

March 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

In reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, the leadership of the Central States Communication Association made the difficult decision to cancel our annual conference in April 2020 in the Chicago/O'Hare airport area. Many other organizations, in our discipline and beyond, have made similar decisions.

The Central States Communication Association asks that University/College rank and tenure committees and administrators with merit considerations make exceptions to allow an acceptance of work to our conference be viewed as the equivalent of a presentation given at a face-to-face conference (unless a faculty member or student makes the decision to submit this work to another conference).

We feel strongly that faculty and students should not be penalized for our organization making a decision based on the health of our members and our communities. While this is not the typical protocol for academic standards or evaluation of work, this is not a typical scenario and is outside of any individual's or organization's control. Thus, we hope that these University/College bodies will view their acceptance as a final product in making these important decisions in the careers of faculty members and students.

Sincerely,



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