

## Minutes of the National Association of Communication Centers

Business Meeting, Philadelphia PA 3/28/09

- I. Meeting called to order at 9AM by Kathie Turner, NACC Chair (Davidson College)
2. Since Ted Sheckels, Vice Chair (Randolph-Macon College) is on sabbatical, Kathie gave Ted's report
  - A. Ted indicates that he was pleased with the submissions.
  - B. Ted noted that we were given 5 slots. "We filled them, one with the business meeting. Pleading that another session was heavily new people who might not come to NCA if session was rejected, we got an extra slot from Dawn. That's 6. We also slipped a 5YO session in (a few days late), and it was accepted. That's 7. We redirected two papers to S2S, and we have the short course. So, we're well-represented in program, I think."
  - C. a paper was circulated, so that people could add their names to the listserv that Marlene Preston so ably administrates
  - D. a list of Communication Centers was also circulated, so that people could check for corrections and omissions
  - E. Hope Conference brochures were made available
  - F. blue affiliation forms were circulated
3. Wendy Atkins-Sayre, Vice Chair Elect (University of Southern Mississippi) announced the awards' deadlines:
  - Hobgood Distinguished Service to Comm Centers Award: due Sept. 1
  - Von Till Outstanding Newcomer Award: due Sept. 1
  - Outstanding Tutor award: due Feb 13
4. Susan Wilson, Recorder (DePauw University)—Membership numbers currently okay, but remember to have colleagues use blue affiliation forms. Kathie Turner called on Roger Smitter, Executive Director of NCA. Roger said that NCA was currently looking at unit structure and it might take 9 or more months to consider. They have been talking about "knowledge communities" rather than units or divisions. (This would lessen the "silo" approach to knowledge.) Thus, we should consider our allies. Roger urged us to examine the new NCA website. Esther Yook, past chair (University of Mary Washington) asked how we should go about reaching out to allies. Kathie indicated, for example, that All-Academic submission platform doesn't allow for co-planned programs. As a group the Communication Centers section of NCA may need to write letters to the NCA board about how our unit might be considered a knowledge community that may, in fact, always hover around the 100 person mark. Linda Hobgood (University of Richmond) indicated that between 2002-2003 there was a marked jump in the number of

communication centers, and there has been more growth since that time, but we are not sure how much more growth there will be, particularly in light of the tight economy. It was pointed out that some schools are not in the financial position to fund individuals to either join or attend NCA, but that they are important segments of the National Association of Communication Centers' group.

An aside from the recorder: There is some confusion about numbers. Currently, 55 communication centers are identified and publicized. This is unrelated to the 100 member minimum that NCA requires for a division to remain a viable group within NCA.

5. Appreciation for Anand Rao, NACC website manager (University of Mary Washington). No further report.

6. Marlene Preston (Virginia Tech) continues to do an excellent job maintaining the listserv. Appreciation was extended. Marge Prately (St. Cloud State University) indicated how useful the listserv was in soliciting panel members for an NCA panel.

7. Beau Bingham, Publications (University of Wyoming) reported on the electronic newsletter that he and Marlina Davidson (University of Nebraska-Omaha) are creating. Several people spoke fondly of Bob Weiss' goldenrod paper newsletter. Beau had not seen this, so Linda Hobgood (University of Richmond) will provide him with some samples. Because of budget constraints, we've moved to an electronic newsletter. The group agreed that the deadline for submissions should be 4/27/09. The group discussed what kind of contributions might be useful. Among the suggestions were: research in process or publication; student tutor/consultant accomplishments; and position announcements.

8. Linda Hobgood, Excellence at the Center Liaison(University of Richmond), reported that DePauw University will host the 2010 conference, followed by the University of Richmond for the 10<sup>th</sup> conference (not the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference since there was no available site one year). Linda indicated that it is very useful to know the sites several years out.

The group gave Sue Weber (University of Pennsylvania) a round of applause for hosting NACC this year, complimenting her on fine planning and execution of the event.

Susan Wilson handed out a "Save the date" flyer for the DePauw conference in Greencastle, Indiana, March 12-13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

9. Erika Lytle (University of North Carolina—Greensboro) gave the student outreach report for Kim Cuny (University of North Carolina-Greensboro). She indicated that students are not utilizing the NC-Greensboro developed site for communication center tutors much. She said that they have added several things to the site, like an anxiety workshop video. The site address is: [speakingnetwork.com](http://speakingnetwork.com). Consultants are encouraged to sign up and to engage in conversation with others.

10. Kyle Love (Columbia College)/Esther Yook (University of Mary Washington), reporting on nominations, suggested that nominations should be solicited in the second half of the year. Esther said that the only problem with the structure of our system is that the past chair of the Communication Centers section serves on the NCA nominating committee. There have been significant changes in NCA

that Roger Smither noted. For example, people will become candidates by 9/15 and then they will have the ability to campaign at the NCA convention. NCA members will vote subsequent to the convention. This would alleviate candidates travelling to various regional conferences to campaign. Esther is serving as the section's representative to the NCA nominating committee until September; then Kathie will serve in that capacity for two years, enabling the resumption of the past chair serving as the representative. (She would like chocolate to sustain her.) Linda also said that if the work load was too large, Kathie should feel free to call on past NACC presidents.

#### New Business

There was much discussion of the guidelines and procedures for paper and panel awards. For example, Sue Weber said that when they went to select student paper awardees, they were constrained by the stipulation that it be a "single authored" paper. There was some discussion about making more award categories, like best innovation for a center, best marketing, etc. However, there was also the concern that that may dilute perceptions of the awards being for "special recognition." Further, there was discussion of how having a single best "tutor/consultant" award affects staff morale. We decided that these issues need more study and so a more detailed report will be presented at the NACC/NCA business meeting. Esther will investigate the ethics of collaboration; Kathie and Ted will take the lead on the paper and panel award issue; and Erika, Hema Yarragunta, and Wendy will take the leadership for the tutor/consultant award issue.

In addition, Wendy Atkins-Sayre noted that it would be useful for NACC to have an official statement of the benefits of student participation in our conferences, to use as support for requests for student travel money. She will provide the letter she wrote as a draft for consideration.

The group also discussed the desire for guidelines on tutor training as a first step toward considering tutor certification programs.

Before adjourning the meeting, Kathie commended and thanked Sue Weber for hosting the conference. Applause served as a second.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wilson

4/15/09