

Business Meeting Minutes
Central States Communication Association
Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Caucus
March 25, 2021
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Virtual/Room 1302

Attendance: Dorthy Pennington (Chair), Ahmet Atay (Vice-Chair), Scott Myers (Secretary), Jacki Brucher Moore, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Kathy Denker, Ashley Hall, Jennifer Hawkins, Elizabeth Lozano, Jimmie Manning, Eddah Mutua, Amy Aldridge Sanford, David Wendt, Jennifer Willis-Rivera, Tao Zhang

Due to some technical difficulties experienced by Caucus Chair Dorthy Pennington, Ahmet Atay began the meeting by introducing the officers. This introduction was followed by a moment of silence for victims of violence in Atlanta and Boulder as well as for those individuals lost to COVID-19.

Ahmet then provided a summary of Caucus highlights over the past two years. Specifically, he noted that the number of slots has continued to increase (in 2019, we had 3 slots; in 2020, we had 6 slots; this year, we had 7 slots). Both Ahmet and Dorthy planned this year's programming and were able to accept all submissions in addition to the three panels that comprised the Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speakers Series.

Jimmie Manning provided a report on the Speaker Series by reviewing what it is, what it entails, and how it functions. Jimmie stated that the Speaker Series launched at this year's convention with three featured events: a lecture by Robin Boylorn, an interview of Tina Harris, and a performance by Karla Scott. Each speaker received a stipend, which this year was provided by the Association.

Jimmie stated that the Speaker Series is funded by an endowment fund, which currently has approximately \$5600.00 in its account. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas informed meeting attendees that she recently donated \$500, which should bring the total endowment to \$6100.00.

Discussion then ensued regarding the administration of the Speaker Series. Currently, a three-member committee is responsible for selecting speakers. Each member serves a two-year staggered term; the current members are Jimmie and Eddah Mutua. The Association handles the logistics of the Speaker Series (e.g., scheduling, administering the stipend).

As the Speaker Series evolves, Carolyn suggested that the committee select one speaker or consider a panel discussion as an alternative format. Ahmet recommended that the slot allocated for the Speaker Series not count against ERIC's slots and that the speaker be scheduled by the Association as an evening panel with no other panels scheduled against it. After discussion, the general consensus was that the Speaker Series needs to be considered as its own even, which must be clearly communicated to the Association's convention planners.

Jimmie then made a motion that the Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speakers Series selection committee organize and submit an official request to the Association to cover the yearly stipend (\$1000.00) and commit to scheduling the event as its own slot. Jennifer Willis-Rivera seconded the motion. The motion passed (11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions).

Scott announced the results of officer elections. (Recall that officer elections were held virtually and prior to the business meeting.) He offered congratulations to Eddah, who was elected as Vice-Chair, and David Wendt, who was elected as Secretary. Both Eddah and David will assume their respective officer positions at the end of the business meeting.

Ahmet offered his gratitude to Dorthy Pennington for her mentorship and hard work over the past three years in creating, supporting, and promoting the Caucus. He thanked Scott for his work behind the scenes as secretary. Carolyn expressed her gratitude (“from the bottom of [her] heart and sincere goodwill”) to the Caucus for establishing the Inclusivity Speakers Series. Eddah invited the attendees to a Saturday session celebrating Dorthy and her achievements.

Scott reminded Ahmet that a third member was needed to serve on the Speaker Series selection committee. Jacki Brucher Moore indicated an interest in serving on the committee; the meeting attendees agreed she should serve and thus was elected by a form of acclimation to serve as the third committee member. Jacki will assume her position at the end of the business meeting.

Ahmet adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Myers, Secretary