

MINUTES
APA Division 15 Executive Committee
August 15, 2008
Boston

Executive Committee members present: Eric Anderman (president), Ellen Mandinach (president-elect), Lyn Corno (past president), Chris Wolters (treasurer), Barbara Hofer (secretary), Jenefer Husman (member-at-large), Johnmarshall Reeve (member-at-large), Nancy Perry (member-at-large), Michael Martinez (APA Council representative)

Also present: Tamera Murdock (program chair, 2008), Rayne Sperling (Historian), Patrick Kyllonen (chair, Publications committee), Michelle Buehl (co-chair, Graduate Affairs committee), Helenrose Fives (co-chair, Graduate Affairs committee), Michele Gregoire Gill (chair, Dissertation Awards Committee), Gale Sinatra (editor of *Educational Psychologist*), Maeghan Hennessey (co-chair, Membership Committee), Paul Schutz (president-elect), Helen Patrick (member-at-large-elect)

President Anderman opened the meeting by announcing the recently elected members who will begin service on the board following the conference: Paul Schutz as president-elect, Heather Davis as secretary, Helen Patrick as member-at-large, and Michael Martinez to serve on the APA Council of Representatives (following two years of service, as he was previously appointed to fill a vacancy).

Anderman reported on negotiations for the recent contract for *Educational Psychologist* with Taylor and Francis, and thanked Patrick Kyllonen, chair of the Publications Committee for his assistance in negotiating the contract, a complicated and time-consuming procedure. In other matters related to publications, he noted that the Classroom in the Schools series has not made as much progress as was expected and there will be a solicitation for an additional co-editor.

Anderman thanked the Executive Committee for serving as reviewers for the 16 applications for the new Early Career Research Award. The ranking process used by the committee produced three winners. The other applicants will receive feedback on their proposals, which Anderman will summarize from the reviews. Anderman reported that he has been serving on the Task Force on Reducing Violence against Teachers in the Schools, in response to a request from the Board of Educational Affairs. The board discussed the importance of continuing to participate in policy-level task forces and committees of APA, through BEA, the Science Directorate, etc.

Treasurer Chris Wolters reported that the division is in great financial shape, with roughly \$200,000 in checking and \$400,000 in savings. There are several sources of income, but the primary source is *Educational Psychologist*. Wolters has been working on developing budgets for various expenses at the conference, e.g., the graduate seminar, the reception, etc. He noted that the board agreed to allocate assets to two accounts, savings and checking, with two years of expenses maintained in checking. Currently the division savings are in a Vanguard Treasury account, and he questioned whether the board might want to consider diversifying savings. There are no particular restrictions on this, and APA is not in a position to give financial advice. Wolters suggested that the board should decide goals and make a decision about where the assets are held. He noted that the income is largely royalties, from *Educational Psychologist* and several books, e.g., the Century of Contributions book, the Psychology in the Classroom series, and the two editions of the *Handbook of Educational Psychology*. Revenue goes primarily to awards and grants, the division reception held at the conference, and travel – e.g., for the annual executive committee retreat, and APA meetings where divisional representation is needed (leadership conference for new presidents, BEA, etc.).

Tamara Murdock, 2008 Program Chair, provided a written and oral report. She expressed concern about the overall quality of submissions, noting that this concern had been expressed by the previous program chair. She discussed the need to find ways to encourage people to submit good symposia for next year and to work with APA to create working sessions around topics important to educational psychologists. One change made in the program this year was to eliminate a prepared discussion for the one-hour paper sessions; instead the discussants were asked to identify a couple questions and stimulate discussion with the audience. There was a general sense of agreement among the board that this had been effective, with more time for actual discussion in these short sessions and less preparation needed on the part of the discussant; formal discussant roles seem more effective and productive as part of symposia.

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Michelle Buehl and Helenrose Fives, co-chairs of the Graduate Affairs Committee, reported that they had 11 participants in the current session, all at dissertation phase (and mostly at the proposal stage), and that it had been a strong group. The seminar provided multiple opportunities for professional mentoring, including mentoring circles with one faculty member for each pair of students, and a mentoring dinner to replace the former breakfast session. In addition to attending the sessions that were scheduled for the seminar, participants were expected to attend the main award talks and the invited speakers. Buehl and Fives have now organized the seminar with minimal overlap with Division 15 sessions and have also streamlined the application process. They noted that they have only one year left in their position and recommend that new chairs be appointed, perhaps with staggered terms, with one person starting next year so there would be overlap and training. President-elect Ellen Mandinach agreed to appoint new chairs, and Buehl and Rose agreed to recommend people for this role.

