

3 Virtual office hours

Tools you can use to engage your students outside the classroom.

4 Image ethics

Disturbing events require deeper thinking about what to publish.

7 Meeting Minutes

A look back to the Division meeting in San Francisco.



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 49, Issue 1

Division Head

Welcome MC&S members to the dialogue

The first column of the year is usually dedicated to introducing the new Division head and welcoming new Mass Communication and Society members. I'm going to break with



Jensen Moore

tradition by sharing something that has weighed heavy on my heart since Virginia's WDBJ journalists Alison Parker and Adam Ward were murdered on live TV.

The killer, Vester Flanagan/Bryce Williams, not only left a 23-page missive filled with grievances and hate, but also posted video he shot of the murders on Facebook and Twitter. Not since ISIS broadcast videos showing the beheadings of aid worker Alan Henning and journalist James Foley in 2014, or the mass beheadings of 21 Christians in 2015, has social media been used in such a heinous way. The posts have since been removed and Williams' Facebook and Twitter accounts suspended. But not before the videos were shared globally.

I am one of the people who shared

CONT. DIVISION HEAD, 4



Photo credit

Meredith Clark, assistant professor, University of North Texas, won the 2015 MC&S Dissertation Award for "To Tweet Our Own Cause: A Mixed-Methods Study of the Online Phenomenon 'Black Twitter.'"

Start thinking now about MC&S awards

The MC&S Division gives out numerous awards for members at all stages of their academic careers. The Division will award almost \$15,000 to recognize teaching, research, and service.

The **Promising Professors Awards** honor new faculty and graduate students who demonstrate excellence and innovation in teaching; whereas the **Distinguished Educator Award** is given each year to a member who has made a significant contribution to mass communication pedagogy.



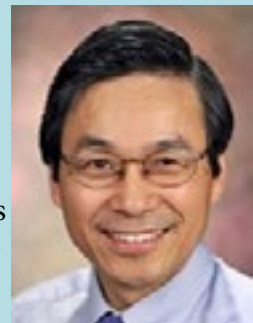
Michael Haigh

CONT. AWARDS, 5

Journal selects new editor

Fuyuan Shen, Penn State University, to start with Volume 20

Fuyuan Shen, Ph.D., an associate professor at Penn State University was selected as the new editor of the division's journal, *Mass Communication & Society*. He was vetted by a selection committee and received overwhelming support from division members. Shen states his goals as the editor are to maintain the journal's high quality, to broaden its international and interdisciplinary reach, and to position it as a premier outlet for leading-edge research in the field.



Fuyuan Shen

With Shen selected to lead *MC&S*, the transition is underway. The transition to the new editor

CONT. NEW EDITOR, 11

Division Officers

Head

Jensen Moore, Louisiana State, jmoore5@lsu.edu

Vice Head/Programming Chair

Jennifer Kowalewski, Georgia Southern, jkowalewski@georgiasouthern.edu

Vice Head Elect/ Membership Chair

Melanie Sarge, Texas Tech, m.sarge@ttu.edu

Outgoing Head

Kevin D. Williams, Mississippi State,



Jack Karlis

Moeller Competition Winners Jane O'Boyle and Jo-Yun Queenie, University of South Carolina and second place Philip Williams, Regent University.

Join MC&S at midwinter

The University of Oklahoma will again host the 2016 AEJMC Midwinter Conference at the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Friday, Feb., 26 and Sat., Feb. 27, 2016. This conference is a great opportunity for students and faculty to get feed-

back on their studies and present them in an intimate, welcoming environment.

Please submit abstracts of 600 to 800 words (excluding references), to the MC&S Midwinter chair kellykaufhold@

CONT. MIDWINTER, 11



Kelly Kaufhold

kwilliams@comm.msstate.edu

Midwinter Chair

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Jay Hmielowski, Washington State, jhmielowski@wsu.edu

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The importance of media literacy

For this newsletter article, we wanted to highlight the importance of media literacy. Media literacy, defined broadly as an active, critical perspective through which one approaches the media (Potter, 2014), is an important skill in today's media-saturated, digitally connected world. Indeed, people continue to spend more time with the media on a year-to-year basis. For instance, research has shown that US adults spend an average of **5.5 hours** a day with video content. Because people often use multiple media outlets at once (e.g., multitasking), the total amount of time consuming digital content is close to **14 hours a day**.

