

2019 AEJMC Toronto, ON
Communication Theory & Methodology Division Minutes
August 9, 2019 6:30 p.m.

Division Head Elizabeth Stoycheff called the meeting to order. Division Vice and Research Chairs Jennifer Hoewe and Brett Sherrick joined the meeting via Skype.

Awards were presented for Top Theory, Top Method, Top Paper, and Top Student Paper, and Barrow Minority.

Old Business

Minutes from the 2018 meeting were approved.

Elizabeth noted that the division is in good financial health. Membership stands at 164, below PCIG and well below ComSher and MC&S. There was a significant and troubling drop in submissions this year.

The pre-conference workshop was unexpectedly canceled this year because the speaker backed out. But there was a lot of interest in the subject. Elizabeth's discussions with PCIG incoming head Aaron Veenstra suggested we should pursue the same workshop again in 2020.

This year the division had only 50 submissions (down from 67 last year; a 25% decline). Of these, we accepted 27 for an acceptance rate of 54%. AEJMC as a whole had 1458 submissions, and 713 were accepted for an acceptance rate of 49%. Just over 2000 individuals registered and attended the 2019 conference.

Journal Liaison and Editor Jörg Matthes updated the division on Communication Methods and Measures

-Journal had 35K downloads last year, up from 600 when it started. Attributes the importance of the journal and teaching corner as critical to this success.

-This year the journal was approved for the SSCI index, and its high impact factor already makes it the most impactful AEJMC journal. Most downloads are coming from Europe, followed closely by the US.

-We need to think about renegotiating with the publisher soon as this an ideal time to have some leverage.

-Current editor Jörg Matthes plans to stay with the journal for one more year, after which time he will step down. Jörg said CT&M needs to start the search for a new journal editor, to hopefully be finalized by next summer.

-Elizabeth acknowledged the CMM article of the year; recipients were not in attendance.

PF&R Chair Jason Peifer noted that both his panel sessions were well attended. One PF&R session was converted into the "research panel" highlighting the history of Communication Methods and Measures.

The teaching panels were also well attended and two of our teaching/research and the CMM panels all attracted distinguished scholars that do not always attend AEJMC, an asset that our division distinctly offers.

Elizabeth stepped down as division head but continued to present new business on behalf of incoming head Jennifer Hoewe who was only in attendance via Skype.

New Business

Nominations were called for new executive board members: Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair. Rosie Jahng and Michael Kearney were nominated for and unanimously elected to these positions. Jason Peifer decided to step down from the division, meaning Bryan Wang advances uncontested to the Research Chair position.

Jacob Long was nominated and confirmed as the division's graduate student liaison. Dan Tamul was nominated and confirmed as the division's social media/website director.

Members voted on the location for AEJMC 2024. New York received 10 votes, Philadelphia received 4, and Nashville received 1 vote.

Topics for next year's pre-conference workshop with PCIG were discussed. Newly elected Membership Chair Michael Kearney volunteered to be the methodological expert for a Python/coding/data analytics workshop.

Myiah Hutchens suggested also thinking about panels that featured Silicon Valley tech startups for PF&R since the conference will be held in San Francisco.

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Elizabeth raised the issue of challenges of retaining existing members and recruiting new members. We need to maintain or grow, especially as Pol Comm was just granted division status.

Two weeks prior to the meeting, members were emailed a proposal about online-only access to Communication Methods & Measures to lower membership costs. The move to online-only would lower membership by \$5 for faculty and \$6 for graduate students (to \$20 and \$11 respectively). Some members were concerned that some faculty still prefer to receive a physical copy of the journal. A compromise was proposed wherein members could choose whether they preferred physical or online copies of the journal and their rate would either remain the same or be reduced. This topic was discussed at length. Myiah Hutchens called for a vote on the proposal; Melissa Gotlieb seconded. It received majority support via a show of hands. Members will now be able to choose between the new lower rate for online-only access or the same membership rate to still receive physical copies of the journals.

Members were encouraged to have their graduate students to submit to our division; members mentioned urging doctoral students to submit their dissertation theory sections.

All members presented were invited to attend the division's off-site social immediately following the meeting, sponsored by the journal publisher.

Elizabeth Stoycheff recessed the meeting on Jennifer Hoewe's behalf.

2019-2020 officers:

Head: Jennifer Hoewe, Purdue

Vice Head: Brett Sherrick, Purdue

Research Chair: Bryan Wang, Nebraska- Lincoln

Teaching: Magdalena Saldana, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

PF&R: Ben Johnson, Florida

Membership: Michael Kearney, Missouri

Newsletter: Rosie Jahng, Wayne State

Journal Liaison: Jorg Matthes, Vienna

Grad Student Liaison: Jacob Long, Ohio State

Social Media/Website: Dan Tamul, Virginia Tech