

Division 15 Executive Committee Meeting Notes: April 8, 2011

Minutes APA Division 15 Educational Psychology Executive Committee

Spring Meeting at AERA

Friday, April 8, 2011 (7:00-9:00pm)
New Orleans Marriott, Balconies IJ

President David Bergin opened the meeting with introductions of the current committee chairs and executive committee members. Program Co-Chairs, Bob Hoffman and Michele Gill then highlighted the 2011 program review process. One hundred and eighty-five individual proposals and three symposiums were submitted through the APA/Division 15 system. Three additional proposals were forwarded to Division 15 from other divisions. Over a period of four weeks 497 reviews were conducted by 127 different division members and a select group of supervised graduate students. Each proposal received at least two reviews. In total, 98 out of 192 submissions were accepted. They noted they were surprised by the low quality of some proposals that did not contain critical information concerning the sample and methodology for the study. They expressed concerns about the lack of clear guidelines in the call about what should be in the proposal and the size restrictions. They noted they imposed minimum standards which resulted in fewer posters. The overall acceptance rate for submissions was almost 50%. Fifteen proposals were accepted for three paper sessions, 80 proposals were accepted as posters, and the three symposiums were combined into two sessions to round out the program. Overall they felt this year's program was a high quality program with a specific theme: Increasing the Relevance of Educational Psychology to Practice and Connecting Across Disciplines.

Secretary Heather Davis questioned whether the Division had retained the practice of encouraging graduate students who had participated in the seminar to submit their doctoral work for poster presentation. Bob and Michele noted the review process was not only blind this year for the reviewers but also for the program chairs, with reviews tracked by number. Currently there are some limitations to the technology used to submit / review proposals with no link between the proposal submission system and the evaluation system. Therefore, they had no way of identifying if the submitter was a doctoral student (or more specifically a doctoral student who had participated in the seminar). Bob also noted the need to clean up the 'old' submission system because there is information archived in the system about reviewers that is not accurate (i.e. expertise, interest in reviewing, and the number of proposals they would like to review, etc.).

Next, President David Bergin gave the President's report. Minutes from the November meeting will be published in the forthcoming Spring edition of the Newsletter. At the 2010 convention in San Diego, Past President Paul Schutz reported efforts to support the Early Career members of the Division. In response to membership data that suggest we have an aging membership, President Bergin reported on his efforts to continue that initiative. Working with the Program Co-Chairs, Division 15 has again organized a session titled: "*If I Knew Then What I Know Now! Lessons For Early Career Psychologists.*" In November, the Executive Committee voted to increase the number of Early Career Research Awards from three to five.

In addition, the Committee on Early Career Educational Psychologists was made a formal committee. President Elect Mary Carr is in the process of generating a proposal for new initiatives to support Early Career Members for the August meeting. Similarly, in order to attract new members the Division is co-sponsoring a social hour with the Teaching Educational Psychology SIG and plans to co-sponsor with additional SIGs next year.

Other business has included working with Editors Eric Anderman and Lyn Corno to sign the contract for the Third Edition of the Handbook of Educational Psychology and finalizing the Division's Small Conference Awards initiative. The goals of the Small Conference Awards Program of Division 15: Educational Psychology of the American Psychological Association will be to: 1) provide substantive support for its members' research and applied projects; 2) increase the Division's visibility; and 3) provide support for projects that do not have other clear sources of funding. This program provides support for small groups of Division 15 members to come together and discuss fledgling projects relevant to the mission of the Division. Organizers are encouraged to involve post doctoral and doctoral students in ways they deem appropriate. Information on the Small Conference Awards initiative will soon be distributed through the listserv and posted on the Division's Website.

Treasurer Sharon Nichols presented on the status of the Division. Division 15 is in good financial standing. Currently, we have substantial funds in both our checking and savings account. We have a consistent, reliable and high level of income that is produced by *Educational Psychologist*. A smaller percent of our income is generated by other publications and member dues. Expenses are primarily associated with support for the Division's publications, travel and activities completed for Division 15 or APA sponsored meetings, and for funding to recognize or promote research in



the field of educational psychology. For 2010, total income was greater than total expenses by more than \$75,000. The Division has begun to commit more funds in the form of grants to support research by its members. However, these obligations should not substantially reduce the financial stability of the Division.

