

Central States Communication Association
Communication & Technology Interest Group
Business Meeting
April 4th, 2025
11:00 – 12: 15 pm, CDT
Cincinnati, Ohio

Purpose: Annual business meeting of the Communication and Technology Interest Group to discuss current and relevant issues as we plan for the 2026 conference (Minneapolis, MN).

Opening of Meeting: 11:00 am CDT

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Xialing Lin, Vice Chair of the CSCA CAT Interest Group.

Minutes from the Preceding Meeting

Minutes from the 2024 Business Meeting were presented.

Motion to approve (Riley Richards), seconded (Matthew Craig), and passed.

Old Business – Secretary A. Edwards

- I. Submission and review processes for the 2025 convention were briefly discussed.
- II. Awards:
 - a. ComBotLabs Award for Top Paper:
“Appearing Competent Through :) : A Preliminary Longitudinal Study of Textisms and Their Role in Shaping Students’ Impressions”
Kyle R. Vareberg (Northeastern State University), David Westerman (North Dakota State University), and Stephanie Kelly (North Carolina A&T State University)
 - b. Top Student Paper:
“Algorithmic FOMO, Social Media Addiction and Mental Well-Being: A Qualitative Analysis of College Students’ Experiences”
Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo (Florida State University)
 - c. Top Panel:
“Transforming Communication Strategies: The Impact of AI Technologies in Everyday Life” Chair: Kelsey Lynn Zook (Bowling Green State University)

New Business - Vice Chair X. Lin

- I. CAT Interest Group 2025-2026 Leadership
 - a. Xialing Lin moves from Vice Chair to Chair. America Edwards moves from Secretary to Vice Chair.
 - b. Secretary Elections:
 - o David Westerman nominated Kyle R. Vareberg and provided a brief introduction.

- Motion to close nominations (Matthew Craig), seconded (Riley Richards), and passed.
- Kyle R. Vareberg was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

II. Future Programming and Outreach Initiatives:

The incoming Chair opened the floor for discussion of future programming and planning for upcoming conventions. Members discussed potential directions for expanding engagement with broader audiences through media literacy and AI-related topics. Ideas included short-course formats, interactive sessions, and potential collaborations with external organizations such as the National Communication Association AI Consortium. These initiatives were discussed as possible ways to enhance participation and increase visibility for the CAT Interest Group.

III. Community Engagement and Partnerships:

Members discussed outreach initiatives aimed at underserved populations, including children and older adults. Suggested activities included educational programming and interactive demonstrations, as well as potential partnerships with community organizations.

IV. Future Business Meeting Format:

- a. Xialing Lin moved to consider holding future business meetings in a virtual format to increase member participation.
- b. Discussion followed regarding possible formats and timing (e.g., during the conference, prior to the conference, or after the conference), though no specific implementation plan was determined.
- c. Riley Richards offered a friendly amendment to remove reference to a specific year and instead allow flexibility for the program planner to determine the meeting format.
- d. The motion, as amended, was seconded by David Westerman and passed unanimously.

Meeting Attendance: 5 attendees and 2 officers

Close of Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 am CDT.