

APA Division 15: Educational Psychology

Executive Committee Meeting

Westin St. Francis, Second Level Victorian; San Francisco, CA

April 29, 2013; 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Helenrose Fives

Approved on: June 7, 2013 via online vote of approval by Graham, Thorkildsen, Kitsantas, Meece, Nichols, Cross, Urdan, Carr, & Fives.

Members present: Judith Meece, Terri Thorkildsen, Marty Carr, Sharon Nichols, Helenrose Fives, Anastasia Kitsantas, Sandra Graham, Dionne Cross, Tim Urdan

The Executive Committee meeting began at 8:00 p.m. following dinner with the committee chairs.

The initial item under discussion (presented by **Meece**) was to clarify the procedures for the Division 15 **Fellows Committee**. Meece provided a report on this issue and discussed the current status.

During this year's selection process, APA moved to an online system and deadlines from APA and our Division procedures did not fully match up. These issues seem to have been resolved by several changes, including a new chair, new APA system, and new processes. Clarification is that the Division President sends the names of non-Division 15 fellows who want to be fellows in Division 15, rather than the Fellows Committee; however, the Fellows Committee still vets these people. This will be reviewed again in the future.

The committees responsible for identifying Division 15 award recipients submitted names for the 2014 award cycle for the Executive Committee to approve. The Executive committee voted unanimously to approve **Dr. Kate Niehaus** for the **Paul Pintrich Dissertation Award** and **Dr. Kou Murayama** for the **Richard E. Snow Early Career Award**. The Executive Committee also approved the Thorndike Award Committee's nomination of **Sandra Graham** for the **E. L. Thorndike Award for Career Achievement in Educational Psychology** (Graham abstained from this vote).

The **Graduate Student Affairs** committee, co-chaired by Mike Yough and Ellen Usher, submitted a request to redistribute the \$12,000 budget for graduate student stipends for those attending the Graduate Student Seminar in Hawaii. The chairs requested permission to decrease the number of participants and increase the stipend amount. The Executive Committee voted to give the Co-Chairs the authority to distribute the \$12,000 in stipends equally among the graduate student participants this year.

A number of **online votes** were conducted by the Executive Committee since the last meeting in November. **Helenrose Fives** reviewed those votes with the Executive Committee so that they could be entered into these minutes:

- *March 27, 2013: Division C Matching Funds Request.* Request received from Division C for \$500 in matching funds to co-sponsor an Invited Session at AERA that will bring together four educators working with low-income students and four researchers; the group will discuss collaborative research projects. The four educators will discuss what they perceive to be some of the most pressing, researchable questions involving the education of low-income students. Following their lead, the researchers will discuss what research has been conducted to date on these issues and possible future research plans. The funds, if received, will support the four educators in the session by paying for their conference registration and offering them a small stipend for their time. Votes to approve: Meece, Carr, Thorkildsen, Nichols, Fives, Kisantas, Graham, Cross; Abstain: Urdan
- *February 27, 2013: Distribution of Division 15 Newsletter.* The Policy and Procedures Manual states that these Newsletters should be sent electronically and through regular mail; however, the Newsletter has not actually been mailed in some time. Further, neither the current Editor (Kelly Rodgers), current President (Meece) or Communications Director (George) have the capability of mailing out hard copies to over 1,000 members. Can we revise the Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect our current practice of distributing the newsletter online through LISTSERV and website? Votes to approve: Meece, Carr, Thorkildsen, Nichols, Fives, Kisantas, Graham, Cross, Urdan
- *January 28, 2013: Approve Minutes from January 24 Conference Call.* Approve: Carr, Thorkildsen, Nichols, Fives, Graham, Cross; Abstain: Urdan, Meece, Kisantas
- *December 6, 2012: Approve Minutes from November EC Retreat.* Votes to approve: Meece, Carr, Thorkildsen, Nichols, Fives, Kisantas, Graham, Cross, Urdan

Meece, for the Division, received a request to join **PsychExtra**. Wade George, Communications Director, prepared a report analyzing the option and recommended against our participation in the report for two key reasons: joining PsychExtra (1) would not add to our existing web presence, and (2) could serve to compete with our own efforts. Following a brief reflection on the report, the Executive Committee decided to support the plan to stay with our own sites as recommended by our Communications Director.

