

Division 15 Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes APA Division 15 Executive Committee

Friday, April 8 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Building/Room: Renaissance Washington Hotel, Meeting Room 5

Dinner and Reports (7-8pm)

President Bergin opened the meeting by welcoming the Executive Committee. He noted the Division continues to do well financially. This year the Executive Committee initiated a small conference awards program, chaired by Jenefer Husman. Those on the Executive Committee are not eligible to apply. The Division will support up to \$5000 for a small meeting and is prepared to fund up to 3 proposals. Small Conference Committee Member Ji Hong noted the call was due on Sept. 1. The committee plans to review proposals, rank them and submit them to the Executive Committee for a vote in November. There was some discussion about whether the amount was enough to entice members to organize meetings and apply. Should the Division use the SCRD model and increase the amount offered? Others noted the APA Interdivisional grants programs run \$2000-3000 to support meetings. The Executive Committee plans to discuss the program at the November meeting.

President Bergin noted the accomplishments of the *Corwin Classroom Insights* series and *Handbook of Educational Psychology*. Progress continues to be made on the *Handbook*. The first book in the *Classroom Insights* series, *A Developmental Approach to Educating Young Children* by Denise Daniels and Patricia Clarkson has been published. There is another book forthcoming and three in contract (under review). The purpose of this series is to write for practitioners; educators review the

proposals and book draft. If you are interested in writing a volume, please contact series editor Deb Meyer.

Finally, the Division has issued a call for a Communications Director to promote the mission and goals of the Division and manage the increasing burdens of maintaining an informative website. Past President Paul Schutz noted that, to date, there has only been 1 inquiry with no applications. President Bergin noted that it is time for the Division to adopt a different approach to recruiting. Council Representative Tim Urdan inquired whether a qualified applicant needs to have a background in educational psychology. He argued the critical part of the job duties involve communications. He suggested that perhaps we are advertising in the wrong place. Council Representative Michael Martinez agreed the Division needs an individual who really understands communication; that a background in psychology or education is desirable but not required. He noted we should be advertising on communications websites or schools of communication.

Terri Thorkildsen requested clarification about where the work is going to be situated. The Executive Committee agreed that the work could be completed wherever the person resides. However, the goal is to have the Communications Director attend conferences (APA, AERA, Retreat). The Executive Committee would like the Communications Director to attend sessions generating accessible communications (newsletters etc.)

Member at Large Sandra Graham also noted there could be confusion about what it means to “submit a proposal.” She argued the call is too ambiguous. Requesting a full proposal as part of the applications may be a deterrent. She suggested the Division be clearer about what \$50,000 in compensation entails. Is that simply salary or does that include travel? After receiving feedback, President Bergin noted the proposal needs to be re-crafted and advertised in different arenas. He agreed to write a revised version.

Treasurer Sharon Nichols provided a report on the financial status of the Division. She noted the Division is in good standing with approximately 460K in checking, and 442k in savings/investment fund. She noted funds have been stable with small increases even with the increased spending that we are doing. In addition to orienting herself to the financial trends, a milestone of her first year was discovering an unclaimed \$1000 student award from Taylor & Francis that they are contractually obligated to provide the Division. This year the decision was made to use the funds to augment the stipend for students attending the Doctoral Seminar. However, the Division is going to announce how best to use those funds in the future. Graduate Seminar co-Chair Mei-Lin Chang recommended that the Executive Committee consider a student travel grant. She noted that international graduate students often find it difficult to cover the cost of their travel with the stipend.

Secretary Heather Davis provided a report on the electronic voting that occurred between May-August. The Division 15 Executive Committee:

- Unanimously approved the minutes from the April meeting of the Executive Committee.

- Unanimously approved changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual regarding the Memorial Award.
- Unanimously approved changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual to allow for electronic posting of meeting minutes on the Division 15 website.
- Approved two award winners for the Dissertation Research Awards (10 approve, 1 abstain).
- Unanimously approved five award winners for the Early Career Research Awards.
- Unanimously approved the budget for the meeting of the Division 15 Social Hour at APA.
- Unanimously approved the budget for the meeting of the Early Career Lunch at APA.
- Unanimously approved the budget for the meeting of the Executive Committee at APA.

Program Chairs Michele Gill and Bobby Hoffman provided a brief report on the program. They noted sessions have been well attended. Stephen Tonks and Mei-Lin Chang also provided a brief report on the status of the Doctoral Seminar. They noted 19 applicants were accepted to the seminar. Members participated as speakers (n=10) or mentors (n=17). They acquired textbooks and copies of the *Handbook of Educational Psychology*, Ed. 2 for participants. They also noted that some students apply from a wider variety of fields including school psych and developmental psych. Former co-Chairs Paul Schutz and Helenrose Fives noted that they did not always accept participants from outside of Educational Psychology

because they often weren't interested in D15. Helenrose noted they even added a question to the application: How does your work connect to Division 15? Stephen and Mei-Lin noted this question was still a part of the application and acceptance process.

This year's participants will be encouraged to submit a poster for presentation at the 2012 conference. The goal is to have a mechanism for recruiting and retaining student participation in the division. Former co-Chair Heather Davis recommended having students who had been in the seminar send a copy of their proposal to the Mei-Lin and Michael Yough after submission into the APA system. A list of proposal titles, numbers, and names could be then forwarded to the program Chairs.

Membership Chair Meg Hennessey provided a report documenting an aging membership. Despite efforts to recruit junior and mid-career members, the percentages have stayed stable. Council Representative Martinez noted the problem of 'shrinking' membership is widespread for APA. Currently there are 67,000 members of APA who are in Divisions. Fifteen years ago, there were 20,000 more.

