

Communication Theory & Methodology Division, AEJMC
2009 Members' Meeting
Friday, Aug. 7
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

1) Review and approval of the minutes for the 2008 members' meeting.

2) Reports

a) Financial report (Doug Hindman)

- CT&M was \$368.44 in the red on July 31, 2009. In July 31, 2008, CT&M was \$58 in the red.
- CT&M has cut costs by \$650 from last year by not giving \$50 to each grad student-authored paper and instead moving \$250 into additional cash prizes for top grad papers. The other expenses were constant. The \$650 budget cut difference between income and expenses is estimated from last year's figures.
- The journal expenses are tied to member numbers, and so should not be a drain on the budget.
- CT&M board elected to not reduce the amount of the Barrow scholarship after consulting with Dr. Barrow. Increased endowments following Dr. Barrow's death will reduce the cost of the award to the division. The endowment increased from \$38,000 to over \$50,000 in the past year, mostly from a \$10,000 gift from the Barrow estate. At 2% interest, the endowment will generate \$1000 per year. Commission on the status of Minorities and the Minorities Division both contribute to the yearly cost of the award.

Ideas proposed by members to increase financial stability were the following:

- organizing pre-conference workshops on CT&M related topics (it was noted that locking the rooms would be an issue)
- re-negotiating the contract with the journal
- raising CT&M dues as soon as possible
- not participating in the mid-winter conference (it costs the division \$250 to participate in the mid-winter conference).

b) Council of Divisions report (Doug Hindman);

- Current Council of Divisions leadership will continue another year – Kim Bissell and Evonne Whitmore will serve as Vice Chair and Chair. Nominations for apprentice leadership positions will be solicited from among current council of division members, including outgoing division heads.
- Dues for AEJMC were raised \$5

c) Newsletter report (Mike Schmierbach)

- Mike noted that CT&M published three newsletters in 08-09, all on time. All were generally well-received, with particular attention and praise for the coverage of Dr. Barrows.
- CT&M continues to look for ways to involve the membership in the newsletter and provide a greater diversity of content: one possible idea on point c is to create a feature that tracks when and where CTM-presented papers are published. Suggestions and volunteers are welcome.

d) Membership (Ed Horowitz)

Ed was absent; no report was given on membership.

e) Teaching Standards (Xiaoli Nan)

- A teaching column entitled "Panelists ponder how to effectively teach theory" was published in the fall 2008 newsletter. Co-authored by Nan and Haigh, the column recapped one of the CTM teaching panels ("Teaching Theory in Skills Classes") held at the 2008 AEJMC conference.
- Another teaching column entitled "Working with clients can improve courses" was published in the summer 2009 newsletter. The column also introduced a teaching panel, jointly sponsored by CTM and the science communication interest group, that will be devoted to the discussion of the pros and cons of specific methods involved in teaching and managing courses with client (to be held on Saturday (08/08) 11:45-1:15).

f) PF&R (Jason Reineke)

Jason covered what PF&R is/does, including definitions from the AEJMC Constitution and Code of Ethics. He then discussed our PF&R panels: one out of convention at MAPOR (The 2008 Presidential Election Panel -- meeting our public service goals by applying advanced methods to the analysis of this historic election), and one in-convention mini-plenary (Brain and Media: The Ethical Imperative for Embracing Neuroscience in Journalism and Communication -- meeting ethical goals), co-sponsored with visual communication and media ethics. For the mini-plenary, Jason requested and received \$900 (the maximum possible) convention speaker's funding from the association in order to bring in Dr. George E. Marcus from Paris. It was noted that both of our panels had speakers from Harvard University, which is a good name to be associated with (if nothing else). Jason also mentioned that he wrote a PF&R related article for each of the year's newsletters.

g) Research/Papers

i) Michel Haigh – Midwinter Meeting

Michel noted that we need to consider our participation in midwinter based on the following problems:

- One fourth of our participants that had been accepted backed out and did not

come to Norman to present.

