Memo to Recharter the International Communication Section

To: International Studies Association
    Governing Council

From: Nathalie Frensley
    Chair, International Communication Section

Date: February 19, 2005

Re: Rechartering the International Communication Section, 2005-2009

In compliance with Article IV, Section 1(b) of the International Studies Association Constitution regarding the rechartering of ISA sections, I hereby request that the International Communication Section be rechartered by the ISA Governing Council for the period 2005-2009.

In support of this request, attached are:

1. The current annual report of Section activities
2. Analysis of Section membership
3. Analysis of the financial base of the Section
4. Copy of the Section’s charter
5. List of Section Leadership with terms of office
1. Annual Report of Section Activities

The year 2004 began with a strong and broad showing for the ICOMM section at the Montreal meeting. The section sponsored and co-sponsored 19 panels. Of those 19, several were co-sponsored with FPA, CISS, Peace, and FTGS, which reflects ICOMM’s recognition by other ISA sections.

At the business meeting, the members present elected Douglas Van Belle, Victoria University – Wellington as the new Vice-Chair of the section to follow Nathalie Frensley, University of Texas at Austin, who became section chair. Several matters were discussed, including submission of a section workshop proposal and establishing procedures for choosing books for the Best Book Award. The Best Paper award was discussed with the result that ICOMM will make an award in 2005 for the best paper presented by a section member.

Since the Montreal Conference the section’s main activities have centered on first, the creation of the program for the 2005 conference in Honolulu, second, design of a section workshop, and third, creation of the ICOMM section listserv. Creation of the latter has increased section capacity for membership communication.

Paper and panel submissions for the 2001 Honolulu conference were at an all time high. ICOMM panels were fully constituted (5 or more participants) and numbers of poster presentations increased. The preliminary conference program reduced the number of proposed panels to 19 in part due to limitations of size of the total conference and the number of presenters who ran afoul of the multiple appearance rule.

ICOMM Sponsored and Co-sponsored panels since section’s inception:

- 2001 -- 17
- 2002 -- 26
- 2003 -- 11
- 2004 -- 19
- 2005 -- 19

Nonetheless, this is the largest number in the history of the section and an indication of the active membership the section enjoys. ICOMM’s membership diversity will be discussed below.
The section’s panel co-sponsors in the past five years reflects the growing prominence of international communications in international relations more generally, particularly in the foreign policy analysis subfield.

### ICOMM co-sponsored panel partner sections, 2001-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Section</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>FPA</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPE</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENMISA</td>
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<tr>
<td>IO</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CISS</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
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<td>FTGS</td>
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</table>

Second, the ISA Workshop Committee awarded the International Communication section its full requested amount of $5,500.00 to organize “International Communications in International Relations: Connecting Approaches, Bridging Concepts and Evaluating Methods, Tools and Data.” This workshop was designed to culminate in the first volume of a proposed biennial Handbook of International Communications Research series. ICOMM will pursue this objective only in full consultation with ISA Headquarters, the Governing Council and the Publications Committee and act in accord with the full wishes of each.

The ICOMM section maintains both a webpage (www.pubpol.duke.edu/centers/dewitt/ICS) and a listserv. Kenneth Rogerson maintains the webpage and Derrick Cogburn maintains the listserv. Their contact information is listed along with the contact information for ICOMM officers.
2. Analysis of Section Membership

The International Communication section has experienced strong membership growth since its inception. Current membership stands at approximately 69 members (as of January 25, 2005). Membership growth has been steady since 2002:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of:</th>
<th>ICOMM memberships</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2000</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>12/31/2004</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25/2005</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
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</table>

ICOMM has attracted members from both international relations and communications disciplines. Currently, members hail from the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Israel, Japan, Cameroon, Switzerland, and Denmark. While there is still predominance of representation from the US, our members that hail from non-North American countries are increasing. In terms of institutional background, generally ICOMM membership ranges from large research universities (both public and private) to small liberal arts colleges.

The ICOMM section is healthy in terms of membership which reflects its mission of bringing together a variety of voices engaged in the complex questions of communications and international relations.
3. Analysis of the Financial Base of the ICOMM Section

Financially speaking, the year was characterized by prudent financial management. The section began the year with a balance of $1,027.24 and, by September 30th, maintained a balance of 479.76. Shortly afterwards, this increased by $600.00, upon ISA HQ’s receipt of reception co-sponsorship funds from the Institute of International Communications, University of Leeds. The only expenditures were related to the section reception and amounted to $787.48. Income consisted of member fees amounting to $268.00 between 1/1/2004 through 9/30/2004, and $600.00 from The Institute of International Communications, University of Leeds, ICOMM’s annual reception co-sponsor. ICOMM has never had a zero or negative balance; it has maintained a balance credit between $300 – 500.00 each month since its second year of operation. It has hosted an annual reception each year. Taylor & Francis publishers co-sponsored the section’s first three annual receptions and University of Leeds has co-sponsored the last two receptions.
Charter of the International Communication Section of the International Studies Association

Article I: Name

This Section shall be known as the section on International Communication of the International Studies Association.

