

## 2025 Central States Communication Association Graduate Student Caucus

Cincinnati, Ohio | Thursday, April 4, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order at 3.06 PM by Misornu Nartey (Chair)
  - Officers introduced themselves: Chair: Gertrude Misornu Nartey, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Vice-Chair: Abigail Olajire, University of Missouri, Secretary: Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University
  - Chair and audience reviewed the 2024 minutes.
  - Misornu moved for the minutes to be accepted.
  - Jemima seconded the motion.
  
2. Old Business
  - Submissions: There were 14 paper submissions and 5 panel submissions. After acceptance, there were 6 paper sessions and 4 discussion panels.
  - Secretary Election: The secretary serves on the caucus for three years (as secretary, vice-chair, and then chair), and you must be a graduate student for the duration of your term.
    - Misornu called for a nomination for next Secretary.
    - There were two self-nominations for the Secretary positions: Sarra and Aklima, both from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
    - Before the poll, they introduced themselves briefly to the audience.
    - The poll was 5 for Aklima and 4 for Sarra, therefore, Aklima was elected as Secretary for the 2025-2026 academic year.
  - Award presentation  
Top debut paper and Top paper (Paul Skalski): Emmanuel O. Odunfa, University of Oklahoma  
Top panel award: Adam Whiteside, Northwest Missouri State University

### 3. New business

#### Discussion Topic: 2026 CSCA Conference in Minneapolis

- Misornu opened the floor for ideas related to the 2026 conference theme, tentatively centered around the concept of “Translate”. Emphasis was placed on how academic research can translate into real-world applications, particularly through community action and participatory research models.
- Aklima encouraged all attendees to submit panel discussion proposals, especially those aligning with the conference theme. She emphasized that even classroom-based projects could be transformed into valuable panels that enrich the quality of academic work.
- Several potential panel ideas were discussed, such as research addressing social justice, equity, and underrepresented groups.
- Covering topics such as research design, data collection, the publication process, and navigating academic journals—especially helpful for graduate students.

- A panel suggestion based on a morning presentation by a colleague and Aklima, focusing on international students and current political issues.
  - Abigail proposed exploring how publications could be shared with hospitals or relevant institutions to extend research impact.
  - Sarra suggested a panel on choosing research topics, conducting research, and the writing process.
  - Michael added the importance of learning about journal submissions, understanding reviewers' perspectives, and how to respond to peer reviews.
  - Michael proposed organizing a panel discussion around navigating AI in research and teaching, highlighting the need for shared experiences and collaborative learning.
  - Shuvo shared insights about how Florida State University (FSU), University of Florida (UF), and many other institutions are already integrating AI into academic practices. He noted that AI usage in universities is rapidly becoming normalized, and predicted that within a few months, this integration would become widespread and standard. Shuvo also expressed interest in contributing to a dedicated AI panel.
  - Abigail and another attendee stressed the importance of teaching undergraduates to use AI responsibly.
  - Another speaker emphasized that academia must take the lead in teaching ethical AI use, warning of serious consequences if institutions fail to act.
  - A question was raised about conducting research on public social media content, particularly regarding permissions and ethical considerations when using publicly available data.
  - Misornu encourages early collaboration among members interested in co-creating panels on the discussed themes.
4. **Adjournment:** Shuvo moved to adjourn at 4.04 pm, Abigail seconded

### Participants

Name	Email	Year in program
Gertrude Misornu Nartey	gertrude@uwm.edu	4
Abigail Olajire Adediran	aooxnr@umsystem.edu	3
Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo	Ms24be@fsu.edu	1
Aklima Begum	beguma@uwm.edu	2 (Master's)
Jemima Dery	jedery@pnw.edu	
Sarra Ben Slama	benslama@uwm.edu	
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