- Of those that did show up, several did not provide copies of the papers.
- Michel was discussant for two of our three sessions.
- In sum, this conference is good for grad students, but in order for it to really be beneficial, they need to change the acceptance policy to submitting a paper. It is a lot of time on the part of CT&M, and the grad students don't really take advantage of it because they don't turn the papers in for discussion and back out of coming.

Based on the above, it was decided that CT&M would not participate in the next winter meeting.

ii) Hernando Rojas – Annual Conference

- We had 121 submissions for the 2009 research competition and we accepted 58 papers.
- Acceptance rate for faculty lead papers was 51.6 % and for student or student lead papers 44.1%.
- We had 72 CT&M members serving as judges, which ensured that all papers were reviewed by 3 judges but it also meant 6 papers to review per judge.
- Overall the competition was very successful and the review process went smoothly with AllAcademic this year.

h) Program (Dominique Brossard)

The research program this year includes:

- 26 posters organized around 5 topics, in a poster session co-sponsored with CTEC and International division
- 1 scholar to scholar poster section with 6 papers (AEJMC poster session),
- 5 research sessions (4 papers per session), one co-sponsored with the Science Comm Interest Group
- One high density session (8 papers)

i) *Communication Methods and Measures* (Andrew Hayes)

- The journal is still under review at ISI.
- The journal has currently 64 pages, soon to be 96 pages an issue
- The board endorsed Andrew Hayes potential appointment as Editor of the journal
- Some members are still not getting the journal issues; membership needs to follow up

3) Awards

a) Paper awards (Dominique Brossard)

Awards were distributed to all faculty and student paper winners. All winners got a certificate. The first authors of the winning student papers got complimentary registration from AEJMC, and a check from CT&M:

- Myiah Hively, the Ohio State University - \$250
- Emily Vraga, University of Wisconsin-Madison - \$150
- Maria Leonora Comello, the Ohio State University - \$100

b) Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship (Yvonne Chen)

Emily Elizabeth Acosta (UW-Madison), was this year's recipient. She got a check for \$1400 and a free one-year membership in AEJMC and CT&M. Emily Vraga represented E. Acosta who was not present.

c) Doug Hindman got a certificate from CT&M in recognition for his service to the Division as Head for 2008-2009

4) Elections (Doug Hindman)

As per the new leadership structure, CT&M Board for 2009-2010 will be the following:

- Head: Dominique Brossard
- Vice-head: Hernando Rojas
- Research Chair: Michel Haigh
- Executive Committee (Open Nominations – 2 open seats):

Rosanne Scholl (Louisiana State) and Michael Dahlstrom (Iowa State) were nominated. Both were elected to the Executive Committee of CT&M board

Jason Reineke and Michel Haigh remain on the executive for a second year.

5) Old Business – Division Bylaws

Bylaws were distributed via summer newsletter July 3, 2009. A paper copy is distributed during the meeting. It is noted that as currently specified in the bylaws, student members are not allowed to vote since it is specified that “each regular member of the Division is entitled to one vote” (Article III, section 4). The discussion focuses on these points: having students vote may pose the following problems:

- Student vote favors large schools
- Students can vote when they become faculty
- It is unclear what constitute a student (i.e. they may be in between status)
- If students are volunteering for the organization, should they be allowed to vote

An amendment is proposed and passed (with 2 abstentions and 3 no): the term “each regular member of the division” on article III section 4 of the bylaws is replaced by “each regular member of the Division”

The bylaws are approved (1 abstention)

6) New Business

- It is noted that CT&M needs a webmaster to work on CT&M image on the web: the board will follow up
- The in site conference registration form needs a box for CT&M membership: the new membership chair will follow up
- The high density sessions need to accommodate larger discussion groups per theme
- There are still problems with the list serv; some members are not getting the emails

7) Adjournment at 8:30 pm