Dissertation Awards Chair Martin Jones inquired about the need to retain copies of old materials from applicants / winners. Is there historical value in archiving these documents or should they be destroyed? After discussion, it was concluded that there was not historical value in retaining applications (even for winners) given that the dissertation is accessible in dissertation abstracts.

Working Session (8pm-9pm):

Historian Revathy Kumar noted there are currently no policies /

procedures regarding the task of the historian. She is currently following a model set by Jenefer Husman to interview prominent members of the Division. To date, these interviews have been in close proximity – however some interviews may require travel. Some members of the Executive Committee expressed concern about the cost of travel and the extent to which face-to-face interviews were necessary. They recommended the use of Skype, phone, podcasts, or interview at conferences. Revathy noted that she would pursue these options, but not all interviewees may be open to those formats. Members also expressed concern about the rate for transcription. Secretary Heather Davis noted the Executive Committee could review a proposal for travel, transcription, and funds to support a student to work on the project. Turnaround could be relatively quick because a proposal could be reviewed electronically. The proposal would simply need to include 1) a rationale for why travel is necessary and 2) a specific budget amount. President David Bergin inquired as to whether the Historian needed to vet interview selections to the Executive Committee. Secretary Davis noted this was not a requirement in the Policies & Procedures and that one of the advantages of the Historian position might be the opportunity to select members to interview.

LynleyAnderman, liaison to Committee on Women in Psychology, reported on the value of sending a Division 15 member to attend meetings of this committee at APA. She noted the mission of the committee is to monitor documents coming out of APA governance for potential sexism / implications for women. It is different from the APA Leadership Training for Women. Lynley noted that it is relevant to keep the

liaison position. However, it was her perception that work could be done electronically and that it was not a good use of Division 15 money to send a liaison unless there were specific issues raised relevant to the Division.

The Executive Committee addressed policies concerning academic honesty. During the 2011 submission process, a dispute arose between two researchers over whether APA's guidelines for academic honesty had been violated. Because the paper was in dispute, it was removed from the program until the dispute was resolved. The Division was urged to consider policies and procedures regarding this issue. Lynley Anderman noted that APA has clear, detailed guidelines regarding these issues and that the Division needs to adhere to these policies. Program Chair Michele Gill noted that the Division manual for Program Chairs would be updated to state that in cases of disputed authorship, the Division will notify both authors, follow APA guidelines, and confer with APA counsel.

Past President Paul Schutz led a discussion of increasing the compensation for *Classroom Insights* series editor. He noted Deb Meyer's involvement and service was above and beyond what was expected of the series editor. Since her involvement went above and beyond, do we need to modify the compensation? Past President, Schutz noted that this is a timely discussion because the Division needs to identify a second series editor. Currently the royalty to the Division is 15%. From that 15%, 50% goes to the author(s) of the volume, 30% goes to the Division, and 20% goes to the series editor. The publications committee discussed what form additional compensation should take: increase royalty, bonuses for critical

accomplishments, a stipend to support a student to work on the project, or additional funds for travel. Paul noted that Ellen Mandinach agreed to follow up with Deb Meyer and draft a proposal for the Executive Committee to review at the November meeting.

Secretary Davis noted the Executive Committee needed to reconcile wording across the Policies & Procedures manual and the committee list. Currently, some of the documents call for the Executive Committee to vote to endorse several Chairs of Awards Committees. The Executive Committee discussed the extent to which this step was necessary and then unanimously voted to change the P&P manual to eliminate the requirement that the Executive Committee approve the Chair for the Pintrich Dissertation Award.

Outgoing Secretary Davis also brought up her concerns about the growing demands on the Secretary position as a function of developing and maintaining the website. Because the Division does not have a specific position associated with oversight of the website, many of the tasks fall to the Secretary – even though they are not explicit tasks outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual. She made several recommendations:

- In the short term, while awaiting the hire of the communications director, appoint an Ad Hoc Technology Liaison from within the Division to work with webmaster Keith Ransom, new Secretary Helenrose Fives, and Historian Revathy Kumar on finalizing the second version of the website to include:
 - New Membership Page (allow members to complete a form & choose what data to provide)
 - Folders for secure file storage for Committees

The member appointed should have some experience / comfort with web design, enough to promptly, and relatively independently, answer Keith's questions. A set of clear procedures should be outlined regarding the Secretary's duties pertaining to the website.

According to the policies and procedures manual, the Secretary is now responsible for forwarding minutes to be posted on the website. Wording should be added regarding updating committee lists.

- Add the Web Administrator Keith Ransom to the Division 15 listserv. Right now announcements needing to be posted to the website need to be forwarded to him by the Secretary.

Council Representative Tim Urdan reported on upcoming changes to APA's program. Specifically, APA plans to cut 20% of the program, and up to 35% of Division programming. They perceive there are currently too many sessions with too much overlap in time or subject. They perceive that conflicts in programming cause lower attendance. Past President Schutz noted this is a clinician-driven decision; most attendees are not members of a specific division. Unfortunately,

Division 15's experience has been that members do not come to the conference unless they are presenting or serving in a leadership role in the Division. President-Elect Marty Carr noted that she would work with program Chairs to select symposia in light of fewer open sessions to work with. Given these changes, several members inquired whether it is time to move towards holding a Separate Conference for Division 15. President Elect Carr expressed interested in appointing an Ad Hoc committee. Tim agreed to research other Divisions that host separate conferences.

Council Representative Urdan also noted that APA plans a \$40 reduction in dues across the board, with an increase in the age of exemption from 65-69 yrs. Lastly, APA perceives the Divisions are not being proactive in recruiting Fellows. We need to be more proactive and encourage people to nominate others (seek nominations) for fellows status via a call on the listserv, website and newsletter advertising the deadline. A recommendation was also made to send a direct call to current Fellows of the Division to make nominations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Davis



Members of the Division 15 Executive Committee