

Ecologue

NEWSLETTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

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Commission Status To Be Sought With The Speech Communication Association.

The first business meeting of the **Environmental Studies Working Group**, held in New Orleans during the 1995 convention of the Speech Communication Association (SCA), ended with a unanimous decision in support of pursuing an Environmental Studies Commission under the SCA banner. The petition for commission status, it is hoped, will be presented to the SCA Legislative Counsel in November of 1995.

With twenty-eight scholars in attendance, Sue Senecah began the meeting with a warm welcome and then proceeded to explain the implications of pursuing commission status. Forming a new commission requires that a petition containing at least 100 signatures of current SCA members be presented to the SCA Legislative Counsel. If the petition is approved, then the new commission may send a representative to the Convention Planners Meeting which will then give the new commission control over selecting panels which are to be included as part of the following year's convention.

Once a new commission is formed, SCA requires that it maintain a membership of at

least one-hundred people. The membership requirement is fulfilled when a minimum of 100 SCA members select the Environmental Studies Commission as a primary interest when joining SCA or renewing their membership. Should the commission fall below the mark of 100 members, then SCA provides a two-year grace period in which the commission can increase its membership.

Feedback to the idea of starting a new commission was varied. Concerns were raised about the inclusion of disciplines other than speech-communication, whether or not our intentions went beyond simply having more environmental panels, a potential loss of rigor since we will now be evaluating our own work, and whether or not there is enough "steam" to actually maintain commission status since many in attendance were "familiar faces." In the end, however, enthusiasm was high and the decision to pursue a new commission was agreed upon unanimously.

The meeting closed with a brief discussion of strategy and sharing of panel ideas for the 1995 SCA convention. First, petitions were distributed and it was agreed that all petitions will be returned to Sue Senecah as soon as possible. Second, appointees will take petitions to the various regional conventions and gather signatures.

Western: Jonathan Lange and
Gregg Walker
Central: Michael Netzley
Eastern: Star Muir
Southern: volunteer needed

Finally, it was agreed that a steering committee may be needed and that the issue will be "considered" at the upcoming conference in Chattanooga.

As a final note, it is important to give special recognition to Sue Senecah for all her work in planning and moderating the meeting. Sue's effort, in combination with the enthusiastic participants, made the first business meeting come off without a hitch. If efforts leading up to the presentation of our petition go half as well, then it would seem likely that **Ecologue** will be announcing "commission status" about this time next year!

Call For Papers

In a continued effort to raise awareness of environmental studies, **Ecologue** is again trying to coordinate scholars who are interested in submitting panel proposals to the 1995 Convention of the Speech Communication Association.

If you have an idea for a panel, or a paper that you would be interested in presenting as a part of a panel, then please submit your name, address, phone, e-mail address, and panel/paper ideas to **Ecologue** no later than January 26. All information will be compiled and immediately distributed to all **Ecologue** subscribers on January 27. It will then be the responsibility of each individual to contact those on the list and make the necessary arrangements for submitting a proposal.

You may send the necessary information to:

Ecologue
Box 14225
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Or, you may e-mail Michael Netzley at:

NETZL001@MAROON.TC.UMN.EDU

A Special Thanks

As the current Editor, I would like to thank all who made generous contributions to **Ecologue**. Without your support, I would have difficulty meeting the printing and distribution costs of our newsletter. Your help has made it possible to continue for another year while keeping under-financed graduate students on the mailing list. An especially warm "Thank You" goes out to all who donated more than the requested \$5.

-Michael Netzley