With the amount of time spent with the media, we encounter an overwhelming amount of information every day. To handle the flood of information from media, we routinely process media messages with little conscious effort (Potter, 2014). While effective in dealing with the flood of information, this superficial style of information processing undermines our ability to think critically about media messages. A strong proposition derived from mass communication research is that the media maintain and re-



Jay Hmielowski

CONT. RESEARCH, 6



VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Tools you can use to engage your students outside of class

Effective teaching is an important part of what we do, but often the best moments for some of us happen outside the classroom. Our office hours provide a chance to connect with students in less formal ways than classroom instruction provides. We also can use office hours to provide extra help to students struggling with material, or mentor those who are looking to go beyond the class goals.

But we're all busy for different reasons.

Research and professional service are a big part of the job for many of us, and that means time. Conference travel, special lectures, committee work – all of those things make holding regular office hours a challenge

The Internet provides some relief. "Office Hours are Obsolete" declared one bold post on the Chronicle of Higher Education's Vitae blog (<https://chroniclevitae.com/news/534-office-hours-are-obsolete>). Slightly dramatic, perhaps, but it makes a valid point: students and professors alike are busier than ever; why not rethink office hours as something that consists solely in a professor's office?

With that in mind, here are some virtual tools that could help reimagine the office hours experience. Some of these are ones I've used, others are gathered from ideas I've read over the years.

Video conferencing: Great for when you're traveling or for days you're working from home, video conferencing via Skype or Google Hangouts allows for face-to-face conversation over distance. Hangouts in particular is an interesting tool because it allows for more than 1-on-1 conversation; I've used this to do exam review, where I invite 4-5 students to just pepper me with questions and all benefit from hearing the same answer.

Twitter chats: I hold open office hours on classes at least once a week using a class hashtag. There's a 1-hour AMA ("ask me anything") period where students can ask questions and I try to reply in 140 characters. What I find useful about this: I don't over-answer, and I point to lecture points or book sections that make them find answers themselves.

Slack: I discovered this tool at a conference. Professional journalism shops that use a lot of virtual newsroom organization use Slack to communicate. Slack is basically a chat tool in purest form, but its ability to create rooms by topic (think courses or course sections), archive chats that are searchable, and connect to third-party applications like Dropbox or Google Drive (think file sharing) make it a robust tool. You can even do video and screen sharing. I've found I am using social less and Slack more as the latter evolves.

Online groups: Facebook and Google have robust online community offerings. I've found that creating a community for a class

CONT. TEACING, 10



Jeremy Littau

Aylan Kurdi and the ethics of images

While media coverage of the refugee crisis in Europe has given rise to a variety of unsettling visual images, an image that sparked significant reaction was the photograph of two-year old Aylan Kurdi, who drowned as his family was fleeing Syria, trying to make the journey from Turkey to Greece.



Kalyani Chadha

The child's body was found on a beach in Turkey—and the now iconic photographs taken by Nilufer Demir, where he appears to be sleeping peacefully on the sand as well as images of his body being carried gently by a Turkish policeman—spread rapidly all over the world. Many European media outlets displayed these pictures prominently. The images were also widely circulated in social media and produced heated debates about the ethical implications of displaying the images of dead children.

On one side, there were observers who argued that although the images were deeply distressing, they played a vital role in highlighting the plight of Syrian refugees as well as pressuring reluctant European governments to react more effectively to the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Commenting on the widespread sharing of the images of Aylan Kurdi in an interview noted communications schol-

ar Vincent Mosco was quoted as saying, "While I appreciate people's sensitivities, photos like this represent situations that the world needs to know about and the world needs to act on." Indeed, many who posted the images made the case that the images galvanized people who might otherwise ignore news coverage about the refugee crisis. Others however expressed concern that circulating images of dead children was unnecessarily shocking and disrespectful.

