

**2021 AEJMC Virtual Conference
ComSHER Members Meeting Minutes**

Sojung Kim, Secretary

Aug 6, 2021 8:45 pm – 10:15 pm CT

1. Call to order and approval of minutes from 2020 business meeting

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

2. 2020-2021 annual report update

- The state of the division is strong
- 394 total members (around 512 FB followers and 498 Twitter followers)
- Paper acceptance rate is within AEJMC preferred range (49-50%)
- New formats including the first DEIJ research session, ISC+ComSHER, and Preconference
- New division collaborations in place
- Increasing graduate student engagement as moderators, presenters, award winners
- Revitalization of the graduate committee
- Continuing to prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in our division panel topics, collaborations etc.
- AEJ required 5-year reports and reviews have been delayed due to the COVID-19

3. 2021 financial update (i.e., 2021 by the numbers)

- Annual income ranges - \$2,000-\$3,000 per year on average
- \$20 faculty membership fee (\$0 for graduate students)
- Balance – As of May 2021, \$12,079 (before conference expenses)
 - o May 2016 \$5,850
 - o May 2017 \$6,965
 - o May 2019 around \$9,000
 - o May 2020 \$10,800
- Overall, the division finance is on a continued healthy trajectory
- 2021 annual expenses – around \$4,500
 - o Eason Prize (around \$660 [\$1,000 – endowment])
 - o Graduate student registration fees (instead of the social) (around \$351)
 - o Preconference honoraria (\$2,250)
 - o ISC+ComSHER Cohort Initiative (\$1,600)
 - o Certificate printing (\$300)
 - o Top Poster Award (\$100, sponsored by Nanyang University until 2023)
- 2022 expected budget about \$10,500

4. 2021 research competition update

- 215 submissions /6 disqualifications / 103 accepted (57 posters and 25 for panel papers)
- 49.40% acceptance rate for qualified papers (same as AEJMC overall)

- 57% student papers accepted (12 of 21)

5. Teaching panel update

- A total of 2 panels were organized and successfully completed on the below topics
 - Assisting the student in crisis
 - Inclusive pedagogy for online teaching

6. PF&R panel update

- A total of 2 panels were organized and successfully attended
 - New normal for journalism ethics in 2020: Journalists' responsibility in addressing misinformation in the year of Coronavirus, social protests, and natural disasters; Co-sponsored by ComSHER and Media Ethics Divisions
 - Misinformation, racism, and the magnification of health inequities: Research informing publics and the practice (and vice versa); Co-sponsored by ComSHER and PR Divisions

7. *Science Communication* journal update

- 2-year impact factor
 - 2019: 2.328
 - 2020: 4.180
 - (18/94 in Communication category)
- 5-year impact factor: 4.628
- Around 300 submissions per year
- 15% acceptance rate
- Added a managing editor, Ted Greenhalgh, to the editorial team
- New board members
 - Jay Hmielowski (Univ. of Florida)
 - Jakob Jensen (Univ. of Utah)
 - Laura N. Rickard (Univ. of Maine)
 - Sonny Rosenthal (Nanyang Tech. Univ.)
- Contact EiC Susanna Priest editorscicom@gmail.com if any questions.

8. Future AEJMC conference locations

- 2022 – Detroit, MI (\$204/\$224)
- 2023 – Washington, DC (\$249)
- 2024 – Philadelphia, PA (\$214/\$234)
- 2025 – San Francisco, CA (a do-over)
- 2026 – New Orleans, LA (a do-over)

9. Dues & Issues

- Currently \$20 for faculty, free for students
- Any discussions about a change in dues?
 - All members voted in favor to keep the current arrangement with no changes
- Virtual conference pros and cons

Pros (Success)	Cons (Room for improvement)
<p>Nice as an additional option (i.e. an hybrid format) for people who cannot travel and/or cannot afford to come to a conference site</p> <p>People can appreciate the integration of apps</p> <p>AEJ has improved the technological aspects of virtual conference meetings</p> <p>Suggest the meeting to be virtual at intervals in the future (in person to virtual to in person etc.)</p> <p>For international scholars, due to travel restrictions, the virtual option would be nice</p> <p>From an environmental perspective, we probably should be pushing for hybrid options and carbon offset options</p> <p>Virtual option is still cheaper</p> <p>This year's platform was a lot better than it of the last year. Much improved experience</p>	<p>Not the same as in person conference especially for social networking</p> <p>Synchronous sessions may be challenging for international scholars due to time differences</p> <p>A different conference used Gather.town for poster sessions. See https://www.gather.town/. It is good at facilitating one-on-one conversations within a larger space.</p>

- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice discussion
- (What are ways to improve these issues further?)
 - More representations about various issues including commercials, TV programming, PR etc. will be good
 - More gender diversity in our division's teaching panels will be helpful
 - More opportunities for diverse scholarship, especially more inclusion of studies with qualitative methods, will be crucial
 - Need to continue to promote these issues across all of our research sessions
- Other issues to discuss? None.