Secretary Davis reported on the electronic voting of the Executive Committee:

- unanimously approved the minutes from the November meeting of the EC.
- unanimously approved the budget for the Graduate Student Affairs Committee.
- unanimously approved the Thorndike Award, Snow, and Pintrich Award winners.
 - Thorndike Award: Dr. Barry Zimmerman, City University of New York
 - Snow Early Career Award: Dr. Robert M. Klassen of the University of Alberta
 - Pintrich Dissertation Award: Dr. Jamaal Matthews University of Michigan under the direction of Dr. Stephanie Rowley. Title: *"Toward a Holistic Understanding of Identification with Academics in Ethnic-Minority Boys at Risk for Academic Failure."*

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- unanimously approved funds to support Lynley Anderman's travel expenses to serve as the Div. 15 Representative to APA's Committee on Women in Psychology.
- unanimously approved funds to purchase an external hard drive for the Treasurer to use to back up financial data.
- unanimously approved funds to cover the expenses associated with the AERA meeting and dinner. In addition, we are pleased to announce three award winners were selected from a healthy pool of applicants to receive an Early Career Research Award:
- Dr. Mei-Lin Chang, Emory University: *"Teacher Appraisals and Emotion Regulation in the Context of Classroom Misbehavior."*
- Dr. Ellen L. Usher, University of Kentucky: *"Self-Efficacy in Transition: A Longitudinal Investigation."*
- Dr. Gwen C. Marchand, University of Nevada, Las Vegas: *"Understanding Student Disaffection through the Lens of Alternative Education."*

Next President David Bergin facilitated a discussion of issues brought up in the committee reports. Historian Revathy Kumar will be publishing some previously completed interviews and conducting some new interviews. She suggested the interview selection process needs to be more systematic. Past President Paul Schutz suggested that we might use the list of Thorndike Award winners as way to generate a list of interviews to be completed. Secretary Heather Davis suggested having the website link the work of Thorndike and Snow Award winners to their *Educational Psychologist* article and/or websites.

Snow Committee Chair Lynley Anderman queried the Executive Committee with regard to balancing a nominee's productivity and excellence with the number of years since graduation. That is, should a more recent graduate receive additional credit for high

levels of productivity? Or, should nominees very early in their careers remain eligible for re-nomination at a later date? APA Council Representative, Tim Urdan suggested that the ten year time frame indicated that the committee ought to consider someone who has an established record across the period, with nominees very early in their careers remaining eligible for re-nomination at a later date. Lynley also queried the Executive Committee as to the extent to which relevance to the work of Dr. Richard Snow be taken into consideration? Council Representative Michael Martinez, former student of Dr. Snow, noted that Dr. Snow was committed to understanding individual differences in learning, and that nearly every high quality submission would likely include something about how learners differ.

Member at Large Helen Patrick brought up the issue of the format of the past three Executive Committee Meetings at AERA/APA where the committee has held a one hour "open" meeting and a one hour "closed" meeting. She wondered whether the description of Executive Committee sessions as open and closed might communicate a lack of transparency to Division Members and Committee Chairs. Past President Schutz noted the shift in structure reflected the need for the Executive Committee to be able to complete more business more efficiently at the two meetings. The term 'closed' was not meant to exclude members. Now that reports are submitted ahead of time and few issues are typically raised, very little about the reports is actually discussed. The Executive Committee perceives the need to have an hour to conduct face-to-face business at the AERA and APA meetings. A question was posed: Would it be useful if the "open" meeting were less about reviewing reports and more about having chairs discuss affairs of the Division? Would it feel less exclusionary if we modified the wording to "Dinner & Overview the Status of the Divisions" and "Work Session"?