This struggle to balance the need to inform while avoiding sensationalizing human tragedy is by no means new. However, in the age of social media when images can be disseminated widely and have



A Turkish police officer carries the lifeless body of Aylan Kurdi.

far-reaching implications, the issue has acquired renewed resonance. As journalism educators, we have to encourage our students to go beyond knee jerk reactions, explore the pros and cons of publishing versus not publishing graphic images, develop a rationale for their actions as well as understand its implications in a real-world context. Indeed, such issues are increasingly likely to arise and they must be prepared to deal with them ethically.

PF&R

CONT. DIVISION HEAD, 1

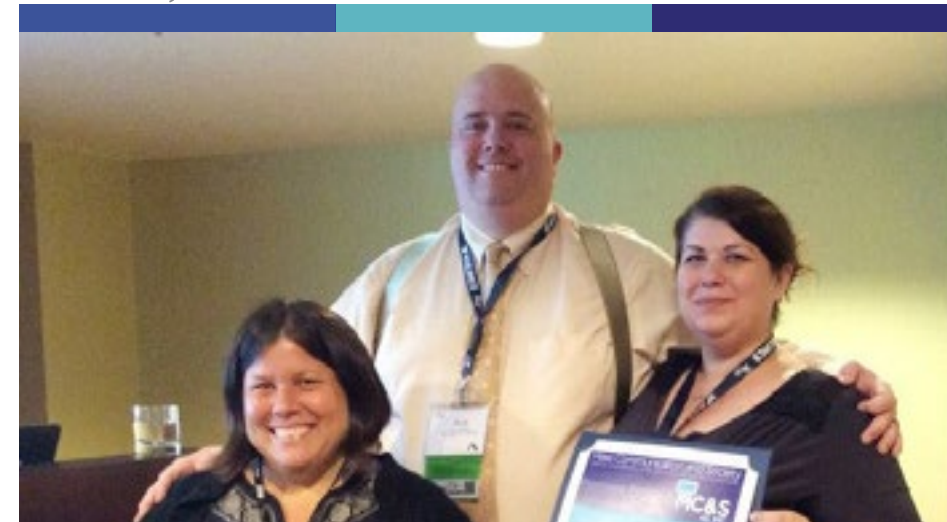
the videos. My research is at the intersection of health communication, crisis communication and social media. I deal a lot with "death communication." My work examines everything from how we mourn using social media, to how organizations should use social media to communicate with victims' families during crisis situations, to how much fear to use in health messages to get people to act in death-avoiding ways, or if death vs. life-framed messages increase health behaviors.

I shared the videos not to support the broadcast of live murders, but to begin a dialogue about how much social media have changed our perceptions of death and our communication about death. In the wake of the murders, social media were an immediate space for mourning and grief. More than 20 Facebook pages and events were created memorializing Alison Parker and Adam Ward and the #WDBJshooting hash tag trended on Twitter for days afterward.

I'm still interested in that dialogue, but I want to take a moment to acknowledge a lot of other dialogues that have taken place. My colleagues in MC&S have led classroom discussions, shared insights on social media and blogged about the event and its effects on journalists and journalism. Our Division Vice-Head, Jennifer Kowalewski, showed it in her classes and began discussions on how news organizations should report death. Our Division Secretary, Brendan Watson, suggested a dialogue about the paternalistic approach of the media in protecting the public from

CONT. DIVISION HEAD, 5

4



Jack Karlis/MC&S

Promising Professor Award for Graduate Students with outgoing president Kevin Williams of Mississippi State; Julia Daisy Fraustino, University of Maryland and Amanda Weed, Ohio University.

CONT. AWARDS, 1

MC&S also recognizes service to the Division by awarding the **Trayes Award**. This award honors Edward Trayes, a leader in the Division, AEJMC and the communications field. Trayes started the Division's research journal, Mass Communication & Society, then known as Mass Comm Review.