Article II: Affiliation

The Section is a part of the ISA and, as such, subscribes to the ISA's purposes and supports its general activities.

Article III: Purposes

The International Communication Section will provide a formal structure for researchers working on topics relating to communication and related technologies, culture, media, information and knowledge in the context of International Studies. It also encourages participation from those bringing such approaches to bear in fields related to International Studies.

Article IV: Relationships

The section will cooperate with organizations that have similar goals, both within and outside ISA, in order to promote the study of International Communication.

Article V: Membership

Any member of the ISA who shares the purposes of this section may become a member upon payment of dues. Members are entitled to attend annual meetings, nominate candidates for administrative responsibilities in the Section, take up administrative responsibilities in the section, vote, sponsor amendments to this charter, and receive publications and services produced by the section.

Article VI: Officers

1. The Officers of the Section will be a Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee will consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, immediate-past Chair, plus four other members. The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected for one-year terms; other officers, two year terms with two elected each year. Officers may not serve consecutive terms in one position.
3. Where Section members other than elected members of the Executive Committee perform functions on behalf of the Section, the Chair, with the approval of the Executive, may invite them to attend meetings of the Executive Committee.

4. The Chair will preside at the annual business meeting; coordinate Section activities; with the approval of the Executive Committee appoint members to executive positions required by the section including the chair of the nominating committee; convene the Executive Committee as needed; and serve as the Section's spokesperson. The Vice Chair will act as the Program Chair for the annual meeting involving the coordination of an annual reception (if possible) and Distinguished Senior Scholar panel (if possible). The Executive Committee will set the level of dues for Section membership.

3. The Vice Chair will be the incoming Chair-elect for the Section.

Article VII: Nominations and Elections

1. A Nominating Committee of three members will be constituted each year. It will be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee designated by the Chair with the approval of the Executive as a whole who will, in turn, select two other members of the Section to serve on the committee, in consultation with the Section Chair. The Committee will be responsible for nominating a candidate for the position of incoming Vice Chair.

2. The Nominating Committee will also invite the membership of the Section to make nominations for vacant seats on the Executive Committee. Any Section member may nominate themselves provide their nomination is seconded by two members of the Section.

3. Section members may nominate an alternative candidate for the position of Vice Chair/Chair through the submission of a nomination seconded by ten members of the Section.

4. The names of one or more nominees for each vacant position will be made known through electronic mail to the Section membership at least one month before the annual meeting.

5. A ballot will be published prior to the annual business meeting. It will be returned to the Section Chair two weeks prior to this meeting and results will be announced at the meeting.

VIII: Charter Amendments
1. Amendments to the Section Charter may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by a petition of at least ten members.

2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Chair not later than one month before the annual meeting, and shall be discussed and voted on at the annual meeting.

3. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority of non-Executive members at the business meeting and two-thirds of the standing Executive. Proxy votes are permitted for Executive members only.

4. Approved amendments shall be submitted to ISA officers.

IX. Entry into Force

1. This Charter will enter into force after approval by a majority of the section members voting on it.

2. Subject to approval of the Charter, the Section Chair will convene the Executive as a nominating Committee and conduct elections in accordance with Article VII. Two members of the executive will be elected for one year and two members for a normal term of two years.
List of Section Leadership with terms of office:

Chair (2004 – 2005)
Nathalie J. Frenslay, Ph.D.
Department of Government
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Vice-Chair 2004-2005 (Incoming Chair 2005-2006)
Douglas Van Belle, Ph.D.
Media Studies
Victoria University of Wellington
P.O. Box 600
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(64) 4 463 7447 – tel
Doug.VanBelle@vuw.ac.nz

Incoming Vice-Chair 2005-2006 (Incoming Chair 2006-2007)
J.P. Singh, Ph.D.
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Georgetown University
Box 571130
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202 687 2515 – tel
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Past Chairs:

2003-2004
Elizabeth C. Hanson, Ph.D.
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2001-2003
Robin C.M. Brown, Ph.D.
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Derrick Cogburn, Ph.D. (Listserve)
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