# Central States Communication Association

***Political Communication Interest Group Bylaws***

# (Amended on April 5, 2019) ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Political Communication Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association.

# ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Political Communication Interest Group is to support the teaching and research of political communication. The scope of this Interest Group is broad, as the study of politics and communication may encompass the communicative activity of citizens, individual political figures, governmental institutions, the media, political campaigns, advocacy groups and social movements. This Interest Group recognizes and encourages research that addresses political communication topics in all contexts and levels of analysis, employing a variety of methodologies.

# ARTICLE III: MEMBERS

Membership in the Political Communication Interest Group shall be open to all those who are members in good standing in the Central Sates Communication Association and who are interested in advancing the purpose of the Interest Group.

# ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Political Communication Interest Group shall be: Chair, Vice- Chair, and Secretary.

Section 2. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary serve for a staggered three-year term. The Secretary will serve for one year, then succeed to the office of Vice-Chair for one year, and then succeed to the office of Chair for one year,

Section 3. The Chair shall serve as the presiding officer of all Interest Group business meetings and at all Executive Committee meetings. This officer shall discharge the usual responsibilities adhering to such an office, shall serve as a representative of the Interest Group, and shall be responsible for seeing that the provisions of the By-Laws of the Interest Group are enforced. The Chair shall serve as the Interest Group's primary program planner for the annual meeting of the Association.

Section 4. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in planning the Interest Group's program offerings for the annual convention, and shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event of that officer's absence or incapacity.

Section 5. The Secretary shall perform the functions usually adhering to such an office, including archival responsibilities by maintaining historical records of the Interest Group, and reporting regularly to members the Interest Group's business and activities. The Secretary shall determine the most efficient manner in which to communicate with members. At a minimum, Interest Group members will receive an annual Interest Group newsletter at least one month prior to the Association's annual convention.

# ARTICLE V: INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

Section 1. The Political Communication Interest Group shall conduct its annual business meeting in conjunction with and at the site of the annual Central States Communication Association Convention. The election of officers and reports of officers shall occur at the annual business meeting.

Section 2. The number of members of the Interest Group present at each meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The Chair shall be responsible for determining an Agenda for the annual business meeting.

# ARTICLE VI: ELECTION OF OFFICERS / VOTING

Section 1. Members attending the Interest Group's annual business meeting shall make nominations for the office Secretary.

Section 2. Voting will be made by written ballot.

Section 3. The individual who receives the most votes will be deemed the newly elected Secretary and will assume office at the adjournment of the annual business meeting.

# ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The officers of the Interest Group shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Interest Group between its business meetings. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Interest Group, and none of its acts shall conflict with majority action taken by members of the Interest Group.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chair and shall also be called upon request of two members of the Committee.

Section 4. Action by the Executive Committee shall require the assent of at least two members.

# ARTICLE VIII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing or special committees shall be appointed by the Chair as the Interest Group or the Executive Committee shall from time to time deem committees necessary to carry on the work of the Interest Group.

Section 2. The Chair shall be ex officio a member of all Interest Group committees.

# ARTICLE IX: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHROITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Interest Group in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the By-Laws and any special rules of order the Interest Group may adopt.

# ARTICLE X: AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Interest Group by a majority vote of those individuals present and voting, provided that the amendment has been included in the Interest Group's most recent newsletter. If a proposed amendment to the By-Laws has not been included in the newsletter, it may be considered at an annual meeting, but the amendment requires a majority vote of the Interest Group's entire membership to pass.

# ARTICLE XI: AWARDS

Each year at the annual conference, the interest group will present two awards: The Top Paper Award for the member of the interest group who submits the most impressive competitive paper of the convention, and the J. Jeffrey Auer Award for the top competitive paper presented by a student.

# ARTICLE XII: FINANCES

The Executive Committee of CSCA allocates funds to the interest group each year. These funds shall be used at the discretion of the chair. Funding for the J. Jeffery Auer Award, presented at the annual conference, to a minimum of $100, shall be the first priority for allocated funds.

# ARTICLE XIII: TRENT AWARD

Section 1. This award will be titled the “Judith S. Trent Award for Early-Career Excellence in Political Communication,” abbreviated as the Trent Award.

Section 2. This award honors an early-career scholar who has an outstanding record of research in the area of political communication. “Early-career” is defined as within the first 10 years of receiving a Ph.D. in Communication or a related field. An individual may apply multiple years but can only be awarded the Trent Award once.

Section 3. The monetary award will be funded through an endowment. Additional contributions will be collected to grow the fund.

Section 4. The Trent Award Committee will be composed of the Interest Group Chair and three established members of the Political Communication Interest Group appointed by the Interest Group Executive Committee. Each member of the committee, except the Interest Group Chair, will serve a three-year term; terms will be staggered and established with the selection of the 2019 Trent Award Committee. Each year, one member will cycle off the committee and will be replaced by a member appointed by the Interest Group Executive Committee.

Section. 5. This committee will distribute the call for nominations to model the previous year’s call by updating the application due date and will fairly vet nominations to determine a winner.

Section 6. The Chair of the Political Communication Interest Group shall serve as Chair of the Trent Award Committee, shall serve as a voting member, and will accept the award nominations.