Excellence in graduate research for the 2015 year will be recognized with the **Dissertation Award**. MC&S also funds future mass communication research projects through its Research Award. Any topic that advances mass communication research, especially at the societal or macrosocial level, is eligible for the award. Proposals must emphasize the interaction with society and fit with the Division's mission.

The award **applications are due April 30, 2016** by 11:59 p.m. EST. Visit the Division website for award description, nomination guidelines, and eligibility requirements (<http://aejmc.us/mcs/>). Email mmh25@psu.edu for

Planning for 2016 conference in Minneapolis underway

As the fall semester is upon us, and we have returned to the classroom and our research, we



Jennifer Kowalewski

might not want to think about next year's annual conference. But for the vice head/programming chair, next year's conference is already in the planning stages. The Division

has already have asked for panel proposals. There are three types of panel proposals members could submit: Professional Freedom & Responsibility (PF&R), Teaching and Research. Each type of panel proposal helps to shape our conference, and helps further our understanding of the field we love.

I have received great panel proposals. I've also received notification from other divisions that they would like to partner with our Division on great panel proposals. AEJMC's Council of Divisions have

CONT. DIVISION HEAD, 4

these types of reality. That by shielding us, the media suggest we are not capable of making sense of the world around us.

These are just a few examples of the interesting conversations stemming from this tragedy. Please share on the MC&S Facebook page if you shared the video in your classes or on social media. Why or why not? If you did, what type of discussions did you engage in?

I'd like to end by welcoming returning and new members to Mass Communication & Society, the AEJMC Division that prides itself on opening dialogues about the important communication issues facing our field. I hope everyone finds this amazing Division a safe place to have these kinds of discussions. What we do as researchers and educators can influence how death communication via social media – and other types of communication – takes place in the future. Welcome to the conversation.

created a website where I will input all the panel proposals I received into a database. The database includes the title of the proposal, possible co-sponsors, and a brief description of the panel proposals.

From there, other Programming Chairs will search our panel proposals, and I will search other divisions and interest groups panel proposals to find those proposals that fit within our Division's interest. I could try to explain all the wheeling and dealing that goes

CONT. PROGRAMING CHAIR, 10

5

CONT. RESEARCH, 6
 inforce the dominant value system. Think about partisan news as well as media presentation of sex, gender, beauty, material consumption, and various social groups, to name a few. They are constructed to promote certain values and viewpoints, and by doing so the media construct an environment in which such values and viewpoints are considered normal. A lack of critical thinking will perpetuate these values. Therefore, people need to become active, critical viewers of media messages.

It is thus imperative that media scholars and educators continue to push for an expansion of media literacy education across the U.S. Currently, the U.S. does not require students to take a media literacy class in [primary or secondary education](#). This is in stark contrast to other countries around the world that have up to 80% of children taking some form of a media literacy class. Not including media literacy into U.S. curricula is concerning because literacy has been shown to diminish the effects of the media. For example, studies have shown that students who received a media literacy intervention showed smaller gains in aggressive behavior from media compared to those who did not take part in the intervention.

The importance of media literacy cannot be emphasized enough in today's media-saturated society. We, mass communication researchers and educators, have an important mission of sustaining this scholarly effort and translating empirical evidence into the classroom.

Potter, J. W. (2014). *Media literacy* (7th edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Join or renew membership with MC&S

Mass Communication and Society is one of the largest and most active AEJMC divisions. As such, membership in this Division has many perks besides its abundant networking opportunities. You would be eligible for more teaching, research, graduate student, professional and service awards than any other Division. MC&S also sponsors its members for AEJMC fellowships and scholarships. In addition, as an MC&S member you receive a free subscription to *Mass Communication & Society*, a Taylor & Francis publication with one of the highest impact factors in our field.

We invite you to become a member of the Mass Communication and Society Division and find out more about all the exciting things the Division has to offer. From our graduate student mentorship program, to the syllabus exchange, to our new member awards and honors we think you will find that MC&S has amazing opportunities for both faculty and students.

