

AEJMC 2020 Virtual Conference ComSHER Business Meeting

Sojung Kim, Secretary

Aug 8, 2020 6:30 pm – 8 pm

1. Call to order and approval of minutes from 2019 business meeting

- Full minutes available on the ComSHER website
- All in favor - Approved

2. 2019-2020 division update

- State of the division is strong
- Around 300 total members (around 500 followers on the division FB page)
- Paper acceptance rate is within AEJMC guidelines (49-50%)
- New first high density session in place
- New division collaborations in place
- Increased graduate student engagement as moderators, presenters, award winners
- Creation of the graduate committee
- Prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in division panel topics, collaborations etc.
- 5-year reports delayed due to the COVID-19

3. 2020 AEJMC conference update

- 166 submissions / 82 accepted (57 posters and 25 for paper panels)
- 49.40% acceptance rate for all papers (the same for student papers, same as AEJMC overall)
- 33 submitted papers were disqualified (policy change may be needed for next year...).

4. 2020 financial update (i.e., 2020 by the numbers)

- 2020 annual income - \$2,000-\$3,000 per year on average
- \$20 faculty membership fee (\$0 for students)
- Balance – As of May 2020, \$10,800 (before conference expenses)
 - May 2019 around \$9,000
 - May 2017 \$6,965
- Overall, the division financial is on a continued healthy trajectory
- 2020 annual expenses – around \$2,600
 - Eason Prize (around \$660 [\$1,000 – endowment])
 - Graduate student registration fees (instead of the social) (around \$500)
 - Top Poster Award (\$100, sponsored by Nanyang University until 2023)

5. Teaching panel update

- A total of 3 panels were organized and successfully completed
 - Best of ComSHER Teaching
 - Teaching about Politics and the Environment; Co-sponsored with the Political Communication Division

- Sharing the knowledge: Successful strategies for mentoring and working with graduate students; Co-sponsored with the Mass Communication & Society Division

6. PF&R panel update

- A total of 2 panels were organized and successfully attended (attended by more than 30 people!)
 - Making Sense of Technology Buzz Words: Automation, Robotics, AI; Co-sponsored by Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship and Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Divisions
 - Addressing Diversity and Inclusion in the Practice and Scholarship of Science Communication; Co-sponsored by Communicating Science, Health Environment and Risk and Minorities and Communication Divisions

7. *Science Communication* journal update

- Impact factor: 2.32 (ranked 26/92 in Communication)
- 210 submissions in 2019; 206 submissions so far in 2020!
- 14-15% acceptance rate
- Special COVID-19 issue in process (34 submissions so far!)
- Average review time is 3-4 months
- Need Associate Editors and reviewers – contact EiC Susanna Priest editorscicom@gmail.com if interested. There are lots of benefits to serving, including keeping up to date on the latest research in the field
- If additional questions, email Jessica Myrick at jgm43@psu.edu

8. *Environmental Communication* journal update

- Email Shirley Ho if any questions!

9. Future AEJMC conference locations

- 2021 – New Orleans, LA (\$189)
- 2022 – Detroit, MI (\$204/\$224)
- 2023 – Washington, DC (\$249)
- 2024 – Philadelphia, PA (\$214/\$234)
- 2025 – San Francisco, CA (a do-over)

10. Dues & Issues

- Currently \$20 for faculty, free for students
- We did fund 10 graduate students this year (we usually spend this money to manage the social).
- Any discussions about a change in dues?
 - Is AEJMC too expensive for diverse universities \$ 400?? Not all profs get travel money
 - Members voted to keep the current arrangement with no changes
- **Virtual conference pros and cons**

Pros (Success)	Cons (Room for improvement)
Was able to attend so many more panels than normal conferencing	Poster sessions with only chats were not great

<p>Loved people could discuss in chat while the presentations were going.</p> <p>Normally cannot come to AEJ since I have a lot of kids, so that was nice</p> <p>Suggest the meeting to be virtual at intervals in the future...</p> <p>Like the idea of a hybrid conference in the future</p> <p>Virtual conference was more affordable and accessible especially for people like moms etc.</p>	<p>Zoom live captioning feature would have been helpful to make the sessions more accessible</p> <p>Miss meeting people in person</p> <p>Functions to bookmark sessions like mobile apps would have been nice</p> <p>Live meetings for posters would have been good</p> <p>Registration issues – had to wait until 7/29 to register</p> <p>Preferred asynchronous format like ICA</p> <p>Never received my swag box</p> <p>No searchable conference program online</p> <p>The time difference is a bit of a restriction for especially international colleagues</p> <p>Miss talking informally about ideas and politics</p> <p>We could consider some smaller virtual conferencing throughout the year, too, like some other divisions</p> <p>The registration was expensive for the virtual conference</p>
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- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice discussion?
 - We could think about having an element in our paper reviewing process that provides value to research that prioritizes varying perspective, diversity, and inclusion
- Other issues to discuss? None.

