

Dear Political Communication Interest Group member,

As we turn our attention to the 2012 ECA conference, we want all
Many folks were not able to attend the group's business meeting due to
scheduling conflicts. We hope that these notes from the meeting will help to keep
you in the loop, answer any questions, and help you to prepare for the coming
conference. Those interested in participating as a reviewer, chair, or respondent
should contact the group chair (J. Kanan Sawyer: ksawyer@wcupa.edu).

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**Political Communication Business Meeting - 2011**

**Officers**

- Immediate Past Chair: David Levasseur
- Chair: Theodore Schekels
- Vice Chair: J. Kanan Sawyer
- Secretary: Jason Edwards (absentia)

**Old Business**

- 2010 minutes approved
- Last Year Submissions: Theodore Schekels
  - o less than 50% of papers approved but most of panels approved
    - question: are we too tough on papers and not tough enough on panels?
      - suggestions: this may be ok because standards of evaluation on vitas are different (competitively selected paper vs. thematic panel)
      - could use the quality of the two to decide how many of each get selected
      - consider sending the papers to 3 reviewers and the panels to 6 reviewers
      - perhaps consider putting together larger paper panels with 5 instead of 4 papers
  - o no-shows
    - too many folks sending work but not showing up to present
    - ramifications: perhaps we can send a letter to the person's department chair. the interest group will need to ask the executive committee about this.
    - give information to those who are not able to come that they can have a stand-in present, which is necessary to have the presentation show on one's c.v.

**Reports**

- Executive Council: report by Mari (stand in for Trevor)
  - o Upcoming Conventions
    - 2012: Cambridge
    - 2013: Pittsburg

- 2014: Providence
  - 2015: Philadelphia
  - Less financial incentive but more support for editors
  - Looking for 6 at-large Exec Member positions – please nominate
  - Need nominee for ECA university level to be NCA legislative assembly representative
  - Need 4 ECA folks to stand for NCA positions.
    - nominating committee – first pres, etc for NCA
  - Ted will be at the Saturday meeting and will get us info from that meeting
- Planning Meeting: report by Kanan Sawyer
  - Location/ Hotel
    - centrally located for public transit
    - free wi-fi
  - Political Com Group
    - business meeting will be in the morning (if we ask for an extra panel... we must give up our business meeting time)
    - 10 panel/paper panel slots were allotted this year and (based on membership) we will have 10 slots next year
    - the number of panels based on # in group – **early registration of those in our group can increase our number of panels**
  - Participation/ Submission
    - ECA will have Sunday panels but not Thursday panels that are very early (meaning folks won't need to arrive Wednesday night)
    - only two “wired” rooms conference rooms
    - submission suggestions
      - request tech early!!
      - thematic panels must submit a full abstract per presenter
      - co-sponsored panels likely will not happen unless we can offer an even number of co-sponsorships (but... those that get a few of these co-sponsored panels may result in the planners will throw us an extra panel)
    - less likely to accept....
      - panels where the chair and respondent are the same
      - no all same school panels
      - Top Paper panels are not “required”
      - the planners are looking for many participants, encouraging new participants and do not want to see panels of the same folks over and over again
        - suggested that we encourage more student participation

- short courses
  - only 10-12 will go through... planners encourage those “from” an interest group

### New Business

- Wine and Spots event
  - **PLEASE MAKE THIS EVENT PART OF YOUR 2012 ECA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**
  - history
    - didn't used to be a program but a time to socialize on a fun topic
    - used to not be a competing program (was at night with a few folks from the interest group – grew into a larger event and request to have it be a conference rather than interest group event)
- future
  - larger event now competes with other ECA sponsored events
  - will try a new time/ format: Coffee and Spots
    - mimosas and bloody marys?
    - considering swapping between evening and morning event each year
  - funding has been a problem
    - must pay for bartender through the hotel (typically \$300)
    - ECA would like schools to sponsor or individuals (do not want us asking for support from the same sources that the conference as a whole targets)
  - 2011 issues:
    - scheduling issue (dinner time)
    - limited support from ECA
  - 2012 plan
    - was told that a morning session would be scheduled not to compete with any other events and be directly after the morning business meeting (business meetings' times swap each year)
    - coffee would not require a bartender and would save costs/ mimosas or alcohol would require a bartender

### Elections/ Needed Positions

- Secretary
  - duties
    - 4 year role – moving to vice-chair, chair, immediate past chair
    - notes at business meeting (send to chair to be distributed to interest group)
    - organize and present Wine and Spots/ Coffee and Spots
    - nominations:
      - Janis Edwards – voted in

Thank you to those who offered to review papers and chair/respond panels!

notes submitted respectfully by J. Kanan Sawyer