The easiest way to join the Division is by filling out AEJMC's official membership application. Be sure to indicate under the "AEJMC Divisions" that you wish to join MC&S. Faculty membership dues are currently \$24 while student membership dues are free (journal is included for student memberships). For information on AEJMC membership benefits and to join, go to <http://www.aejmc.com/home/membership/>.

Want more information before joining? Contact Melanie Sarge at m.sarge@ttu.edu.

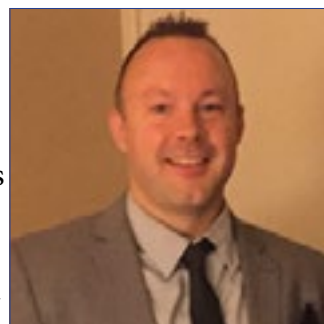


Melanie Sarge

Share your news with Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's role is to utilize, maintain, create and recruit for the Division's social media accounts to raise awareness of the Mass Communication and Society Division. Jack Karlis of SUNY Buffalo State and Iveta Imre of Western Carolina are the officers in charge of the social media committee.

The committee seeks continued growth and more participation from its members in spreading the news



@JackKarlis

about our Division. As of September 2015, there were 556 members on Facebook (a 5 percent growth rate from June), 1,428 followers on Twitter (a 7 percent increase from June), and 760 members on LinkedIn (a 17 percent growth rate from June).

The communications committee would kindly ask that if there is any news to share or MC&S members who have not joined, they do so. They would also that members share, retweet, link or repost Division information on their own personal accounts to help diffuse information. The platforms are an excellent tool to disseminate any information about jobs, conference calls, or pertinent information relat-

Mass Communication & Society Division Annual Business Meeting

MC&S Head Kevin Williams called the meeting at the 2015 Annual AEJMC Conference in San Francisco, CA, to order at 7:02 p.m. PST. The chairs' report was distributed as a PowerPoint via a flash drive given to MC&S members at AEJMC registration. Incoming Secretary Brendan Watson took the minutes.

Membership report

- The Division now has approximately 406 members (in 2014 there were approximately 434 members); Williams expressed some concern that new interest groups could be siphoning off some members; there were 39 graduate student members as of July 1, 2015
- Current dues are \$24 dollars (includes journal subscription); \$10 for graduate student members

Financial report

- Williams reported that the Division is financially very healthy; the Division's balance is approximately \$30,321; there is \$345,000 in the journal reserves

Research committee report

- Williams reported that the Division had 157 submissions and 79 acceptances for an acceptance rate of 50.3% submission, approximately the acceptance rate that AEJMC encourages divisions to maintain
- The Division does need more Moeller paper competition (for papers written for class projects) submissions; this year there were only four submissions, two of which were accepted, and both which won paper awards; Williams urged members to promote the competition to their students; instructors/professors' only role is verifying by email that the paper was written for a class assignment; there are three Moeller paper awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
 - This year the Division had 151 paper judges, averaging three papers per judge; William Kinnally won the Division's award for top paper reviewer; Juliana Fernandes and Jason Martin were awarded free conference registrations by the Division for their service
- Paper award winners (awards presented at MC&S off-site social at ThirstyBear following Division business meeting)*



Jack Karlis/MC&S

Open Competition Winner Suzannah Evans, North Carolina at Chapel Hill and third place Michelle Baker, Juniata College.

- Open competition
 - First Place: *NGOs, Hybrid Connective Action, and the People's Climate March*. Suzannah Evans, Daniel Riffe and Joe Bob Hester, North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 - Second Place: *The Impact of Political Identity Salience on the Third-Person Perception and Political Participation Intention*. Hyun-jung Kim, Sungkyunkwan University
 - Third Place: *Reducing Stigmatization Associated with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency*. Michelle Baker, Juniata College
- Student competition
 - First Place: *Social Pressure for Social Good? Motivations for Completing the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge*. Jared Brickman, Washington State
 - Second Place: *Is Social Viewing the New Laugh Track? Examining the Effect of Traditional and Digital Forms of Audience Response on Comedy Enjoyment*. T. Franklin Waddell and Erica Bailey, Pennsylvania State
 - Third Place: *The Discourse of Sacrifice in Natural Disaster: The Case Study of Thailand's 2011 Floods*. Penchan Phoborisut, Utah



Jack Karlis/MC&S

Jason Martin, winner of the MC&S Research Award for research at the societal or macro-social level with a \$10,000 award.

