



ECREA

European Communication Research and Education Association
PHILOSOPHY OF COMMUNICATION SECTION

MODUS OPERANDI

PREAMBLE

The section is named Philosophy of Communication Section (hereafter referred to as “PhilCom”) of the European Communication Research and Education Association (hereafter referred to as “ECREA”).

The modus operandi is complemented by the basic statutes of ECREA.

Article 1

Constitution and Membership

The ECREA PhilCom is constituted by all ECREA-members who express their interest in joining the section. Any active ECREA-member who expresses interest in, and subscribes to, the purposes of the section is eligible for membership.

I. *Expression of Interest*

Interest may be expressed by sending an email or letter to the chair or by registering at section events, including the business meetings of the section. PhilCom-membership remains valid according to ECREA-Statutes, Title II/Article 5.

II. *Renewal of Membership / Cancellation*

Renewal of PhilCom-membership is automatically effected by renewing ECREA-membership (ECREA-Statutes, Title II/Article 5a). PhilCom-membership may be cancelled according to Article 1/Section I. Exclusion of ECREA-membership automatically implies the cancellation of PhilCom-membership (ECREA-Statutes, Title II/Article 5b, 5c).

III. *Business Meetings / Parliamentary Expression of Will*

The parliamentary forum of PhilCom shall be a biannual business meeting. The business meeting of the section shall be held at the time and place of the biannual conference of the Association or at another event where a Section meeting is convened. Business meetings of the section are open to all interested ECREA-members. PhilCom-membership is mandatory for the eligibility to vote. Parliamentary proceedings and rules will be declared in Article 4.

Article 2 *Officers and Dues*

The Executive Committee of the section comprises the section chair and the two vice-chairs. Management of the section's affairs and operative administration is the responsibility of the chair and the two vice-chairs.

I. *Dues of the Chair towards the Section's Members*

The chair and the two vice-chairs meet obligations towards the section's members. The expression of the members' will shall be represented in general within the scope of the section's business meetings. The obligations include accountability for the chairs' decisions, the obligation to implement section decisions, the obligation to submit an annual activity report of the chair to PhilCom-members, the supervision of election and nomination processes, and the representation of the section's decisions and objectives.

The executive committee is responsible for reporting the section's decisions and activities to the Executive Board of ECREA (in accordance with Article 2/II), and for the external representation of the section and the furthering of its interests, in particular towards the academic community, scientific organisations and prospective members. The chair and the two vice-chairs are responsible for the administration of public affairs in an appropriate manner.

II. *Dues of the Chair towards the Association's Executive Board*

The chair and the two vice-chairs meet obligations towards the ECREA-Executive Board according to ECREA statutes. These obligations include the accountability for the chair's decisions, the obligation to submit an annual section report to the ECREA Executive Board, and the obligation to supervise the section's activities in accordance with the basic statutes of ECREA.

Article 2 / Addendum *Commissions and additional Officers*

Depending on the size and activities of the section the executive committee may suggest additional officers or commissions as may be deemed necessary or desirable.

I. *Tasks of Commissions and additional Officers*

Positions can be implemented in accordance with the fulfillment of specific tasks, for example the organization of section conferences, workshops, symposia etc., the process of peer-reviewing or the revision of the section's objectives and modus operandi.

Additional officers may be deemed as necessary or desirable, for example the appointment of a section secretary or administrative personnel in charge of infrastructure maintenance (homepage etc.).

II. *Implementation of Commissions and additional Officers*

The affirmation for the enduring implementation of additional positions by a member-vote is mandatory. A simple majority of votes is required.

The implementation of ad-hoc-commissions or additional support-personnel for singular occurring events is not bound to a member-vote, but has to be accounted in the section-report.

III. *Executive Authority of Commissions and additional Officers*

Commissions and additional officers do not enact as executive powers of the section. The fulfillment of executive authority remains in the hands of the chair and the two vice-chairs. Commissions' and additional officers' activities shall be supervised by the executive committee. The chair and the two vice-chairs are entitled to issue instructions, while these instructions are related to the chairs' array of responsibilities.

Article 3

Nominations and Elections

The election of any officer or member of an enduring commission shall be by vote of only the members of PhilCom. Any PhilCom-member who expresses interest is eligible for nomination and election.

- I. *Elections of Chairs, Members of enduring Commissions, and additional Officers*

The chair and the two vice-chairs, and as far as requested, members of existing commissions and additional officers, are chosen every two years at an ECREA-event or another event where the section could convene.

The election will take place by a voting procedure at the event where the annual section business meeting will be held or at another event where the section could convene. If no section business meeting or another eligible event is held, the elections will nevertheless take place, but will be conducted by email-vote. A simple voting majority is required for all elections.
- II. *Nominations*
 - a) Six months before the end of the mandate of the outgoing team, the Chair will inform the members of the end of the term of the executive committee, and whether the executive committee will nominate itself for re-election or not. Candidates can put themselves forward for election by sending an email to the chair or, as far as established, to the section's secretary.
 - b) After the appointment of an existing additional officer, the position shall be regarded as henceforth part of the executive committee.
 - c) If an officer resigns before the end of a term, a re-election for the position in question will be held. In such a case, the Chair will inform members of the vacant position and request that candidates put themselves forward within 30 days. The election shall take place within 60 days and Section members shall be given a minimum of 10 days' notice.
 - d) Nominations and elections for existing commissions shall be conducted as a separate process.
- III. *Announcement of the Vote*

The results shall be announced at the section business meeting or other eligible event. The announcement of the vote in case of an email-vote shall be announced in an appropriate manner.

Article 4

Business Meetings, Accountability and Parliamentary Rules

The section business meeting is sovereign in making decisions regarding the general direction of the section, determining current issues to be addressed by the section and changing the section's objectives or modus operandi. All decisions have to be in accordance with the founding statutes of ECREA and the decisions of the ECREA Executive Board.

- I. *Accountability of the Executive Committee in accordance with the ECREA Executive Board and the Parliamentary Sovereignty of the Section*

The executive committee of chair and vice-chair(s) has to comply with the ECREA-statutes and decisions of the ECREA Executive Board, and is accountable for its decisions to the ECREA-Executive Board and the section business meeting. Decisions taken by the executive committee are always provisional pending formal approval by the section business meeting.
- II. *Business Meetings – Parliamentary Rules*

In the absence of any provision to the contrary in these articles, all business meetings of the section shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order, revised edition.

Status quo of the online-source 26th of April 2006: <http://www.rulesonline.com>

III. *Exclusion of Members*

Neither the executive committee nor a majority of PhilCom-members is empowered to exclude a member. The directives for an exclusion procedure are regulated solely by the ECREA-statutes, Title II/Article 5b.

A recommendation of exclusion addressed to the Executive Board of ECREA shall be intended in case of substantive infringement against the basic statutes of ECREA or violation of higher law. The recommendation shall be confirmed by a section members vote. A simple majority of the section's members is required.

IV. *Displacement of Officers or Members of enduring Commissions*

In the absence of any provision to the contrary in these articles, any elected officer or member of a current commission may be removed from office by a petition requesting such removal, signed by at least one-third of the Section's members. The petition must be sent to the ECREA Executive Board, with the request for an extraordinary election within 60 days, with the challenged officer(s) on the ballot. If the ECREA Executive Board accepts the request, the Section Chair will be responsible for arranging the extraordinary election in accordance with the procedure laid down in Art. 3 II c. The result of the election becomes effective immediately.