

**Central States Communication Association**  
***Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group Bylaws***

**Document history:** Original draft, 1998. Updated 2011 for voting in 2012 (updates constructed by Leah Bryant, Donna Pawlowski, and Andrea Lambert as special ad hoc committee). As a result of discussion at 2012 business meeting, refinement of bylaws proposed by Jimmie Manning and passed at 2013 business meeting. To ensure bylaws are in compliance with the Association's constitution, minor modifications were made by Maria Brann and passed at 2014 business meeting.

**Article I. Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group.

**Article II. Authority**

The Executive Committee of the Central States Communication Association granted the creation of this interest group in 1996.

**Article III. Purpose**

The purpose of this interest group is to collaboratively promote the efforts of researchers, scholars and practitioners in the fields of Interpersonal and Small Group communication. The goal is to develop a strong network among its members to enhance theoretical development and research agendas within the academic and outside research communities, particularly in each of the 13 states in the Central States Region.

**Article IV. Membership**

- A. Membership shall be open to any member of CSCA who wishes to join in the promotion of its purpose through application and renewal of this interest group.
- B. Anyone seeking membership at the interest group annual meeting who has not indicated such on his/her CSCA membership may the CSCA administrative office for membership.
- C. A current list of interest group members shall be on file with the CSCA office and accessible to all interest group officers.
- D. All members are allowed to vote at the business meeting.

**Article V. Meetings and Voting**

- A. An annual meeting will be held at the time and place designated by the Vice-President of CSCA at the annual convention. Additional business meetings may be scheduled if necessary by the interest group officers.
- B. In years where there is a joint conference with another region, a separate CSCA Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group meeting will still take place at the annual joint convention.
- C. All voting shall be decided by a simple majority, unless so designated by the membership.
- D. Election of officers will be voted upon by ballot vote.

- E. Unless otherwise designated, all other votes (besides election of officers) will be by handraising designation of in favor/yes, against/no, or abstain.

## **Article VI. Officers and Method of Election**

- A. The officers of the Interest Group will be Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.
- B. At least five paper readers will also be elected at each annual interest group meeting. The Vice-Chair will also serve as a paper reader, making a total of at least 6 paper readers. The Chair has the discretion to appoint paper readers as needed. No more than half of paper readers will be graduate students, responsible for reading and ranking/rating papers and panel proposals within the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group for the following year's annual convention.
- C. New officers will be elected and take office at the end of each business meeting except for the Chair who takes office during the business meeting with new business (or where applicable).
- D. Terms
  - 1. Chair is a one-year term.
  - 2. Vice-Chair is a one-year term (and becomes Chair the following year).
  - 3. Secretary is a two-year term.
  - 4. Positions may be consecutively elected to the same office more than once, where applicable.
- E. Vacancies
  - 1. If the Chair post is unfulfilled, the Vice-Chair will assume the Chair role.
  - 2. If the Vice-Chair post is unfulfilled, the Chair has the discretion to find someone to assume the role.
  - 3. If the Secretary role is unfulfilled, the Chair is responsible for finding someone to assume the role.
- F. Duties
  - 1. Chair**
    - a. Presides over business meetings.
    - b. Creates and distributes call for papers.
    - c. Plans the full program for the interest group for the annual convention.
    - d. Appoints paper readers as needed.
    - e. Creates and distributes a call for officer nominations and prepares an election ballot for the interest group meeting.
  - 2. Vice-Chair**
    - a. Presides at interest group meetings in absence of the Chair.
    - b. Responsible for overseeing any proposed revisions of bylaws.
    - c. Assists the Chair.
    - d. Acts as a paper reader.
    - e. Attends the annual CSCA planning meeting in preparation for Chair duties.
    - f. Arranges an annual special panel in response to interest group ideas or suggestions as articulated at the annual business meeting.
  - 3. Secretary**
    - a. Records minutes of each interest group meeting.

- b. Distributes meeting minutes to members and officers as requested and at the annual interest group business meeting.
- c. Presides at any meeting in the event both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent.
- d. Sends out list of all panels/programs at least two weeks before that year's annual conference.

#### **4. Paper Readers**

- a. Serves as an objective reader for interest group submissions assigned by the Chair for review.
  - b. Provides feedback for paper and panel submissions to the interest group Chair within the designated time frame.
- G. Election of offices will be through nominations sent to the interest group chair prior to the annual interest group meeting and placed on a ballot. Other nominations may be added from the floor at the meeting.

#### **Article VII. Executive Committee**

- A. The Executive Committee of the interest group shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

#### **Article VIII. Submission of Papers and Panels**

- A. All papers and panel submissions must be sent to the interest group Chair and must be received by the date announced by the CSCA Vice-President.
- B. Special standing panels (scholars at work; special topics/methodology; special recognition of scholar's life/career) may be created for each convention. Such a panel would be invited and not competitively reviewed. The interest group chair may appoint someone to create the panel for the next conference. Any interested parties who wish to organize such panels should approach the Chair at the business meeting with any ideas.

#### **Article IX. Awards and Recognition**

- A. The top competitive paper will receive a cash award of \$50.00 that is taken from the annual financial allotment made by CSCA to the interest group. A certificate of achievement will be provided for each author on the top paper panel, including the authors of the top paper.
- B. The Burrell Top Student Paper Award will receive a cash award of \$200.00. A certificate will also be presented to each author.
- C. The planner may, at her or his discretion, designate a top reviewed panel proposal award. This panel will be acknowledged in the program and each panelist will receive a certificate.
- D. All awards will be presented at the annual interest group business meeting.

#### **Article X. Finances**

- A. The Executive Committee of CSCA allocates funds to each interest group each year. Fifty dollars will go to the top paper author (or be divided among all authors if there are multiple authors). In the event that the annual allocation is not \$50.00 or more, all funds received will go to the top paper award.

- B. The remainder of the money shall be spent on miscellaneous items. These items may include gifts for paper readers or any other reasonable expenses incurred by officers during the year. Receipts for all expenses must be submitted for reimbursement, and expenditures should not exceed the annual monetary allotment made by CSCA to the interest group.

#### **Article XI. Joint Conferences**

- A. During years of joint conferences, the program planner of the interest group will communicate with the relevant planner of the co-sponsoring organization in order to identify/discuss the following:
  - 1. Who the program planner will be, who the papers and panels will be sent to, and which planner will handle primary review duties.
  - 2. How many paper reviewers will serve from each organization.
  - 3. Any special panels that may be created as a result of the joint conference.
  - 4. How top papers and panels will be decided.
- B. The chair will address any other needs at his or her discretion for handling situations or negotiations that may emerge in the event of a joint conference. When possible, the spirit of these decisions should fall in line with interest group bylaws.

#### **Article XII. Voting and Amendments to Bylaws**

- A. These original bylaws were discussed and voted upon at the 1998 annual meeting. Years of any bylaw changes, including who initiated such changes, will be kept at the beginning of this document.
- B. Any amendments to the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group Bylaws will be accomplished by a majority vote of those in attendance at the annual meeting provided said amendment is introduced 45 days in advance to the officers and distributed by e-mail to all members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.