CONT. MINUTES, 7

- Moeller competition
 - First Place: *“Let’s Keep This Quiet:” Media Framing of Campus Sexual Assault, Its Causes, and Proposed Solutions.* Jane O’Boyle and Jo-Yun Queenie Li, University of South Carolina
 - Second Place: *Heaven, Hell, and Physical Viral Media: An Analysis of the Work of Jack T. Chick.* Philip Williams, Regent University
- MC&S continued its tradition of the strongest showing of the AEJMC divisions at the Midwinter meeting; the Division had 40 submissions, 25 acceptances, for an acceptance rate of 62.5%
- Research awards
 - Jason Martin, Jessica Gall Myrick, and Kimberly K. Walker won the \$10,000 research award/grant for their project titled *Get Your Game Frame Off My Obamacare: The Cognitive, Affective, and Attitudinal Effects of Health Care Legislation News Coverage on Young Adults*
 - Meredith Clark won the \$3,000 award for the top dissertation in mass communication and society for her dissertation *To Tweet Our Own Cause: A Mixed-Methods Study of the Online Phenomenon ‘BlackTwitter’*

Teaching committee report

- MC&S co-hosted with The Commission on the Status of Women a pre-conference workshop titled *Google and Data Journalism: A Match Made*

in Data Viz Heaven

- And hosted or co-hosted another four panels during the main conference
- Teaching awards
 - The following faculty who have taught no more than 5 years won the Promising Professor Award
 - First Place: Brooke McKeever, South Carolina
 - Second Place: Rowena L. Briones, Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Third Place: Vanessa Bravo, Elon University
 - The following graduate students who served as teachers of record were also recognized with Promising Professor Awards

- First Place: Julia Daisy Fraustino, University of Maryland
- Second Place: Amanda J. Weed, Ohio University
- Third Place: Young Kim, Louisiana State University
- Carol Pardun, University of South Carolina, won the Division’s Distinguished Educator Award; unfortunately Pardun, who was lauded for her significant contributions to teaching and the field more generally, was not in attendance as she was enjoying a sabbatical



Carol Pardun

PF&R report

- The Division sponsored four PF&R panels
- Unfortunately the Division’s off-site visit to Carat was canceled two weeks prior to the conference and no off-site visit was rescheduled in order to focus on existing programming at the conference
- Among the PF&R committee’s activities in the prior year, the Division paid \$6,250 to sponsor a Division member’s participation in the AEJMC Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication Institute
- The Division also contributed \$500 to support the

CONT. MINUTES, 9

- Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship
- Other activities**
 - Ruoxu Wang migrated the Division’s website to WordPress
 - Aidan Porter, University of Memphis, won the new logo competition (competition committee was chaired by Matt Haught)
- Mass Communication & Society (journal) report**
 - The journal’s acceptance rate was 10.3%
 - The five-year impact factor up to 1.205
 - The journal has a very healthy journal reserve balance of \$388,308
 - Editor Ran Wei did not run for a second term as editor, having previously served as an associate editor for a considerable tenure prior to assuming the editor position
 - Francesca Carpentier, UNC-Chapel Hill, chaired an editor selection committee, which recommended Dr. Fuyuan Shen, associate professor of advertising/public relations at Penn State as the next editor
 - Kevin Williams gave membership two weeks to consider and vote online on recommendation
- Division bylaw revisions**
 - First issue put to membership vote was weather to lower member dues (currently \$24 dollars); Kevin Williams also advocated for reducing graduate student dues to \$0
 - Steve Perry had co-chaired a committee to discuss what to do with journal reserve funds; one option is to set-up investment fund; interest can be used as income for Division, which could support lowering Division dues; Williams, however, suggested that the Division see what revenue is generated by such an investment prior to deciding whether to reduce Division dues
 - Steve Perry pointed out that 5 years ago when Taylor and Francis renegotiated journal contract the fee charged for members to receive the journal was reduced; thus the Division currently is getting more of that \$24 for its operational budget
 - The membership voted 14 to 6 to keep dues at \$24 dollars (Brendan Watson counted votes); it was suggested that the Division should revisit at its 2016 business meeting whether to reduce Division dues
 - Bylaws change suggested creating the position of vice-head elect, as well as broadening the criteria

