

# MINUTES

## Executive Committee Meeting

August 11, 2006, New Orleans

Executive Committee members present: Angela O'Donnell (president), Lyn Corno (president elect), James Greeno (past president), Jonna Kulikowich (treasurer), Barbara Hofer (secretary), Eric Anderman (member at large), Johnmarshall Reeve (member at large), Jennifer Husman (incoming member-at-large)

Also present: Clark Chinn (program chair, 2006), Ellen Mandinach (program chair, 2007)

Gale Sinatra (editor of *Educational Psychologist*), Lisa Bendixen (newsletter editor), Karen Murphy (graduate seminar co-chair), Rayne Sperling (graduate seminar co-chair), Jessica Summers (co-chair, Paul R. Pintrich dissertation award committee)

The meeting began with a presentation by Gregory White, Director of National Academy of Education, who described the Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship Program administered by NAE for the past 20 years, distributed brochures, and encouraged the division board members to help promote the Spencer Fellowships. These fellowships provide support for research for one-year fulltime or two years half time, and the postdoctoral fellows meet twice a year for training and meetings with the academy members. NAE makes up to 20 awards each year, and the competition is worldwide and includes all areas of education.

Minutes were approved for the previous two meetings.

Gale Sinatra distributed a written report on *Educational Psychologist*. Four special issues are in progress and the need for more unsolicited manuscripts continues.

Angela O'Donnell reported for the publications committee, which had met in the hour prior to the executive committee meeting. Both the APA office and executive committee members have reviewed the contract from Corwin Press for the revamped Psychology in the Schools series. This contract for a series of 20 volumes has been modified and will be signed soon. Barbara McCombs will continue as editor. The major change, in addition to the move from APA to Corwin, is that part of the royalties will be distributed to authors.

Lisa Bendixen reported on the division newsletter, continuing a discussion begun in the publications committee meeting. Although the newsletter has been published three times a year, as new editor she had not been given a set schedule for this; the publications committee thought it would be useful to have a schedule and to clarify the purpose of the newsletter. The group discussed the advantages of having the newsletter appear prior to both AERA and APA with the schedules for the conference. Because APA handles produc-

tion and mailing, O'Donnell noted that it was necessary to ensure that there was adequate time in their schedule after both these programs become available, so that members could expect to receive the newsletter before the two conferences, if it was decided this was an important feature of the newsletters. Ellen Mandinach, 2007 program chair, reported that she would be in a meeting the following day with other new divisional program chairs and would inquire about the timeline for next year; Bendixen could then request information about APA production and mailing timelines. The topic was referred to the publications committee for discussion. A second topic was whether the newsletter should continue to be both electronic and print, or only electronic. Although it had been assumed that this might be a considerable cost-saving measure, treasurer Jonna Kulikowich noted that the primary costs are production-related (layout and conversion to PDF, handled by APA and billed to the division), not postage, and that these expenses would be required anyway. The majority of the board thought that electronic form would be adequate, although there was concern that not all division members might agree. This topic was referred to the publications committee for further discussion.

O'Donnell reported that the publications committee will also be working to clarify procedures for the selection of new editors of *Educational Psychologist* and the division newsletter. In addition, the committee has been asked to begin thinking about future publication ideas, now that the *Handbook of Educational Psychology* is completed and the contract with Corwin for the Psychology in the Classroom Series will soon be accepted. Members with ideas for additional publications were asked to send them to incoming president Lyn Corno.

The executive committee acknowledged deep appreciation for the work of the treasurer, particularly given the growing amount of work involved. In addition, the program chair, Clark Chinn, and graduate seminar co-coordinator, Karen Murphy, also expressed appreciation for the support the treasurer had provided during the past year. Treasurer Kulikowich explained that the work of the treasurer has increased in part because of legal requirements, such as filing IRS forms for award winners and graduate seminar participants, as well as filing tax returns. O'Donnell suggested that the board discuss what technical aspects of the job might be conducted by a paid assistant or by the APA office, which will contract for specific services, particularly now that the job has grown.

The board unanimously agreed that out-of-pocket expenses (e.g., mailings) be compensated immediately, including all expenses incurred during the prior year, and approved a budget of \$500 for this. O'Donnell noted the need for a financial plan and suggested that the board make a decision about what funding needs to be committed on a regular basis. President's discretionary funds were used this year to pay for an assistant for the program chair and for the program chair's travel, for example, but this might be a regular budget item instead. She offered to work with Corno and Kulikowich to

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develop a list of ongoing expenses, and they agreed to work together on this task.

Kulikowich noted that the annual treasurer's report was presented at the April meeting, and she also provided an update. The current balance is \$410, 813.20, with \$183, 466.32 in checking and the remainder in an investment account. She also reported that the bylaws require board approval of membership dues. She asked whether the board wished to continue with current dues of \$25 for faculty members and \$10 for students and the board unanimously agreed to continue the current dues structure.

