

Report to the Advisory Board  
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Communication Arts & Sciences

Advisory Board Grant: President-Elect, Semiotic Society of America  
Course Release Spring 2017

This grant has enabled me to assume my official duties as President-elect and Program Planner with the Semiotic Society of America. I have been actively involved with the Society over the last fifteen years or so, serving on various committees and presenting my research. The Semiotic Society of America is the leading semiotics organization in North America. We are a transdisciplinary professional organization serving a diverse community of scholars with common interests in the study of signs and sign systems. I was elected to the Executive Board a few years ago and have since been elected as the organization's incoming President.

As such, my primary responsibilities this spring have included acting as the Chair of the Program Planning Committee for our upcoming annual conference. Committee members come from all over the United States and Mexico. This year's conference is being held in Puebla, Mexico at The Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (IUPAEP) October 25-29, 2017. This is the first time we have held our conference in Mexico.

Beginning in January 2017, I have been busy coordinating these planning efforts with relevant parties such as the Executive Director and the local host in Puebla. Under my guidance, the program planning committee has already accomplished several tasks. We have selected a conference theme, identified and secured two keynote speakers, designed our conference logo, generated an official Call for Papers and distributed it widely among current Society members (both in the US and abroad), prepared our on-line conference software management system for receipt, review, and notification of submitted papers and panel proposals, and designed a tentative conference schedule. We now are beginning to identify and invite additional plenary speakers as well as send out acceptance notifications to our early paper and panel submissions.

I want to thank the Advisory Board for their support. Securing a one-course release for Spring 2017 has been integral to my initial success as Program Planner and President-elect of this prestigious international organization.