- of Division officers to include committee members; language requiring attendance at Midwinter chip auction, now obsolete, was also removed
- Given broader inclusion of “officers” Williams opened up discussion as to whom should be on the MC&S “executive committee of Division”; in addition to chairs and associate chairs we now have committee members, which makes the officer slate much larger; the suggested bylaws define the executive committee as “The MC&S executive committee shall be composed of the Division head, vice head, vice head elect, immediate past head, Communication committee chair, PF&R chair, Teaching chair, Awards chair, Research chair and Division journal editor.”
- All officer bylaw revisions were unanimously approved by the membership
- Next, a bylaws revision was suggested that meeting quorum be defined as “the Division members present,” not a majority of the membership
- That suggested bylaw revision was tabled after discussion so that the proposed language could be revised; concern was expressed about what constitutes an “official meeting” and whether those meetings had to be advertised to members
- Next, the membership unanimously approved changes to the bylaws that remove criteria for each award (and thus require bylaw changes if those criteria are updated), allowing for more general award language to allow for criteria to be updated by relevant committees
- However, it was pointed out that the language needed to be updated to reflect the chair/associate chair, not chair, co-chair structure of new officer positions
- Next the journal bylaw changes were presented; first, it was suggested that the bylaws be revised so that a portion of membership dues *may* be transferred to journal reserves, rather than making such transfers necessary.
- Additionally, it was suggested that the following language be inserted concerning the journal’s reserve funds: “The Division should aim to maintain a balance in the journal account equal to twice the annual expenses. In addition, a long-term fund (initially \$100,000) will be maintained in an investment managed in coordination with AEJMC endowment funds. Such fund principle would only be accessed for future emergency

CONT. MINUTES, 10

journal needs. Revenues generated by this investment will return to the Division annually to underwrite free graduate student Division membership and other Division expenses.”

- It was also suggested that the bylaws be amended to provide for a \$2,500 summer stipend for the journal editor, recognizing that work on the journal continues over the summer when the editor has not been receiving a stipend and is not paid on the typical 9-month university contract
- It was also suggested that the guest-editor stipend be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500
- These following bylaw changes were unanimously approved by the membership
- Lastly, it was suggested that the journal bylaws be amended to provide \$5,000 to AEJMC to support graduate student travel to the annual AEJMC conference; there was discussion as to whether these travel monies should instead be awarded directly by MC&S to graduate-student members of the Division, or alternatively that the Division should ask AEJMC to administer these funds, but make sure that they are earmarked for Division members; Steve Perry pointed out that original idea was to recognize AEJMC and help support larger organization; discussion ensued about various strengths/weaknesses of proposals
 - This issue was tabled to come up with more specific criteria for the awarding of these travel funds (there was one dissenting vote to table this issue)

Non-bylaw changes

- Lastly, Kevin Williams asked members to vote on issues that did not require changes to the Division's bylaws
 - First, it was suggested that graduate student dues be changed from \$10/year to \$0; Williams was asked about the rationale; Williams pointed out that there is some precedent set by other divisions making similar changes, and that one incentive of the Division is to collect students' contact information for membership recruitment purposes; additionally, MC&S is not reliant on the \$390 in dues that graduate students currently contribute to the Division; membership approved the change of graduate dues to \$0 with two dissenting votes (note the irony, that both dissenting votes were from graduate students)
 - Next, the membership unanimously approved

changing the budget for the research award/grant to \$25,000, with a cap of \$10,000 for an individual award; additionally, \$5,000 must be spent on graduate student research

