

## MINUTES

APA Division 15: Educational Psychology  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort, Kahili Suite I, Honolulu Hawaii  
August 1, 2013: 4:00 – 5:50 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Meece, and she asked for committee reports from the committee chairs present (reports from committees were received prior to the meeting and reviewed by the Executive Committee). Martin Jones, Chair of the Dissertations Awards Committee, reminded the group that Maggie Renken would give her Pintrich Dissertation Award talk the next day (August 2, 2013; this talk can be viewed on the Division 15 convention [website](#)). Jones reported that two Dissertation Research Grants were given this year. Jones also noted that his term as Chair ends with this APA and indicated that this is a great opportunity for an assistant professor who wants service experience. A call for the 2014 Pintrich Dissertation Award has been posted online.

Tony Artino, Chair of the Membership Committee, reported that Division 15 now has 1,640 members (or roughly 1900 as of Meeting Minutes approval) – this is a 30% increase in membership from 2012. However, this bump may be the result of the free membership drive. The key will be to see if we can keep these members. Artino will work with Christine Chambers from APA Division Services to track new members and see if they will continue after the first year. Some lapsed members rejoined with the free membership and we currently have no way of tracking this. At AERA, Division 15 also did a membership push and passed out Division 15 materials. The Membership Committee is currently reaching out to members whose membership has lapsed through personal direct emails. Meece noted that one of the issues for the Division concerns when lapsed members are dropped from the LISTSERV. One suggestion was to give a year's grace, and then send a call and drop

them from the LISTSERV. Meece also reported that the Division needs to do more education about membership renewals and the benefits of different types of membership. Artino also remarked that Wade George, our Communications Director, has been a great asset to the Membership Committee.

Ellen Usher and Mike Yough, the Graduate Student Committee Co-Chairs, reported that they were in the midst of facilitating the Doctoral Student Research Seminar. They reported that the seminar appeared to be going very well. They commented that seminar success involves all the Division 15 members who share their time to make it so. There were 14 applicants this year and 8 were accepted. Unfortunately, in the application materials, they found that one applicant had plagiarized two paragraphs of text in the methods section. The Co-Chairs reported that they discussed the situation with their committee and – with the committee's support – then scanned all proposals through a plagiarism checker (no other instances were identified). The Co-Chairs wrote the student in question, informed the student that this was a serious offense, and offered to meet with the student and talk through the process at APA if the student wanted to; the student did not respond. The Executive Committee agreed with the Co-Chairs' decision that future calls for the seminar will specify that the work presented needs to be original and that applications will be reviewed for plagiarism.

Yough reported on behalf of the graduate student members of the Graduate Student Affairs Committee (Robin Roberson and Alex List). Roberson and List submitted a report to the Executive Committee that included

recommendations based on a survey of the graduate student membership. Key recommendations included that the Division: offer graduate students opportunities for service on committees; make an effort to reach out to ethnic minority students and smaller institutions; and extend mentoring activities to help students present their own research. At this point, Usher suggested that the Division give a small cash award to students who present at the conference. Cross suggested having posters up during the Division 15 social hour. The student report also suggested that Division 15 develop a journal, possibly online, that would publish student work and would be staffed, reviewed, and published by students. Usher commented that a blog might be a good outlet for them. The students also recommended that Division 15 open more lines of communication, and that more sessions of the Doctoral Student Research Seminar be made open to all students. Yough and Usher reported that, this year, the sessions on publishing and the Dissertation and Beyond session were open to all students. This was promoted through the graduate student email list and led to the inclusion of 1 student. 12 additional students at the seminar came to the Thorndike breakfast. Usher and Yough requested more programming time from the Division's APA program allotment to make more of the open sessions visible to all graduate students. Meece affirmed that the Executive Committee would consider the report.

Revathy Kumar, Division 15 Historian, reported that she has conducted interviews with various Division 15 members and has reached out to others to schedule more interviews. Kumar also commented that her role does not seem to be clearly defined and that she has been trying to develop this role. Meece responded that the job description is in the Policy and Procedures manual.

The Executive Committee went into a closed session with only Division 15 Executive Committee members for the following discussion.

Fives, Secretary, reported that the minutes from the April 2013 meeting at AERA were approved via email on June 7, 2013.

Nichols, Treasurer, provided a formal report to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. In addition, she reported that APA had changed accountants this summer and normal reporting processes were slightly delayed. Furthermore, the Division continues to get \$1,000 from Taylor and Francis for student awards. As Treasurer, Nichols spent a fraction of the operating budget allocated to the Treasurer from the past year. Nichols also shared that she is excited to welcome Michele Gill as the incoming treasurer. Gill and Nichols have arranged virtual training through a few half-day sessions. Nichols had two budget requests, the first of which was approval for the \$2,000 operating budget for Gill. Carr moved to approve the request, Thorkildsen seconded, all present were in favor. Nichols also requested \$300 to support the training of the new Treasurer; typically, Division 15 has paid for the new Treasurer to travel to the outgoing Treasurer for training. Urdan moved to approve the request, Kitsantas seconded, all present were in favor.

The Executive Committee then moved into a discussion of the committee reports. The graduate student members of the Graduate Student Affairs Committee surveyed the graduate student membership and – based on the results of the survey – they had several recommendations for the Executive Committee to consider.

*First* (excerpted from their report): “Given the responses, we recommend that Division 15 make a greater effort to reach out to ethnic minority students and those students in smaller degree programs. These students may be somewhat marginalized in different ways and extra efforts

need to be made to help them become more involved. This could be done by opening up more lines of communication or by providing more local networking opportunities – whether digital or face-to-face.” Carr moved to accept the recommendation, Meece seconded, all in favor (Fives abstained). The Executive Committee discussed how this might be done, and recognized the need for concrete efforts. Urdan commented that we need to send our message out more broadly.