Barbara Hofer suggested that there had been discussion among board members about the possibility of using some of these funds to build membership and strengthen the division. For example, funding might be available for small conferences or for junior faculty for small research grants. She proposed that the board consider a strategic planning retreat in which issues such as this and others could be discussed. The group discussed the importance of developing both a fiscal and a strategic plan and the board unanimously agreed to make funds available for a fall retreat. The retreat will be held in November at the home of Lyn Corno in Massachusetts.

Corno reported that the Applied Experimental Psychology Division would like to co-sponsor a conference and that APA is asking for interdivisional cooperation on projects such as this.

The next item of business was the discussion of the proposal tabled from the spring meeting to move to a two-year term for division president. O'Donnell described the length of time necessary to learn both APA and divisional organizational issues, particularly in the absence of clarity in divisional policies and procedures, which she has begun to address and offered to work on during the coming year. She suggested that more could be accomplished during a two-year term and that it would be easier to mentor the president elect. The next president elect, Eric Anderman, reported that two years would make it possible to develop initiatives and carry them out, especially important in a division that might consider addressing legislation such as NCLB, perhaps cooperating with Division 16. The motion to propose a 2-year presidency to the members as a by-law change was unanimously approved. It was agreed that the officers would investigate whether this practice existed in other APA divisions and if so, how it worked before drafting a bylaw revision.

O'Donnell asked that the board members review the proposal submitted by Chris Wolters regarding a survey of educational psychology graduate programs and respond to her by email about whether they support such a proposal.

O'Donnell suggested we decide whether the division will pay for representatives to various APA groups to attend those meetings. This was deferred to the retreat. She also reported

that the division is currently without a council representative. Frank Pajares was elected to a 3-year term and withdrew, and Gary Phye was appointed to replace him but also withdrew. Corno agreed to investigate whether it was necessary to hold an election or if another replacement appointment could be made

O'Donnell expressed appreciation to Clark Chinn as the current conference program chair, and to Jessica Summers and Heather Davis for their work on the Pintrich dissertation award, particularly in providing guidelines for evaluation of nominees. Michelle Gill will assume leadership of this committee. Rayne Sperling and Karen Murphy distributed a list of participants and the schedule for the current graduate student seminar and were commended for their work. There was discussion of whether the program could be one day instead of two, or scheduled in ways that conflicted less with the APA program. Murphy reported that this had been a particularly difficult year in scheduling, that the role was quite hard, and that two days were necessary. The board expressed continuing appreciation for their work on this important divisional activity.

## **Business Meeting**

August 11, 2006, New Orleans

President Angela O'Donnell opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. She reported that the conference has been difficult because of circumstances in New Orleans and that attendance was down compared to other years. Both APA and the city of New Orleans are appreciative of those who made the effort to attend this year.

Conference program chair Clark Chinn stated that there had been some drop in submissions, about 15-20%, but he reported that poster sessions were full and that he had been able to accommodate more than in past years. He noted that the Snow award talk was not given this year, as the scheduling of awards and speeches has been synchronized. Mimi Bong, 2006 award winner, will present next year.

O'Donnell reported from the executive committee meeting held the previous evening. The board will be holding a retreat in the fall to develop a strategic plan for the division. The division has considerable funds but has been responding primarily on an ad hoc basis, and the division needs to decide what activities to commit to on an annual basis and what new initiatives to fund. She reported that the board also decided to revisit and update the division's Policies and Procedures Manual and that she hopes this will make the division's processes more transparent to the members. Reporting for the publications committee, she noted that they will be developing guidelines for selecting editors of the division's publications. An

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additional publications issue is whether the newsletter should be electronic only or continue to be distributed in print form as well. The board wants to articulate a clear purpose for the divisional newsletter, which will help determine its schedule.

O'Donnell discussed the financial status of the division and praised the treasurer, Jonna Kulikowich for her work and for filling in when the previous treasurer withdrew. The job has grown in recent years, particularly because of increased government regulations that require more filing of tax forms. The division will be seeking a new person to begin this role next year and the board has agreed to assess what aspects of the current treasurer's functions might be aided by a paid assistant, with the treasurer's role primarily oversight.

Treasurer Kulikowich reported that the division currently has \$410,813.20, with \$183,466.32 in checking and the remainder in an investment account. Annual costs for running the division are about \$50,000, which includes publication of *Educational Psychologist*, conference expenses, president's discretionary funds, and the graduate mentoring program. The primary sources of income are primarily from publications, including about \$75,000 a year for *Educational Psychologist*, and additional funding from the *Handbook of Educational Psychology* and the *Psychology in the Classroom* series. Alan Wigfield asked whether this division is unique, and Kulikowich responded that although this was not known, the publication of the initial handbook seemed to be the financial turning point for the division. This was also the time when the board began moving the money into investment accounts, which also provided income.

O'Donnell reported on the revamping of the *Psychology in the Classroom* series, which will continue to be edited by Barbara McCombs, but will be moved to a new publisher (Corwin). Under APA's auspices, the series has not been reaching the intended audience so the executive committee voted to move the series to Corwin Press, which has a better track record with practitioners. We will be signing a contract for 20 volumes. The board has also approved that royalties for these books will be shared with authors. This reduces the percentage of royalties that will go to the division, but the overall return is expected to be substantial because sales are expected to be higher.