- Next, it was discussed whether MC&S should extend free conference registration to all Division award winners; a concern was expressed that such a change supports those from larger, successful programs that already have decent research/travel support, and that the Division should use its resources to expand participation in the Division/conference; the majority (17 members) voted to keep the current conference registration reimbursement practices
 - Should extend free conference registration to all award winners; currently all top-paper award winners (top authors) get free conference registration; 17 vote to leave the current rules the same; 6 voted to table issue
 - Membership voted unanimously to make the AEJMC Diversity Institute and Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship annual MC&S Division commitments
 - The membership also voted 15 to 6 to allow individuals who submit papers to the AEJMC open paper competition to also review papers as part of that competition
 - Members were also asked to vote on potential sites for the 2019 AEJMC conference; results in order of popularity were Toronto (clear winner); Atlanta (4); Tampa (4); and Philadelphia (3)
 - Lastly, the membership unanimously approved the slate of new MC&S Division officers
 - Incoming head Jensen Moore said she'd send out additional business on the MC&S Listserv

CONT. TEACNING, 3

is a great way to head off some questions. Students have a forum to ask questions, and they sometimes jump in and answer before I do. I've found that empowering them by providing the connections can help alleviate the pressure on me to be the only person answering questions in office hours (some of which are, let's face it, basic or the result of not reading the syllabus).

Obviously there are other tools out there, and even the ones we have will continue to evolve. But if you're looking to go virtual, with your office hours hopefully this is a helpful list to get started.

will occur gradually over the next 15 months. He will officially take over the editorship with Volume 20 (2017). However, the long review time requires him to start accepting and processing manuscripts in early 2016 to fill that issue.

The term of the current editor, Ran Wei, Ph.D., of the University of South Carolina, will end in 2016. The last issue that Dr. Wei edits will be Issue 6 of Volume 19, December 2016. He will continue to accept and process manuscripts until the last issues are complete. Meanwhile he will supervise the special issue for Vol.19 of 2016 on "Climate and Sustainability Communication," guest edited by Donnalyn Pompper of Temple University. The issue is on track to be published in mid-2016.

As the next editor of *Mass Communication and Society*, Shen will work with the editorial board to select a new special issue topic for 2017. The MC&S bylaws allow the purchase of up to 100 extra pages for a special issue each year, and for the selection of a special issue editor with a \$1500 stipend. Our publisher, Taylor & Francis, has a provision for potentially publishing special issues as books. Past special issues—starting in 2010 with "The Facebook Election"—have been published in book form; this expands its distribution to many more institutional libraries around the world.

The editorial board will also begin transition in the near future. Shen will begin adding members of his choosing and some who have served under my editorship will end their service. Thanks to all for your support for *Mass Communication & Society*. - Ran Wei



Brooke Weberling McKeever, University of South Carolina, First Place, Rowena L. Briones, Virginia Commonwealth University, Second Place, Promising Professor Award for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching.

CONT. MIDWINTER, 2

Division will honor the top paper at Midwinter. Panel proposals are also welcome and we will also need Division members willing to serve as reviewers in December, and discussants and moderators in March. Please contact Kelly or Robert if you'll be available and are willing to help.

Abstracts should give a clear sense of relevant literature, research objectives, methods employed, the stage of the research project and initial or expected findings and conclusions. Papers cannot be under review at other outlets (e.g., ICA). However, Midwinter papers, are eligible to be resubmitted to the national AEJMC conference. The

CONT. PROGRAMMING CHAIR, 5

So look to future newsletters for more information on accepted panel proposals, as well as information on submitting your research and information on awards open for our Division members. And good luck on the upcoming semester. I can't wait to see you next year in Minneapolis.



Robert McKeever

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