*Second* (excerpted from their report): “While the greater part of responsibility for the professional development of students is shared between the student and the student’s institution, professional organizations like Division 15 share part of the responsibility for the professional development of educational psychology students. Of the six categories of professional development experiences represented on the survey, Division 15 definitely shares responsibility for conferences activities. We recommend that the Division consider providing more mentoring/conference events/opportunities to help students present their own research, whether this be locally, regionally, or nationally. Additionally, Division 15 can, and perhaps should, share responsibility for writing, service, and professional development/internship opportunities. We also recommend inviting students to serve as conference proposal reviewers and as guest reviewers for Division 15 journals. We recommend creating a journal (online?) aimed at students – one which will be staffed, reviewed, and produced by students. This can provide writing and internship opportunities.” Thorkildsen moved to increase professional development experiences for graduate students through: posters at social hour, encouraging grad student submissions to all online resources (e.g., Psych Today blog), adding them as reviewers for conference proposals, and increasing graduate student membership on committees. Urdan seconded, all in favor. The Executive Committee also discussed the feasibility

of developing a graduate student-run online journal under the auspices of Division 15. Concerns were raised about the management of such an endeavor, given that the leadership of said journal would be in frequent flux with the turnover of students.

*Third* (excerpted from the report): “Given that GA pay increases are not keeping up with the cost of living and more students are going in debt to earn a degree (which includes research and travel to present research), we recommend offering more competitive research grants and travel funding for national conferences.” Carr moved that this issue be discussed as part of our larger budgeting discussions; Thorkildsen seconded, all in favor.

*Fourth* (excerpted from the report): “We recommend that Division 15 annually survey students about their future plans so the Division can become part of those plans. Grooming students before they become early career psychologists may be the best way to keep early career people active in the work of the Division. Finally, we recommend that Division 15 open more lines of communication with its student members and develop more of an online presence. Lack of communication was the largest complaint cited in the final open item.” The Executive Committee discussed this concern in light of the other recommendations present and noted that, while Division 15 does have multiple avenues of communication, perhaps all students are not aware of these resources. The committee agreed to take these recommendations under advisement.

The next agenda item was to discuss the need to replace the Fellows Committee Chair, whose term is up. In addition, Meece reported that she is working on revising the Policy and Procedures manual and proposed a new timeline for the Fellows Committee’s deadlines to better align with APA’s timeline for recommendations of new fellows. Thorkildsen will communicate the timeline to the incoming Fellows Committee Chair.

Meece introduced the discussion item from Andrew Elliot, Snow Committee Chair, who – in his report – asked about the size of his committee, which currently had eight members. Elliot felt this was too large for the work. Meece raised the possibility of reducing the number of Snow Committee Members. A review of the Division's Bylaws indicated that the committee “shall consist of a Chair and six members of the Division, including at least three Fellows. Each member will serve a three-year term and two members will be appointed each year by the President. The Chair of the committee will serve a three-year term and can be reappointed for a second three-year term.” Thorkildsen agreed to review the committee standing and adjust her appointments to meet the needs of the bylaws.

Meece requested that the Executive Committee approve the call for new *Educational Psychologist* Editors. The call, approved by the Publications Committee, was distributed with the addition of a line suggested by Chinn: “The division especially encourages applications from two or three scholars who would work together as an editorial team representing diverse perspectives and approaches.” Nichols noted that the Treasurer will need to be kept apprised of the situation as a move to team Editors will have financial implications. Carr moved to approve the call; Meece seconded, all in favor.

The Division has not raised dues in a number of years and the Executive Committee (based on feedback from Division Members) discussed raising dues for APA Associates, Members, and/or Fellows. The Executive Committee engaged in a vigorous discussion on raising dues to \$22 versus \$15, and whether small increases over time versus one larger bump may be better. Carr moved to raise annual dues from \$11 to \$15 per year for APA Associates, Members, and/or Fellows; Meece seconded, all in favor.

Carr, Chair of the Division 15 Conference, advised the Executive Committee regarding current planning for the conference and locations. She noted that each location under consideration “requires a commitment of something like \$20,000 per day, or the number of rooms to be held. We’re going to look at the locations more closely.” Carr also reported that the planning committee will be sending out another survey to determine the main themes for the conference. Currently, the conference is scheduled for Oct. 2014. Chambers commented that APA Legal is willing to look at contracts for divisions regarding these kinds of conferences.

Meece reported on the results of a recent member survey. Among members, the highest priorities for Division 15 included continuing publications and maintaining mentoring activities for doctoral students and early career psychologists.

Meece turned the discussion to Thorkildsen for issues related to the presidential transition. Thorkildsen started off with introductions from members present. Thorkildsen asked Chambers to discuss how the program slots for APA 2014 will be shared. Chambers reported that new programming will come along as a series of themes. When people submit, they need to apply to a particular theme.

Nichols offered a budget report to the Executive Committee, demonstrating what Division 15 had spent for 2012-2013 (including some – but not all – of the conference expenses). Based on these numbers and those from the past two years, she recommended a similar budget moving forward. The Executive Committee recognizes the need to engage in long-term budget planning and will begin these discussions at the Executive Committee Retreat in the fall of 2013. Fives moved that the Executive Committee tentatively approve the budget presented, pending final approval at the fall retreat; Thorkildsen seconded, all in favor.

Fives moved to adjourn; Urdan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Helenrose Fives, Division 15 Secretary.