Dear PAC Participants:

 As you know, we were awarded the 2020 Public Address Conference in the fall of 2018. Our bid was intended to serve the scholarly interests of the Public Address community. The bid proposed a conference theme of “Public Address and the Public Good” and disclosed the identity of a number of scholars who volunteered to serve in conference roles. Our intention was to model the format of recent Public Address Conferences and find a slate of diverse scholars to participate in eight plenary sessions.

 Since last fall we have secured hotel rooms for participants and signed a contract with an off-campus conference center to host the keynote address and plenary sessions. As of early June, we had secured commitments from more than 26 international and national scholars to speak at the conference and planning was in the final stages.

 Unfortunately, the public dialogue of the last week leads us to believe the proposed conference no longer serves the needs of the Public Address community. About half of you have indicated that you will no longer participate, and it appears that conference attendance will not support our anticipated costs.

 I regret that the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Georgia will be unable to host the event we envisioned in early 2018 and worked on for more than a year.

Very truly yours,

Edward Panetta

Professor and Head

Department of Communication Studies