

FINAL

Minutes

National Communication Association
Legislative Assembly Meeting
November 15 and 18, 2023
National Harbor, Maryland

Presiding: Walid Afifi, President

Parliamentarian: Nicole A. Learson, PRP

Recording: Shari Miles-Cohen, Executive Director

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Call to Order: President Afifi called the 2023 Legislative Assembly (LA) meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, November 15.

Introductions: Members of the LA were asked to introduce themselves by name and the group represented.

Credentials Report: First Vice President Marnel Niles Goins announced that at 12:36 p.m., 125 delegates were registered from the 169 members of the LA. *A motion was made that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the assembly. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Standing Rules: President Afifi directed the body to the standing rules in the meeting binder. *A motion was made to adopt the standing rules as presented. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Agenda: President Afifi directed attention to the proposed agenda. *A motion was made to adopt the agenda. Seconded. Motion carried.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Legislative Assembly observed a moment of silence to honor those who have passed away during the past year.

- Janet Bavelas
- Donald Browne
- Bonnie Buzza
- Ronald Carpenter
- David Lee Cornelius
- Brenda Dervin
- Dale A. Herbeck
- Carol J. Jablonski
- William E. Loges
- Noemi Marin
- Howard H. Martin
- Philip Edward Meyer
- Martin Norden
- Dave Nott
- Dan O’Hair
- Jim Pratt
- William L. Robinson
- Bill Seiler
- Ronald E. Taylor
- Misti Yang
- Herbert Zettl

Association Updates

- President Afifi gave an update on work the NCA Executive Committee of the Legislative Assembly has undergone since the LA last convened.
- First Vice President Niles Goins provided an update on the current convention processes.
- Second Vice President Jeanetta Sims introduced the 2024 convention theme, “Communication as Greater Regard.”
- Interim Mentorship and Leadership Council Chair, Raquel Moreira provided an update on the work of the MLC.
- Research Council Chair, Shaunak Sastry provided an update on the work of the RC.
- Teaching and Learning Council Chair, Vinita Agarwal, provided an update on the TLC.
- Executive Director, Shari Miles-Cohen, provided an update on the current work of the National Office and its staff.
- President Afifi asked LA members to consider running to election by the LA to serve a two-year term on the Leadership Development Committee. A vote will be taken at the Saturday session of the LA.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Financial Reports: President Afifi introduced Finance Committee Chair Rich West to present the financial reports. West updated the LA on the association’s financial status from 2022 independent auditor’s report, and the 2024 proposed calendar year budget.

- *A motion was made by the Finance Committee to adopt the proposed 2024 budget. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.*

Recess for 15 minutes

Nominating Committee Report: President Afifi provided a report on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Second Vice President Candidate, Tina, M. Harris from Louisiana State University addressed the LA for five minutes.

Proposed New Interest Group: President Afifi recognized Lauran Bruns from the University of South Carolina, Columbia to speak on behalf of the submitters of the proposed Death and Dying Division.

- A motion was made to add the Death and Dying Division as one of NCA’s Interest Groups. Seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

Information Item: Afifi announced the formation of an Ad-Hoc Ethics committee established by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to investigate a member of the Legislative Assembly who is mentioned in an ongoing lawsuit to review allegations and provide any recommendations.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Article V: Section 9: Convention Committee.

President Afifi provided a summary of the proposed bylaws amendment.

Article V: Standing Committees

Section 9: Convention Committee.

- A. Members. The Convention Committee shall consist of ~~a Chair and five~~ **six** members elected by the Legislative Assembly from a slate of candidates developed by the Leadership Development Committee. **The NCA Second Vice President shall serve as ex-officio.** The Chair shall be selected **by the members of the Convention Committee** from among the first- and second-year members ~~of the Convention Committee~~ to serve a term of one year. Convention Committee members shall have staggered three-year terms.
- B. Duties. The Convention Committee shall be responsible for providing recommendations on issues related to ~~the~~ convention ~~location~~

A motion was made to approve the bylaws amendment. Seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Article V: Section 8: Resolutions Committee

President Afifi provided a summary of the proposed bylaws amendment.

Article V: Standing Committees

Section 8: Resolutions Committee.

- A. Members. The Resolutions Committee shall consist of ~~a Chair and five~~ **six** members elected by the Legislative Assembly from a slate of candidates developed by the Leadership Development Committee. The Chair shall be selected **by the members of the Resolutions Committee** from among the first- and second-year members ~~of the Resolutions Committee~~ to serve a term of one year. Resolutions Committee members shall have staggered three-year terms.
- B. Duties. The Resolutions Committee shall be responsible for reviewing proposed public statements and providing related recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

A motion was made to approve the bylaws amendment. Seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

Closing remarks: Afifi provided closing remarks.

