

## Minutes

International Communication Association Annual Conference  
Communication Science & Biology Interest Group  
Business Meeting—May 28, 2021, held via Zoom.

Present: Baek, Cai, Clayton, Coronel, Eden, Fink, Fisher (Jacob), Fisher (Jason), Fleerackers, Gong, Han, Hassan, Henninger, Huskey, Lewin, Lim, Meshi, Pandey, Potter, Scholz, von Samson, X. Wang, Weber, Wilcox

Interest Group Chair Allison Eden started the meeting and announced that it was being recorded. Then new officers were introduced and outgoing officers thanked for their service. The agenda for the meeting was sketched out and Allison then asked if anyone had any other business to add to the day's agenda. Hearing none, people were directed to the online location for the minutes from the 2020 business meeting. Ed Fink moved that those minutes be approved. Richard Husky seconded. The minutes were approved.

The general descriptives for the 2021 paper submissions were provided. The IG programmed 26 papers and 11 extended abstracts, which represented an acceptance rate of 81% and 78% respectively. This is slightly higher than the acceptance rates for 2020. Forty-one scholars reviewed papers for the Interest Group, and were responsible for an average of three submissions each.

Allison asked for comments, thoughts, suggestions on the review process with the goal of helping Richard in his Vice-Chair task of programming the 2022 Paris conference. Jacob Fisher brought up a system used by the Computational Methods IG where of reviewers 'bid' for papers they were interested in reviewing. Richard said that he would be open to such an approach if CS&B wanted to try it. Ed voiced the need for caution to safeguard against conflict of interest issues that such a system may introduce.

Someone (?; sorry, bad secretary) made the comment that the keyword system for submissions and reviewer interest was too large. Richard commented that he had heard appreciation for the thorough and thoughtful reviews that the IG provides to those who submit papers for consideration. There was general agreement that such a reputation is a good one to have for CS&B.

The discussion turned to the need for the IG to increase its membership rolls. For now, ICA has suspended the requirement of reaching a certain membership threshold to remain an IG/Division, a decision primarily driven by uncertainties driven by the COVID pandemic. Nevertheless, if CS&B wants to have a say in the future direction of ICA we need to get the number of people who join us when joining/renewing as high as possible.

Alice Fleerackers mentioned that she didn't quite understand what CS&B was all about, and in fact attended the business meeting to get a better sense of the type of work the division was interested in. This led to several in attendance expressing their opinions of what the IG stood for in terms of desired scholarship and scholar members.

Returning to the idea of increasing membership, Ed suggested sending handouts to Directors of Graduate Study at universities that do CS&B scholarship. We brainstormed ways of incentivizing membership such as “lunch and learns” and other types of workshops—perhaps ones specifically geared toward topics of interest to Early Career Scholars (ECS). Rene Weber volunteered to lead such a workshop if one were planned. Giving grants in support of research and otherwise incentivizing members with conference fees/ICA life memberships/etc. were discussed. It was decided that IG leadership would hold a special meeting this summer to continue talking about ways to increase the membership in CS&B.

Treasurer Jason Coronel reported the budget is solid at \$8363.72.

Allison congratulated the Top 5 papers from the IG, saying that the topics were important and the science of very high quality. Plus, works from both students and ECS were well represented in our Top Paper Awards this year.

The 2022 conference will be held in Paris but take place in a hybrid format given the ongoing pandemic. The theme is “One World, One Network?” We were told that “the interrobang is intentional.” Several people then Googled *interrobang*.

The meeting ended with an invitation to the virtual social held in Gathertown, and thanks to Jacob Fisher, Dar Meshi, Prateekshit Pandey for helping to make that possible.