Patrick Kyllonen, chair of the Publications Committee, reported that the committee had reviewed applications for the new editor of *Educational Psychologist* and that the procedure developed by the executive committee had been followed and had been very helpful. The five committee members had thoroughly discussed candidate materials in light of the criteria that had been articulated by the board and had used the Hare system for selection, as had been specified. Although all candidates were extremely strong, the committee was pleased with the candidate chosen and would make a recommendation to the board in closed session at the end of the meeting.

Gale Sinatra, editor of *Educational Psychologist*, summarized the written report submitted for the meeting packet and also a report recently received from Taylor and Francis. The process is going extremely well and they have moved to electronic copy-editing and production. They also did a direct mail flyer. Gale will follow up on the commitment by T & F to digitize all back issues, which was promised in the contract at no cost to the division. Sinatra noted that the new contract also includes supporting an annual editorial board lunch meeting at conferences. She noted that there are sometimes extra pages available and she typically consults with the editor about whether there is division material that could be inserted. Martinez suggested that an invitation to join Division 15 would be a good use of the space. Maeghan Hennessey, co-chair of the Membership Committee, agreed to prepare this for the next issue, drawing information from the membership brochure, and to submit it to Sinatra (by Monday) for inclusion in the next issue.

In additional matters related to publications, the board discussed the written report submitted by Lisa Bendixen, editor of the division newsletter, and the problems she reported with the division web site, an ongoing concern. The board also discussed the need to add an additional co-editor for the Psychology in the Classroom series. An ad will be posted in the newsletter and the listserv and *Educational Psychologist*; the Publications Committee will vet those applications, which will be approved by the Executive Committee.

Historian Rayne Sterling reported that there has been increased

interest recently in archival information, with multiple requests for old newsletters and divisional addresses. She has also been involved in some membership activities that are not part of the formal role of historian, but took this on when the membership brochure was posted to the web site. She has received documents from Anderman and has conducted an interview with Lyn Corno as past president, which will serve as the basis for a newsletter article. Former historian Jenefer Husman has given her a disk of scanned materials from 2006 and Sperling has also received documents from president Anderman. In addition, she has received all the necessary documents from APA via electronic means, so there will be no need to expend division resources for a trip to APA headquarters, as had been budgeted.

Michele Gill, chair of the Dissertation Awards Committee, reported that she received 28 applications for dissertation research awards. The program was heavily advertised: only a short abstract was necessary. Two winners were selected, to be announced at the business meeting. Next year the Pintrich award will be given again. Gill requested a co-chair for the coming year, as she will be on leave when applications are received.

Maeghan Hennessey, co-chair of the Membership Committee, gave an overview of the detailed report provided in the meeting packet regarding a profile of current members and where they are located. The goal of the committee is to have all institutions that prepare educational psychologists represented in Division 15. She discussed complications in who APA reports as members, as the list from APA includes those who haven't paid dues for two years but haven't formally resigned. Also, the only addresses available for members are where journals are to be sent, so sometimes the institutional affiliations are not available. Currently the division has 962 members, a decline from recent years. The committee is planning to contact institutions with ed psych programs who do not have representation in Division 15 and also to contact former members. Efforts to build membership this past year included having the division co-sponsor a reception at AERA with the SIG motivation group; Anderman discussed benefits of APA Division 15 membership and distributed a brochure. This year the plan is to find another group with overlapping interests (e.g., self-regulation) for similar co-sponsorship of a reception and opportunities to promote the division. President-elect Mandinach reported that she had learned about strategies that Division 5 has been using for building graduate student membership and would share those with the membership committee.

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Michael Martinez reported on recent business from the APA Council of Representatives, noting that they had met on Wednesday preceding the conference and would meet again on Sunday, so their business was not yet concluded. The proposal on ethnic minority representation on the Council was passed by the Council but defeated by the membership. APA reported to the Council that the new \$7 million web site will go online soon. Also, membership fees will increase slightly, and the cost of convention registration will also rise. Overall, APA membership is declining slightly, and the organization has hired a consulting firm to develop a strategic plan. APA has recently accepted a mission statement and is now working on a vision statement, and Martinez is part of that group.

There was no report, either written or oral, from Alan Wigfield, the representative to the Board of Scientific Affairs. Anderman noted that Wigfield reports he has been too busy and wants to step down, and that a new person is needed for this role. The board discussed the importance of having a person in this position who will take an active interest. President-elect Mandinach will follow up on this and make the appointment.