O'Donnell noted that the division is in a good position to plan what to do with division income. One current program that has been important is funding students to attend the graduate seminar, which introduces young scholars to the organization. She also noted that the division should be grateful to those who have devoted the royalties that have made such programs possible. Members were also invited to think about new ideas for publications and to send those ideas to Lyn Corno, incoming president, or to Gary Phye, chair of the publications committee. She stressed that it is important to the

vitality of the division that the members participate in this process of developing new initiatives.

Reporting further for the executive committee, O'Donnell stated that the board has decided to investigate moving to a two-year presidency. If the board determines this is preferable, the change will require a member vote, and a bylaw change. She explained the importance of a 2-year term in permitting the president to learn the role and accomplish something for the organization. Several members responded to this, with discussion of whether it will be more difficult to get people to serve, whether specific responsibilities should be listed for president elect and past president, the importance of institutional memory, and the amount of time necessary to learn the role. Corno responded that APA Central has suggested that the first year is always difficult and that a longer training period is helpful. She also noted that the division's Policies and Procedures Manual does list specific duties and a timeline for each of the presidential positions. The most difficult problem has been maintaining lists of committees and following rather vague procedures for replacements. As a first order of business, Corno will attend to committee updates, and try to bring all committees in line with the bylaws. She will make all appointments that are to be designated by the president, and make a master list of potential appointees who will require approval by the Exec Board. She will ask the Board to vote their approval of these nominations within the next month or so. Any members who are interested in being appointed to division committees should email Lyn Corno at [lcorno@comcast.net](mailto:lcorno@comcast.net).

In continued discussion of a two-year presidency, Pat Alexander suggested that it might be worth considering investing in an administrative assistant to provide organizational continuity, rather than moving to a two-year presidency, and this was referred to the executive committee for consideration at the retreat. Lyn Corno will contact the two other APA divisions that have a two-year presidency and see how that works for them.

O'Donnell presented plaques to those who had received awards this year and certificates to those who are exiting service roles in the division. Members expressed their appreciation for all those who have served the division. She then introduced the incoming president, Lyn Corno, and the new conference program chair, Ellen Mandinach.

In the final item of business, Clark Chinn praised all the members who reviewed for the current program and for their timely responses. The meeting adjourned and was followed by the president's address and the divisional social hour.



... and don't forget  
**Happy Halloween!**

# MINUTES, *fine*

## Division 15 Fellows Committee Annual report

Two individuals expressed interest in becoming Division 15 fellows. Stephen Benton applied for fellow status in Division 15. That application was successful and he was named a fellow in 2006. The committee is now in the process of identifying potential candidates for fellow status in 2007. To date, three potential candidates have been mailed applications. A fourth candidate who is a member of another division will be apply for fellow status in Division 15.

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# errata



**Duggan, M.A., Hahn, D., & Husman, J. (2006). An interview with past president Merle C. Wittrock. *Newsletter for Educational Psychologists*, 29 (1), 1, 4-5.**

I must extend my apologies to Dr. Wittrock for a significant error in the presentation of his interview, published in the previous Newsletter. Because of technical difficulties with recording the interview off of the phone we mistakenly used the phrase "psychology and education" rather than "psychology in education" throughout the interview. This difference is important because, as noted by Dr. Wittrock it "embodies my (Dr. Wittrock's) definition of educational psychology and that phrase is critical to the central meaning of my interview." I encourage readers to re-examine his interview, considering the implications of this small but important change both for the content of the interview and for the discipline of educational psychology (or psychology in education). - J.H.

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**Mayrath, M., & Robinson, D.H. (2006). Publishing, reviewing and editing articles in educational psychology journals: Comments from editors in 1996 and 2004. *Newsletter for Educational Psychologists*, 29 (1), 5-7, 9-10.**

The Mayrath and Robinson (2006) article reported that Steve Benton thought the quality of manuscripts submitted to journals had decreased when questioned back in 1996. Upon reviewing the transcripts from the 1997 AERA symposium and other data compiled from the editors who participated in the study, it was determined that the statement came from another editor and was incorrectly attributed to Dr. Benton. The authors deeply regret the error.

### Join the Division 15 Listserv!

Send a message to [listserv@lists.apa.org](mailto:listserv@lists.apa.org). In the body of the note type the following: subscribe div15 firstname lastname substituting your own first and last names instead of those words. Do not include anything else in the note, and do not put anything in the subject line.

Alternatively, you can send a note to Keith Cooke at [kcooke@apa.org](mailto:kcooke@apa.org) asking to be added to the Division 15 listserv.Division of Member Services.

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NEP/15 will publish minutes of official business meetings, committee reports, news items, and information on topics and issues of interest to the Division 15 membership. Items and articles for NEP/15 should be sent to Lisa D. Bendixen, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, via email [NEP15@unlv.edu](mailto:NEP15@unlv.edu).