Central States Communication Association Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Bylaws

(Amendments proposed by ERICC Chair Anjana Mudambi to be voted upon in April 2026)

Article I. Name
The name of the Caucus shall be the Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus, hereafter ERICC. The Caucus was submitted for CSCA Executive Committee Approval at a business meeting in Dallas, Texas on November 15, 2017.

Article II. Authority
The creation of ERICC was authorized by the Executive Committee of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA). The caucus was created in response to open sessions at three consecutive CSCA annual conventions where participants indicated the need for such a caucus. In response, the current Executive Director organized the bylaws, petition, and proposal and presided over the organizing meeting in Milwaukee, WI during the 2018 CSCA convention.

Article III. Purpose
The purpose of ERICC is to advocate for members regarding matters of race, ethnicity, citizenship, and class issues. Additionally, the caucus promotes collaboration and highlights scholarship regarding both the identities and the personal interests of its members.

Article IV. Membership

A. Membership shall be open to any member of CSCA who wishes to join.
B. A current list of ERICC members shall be on file with the CSCA office and accessible to all ERICC officers.
C. All members are allowed to vote at the annual business meeting as well as in any caucus matter that is voted upon online.

Article V. Meetings and Voting

A. The annual ERICC meeting shall be held at the time and place designated by the CSCA program planner (typically, the CSCA Vice-President) at the annual convention. If deemed necessary, ERICC officers may schedule additional business meetings at the CSCA convention.
B. The number of members of the ERICC Caucus present at each meeting shall constitute a quorum. In the matter of online votes, as long as members have one full week to vote and the vote is publicly announced via email and one public venue, the result shall be considered valid regardless of the number of votes placed.
C. A simple majority shall decide all voting, unless so designated by the membership in a particular year. In the case of a tie, the chair shall make the final decision.
D. Election of officers will be voted upon by written ballot at the annual ERICC business meeting.
E. Unless otherwise designated, all other votes (i.e., ERICC business not related to officer elections) may be voted upon by vocal acclimation or hand-raising designation (in

favor/yes, against/no, abstain) at the annual meeting *or* by confidential/anonymous electronic voting procedures in the interim between annual meetings. The voting majority shall be determined by the Chair and confirmed by the Secretary.

Article VI. Executive Committee Officers and Method of Election

A. The officers of ERICC, who comprise the ERICC Executive Committee, shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.
B. At least 3 paper readers will also serve (by election or appointment) each year. The Chair has the discretion to appoint paper readers as needed. Paper readers will be responsible for reading and ranking/rating papers and panel proposals within ERICC for the following year's annual convention.
C. New officers will be elected and take office at the end of each business meeting, except for the Chair who takes office during the business meeting with new business (or where applicable)
D. Terms:
   1) Chair is a one-year term.
   2) Vice-Chair is a one-year term and becomes Chair the following year.
   3) Secretary is a one-year term.
E. Vacancies:
   1) If the Chair post is unfulfilled, the Vice-Chair will assume the Chair role.
   2) If the Vice-Chair post is unfulfilled, the Chair has the discretion to select someone to assume the role.
   3) If the Secretary role is unfulfilled, the Chair is responsible for appointing someone to assume the role.
F. Duties
   1) **Chair**
      a) Presides over business meetings.
      b) Creates and distributes call for papers.
      c) Plans the full program for ERICC for the annual CSCA convention.
      d) Appoints paper readers as needed.
      e) Creates and distributes a call for officer nominations and prepares an election ballot for the annual business meeting.
      f) Maintains record of and reports to membership on ERICC finances.
      g) Maintains record of and reports to membership on ERICC data, including but not limited to membership roll, conference submission/acceptance statistics, recognitions, and awards.
   2) **Vice-Chair**
      a) Presides at the ERICC meetings in absence of the Chair.
      b) Responsible for overseeing any proposed revisions of bylaws.
      c) Assists the Chair.
      d) Acts as paper reader.
      e) Attends ERICC Program Planner meeting (in preparation for Chair duties) on behalf of ERICC in the appropriate year.
      f) Arranges an annual special panel in response to ERICC ideas or suggestions articulated at the annual business meeting.
      g) Chairs the Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speaker Series (CCTISS)

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Committee (See Article VIIID below.)

3) **Secretary:**
   a) Records minutes of each meeting.
   b) Distributes meeting minutes to members and officers as requested and at the annual ERICC business meeting.
   c) Presides at any meeting in the event both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent.
   d) Sends out list of ERICC panels/programs to the ERICC membership and to the National Communication Association listserv at least two weeks before the annual conference.
4) **Paper Readers:**
   a) Serves as a reader for ERICC submissions assigned by the Chair for review.
   b) Provides feedback for paper and panel submissions to the ERICC Chair within the designated time frame.

