

WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION BYLAWS

(approved February, 2008)

ARTICLE I—PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Environmental Communication Interest Group of the Western States Communication Association.

Section 2. The authority of this organization shall be derived from the Bylaws of the Western States Communication Association, and its powers and procedures are those prescribed therein.

Section 3. The basic purpose of the Environmental Communication Interest Group is to advance the understanding of communication dimensions surrounding and constituting environmental issues and processes. Pursuant to that goal, the Interest Group will exercise a major role in the program planning of the annual WSCA convention; conduct activities as determined by the membership of the Interest Group, and represent the interests of the Interest Group membership in the Legislative Council of WSCA.

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Interest Group is open to any member of the association who is interested in promoting the Interest Group's purposes.

Section 2. The full membership of the Interest Group shall be those individuals who are members in good standing of WSCA and who indicate their wish to be affiliated with the Interest Group on their WSCA membership application or renewal, and/or so advise the Executive Secretary of the Western States Communication Association.

ARTICLE III—MEETINGS

An annual business meeting shall be held at the time and place of the annual convention of the WSCA annual convention.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS/ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. The officers of the Interest Group shall be an Immediate-Past Chair, Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary.

Section 2. Upon election by the Interest Group at its annual meeting, the Chair-Elect will serve a one-year term and then succeed to the office of Chair and then to the office of Immediate-Past Chair. The Chair-Elect shall represent the Interest Group at WSCA Legislative Assembly during the year of election to the office and attend convention-planning meetings during the convention in the subsequent year.

Section 3. The Chair-Elect shall become Chair after the completion of the business meeting in the year that follows his/her year as Chair-Elect. The Chair shall serve for one year. This officer shall promote the opportunity to submit program ideas and/or competitive papers to the Interest Group, coordinate the review process for competitive papers and panels, and plan the Interest Group's program for the next annual WSCA convention. The Chair shall be responsible for planning and conducting the next annual business meeting, presenting such competitive awards as may be authorized by the Interest Group at the annual meeting, and ensuring that the work of the Interest Group (including preparing annual reports and budget requests) is completed. The Chair shall also serve as a representative of the Interest Group on the WSCA Legislative Assembly. Finally, the Chair shall also serve as the Interest Group's representative on the Association's Legislative Council, as part of the periodic rotation of membership on that committee amongst interest groups in the association.

Section 4. The immediate-Past Chair will serve as resource for Chair and Chair-Elect on an as-need basis.

Section 5. The Secretary shall serve a two-year term, which will begin at the end of the business meeting in which he or she is elected. The Secretary is responsible for preparing and distributing minutes of the business meetings.

Section 6. In the event that the Chair is unable to serve, the remaining officers will choose either the Chair-Elect or immediate past Chair to serve as a replacement. If another officer is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities for whatever reason, the remaining officers of the Interest Group shall appoint a replacement until a replacement can be duly elected.

Section 6. The officers of the Interest Group (Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary) shall serve as the nominating committee.

ARTICLE V—ELECTIONS

Section 1. The election of all officers shall be conducted at the Interest Group's annual meeting.

Section 2. Balloting shall be conducted at the annual Interest Group meeting with ballots counted by the Chair-Elect and Secretary, and results will be announced at that time.

Section 3. A majority vote of those members in attendance at the annual Interest Group meeting at the WSCA annual convention shall be sufficient to elect officers/committee members for vacant positions.

ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES

Special committees may be formed by the Chair, or by a majority vote of the Interest Group. Special committees shall be given specific duties and a specific date for a final report.

ARTICLE VII—PAPER AND PANEL REVIEW PROCESS

Section 1. The Chair selects no more than four reviewers from a list circulated at the annual business meeting asking for volunteers. Paper reviewers may also be recruited from the Interest Group's listserve and from the general Interest Group's membership. Graduate Students are not typically used as paper reviewers but this shall be left up to the Chair's discretion.

Section 2. Papers are assigned to eliminate institutional bias and provide random readership. Papers are evaluated by a blind review process.

Section 3. Reviewers shall be responsible for reviewing competitive paper and panel submissions and for responding about the quality of submissions in a timely manner to the Chair.

ARTICLE VIII—AWARDS

Section 1. At the annual WSCA meeting, the Interest Group will recognize the Top Student Paper, the Top Debut Paper, and the Top Three/Four papers in the Interest Group, as determined by their rankings in the competitive paper submission process.

Section 2. The Top Student Paper award recipient shall receive a monetary award from the Interest Group, and the remainder of the award recipients shall receive certificates from the Interest Group. In the event that there are other top Three/Four papers that have been authored exclusively by students, award money shall be split between all student papers that receive awards from the Interest Group.

ARTICLE IX—PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

All meetings of the Interest Group, its committees or other subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE X—AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be initiated by a majority of the officers, by a majority of the Interest Group membership at the annual Interest Group meeting, or by a petition addressed to the Chair and signed by twenty-five members of the Interest Group.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to a ballot of members present at the annual Interest Group meeting.

Section 3. These Bylaws shall become effective after ratification by a majority vote of the Interest Group at the annual Interest Group meeting.