

**Central States Communication Association
Communication & Technology Interest Group
Business Meeting**

April 6th, 2024

11:00 – 12: 15 pm, CDT

Amway Gran Plaza

Grand Rapids, MI

Purpose: Annual business meeting of the Communication and Technology Interest Group to discuss current and relevant issues as we plan for the 2025 conference (Cincinnati, OH).

Opening of Meeting: 11:00 pm EDT

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Riley Richards, Chair of the CSCA CAT Interest Group.

Minutes from the Preceding Meeting

Presentation and Approval of Minutes from the 2023 Business Meeting.

- Motion to approve (P. Spence), seconded (A. Edwards) and passed.

Old Business – R. Richards

I. 2023 Submission Reports:

- Submissions were down collectively from 2023 to 2024, impacting the assignment of the session slots.
- Only a limited number of reviewers completed their assignments. Richards double-checked with the attendees about the notifications; the attendees/reviewers responded positively.
- Richards asked for opinions on whether there were more effective ways to call for submissions and reviewers.

II. Awards:

- a. Recipients of the ComBotLabs Award for Top Faculty Paper: Mina Choi, Sejong University; Mei-Chen Lin, Kent State University; Matthew J. A. Craig, Kent State University; Jihyun Kim, University of Central Florida.
- b. Recipients of the CAT Top Student Paper: Md Shahedur Rahman, Western Illinois University.

III. CAT By-Law Revision:

- a. Current by-law: The secretary's term is two years; there are no rotations on upper leadership service positions within the division.
- b. Changes to the current by-law: Richards and Ms. America Edwards proposed changing the secretary service to a one-year term and becoming vice-chair the following year.
 - Motion to approve (M. Craig), seconded (Dr. Austin Beattie), and passed.
 - The revisions will be effective from April 2024. Richards will inform the CSCA Executive Director of the changes in CAT by-laws and request an update on the CSCA website.

New Business – R. Richards & A. Beattie

- I. CAT Interest Group 2024-2025 Leadership:
 - a. Chair: A. Beattie moves from the Vice-Chair to the Chair.
 - b. Vice-Chair: Dr. Xialing Lin moves from the Secretary to the Vice-Chair.
 - c. Secretary elections:
 - A. Edwards and Dr. Patric Spence were nominated and accepted.
 - Motion to close nominations (A. Edwards), seconded (M. Craig), and passed.
 - A. Edwards received the majority votes and was elected as the 2024-2025 Secretary.
- II. The 94th Annual Convention Information and Group Planning Brainstorming:
 - a. Date and Location: April 1 – 6, 2025, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 - b. Theme – *Widening the Scope*.
 - Theme interpretation: Broadening our focus in the CAT discipline by embracing diverse perspectives and less commonly considered voices alongside specialized expertise, enhances our ability to address contemporary issues and strengthens our overall understanding and practice.
 - c. Call for brainstorming unit panel ideas. Attendees contributed the following proposals:
 - A “Robot Petting Show” session with the resource support of the Communication and Social Robotics Labs at Western Michigan University (A. Edwards).
 - A “Fail” panel to discuss what went wrong during research practice (R. Richards).
 - A tabletop session about managing a communication lab (M. Craig).
 - A panel or workshop to discuss federal-level data collection and management (R. Richards).
 - Collaboration with family communication, interpersonal communication, and other divisions for co-panels and even business meetings (A. Edwards).
 - d. Open-Floor discussions and planning about the 2024 conference:
 - Reviewer management issue: Recruiting reviewers and completing their assignments is challenging across divisions (R. Richards).
 - Attendees indicated that email is still the most feasible way to contact them.
 - Consider inviting more ready-to-help scholars (e.g., Dr. David Westerman) in the disciplines for paper review (P. Spence).
 - Business meeting schedule discussions:
 - How the CSCA executive committee plans the business meeting and other unit slot schedules across divisions (P. Spence).
 - Consider and discuss moving in-person business meetings to online, such as via Zoom, to enhance meeting participation due to the cost, flexibility of scheduling, and convenience (X. Lin).

Meeting Attendance: 7 attendees and 3 officers

Close of Meeting: 11: 20 am EDT

Motion to adjourn meeting (X. Lin), seconded (A. Edwards), and passed.