Michele Gill reported on attending the recent Board of Educational Affairs meeting as a substitute, and noted that there is a need for consistent representation on this committee, given that educational psychologists have an important role to play in this committee in regard to policy. The board discussed the need to identify liaisons from the Division for various ad hoc groups and task forces that the BEA develops, and the need for a searchable data base that can be used to identify member expertise. The Membership Committee was asked to help address this concern.

Tamara Murdock reported as the liaison to the Coalition for Psychology in the Schools, an APA group whose mission is to make sure that psychological knowledge is used effectively in application to education. The Coalition recently conducted a survey to learn about teachers' self-reported needs for psychological knowledge. One project is classroom assessment, and Murdock is working with the group on that topic. The Coalition wants to pilot 4-5 modules for teachers on topics such as assessment and would like to develop a comprehensive web site. Many of the members of the Coalition are deans of schools of education and it would

be useful for the division to think about how Division 15 can best be represented there.

The board received a written report from Judith Torney-Purta in regard to her role as liaison to the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP).

Under old business, Anderman reported that the Division will create and host a 2009 conference on the teaching of educational psychology. He will be employing a graduate student to help with preparations, with funding that has already been approved by the board. There was discussion of whether to make this a separate conference, as in 1996, or to hold it as a one-day pre-conference in conjunction with APA, and the board unanimously decided on a pre-conference at APA.

The board discussed the need to have an annual budget approved for the division, with both projected revenue and expenditures. The board unanimously approved a motion to charge the treasurer with the task of developing a budget annually for approval by the board that would be presented at the spring meeting each year.

Nancy Perry, Member-at-large, reported on the work of an ad hoc committee to improve the web site. They are developing a request for proposals for a web designer. However, given the new web site that APA has developed, this site could be used by divisions to create their own pages and would eliminate the need for redundant efforts and expenses in this regard. Paul Schutz, incoming President-elect, reported that this was discussed at the new president's meeting, and he will find out what needs to happen and when it will be ready. The board agreed that the current web site is not very inviting. Perry asked whether it would be wise in the interim to edit the home page and direct viewers more quickly to content at the Penn State historian site, and the board concurred. Anderman noted that it would be helpful to get institutions with ed psych programs to link to the Division site on their department web sites.

The board has discussed providing funding for grants for small conferences and workshops; a subcommittee of Martinez, Mandinach, and Perry will be working on the details. They will present a report in November for discussion at the retreat.

Chris Wolters reported that at the business meeting he will present the results of the division-funded research he conducted on doctoral programs in educational psychology.

Anderman reported that the research awards process had been conducted for the first time this year and that the criteria and process need refinement before next year's competition is publicized. Mandinach will create an ad hoc committee to address this and then create a standing committee to handle the process annually.

New business items included a proposal from the incoming APA president for a "convention within the convention," which will have a practitioner track and a science track. Divisions were asked to give up part of their allotted sessions to-

Next APA Convention Site

2009

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

August 6–9 (Thursday - Sunday)



ward this endeavor. It seemed unclear how the division would benefit; the consensus of the board was not to participate.

This will be the third year that the board will hold a fall retreat. Plans are moving along and will continue to develop over email.

The board discussed the need to increase the funding for the major awards given by the division, as the size of the awards have remained constant for some time and no travel funds have been provided, although the expectation is that each award winner will give a talk at the APA conference. The board unanimously approved increasing the amount of the Snow and Thorndike awards from \$500 to \$1000. Unanimous approval was also given to a proposal to allocate up to an additional \$1000 for travel expenses for each of the three award winners (Snow, Pintrich, and Thorndike) to support conference expenses for the award talks. These increases are effective immediately.

The board discussed a proposal that had been submitted in advance of the meeting for a Wittrock award for theoretical contributions, to be given when merited. The proposal suggests that the committee be chaired by the immediate past president, with 3 additional Fellows on the committee. The board agreed that the proposal requires further discussion, including allocation of funds, formation of the committee, general frequency of the award, etc. Further discussion was tabled until November.

The remainder of the meeting was held in closed session to discuss the recommendation of the Publication Committee for the new editor for *Educational Psychologist* for a five-year term starting January 2009.

~Respectfully submitted, Barbara Hofer, Secretary

American Psychological Association :: Division 15 :: Educational Psychology



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Membership benefits include:

- ◆ Free subscription to *Educational Psychologist*
- ◆ Free subscription to NEP 15
- ◆ Discounts on some Division 15 sponsored publications
- ◆ Collegueship with a worldwide network of educational psychologists

See back cover for more information