G. Election of offices will occur through nominations (solicited by the Chair) sent to ERICC prior to the annual meeting and placed on a ballot. Other nominations may be added from the floor at the meeting.

Article VII. Submission of Papers and Panels

A. All papers and panel submissions must be sent to the ERICC Caucus Chair via electronic means and must be received by the date announced by the CSCA Vice-President/Program Planner.
B. Special standing panels (e.g., work situations, special topics, special recognitions) may be created for each convention. Such panels would be invited and would not necessarily be competitively reviewed. The ERICC Caucus Chair may appoint people to create panels for the next conference. Any interested parties who wish to participate/organize such panels should approach the Chair at the business meeting with their ideas. Panels related to advocacy and recognition are especially appropriate for being created when particular identities or issues relevant to the caucus are not being covered via regular programming.

Article VIII. Awards and Recognitions

A. A top competitive paper award may be assigned each year, at the discretion of the Chair and based on Paper Readers' evaluations. The winner/s of this award will be announced at the annual ERICC business meeting, and receive a certificate of achievement, copies of which will be provided for each author of the paper. At the Chair's discretion, the top competitive paper may also receive a cash award of no more than $50.00 taken from the annual financial allotment made by CSCA to ERICC.
B. Each year the Chair may also elect to award up to three advocacy awards for members of the discipline who have advanced causes related to class, ethnicity, race, or international issues in the academy. These awards can fall into one of two categories: *actions and programs* or *lifetime achievement*. The Action and Advocacy Award recognizes an individual who has taken outstanding action within the past few years. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has made an enduring and remarkable contribution to the academy as related to the interests of the caucus. If a Chair wishes to give any of these awards at the annual meeting, the Chair is responsible for making an open call for nominees so that all who are worthy may be considered; and the Chair must

consult with the Vice Chair and Secretary to consider whether the award designees are appropriate.

C. The Chair may choose to forego awarding the top paper achievement in years where no deserving recipient/s are discerned.

D. The caucus also organizes the Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Scholar Series (CCTISS). Permission was given to the caucus by the CSCA Executive Council to begin fundraising for the award at the 2018 convention in Milwaukee. The purpose of the award is to create a speaker series where scholars who have made palpable contributions to scholarship and/or activism regarding race, ethnicity, class, and/or international issues or concerns will receive support to present a lecture at a CSCA convention. Scholars who are selected and who present are given the honorary title of Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Scholar of the Central States Communication Association. ERICC also invites collaboration from the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) and Women's Caucuses of CSCA in organizing CCTISS.

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Article IX. Finances

A. The Executive Committee of CSCA allocates annual funds to each interest group. Fifty dollars will go to the recipients of the top paper (if deemed worthy). In the event that the annual allocation is not $50.00 or more, all funds received will be used at the discretion of the Chair, with input from the Vice-Chair.

B. The remainder of the moneys shall be spent on miscellaneous items – excluding food, beverages, and any other items expressing prohibited by the CSCA Executive Bylaws. These items may include gifts for paper readers, certificates or plaques for advocacy award winners, or any other reasonable expenses incurred by officers during the year, unless expressing prohibited in the CSCA Executive Bylaws. Receipts for all expenses must be submitted for reimbursement, and expenditures should not exceed the annual monetary allotment made by CSCA to ERICC.

Article X. Voting and Amendments to Bylaws

A. Years of any bylaw changes, including who initiated such changes, will be kept at the beginning of this document.

B. Any amendments to the ERICC bylaws will be accomplished by a majority vote of those in attendance at the annual meeting provided said amendment is introduced at least 45 days in advance to the officers and distributed via e-mail to all currently registered ERICC members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. This notification is the responsibility of the Chair.

C. Amendments require the approval of two-thirds of members attending the annual meeting.

Article XI. Communication

A. Unless otherwise indicated, all communication with ERICC membership that occurs outside of the annual CSCA business meeting will take place electronically.

B. ERICC members are not allowed to speak on behalf the group as a whole but rather as individuals who are members of the Caucus. Only positions or statements that are voted on by the group as a whole will be designated as statements from the Caucus. Officers of the group may make statements as officers, whether as a representative of the individual office or as a group of two or more officers, but should be careful to express that they do

not speak for the caucus as a whole unless a statement or position has received a supportive vote from the membership.