11. New ComSHER leadership

- Voted and approved!
- See the below for the new leaders!
 - **Head:** Kajsa Dalrymple
 - **Vice-Head:** Sara Yeo
 - **Vice-Head Elect:** Timothy Fung
 - **Co-Research Chair:** Matthew VanDyke
 - **Co-Research Chair:** Jessica Willoughby
 - **Teaching Chair:** Ashley Anderson
 - **PF&R Chair:** Kang Namkoong
 - **Secretary:** Sojung Kim
- Thanks to Dr. Rachel Young (retiring Head) for her 9 years of service as a ComSHER Officer!

12. New media team

<p>Chair: Roma Subramanian, Nebraska-Omaha</p> <p>Sushma Kumble, Towson University</p> <p>Nicole O'Donnell, Virginia Commonwealth</p> <p>Tsung-Jen Shih, National Chengchi University</p>

Kristin Timm, Alaska
 Jiun-Yi Tsai, Northern Arizona
 Rosalynn Vasquez, Boston University
 Shupei Yuan, Northern Illinois University

13. Division awards

- **Graduate Student Registration Award**

- Robyn Adams
- Luye Bao
- Junhan Chen
- Deborah J. Danuser
- Zhuling Liu
- Won-Ki Moon
- Hoa Nguyen
- Alex Olshansky
- Hongjie Tang
- Jody CS. Wong

- **Eason Prize (Top student papers)**

- Named in honor of Lori Eason, a former Ph.D. student at the University of Texas, Austin, who passed away in 2002. Endowed by Dr. Gene Burd
- Divided into three awards
- Remains the largest overall student award at AEJMC
- 3rd Place (\$200): The urban-rural divide and Americans' trust in scientists (Nicole Krause, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- 2nd Place (\$300): Beneath our feet: Risk, dread, and the future in coverage of enhanced geothermal energy (Catherine Lambert, Cornell Univ.)
- 1st Place (\$500): Testing the efficacy of Carbon footprint calculator messaging on climate action (Nicholas Eng, Penn State University and co-authors)

- **Top Conference Paper Awards**

- 4th Place: Seeking information about an emerging technology: Fairness, uncertainty, systematic processing, and information engagement intentions (Hang Lu, University Michigan and co-authors)
- 3rd Place: Are productive scientists more willing to participate in public engagement? (Luye Bao, University of Wisconsin-Madison and co-authors)
- 2nd Place: I just saw on Twitter that Tom Hanks has coronavirus (Jessica Myrick, PSU and co-author)
- 1st Place: Fear, anticipated regret, and efficacy perceptions of active depression coping (Soojin Roh, Peking Univ.)

- **Teaching Awards**

- 1st Place: Rebecca Ortiz, Syracuse
- 2nd Place: Hollie Smith, Oregon

- **Article of the Year Award**
 - 1st Place: Timothy K. F. Fung: The role of counterfactual thinking in narrative persuasion: Its impact on patients' adherence to treatment regimen, *Health Communication*
- **Top Poster Award**
 - Threat appraisals and emotional in crisis: Examining information seeking and sharing in Hurricane Florence (Lucinda Austin, North Carolina and co-authors)

14. Other business

- Change to the ComSHER bylaws
 - Move field trip and social responsibilities to Secretary
 - Create "Graduate Committee"
 - Amend media chair titles to Media Team
 - All moved and approved (To be applied to starting at the 2021 conference)

15. Engagement expectations

- *All officers, elected or otherwise, are expected to engage as fully as possible in their responsibilities. This includes planning for and attending the annual conference. Officers must attend the annual conference and business meeting, excluding life circumstances. If an officer is unable to attend, they must coordinate their duties with other officers, including the Head and Vice-Heads. Additionally, they will not be eligible to move up in officer standing until the following year if they are unable to attend that year's conference.*

16. Final remarks – Thank you, Rachel for 9 years of service to ComSHER!