Meece requested input on continuation of the Ad Hoc Small Conference Committee. This committee was established to review proposals from members interested in putting on small conferences or workshops around focused ideas. Meece expressed her concerns, namely that we do not know the long-range financial plan for the Division yet; as such, to gear up for another round of competition when we do not know what our financial future looks like is imprudent. In addition, in 2014 we plan to host the Division 15 Conference, and we currently do not know what the cost of that will be. **Carr** shared that the new Division 15 Conference should be self-sufficient. There was some discussion that providing these small conference grants may be in conflict with the Division's goal to host the Division 15 Conference in 2014. **Cross** asked whether the underling concern leading to the disbanding of this committee is about the costs or a concern about duplication of ideas and conferences. **Cross** clarified that there is a difference between disbanding the committee versus holding the calls for funding in abeyance until we have a clear understanding of our spending

priorities. The Executive Committee recommended suspending the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee for the next year. Meece will follow up with Committee Chair.

Division 15's costs for activities at the **APA Conference 2013** in Hawai'i include paying for the Division social hour, the Executive Committee meeting with light refreshments, and the Graduate Student Affairs Committee activities (which will be increased – for this year only – to \$11,000). The EC approved the APA Conference budget.

Following the Executive Committee Retreat in November, three Executive Committee members (Sharon Nichols, Marty Carr, and Terri Thorkildsen) set up a meeting with representatives from TIAA-CREF to discuss the long-term potential for **Division 15 funds**. **Nichols** described the results of this meeting. Specifically, the Division was recommended to develop a spending priority perspective. Nichols reported that, this year (2013), we are estimated to spend more than we earn by almost \$40,000. We have several unknowns in our financial future, in particular the contract renewal with Taylor and Francis. Further, in the past year or two we have added some significant spending increases, namely: hiring a Communications Director and small conference grants. Nichols described two approaches to our next financial moves. One option is to create a small nest egg and continue spending each year within our existing yearly earnings. The second option is to become self-sufficient by becoming a quasi-endowment. The Division would need to save three million dollars in order to have a large enough endowment so that we could fund Division activities based on interest from that endowment. If the goal is to pursue the second option, there are many decisions that the Division then needs to consider.

The Executive Committee then moved into a discussion of these issues, raising questions such as: "Who should be making the decision (Executive Committee or membership at large)?" and "How should we move forward?" **Thorkildsen** clarified that the Policy and Procedures Manual recommends that the Division have in reserve two years of our annual costs at all times (the Division has more than this currently). **Thorkildsen** drafted a possible Spending Policy for the Division and shared as a potential means for facilitating the larger discussion of how we would like to spend. The Executive Committee agreed that this is a large issue that requires time and consideration, and that next steps for this discussion include decisions on how best to share this discussion with the membership; what to share at APA; and what do we want to do with the long-term plan.

Given the concerns with our budget this year and the uncertainty of the Taylor and Francis contract for *Educational Psychologist* (coming up for renewal), **Meece** asked if the Division still wanted to fund the five early career research grants (\$37,500) or should we pull back the spending and only allow three to be funded? Meece also noted that, for the past few award cycles, only three awards have been given. Meece moved to decrease the number of Early Career Research Grant Awards to three. Urdan, Carr, Meece, Graham, Nichols, Kisantas, and Thorkildsen voted in favor of the motion. Fives and Cross opposed the motion. The motion carried.

\$1,000 in travel funds for Treasure-Elect to attend APA is currently approved. However, the Executive Committee has already approved a \$1,200 budget for EC members (for this year only). The Executive Committee agreed that the incoming Treasurer should have also have \$1,200 for this year.

Meece reported that she received a request from APA about Division 15 providing support for international attendees at APA. Meece reported that we do not have anything in our By-Laws about international travel funds and asked the Executive Committee if we had any interest in supporting international members who will be presenting at APA in Hawai'i. The Executive Committee decided, given the tenuous nature of our current financial picture, not to incur any additional costs until we have a larger plan in place.

The EC discussed Andrew Elliot's questions regarding the Haiti Initiative, namely: whether the Division would be interested in adopting a "zone" in Haiti and if the Division is interested in developing an outreach committee to support other initiatives such as this? The EC has been handling requests for support on an ad hoc basis (e.g., SCIPIE support, AERA Division C teacher panel, and Haiti Initiative). The EC discussed the potential need to make our support of such activities more transparent and possibly put out a call for others to know that they can request these kinds of support. In light of our discussion about the Division finances, EC members were hesitant to make any formal commitment. This issue will be revisited at the August meeting when we have a better perspective on our financial future.

