 1-5 scale and assessed each GIFT on its ease of use, appropriateness, concept coverage, breadth, novelty, and professionalism. Reviewers were also asked if the GIFTS should be paneled. This form was particularly helpful as many reviewers provided explanations and justifications for their ratings.
      3. As a result, 22 GIFTS were accepted and divided into two panels.
   D. Report from Community College Interest Group Representative to the ECA Executive Council – Jessica Papajcik
      1. Jason Wrench’s report: Students with white baseball caps are tweeting during presentations.
      2. A new ECA website is up and running. The estimated cost was $10,000 but it only cost $4,000.
      3. ECA bylaws are under revision and the Council and interest group representatives are reviewing the document including the first step of separating out policy from procedures.
   E. Report from Community College Interest Group Representative to NCA Legislative Assembly – Nyia Lacey
1. Members asked for NCA to disclose who is being supported by the organization’s investment fund and this information was sent out by NCA.
2. A discussion about membership centered on whether or not membership for retired members should occur by years of service such as 25 years with the reward being lifetime membership in NCA. A part of the discussion also included considering the situation of people who began teaching later on in their careers. The proposal is still under consideration.
3. The committee on agenda has been abolished.
4. The deadline for submissions the 2018 ECA convention in Pittsburgh is 10/15/17. The convention will be held from April 25-29 with a hotel cost of $179 at the Omni.
5. A task force has been created for how to spend ECA’s money. It has been recommended that the Community College interest group should get a representative on the task force to represent the interests of community colleges.
6. ECA has extended the deadline for the Editor of Communication Quarterly until June 1.
7. A question was raised at the Council meeting regarding whether or not interest groups can give awards. Since the award isn’t from ECA but from the interest group, there is a concern that people are saying they won an ECA award. Jessica is on task force about investigating this issue. An additional concern is that smaller awards could draw nominations away from the larger awards which have historically been difficult to find nominees for.
8. ECA has a new social media director: Douglas Strahler
9. Nancy Willets is going to check on whether or not NCA is moving to remove interest group representatives from NCA’s Legislative Assembly.
10. There is continued conversations about where to hold ECA conventions (2021 in Cambridge). Kanan Sawyer is looking into some other locations such as Silver Springs, MD.

IV. New Business
A. Ben Bates presented gifts to Kerry Byrnes-Loinette and Cheryl Wilson for planning this year’s convention. (Jenny Warren accepted for Kerry)
B. ECA 2018
   1. It is in Pittsburgh and the theme is “Building Bridges.” Leeanne Bell is the primary planner and is very excited and willing to help interest group planners.
   2. We will be at the Omni on William Penn Place and the convention hotel rate is $179 for single/double occupancy. The submission deadline is October 15, 2018.
C. Election of new officers
   1. GIFTS 2018/Community College 2019
      a. Susan Ward moved to nominate Michael Stutz, Three Rivers Community College.
      b. Nancy Willets moved to vote by acclimation and it was so moved.
2. Secretary  
   a. Tobi Mackler suggested that Susan Ward continue in the position.  
   b. Jessica Papajcik moved to vote by acclimation for Susan Ward (2018-2019) and it was so moved.

2. Community College Interest Group Representative to the ECA Executive Council, 2018-2020  
   a. Nancy Willets will represent us at the 2017 EC meeting this Sunday.  
   b. Susan Ward moved to vote by acclimation for Jessica Papajcik and it was so moved.

   a. Jessica Papajcik moved to vote by acclimation for Kerry Byrnes-Loinette and it was so moved.

V. Open Discussion  
A. Number of GIFTS submitted by one person – should we limit them?  
   1. In general, attendees were in agreement that the number should be limited.  
   2. If we schedule two panels, we should accept no more than 2 per author.

B. Focus of GIFTS  
   1. Lately, there have been more GIFTS focused on courses other than introductory courses.
   2. Are we interested in quantity and quality? In other words, it is it important to have 12 in each session? If so, do we do speed dating? The resulting discussion was that there are not enough participants in the session to do a speed dating model.
   3. Solution for next convention: limit to 10 on a panel so that there is 6-7 minutes for presentation. Explain to reviewers that submissions need to be focused on introductory courses. If we receive enough highly qualified submissions focused on introductory courses, we can ask for a third programming slot.

C. Brainstorm ideas for 2018  
   1. Tom Donlan: civic engagement and civic responsibility  
   2. Susan Ward: exploring creating standards for online classes using a method similar to the one used to determine the core competencies for introductory communication courses.

D. Susan Ward: NCA panel focused on the relevance of community college—special programming by Ron Jackson.

E. Tobi Mackler announced that there is a need for reviewers for the Undergraduate Scholars Conference.

F. Nancy Willets: She is a member of the Community College Teaching award for NCA and offered recommendations for how to go about nominating people for teaching awards. She suggested that we start now by contacting the person you want to nominate to assist with compiling the information.