

International Communication Association  
Political Communication Division

**Business Meeting Minutes**  
**May 25, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 4:31pm

1) Welcome (Patricia Moy, Division Chair)

2) Approval of the 2006 Minutes (Patricia Moy)

Approval by voice acclaim

3) Report from the ICA Board of Directors Meeting (Patricia Moy)

a) ICA membership and attendance

1. Membership: about 4000
2. Conference attendance: about 2200

b) The Board urges ICA members to participate in the nominating process for ICA awards. They seek wider participation in the process.

c) Sites for future ICA meetings: The Board is considering sites for the 2011 conference. The current discussion includes Washington, DC, Minneapolis, Boston, Orlando, Atlanta, Denver, Phoenix, Dallas, Las Vegas, and Seattle.

4) Political Communication division membership and budget (Patricia Moy)

a) Membership: over 600

b) Accounts: \$6000+ in the bank

5) Program Planner's Report (Kevin Barnhurst, Vice Chair)

a) Volunteers

1. 100 reviewers (40 new); represented 33 research areas and 9 method areas; a total of 418 reviews were completed
2. 61 session chairs
3. 51 discussants

b) Papers

1. 302 distinct authors submitted 213 papers, including 7 extended abstracts and 6 posters.
2. 133 papers, 3 extended abstracts, and 1 poster were accepted.

3. Acceptance rate: 62.4%
4. Standardized ratings (z-scores) ranged from .87 to .13 with a mean of .49. The cut-off for acceptance was .42; some higher-rated papers were excluded if the author already had an accepted paper.

c) Sessions:

1. We had a total of 19 paper sessions. All were topically organized; we dropped the “top paper” sessions this year to achieve more coherence.
2. 10 papers were scheduled in the interactive (poster) session.
3. 2 papers were transferred to other divisions.

d) Panels:

1. There were 20 panels submitted; 10 were accepted (50% acceptance rate).
2. Our division originated 29 sessions (papers and panels), the poster session, and the business meeting and reception (thus, 32 sessions directly sponsored).
3. Division sessions appeared in every available time slot (sometimes with 2 per slot).

e) Co-sponsorships:

1. The division co-sponsored an additional 16 sessions
2. In total, we, at least partially, sponsored a total of 48 sessions
3. Co-sponsors include mass communication, popular communication, and communication and technology.

f) Student papers:

1. 91 papers were self-identified as student-authored
2. 27 of them were accepted; acceptance rate of 29.7%

g) Student travel awards

1. 17 students applied for travel funding
2. Criteria used to rank the applications: a) paper quality, b) cost of travel for student, c) student experience with ICA presentations, d) need for assistance, and e) diversity
3. With matching funds from ICA, the division granted 6 awards:
  - a. Marina Popescu, University of Essex
  - b. Adrian Steiner, University of Zurich
  - c. Jun-Seok Kang, Indiana University
  - d. Ewa Muscalowska, Dresden University of Technology
  - e. Cristian Vaccari, University of Bologna
  - f. Muhammad Jameel Yusha'u, University of Sheffield (was unable to attend the conference and so did not receive the funds)
4. Award amounts ranged from \$150 to \$350 for travel and conference fees

h) Professor Barnhurst thanked all of the division members who gave their time to the conference. He said he looks forward to working with everyone again preparing for the 2008 conference.

6) Division Best Article Award (Hartmut Wessler)

- a) Robert Shapiro chaired the selection committee (members: Julianne Stewart, Karin Wahl-Jorgensen, Hartmut Wessler, Mike Xenos, and Patricia Moy).
- b) Honorable Mention: Walgrave, S., & Van Aelst, P. (2006). The contingency of the mass media's political agenda setting power: Toward a preliminary theory. *Journal of Communication*, 56, 88-109.

- c) Winner: Althaus, S. L., & Kim, Y. M. (2006). Priming effects in complex information environments: Reassessing the impact of news discourse on presidential approval. *Journal of Politics*, 68, 960-976.

7) Newsletter Report (David Ryfe)

- a) The current newsletter editor, David Ryfe, has only 2 more issues to produce.
- b) The division is looking for a replacement for Professor Ryfe. Interested members should contact him.

8) *Political Communication* Report (David Paletz, Editor)

- a) The current ISI score for the journal is 1.261; that is 4<sup>th</sup> among the 42 communication journals.
- b) Online, the journal received about 64,000 hits in a 6-month period this year.
- c) Look for an upcoming special issue on the work of Timothy Cook
- d) The new editor is Shanto Iyengar. After September 1, all new submissions will go to him. The pieces Professor Paletz accepts will go to Professor Iyengar who has final say on them.
- e) Professor Paletz regrets that stepping down as editor means that he will no longer be able to work with the editorial board. He thanks the members of the board for their help.

9) Joint Publications Committee Report (Gadi Wolfsfeld)

- a) The committee thanks Professor Paletz for his work as editor of *Political Communication*.
- b) Professor Wolfsfeld expressed appreciation for the work of the other members of the committee in choosing the new editor.

10) Online Subscription for *Political Communication* (Gadi Wolfsfeld)

- a) The publications committee has arranged for all members of both the ICA and APSA political communication divisions to receive electronic mail notification of the journal's table of contents and links to articles online.
- b) Professor Wolfsfeld asked for approval from the division to proceed with this. By voice vote, the membership in attendance approved.
- c) Professor Wolfsfeld asked members of the division to join both the ICA and APSA political communication divisions. Larger membership increases the clout of the divisions in the associations.

11) APSA and ICA Political Communication Division Web Sites (Patricia Moy)

- a) Professor Moy suggested that the division consider streamlining its online presence (e.g., the division and newsletter sites). This could increase the efficiency of its communications and possibly improve its outreach.
- b) How we can do this:

1. Host a joint site of the two divisions; the newsletter and other information could be posted there
  2. Host a shell site with links to the two divisions' sites
- c) Discussion:
- 1) Could we host a blog on a site? Members of the division noted the pros and cons of this suggestion. No decision on this.
  2. Could a joint site have links to other, related organizations? No discussion of this.
- d) By voice vote, the membership in attendance expressed support for the principle of streamlining and improving our Web presence.

12) Visit by ICA Administrator (Michael Haley)

- a) Mr. Haley invited everyone in the association to attend the 2008 ICA conference in Montreal (May 22-26, 2008).
- b) The conference theme is Communication for Social Impact.
- c) We will have a celebrity speaker (TBD), and the association is considering raising funds for a charity linked to the speaker.
- d) The negotiated hotel cost will be \$133/night for a single room at the Sheraton in Montreal.
- e) The association is anticipating attendance numbers similar to this year.
- f) The long version of the call for papers will go online at that ICA site in July.
- g) Paper submission will open in early September.
- h) If members have a pre-conference suggestion, they should contact ICA headquarters.

13) Pre-conference at APSA Meeting in August (Kevin Barnhurst)

- a) Topic: Machine politics and politics of the machine; the event will focus on the interaction of technology and politics.
- b) There will be interactive features and presentations of technology related to politics.
- c) Date is August 29, 2007.

14) Open discussion/questions: No comments from the audience

15) Meeting adjourned (about 5:20pm)

Submitted by David Tewksbury, Division Secretary