

**Central States Communication Association**  
***Health Communication Interest Group Bylaws***

Approved  
CSCA Executive Committee  
November, 1998  
Proposed Amendments at annual meeting – 2012 – Cleveland, OH  
Voted on and approved in May 2013  
Proposed Amendments at annual meeting – 2024 – Grand Rapids, MI  
Voted on and approved in May 2024

**Article I. Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Health Communication Interest Group.

**Article II. Authority**

The Executive Committee of the Central States Communication Association granted the creation of this interest group in 1998.

**Article III. Purpose/Mission Statement**

The Health Communication Interest Group is dedicated to helping key publics better grasp, appreciate, use, and articulate health communication research, practice and teaching. During this dissemination process, health communication scholars also monitor and evaluate the efficacy of community-based, communication-driven, and health-related applications. To help achieve the preceding goals, interest group members conduct a variety of studies that span across an array of research methodologies. The interest group is dedicated to engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration in the field as they develop curricular innovations centering on health communication. Thus, scholarship, community outreach, and pedagogy comprise the mission of the Health Communication Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association.

**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 in this interest group.
- b) Anyone seeking membership at the interest group annual meeting who has not indicated such on his/her CSCA membership may contact the CSCA Executive Director for membership.
- c) A current list of the interest group members shall be on file with the CSCA Executive Director, as well as with the Interest Group Secretary.

**Article V. Executive Committee, Meetings and Voting**

- a) The Executive Committee will be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Chair of the Public Relations of Committee (Past-Chair).
- b) An annual meeting will be held at the time and place designated by the President-Elect and program planner of CSCA at the annual convention. Additional business meetings may be scheduled if necessary by the Interest Group officers or the Executive Committee.

c) Election of officers must be voted upon by ballot vote at the annual meeting or online prior to the annual meeting.

d) Voting shall be decided by a simple majority at the annual meeting or online unless otherwise designated by the membership. Those issues/amendments distributed electronically (email or as designated by the Chair; i.e., website) prior to the annual meeting to the membership may be voted on via electronic means (email or as designated by the Chair) and sent to the Chair of the interest group.

e) Unless otherwise designated, all other votes (besides election of officers or those accepted via electronic means) will be by hand raising, 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, Secretary, Public Relations (P.R.) Chair, and social media coordinator(s). Vice-Chair will assume the Chair position in his/her second year of office and assume the position of Chair of Public Relations Committee as immediate Past-Chair. Paper readers may sign up at the annual meeting or via online means on a volunteer basis, but will be finalized at the Chair's discretion.

b) New officers will be elected where appropriate prior to or during the meeting (but not at the end of the meeting) and take office at the end of the annual business meeting. (Vice-Chair will take office during the business meeting with "new" business, or where applicable.)

c) Length of Term

1) Most officers will serve a one-year term.

2) Vice-Chair will serve one year as Vice-Chair, one year as Chair, and one year as Chair of P.R. Committee.

3) Social Media Coordinator will serve for two years, for the first year as the assistant coordinator and the second as the associate coordinator.

d) Duties

1) Chair - preside over business meetings; create the call for papers; coordinate with CSCA office (Executive Director and Office staff) to send out call for papers, obtaining membership list when necessary, and have materials posted to the Web (if not done by Secretary); responsible for program planning for the interest group's annual convention to include identifying appropriate paper readers for reviewing materials; attend the program planners meeting held at the CSCA annual conference the year where he/she will assume Chair position (prior to conference planning year); coordinate the preparation of a newsletter (along with the Secretary and Social Media Coordinators); assumes P.R. Chair position as immediate Past-Chair (see below).

2) Vice-Chair - preside at interest group meetings in absence of the Chair; responsible for revisions of bylaws; assist the Chair; assume the role of Chair the second year in office; serve as paper reader in first year of office; assumes role of Chair at annual business meeting; in second year; work with Secretary on matters of concern to the Chair; create a spotlight/highlight panel in first year of office in coordination with Chair (panel will not go through review process).

3) Secretary - record minutes of each interest group meeting and distribute minutes to membership via email (and on web in coordination with CSCA office) by June 30<sup>th</sup>; preside at any meeting in the event both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent; work with Chair in creating the newsletter; contact CSCA office (Executive Director and Office Staff) to obtain membership list, and then send list, newsletter (to include minutes) by February 15<sup>th</sup> to membership for upcoming annual meeting via email and have materials posted to website; distribute any correspondence sent from the Chair; prepare any historical documents and ask that they be posted to the website via CSCA office.

a) Historical documents: documents may include a list of all panels and presenters of the Interest Group from the annual convention, list of members for that particular year, list of all offices and officers, minutes of meetings; photographs and any other written materials of interest.

4) Paper Readers - responsible for reading and ranking/rating papers and panel proposals within the Health Communication Interest Group for the following year's annual convention; responsible for being an objective reader and returning papers/panels with ideas to the interest group Chair within the time frame set forth by the Chair.

a) Selection of Readers - paper readers to be selected at discretion of the Chair and based upon the number of submissions; members can volunteer at the annual business meeting or online; Chair can solicit names from that meeting list and from membership listserv; a few readers may be at Ph.D. graduate student level (though no paper will be reviewed by more than one graduate student); all other readers must be Ph.D. complete; one reader is the Vice-Chair.

5) Public Relations Chair - responsible for working with P.R. committee (made up of past Chair of the Interest Group and the social media coordinator(s)) to promote internal and external communication within the Interest Group; recruitment of new members via NCA listservs and other means; recruit donors for endowment fund; engage in other P.R. duties as necessary

6) Social Media Coordinator(s) – responsible for managing the interest group social media page in coordination with the Chair and Public Relations Chair. Serves a 2-year term, the first year as the assistant coordinator and the second year as the associate coordinator. There should be two Social Media Coordinators each year. This position is open to master's students and above. Social media coordinators may be appointed instead of elected. e) Chair will solicit nominations for officers electronically prior to the annual meeting, and voting will be conducted electronically prior to the annual meeting

## **Article VII. 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 given by the CSCA President-Elect.

b) Papers/Panel submissions - in keeping with the spirit of NCA submission guidelines, individuals may not submit more than one lead author paper (i.e., limiting multiple submissions of one dissertation/project at any one annual convention) so as to promote variety of topics for submissions.

c) Special standing panels (scholars at work; special topics/ methodology; special recognition of scholar's life/career) may be created for each convention - this would be an invited panel, and not a competitively reviewed panel. The interest group Chair may appoint someone to create the panel for the conference in which he/she is planning. Any interested parties to organize such panels should approach the Chair at the business meeting with any ideas.

#### **Article VIII. Awards and Recognition**

- a) Awards/Recognition may be given to top paper and top panel as ranked by the readers.
- b) Recognition may also be given to external organizations/constituencies who have contributed to Health Communication Interest Group's mission.

#### **Article IX. Finances**

- a) The Executive Committee of CSCA allocates finances to each interest group.
- b) Money will be allocated by the discretion of the officers. Receipts for all expenses must be submitted to the executive director for reimbursement.

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

- a) Any amendments to the Health Communication Interest Group Bylaws will be sent via electronic means to the membership (email and/or website) via the Chair and voted on by two thirds majority vote of membership responding per deadline deemed by the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted: Donna R. Pawlowski  
(with noting-taking changes during 2012 meeting from Christine North)  
(final approval following electronic voting in May 2013)