10. New ComSHER leadership

- Voted and approved!
- See the below for the new leaders
 - **Head:** Sara Yeo
 - **Vice-Head:** Timothy Fung
 - **Vice-Head Elect:** Matthew VanDyke
 - **Co-Research Chair:** Jessica Willoughby
 - **Co-Research Chair:** Ashley Anderson

- o **Teaching Chair:** Kang Namkoong
- o **PF&R Chair:** Sojung Kim
- o **Secretary:** Roma Subramanian
- Thanks much to Dr. Kajsa Dalrymple (retiring Head) for her service and dedication to the division!

11. New media team

Chair: Rosalynn Vasquez, Boston University
 CJ Calabrese, UC Davis
 Sushma Kumble, Towson
 Nicole O'Donnell, Virginia Commonwealth
 Kristin Timm, Alaska
 Jiun-Yi Tsai, Northern Arizona
 Shupey Yuan, Northern Illinois

12. Division awards

- **Graduate Student Registration Award**
 - o Mikhaila Calice
 - o Xinxia Dong
 - o Ziyang (Moius) Gong
 - o Sammi Munson
 - o Muhammad Ittefaq
 - o Youngji Seo
 - o Aya Sami Shata
 - o Jody CS Wong
 - o Ellie Fan Yang
- **ISC+ComSHER Cohort**
 - o (*The inaugural collaboration with Inclusive SciComm (ISC); the ISC + ComSHER Cohort aims to facilitate collaborations and discussion between practitioners and researchers; aim to continue this cohort; please encourage people to join this effort)
 - o Yasmine Bassil, Emory University
 - o Kaytee Canfield, EPA
 - o Kimberli Conro, Colorado State University
 - o Isabelle Freiling, University of Vienna
 - o Sixiao Liu, University of Pennsylvania
 - o Jessica Walsh, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- **Eason Prize (Top student papers)**
 - o (*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)
 - o Remains the largest overall student award at AEJMC
 - o Divided into three awards

- o 3rd Place (\$200): Cultural Competence in Health Communication: A Concept Explication (Evgeniia Belobrovkina, University of Missouri)
 - o 2nd Place (\$300): “BFF: Beer Friends Forever” Close Friends’ Role in Adolescents’ Sharing of Alcohol References on Social Media (Robyn Vanherle, KU Leuven)
 - o 1st Place (\$500): Seeing from the Eyes of Suffered Peers: Using Distance-framed Narrative to Communicate Risks Related to E-cigarette Use (Sixiao Liu, University at Buffalo)
- **Top Conference Paper Awards**
 - o 4th Place: How Lay Audiences Evaluate Scientific Uncertainty Disclosure: The Roles of Source and Preference for Communication of Uncertainty (Chelsea Ratcliff and Rebekah Wicke, University of Georgia)
 - o 3rd Place: The Growth and Disciplinary Convergence of Environmental Communication: A Bibliometric Analysis of the Field (1970-2019) (Karen Akerlof, Katherine E. Rowan, and James L. Olds, George Mason University, Julia Hathaway, Stony Brook University, Kristin Timm, University of Alaska Fairbanks)
 - o 2nd Place: Facing the Strain: The Persuasive Effects of Conversion Messages on COVID-19 Vaccination Attitudes and Behavioral Intentions (Jeff Conlin, Michelle Baker, Bingbing Zhang, Heather Shoenberger, and Fuyuan Shen, Pennsylvania State)
 - o 1st Place (tied): Integrating Psychometric Paradigm of Risk and Issue Attention Cycle: A Study of Risk Information in News Coverage of Avian and Swine Influenza, (Timothy Fung, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kang Namkoong, University of Maryland, Jiyou Kim, University of Maryland, Po Yan Lai, Hong Kong Baptist University)
 - o 1st Place (tied): Examining Antecedents to Accuracy- and Defense-Motivated Information Insufficiency in the COVID-19 Pandemic (Timothy Fung and Po Yan Lai, Hong Kong Baptist University, Robert Griffin, Marquette University, Sharon Dunwoody, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 - **Article of the Year Award**
 - o 1st Place: Testing the effectiveness of correction placement and type on Instagram. *The International Journal of Press and Politics*, 25(4), 632-652.
 - Emily Vraga, *Univ. of Minnesota*
 - Sojung Kim, *George Mason Univ.*
 - John Cook, *George Mason Univ.*
 - Leticia Bode, *Georgetown Univ.*
 - **Top Poster Award**
 - o Beliefs and Practices around Antibiotics Use and Resistance in Singapore using the Protection Motivation Theory
 - May O. Lwin, *Nanyang Technological Univ.*
 - Si Yu Lee, *Nanyang Technological Univ.*
 - Shanshan Yang, *Nanyang Technological Univ.*

13. Other business

- Change to the ComSHER bylaws – All approved!
 - o Update language to reflect Research Chairs

- o Change to Secretary selection by Executive Committee (Head, Vice head, Vice Head Elect, Research Chairs)

14. New graduate student committee

- Deborah J. Danuser (Chair), Pittsburgh
- Ellie Yang, Wisconsin
- Nicholas Eng, Penn State
- Nicky Kraus, Wisconsin
- Amanda Martinek, Wisconsin

15. Final remarks – Thank you all for the great conference, and thank you, Kajsa, for your leadership!