One of the violences within an individualist, capitalist system in which you all work and exist is the expectation that we label us as individuals without regard to the weight we are carrying as individuals -- or that our communities are carrying -- as many of you in the room know intimately in your own ways. I want to name this violence and honor the fact that indigenous, liberatory, community focused approaches do exist and offer alternatives that I hope we seriously consider moving forward. I do my best to resist the thirst for judgement from people who are not living through ongoing violence and displacement that my community is experiencing. Nor what it takes to simply exist in this moment. Thank you to those of you who have held others during this time including myself and those carrying this weight. I offer my care and my hand whenever possible.

With no further business, President Afifi adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m. The LA will reconvene on Saturday at 8 a.m.

**Saturday Session
November 18, 2023**

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Call to Order: President Afifi called the 2023 Legislative Assembly (LA) meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Eastern on Saturday, November 18.

Credentials Report: President Afifi recognized First Vice President Niles Goins to give the credentials report. First Vice President Niles Goins announced that at 8:18 a.m., 110 delegates were registered from the 169 members of the LA. *A motion was made that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the assembly. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Standing Rules: President Afifi reminded the body of the standing rules in the meeting binder.

Presidential Citations: President Afifi recognized recipients of Presidential Citations for this year.

Outgoing Executive Committee Members

- Roseann M. Mandziuk, Elected Officer
- Rich West, Finance Committee
- Vinita Agarwal, Research Council Chair

Outgoing NCA Journal Editors

- Joseph P. Mazer, *Communication Education*
- Mohan J. Dutta, *Journal of Applied Communication Research*
- Bernadette M. Calafell, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*

Election of Leadership Development Committee Positions: President Afifi a summary of the two open positions on the Leadership Development Committee. The following LA members expressed interest in serving on the committee:

- Adam Michael Rainear, West Chester University
- Natasha A. Rascon, Indiana State University

With two candidates for two positions, President Afifi declared the above elected.

2023 Leadership Development Committee Report: President Afifi recognized Leadership Development Committee Chair, Roseann M. Mandziuk. Dr. Mandziuk announced the slate of candidates nominated by the committee.

Legislative Assembly, LA Director

- Andre Fedd
- Natonya Listach

Nominating Committee Chair

- Kent A. Ono

Nominating Committee

- At-Large
 - Nicholas Lacy
- On the 2022 NCA election ballot
 - Reginald Bell
 - Nikolaos Linardopoulos
 - Deja Rollins
 - Avinash Thombre

Finance Committee

- Kenneth Lachlan

IDEA Council Chair

- Julie-Ann Scott-Pollock

Mentorship and Leadership Council Chair

- Laurie Lewis

Mentorship and Leadership Council

- Rico Self
- Ashli Stokes

Publications Council Chair

- Bernadette Calafell

Publications Council

- Elizabeth Hintz
- David Oh

Research Council

- Jason Edward Black
- Wendy Atkins-Sayre

Teaching and Learning Council

- Shauntae Brown White
- Lionnell (Badu) Smith

Resolutions Committee

- Curtis Ladrillo Chamblee
- Heather Walters

Convention Committee

- Katherine Howell
- David Rhea

Bernard J. Brommel Award for Outstanding Scholarship or Distinguished Service in Family Communication

- Maureen Keeley

Diamond Anniversary Book Award Selection Committee

- Amy Johnson
- Diane Keeling

Distinguished Scholar Award Selection Committee

- Kesha Morant Williams

Donald P. Cushman Memorial Award for Student Scholarship Selection Committee

- Meta Carstarphen
- Stephen Klien

Franklyn S. Haiman Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Freedom of Expression Selection Committee

- Joshua Guitar

Gerald M. Phillips Award for Distinguished Applied Communication Scholarship Selection Committee

- Megan Schraedley

Global Communication Award

- Somava Pande

Golden Anniversary Monograph Award Selection Committee

- Sumana Chattopadhyay
- Raka Shome

- Michelle Violanti

Interpretation/Performance Studies Selection Committee

- Shaunte Caraballo

Mark L. Knapp Award Interpersonal Communication Selection Committee

- Erin Brummett

Marsha Houston Award Selection Committee

- Nickesia Gordon

Orlando L. Taylor Distinguished Scholarship Award in Africana Communication Selection Committee

- Kandace Harris

Professional Service Awards Selection Committee

- Patrice Buzzanell
- Jayne Cabbage
- Ronald Jackson

Rhetorical Scholarship Award

- Debra Hawhee
- Bryan McCann

Stephen E. Lucas Debut Publications Award

- Kimberly Embacher-Martin

Doctoral Education Committee

- Mark Hopson
- Sergio Juarez

Leathers Fund Trustee Selection Committee

- Olga Matyash

A motion was made by the Leadership Development Committee to adopt the slate of candidates as presented. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Membership Survey Discussion: President Afifi introduced Ron Landis from Millan Chicago to discuss the finding of the preliminary findings of the 2023 membership survey. Discussion ensued.

Strategic Planning Discussion: President Afifi provided a summary of goals for continue LA discussions for strategic planning. The LA broke into smaller groups for discussion. Notes were collected by the National Office and will be used by the Executive Committee in continued strategic planning discussions.

Adjournment: With no further business, President Afifi adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shari Miles-Cohen
NCA Executive Director