During the work session, Treasurer Nichols reminded the Executive Committee about the contractual obligation of Taylor and Francis to annually fund a student award in the amount of \$1000. For the short term, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to have the full amount sent to the Treasurer who would use this year's funds to support the travel of graduate students to attend the Doctoral Seminar. Funds will be equally divided among the selected participants. The Executive Committee will revisit the issue of a formal student travel award at the November 2011 meeting.

Past President Schutz provided an update on the new initiative to hire a Communications Director. The call for a Communications Director was approved by APA legal and is ready to post on listserv and in APA monitor. The Executive Committee plans to convene a search committee to select five proposals that will be forwarded to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee would then narrow the proposals to two or three. Past President Schutz proposed bringing the candidates to the August Meeting in Washington, D.C. for interviews. The Executive Committee would offer to pay for travel. Proposals to serve as the Division's Communications Director should be formatted in a single document and should include description of and links to relevant work they have already accomplished.

Secretary Davis provided an update on the status of the Division Website. In November we agreed to enter into a contract with Keith Ransom, of WebbingExpress, to serve as our web master. Keith is in the process of redesigning the Division Website to include new features such as the ability for committee chairs to access and store secured files and a membership database. Currently, several issues have held up the new version of the website being

released: 1) What would be the levels of access for the site? In other words, who would serve as an administrator (i.e. Division President and Communications Director?), who would serve as a manager (i.e. the Executive Committee and Membership Chair?), and would we have both member and guest levels? 2) What data should be collected as part of the member profile? 3) How would membership be administered in conjunction with APA membership? And, 4) Can members pay for membership through the website? Council Representative Urdan inquired about privacy issues and the extent to which members could manage their own profile. A list of suggestions was generated for President Bergin. The Executive Committee voted to reimburse Keith Ransom \$500 to cover the cost of his travel to New Orleans, and Sunday afternoon President Bergin, Secretary Davis, and Council Representative Martinez met with Keith to finalize decisions regarding the new version of the website. Specifically, Division 15 will collect demographic information similar to other APA Divisions (i.e. SPSSI); however, members will be able to manage what information is available to other members of the Division and what information is accessible only to the Membership Chair and Executive Committee to use for developing Division Programs. Most fields will not be required, so members can also choose to not disclose some information. There will be several administrative levels, see above.

Only members, confirmed through APA membership, will have access to 'public' membership information. 'Private' information will only be accessible to Executive Committee Members, Membership Chair, and the Communications Director. There will be an initial 'registered level' that notifies the Membership Chair / Communications Director of interest in the Division and completion of a profile. The Membership Chair / Communications Director (to be decided) will then verify membership and change status to 'member.' Currently, the Division 15 President receives monthly membership reports from APA concerning dues paid. Additionally, as part of the profile, members may choose to 'opt out' of some communications. For example, retired members of the Division may want to 'opt out' of employment notifications that typically come through the listserv. In addition to administrative levels, the new website will provide webspace for committees to work together and access committee specific files (i.e.

Awards Committees will be able to review and evaluate awards through the site). Finally, President Bergin will put Keith in contact with APA Business office to work out the logistics of enabling new/existing members to pay their membership dues through the website using Paypal.

Finally, President Bergin lead a discussion of promoting an unofficial Division 15 Hotel for the 2011 Conference in Washington DC. Members provided positive feedback from the experience of serendipitously meeting up with each other during breakfast, etc.. Several hotels were reviewed for location, price, internet access, and ranking by Trip Advisor. Members of the Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation that President Bergin encourage members to stay at the Marriott.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather A. Davis

Award Winners

Thorndike Award

Dr. Barry Zimmerman, City University of New York

Snow Early Career Award

Dr. Robert M. Klassen, University of Alberta

Pintrich Dissertation Award

Dr. Jamaal Mathews, University of Michigan, under the direction of Dr. Stephanie Rowley. Title: *"Toward a Holistic Understanding of Identification with Academics in Ethnic-Minority Boys at Risk for Academic Failure."*