Meece reported that she was contacted by the Educational Directorate of APA about the formation of a new collation what will focus on high achievement, as well as the opportunity for Division 15 to be a "founding member" of this coalition. The invitation was sent to the Executive Committee members prior to this meeting and there was no strong interest by the Executive Committee. Meece asked if that was still the case. The Executive Committee agreed that, at this time, there did not seem to be much interest in dedicating Division funds and time to supporting a liaison to this coalition; as the initiative develops, we may then choose to send a representative. Meece will follow up with the Rena Subotnik.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helenrose Fives, Montclair State University

SUMMARIES FROM APA 2013 REPORTS

Membership Committee, Anthony R. Artino: Our membership is growing! Thanks, in part, to our recent free-membership drive, Division 15's total membership has grown by more than 30% over the last year. We currently have 1,610 members – a five-year high! What's more, with the help of Wade George, our Director of Communications, the Division has made impressive strides toward improving communications and, in turn, boosting its membership. In addition, through Wade's hard work, we have created several new services, including an ed psych job board, an ed psych blog on *Psychology Today*, and a robust presence on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and LinkedIn.

Graduate Student Affairs Committee, Mike Yough & Ellen Usher: After a review of applications, the Graduate Students Affairs Committee selected eight participants for this year's Graduate Student Seminar. Participants attend graduate programs in three countries. Seminar planning and scheduling is on track and nearing completion. We have 18 faculty mentors and 14 panelists who will be working with seminar participants. In other activities, our APAGS Representatives conducted an information-gathering survey with Division 15 graduate students.

Program Committee Report, Jeff Greene and Matt Irvin: The room and catering arrangements for the social hour, Publications Committee meeting, and Executive Committee meeting were finalized. Arrangements to videotape all of the invited addresses were also finalized. Steps have begun to transition Program Committee duties to the Program Co-Chairs for the 2014 conference.

Fellows Committee, Martin Ford: In May of 2013, the Division 15 Fellows Committee unanimously recommended three current APA Fellows for Fellow status in Division 15: Charles Greenwood (University of Kansas), Todd Little (University of Kansas), and Darcia Narvaez (University of Notre Dame). All three were subsequently approved for this status by the Division 15 Executive Committee.

Nominations Committee, Marty Carr: Division 15 is happy to announce that Karen Harris (Mary Emily Warner Professor, Arizona State University) has been elected as President-Elect. Dr. Harris will take over the presidency in 2014. Michele Gill (University of Central Florida) has been elected Treasurer and Heather Davis (North Carolina State) has been elected as Member-at-Large. Both will take office following the APA meeting in August. Finally, Timothy Curby (George Mason University) has been elected to be Division 15's Representative to the APA Council.

Division 15 Conference, Marty Carr: The Division 15 Conference Committee is hard at work putting together the first Division 15 conference. We are in the process of selecting a specific date in October of 2014 and a place for the conference. We are currently looking at Ann Arbor, Michigan and Chapel Hill, North Carolina as potential sites. We will be contacting members shortly to help finalize the four topics that will be the focus of the conference. Division members have already provided important information about potential topics and we will be narrowing these interests to four topics. The conference is being designed so that all attendees participate in some capacity. We plan to include time for working group discussions linked to the four topics. The conference will be an excellent opportunity for Division 15 members with a common interest to get together and discuss research.

Richard E. Snow Award Committee, Andrew Elliot: The selection committee for the Richard E. Snow Award for Early Career Contributions to Educational Psychology selected its recommended recipient for the 2014 award: Dr. Kou Murayama (this recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee). The 2013 recipient of the Snow Award, Dr. Akane Zusho, will give an address and will receive the award at the upcoming APA convention in Hawaii; Dr. Tim Urdan will present the award to Dr. Zusho.

Dissertation Awards Committee, Martin Jones: This is the seventh year of the Dissertation Research Award program for Division 15, which is designed to provide monetary support to students who are working on their dissertation. Currently, each winner receives \$1,000 for their dissertation work. This year, there were two clear winners based upon the committee's ratings: Loren Marulis (University of Michigan) and Ninger Zhou (Purdue University).