

Minutes

APA Division 15 Board Retreat

November 16-17, 2008
Sherborn, Massachusetts

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



Members of the Executive Committee convened at the home of Lyn Corno for a retreat focused on strategic planning, organizational issues, and the development of new initiatives. President Eric Anderman opened the meeting by explaining that a primary goal of the meeting is to decide how best to use division funds to serve and build the membership. Prior to discussing these issues, the board focused on reports from officers and representatives, and on completing old business.

The group reviewed potential bylaw changes and decided unanimously not to proceed with the proposed plan for a 2-year presidency at this time. Instead the board will focus on solving the problems of organizational continuity and building the division by clarifying the roles of president-elect and past-president, as well as through continuing the annual retreat, which now sustains the activities of the board between conferences. Corno agreed to draft changes in the policies and procedures manual, in consultation with Anderman, regarding lists of duties of officers, with tasks and timelines. This would also be circulated to nominees in ad-

vance so that the duties of the positions would be clear to those considering running for office. In refining the list of presidential duties, we discussed the burden placed on the president in being expected to run the division meeting and give a speech immediately afterwards and decided that in the future the past-president will give the speech. Additional bylaw changes were discussed and Hofer agreed to send a copy with the proposed changes to the group after the meeting for further review; final changes must be approved by the membership.

President Anderman made a report of recent division business. The Dissertation Award Committee has asked to change the language of the evaluation criteria, removing "soundness of hypotheses" on the basis that not all dissertation research has hypotheses. Anderman reported on Rayne Sperling's involvement with the SRCD-APA task force on math and science learning. We discussed the importance of Division 15's engagement in other issues regarding education within APA, and Anderman will contact the president to note that the division has expertise in this area. Tamara Murdock will be attending the upcoming Psychology in the Schools committee in place of representative Roger Azevedo.

Anderman thanked past-president Corno for getting committees in order and reported that he has made most of his presidential appointments.

Treasurer Chris Wolters reported on the transition in roles, completed after Jonna Kulikowich, outgoing treasurer, finished payments of 2007 conference bills and awards. APA has taken over some financial responsibilities, as agreed at the retreat last year. Wolters reported that the division has roughly \$450,000, between checking and investment accounts. Currently there is more in the checking account than agreed upon, and he will move the extra into the investment account. There was a discussion of the possible need for financial advising, which APA does not provide. APA Council representative Michael Martinez agreed to find out who has advised APA and will get the name to Wolters. Wolters noted that he wanted points of comparison with other divisions, and Corno recommended he contact Keith Cooke in APA division services. The board gratefully acknowledged the contributions of members who have worked on publications that have been lucrative for the division and agreed that it was important to get the specific information about division royalties from the *Handbook of Educational Psychology* to the editors, Patricia Alexander and Phil Winne. The primary source of funding for the division continues

to be *Educational Psychologist*, currently edited by Gale Sinatra.

Michael Martinez, APA Council representative, reported on the recent issue of how psychologists interact with detainees. Controversy hinged on whether the ethical stand of APA should prohibit psychologists from being physically present in any situation where inhumane treatment might occur. The majority voted that psychologists should be able to exercise this judgment. Martinez also reported that a ballot would be arriving soon regarding representation on Council by divisions of ethnic groups.

Corno, chair of the Nominations committee, reported there are openings this year for secretary, president, one member-at-large, and the council representative. The committee has until the middle of February to produce a slate, and the call has been out in newsletters, the Monitor, and the listserve. The group discussed the importance of building a pipeline for divisional leadership.

The board discussed work before the Publications committee, including selecting a new editor for EP and a new editor for the newsletter. The committee currently has three fellows as members; the board agreed to add two additional non-fellow positions to the committee (as has been the case in practice). Anderman distributed a note from an EARLI executive committee member who is proposing a joint series with Division 15. The group discussed the Psychology in the Classroom series, and Anderman agreed to ask the publications chair for a copy of the signed contract with the publisher, as well as the letter of agreement between the editor and the division. He will ask the publications chair to get a progress report on the status of the series and whether the work specified as due this fall has been completed. The group agreed that it would be important to have a third editor with more substantive relevant background and Anderman will pursue this. Given the financial and legal issues involved in publications, Anderman will ask the publication committee to keep minutes and submit them after each meeting.

Wolters provided an update on his research on educational psychology graduate programs, a project that was funded by the board for \$3000. About 50 programs responded to the initial survey and he will seek additional respondents, and will submit the results for presentation at APA and provide a report in the newsletter. Wolters

noted that unlike school psychology there are no standards and guidelines for ed psych graduate training, nor do all programs even use the term "educational psychology". He suggested it might be useful to hold annual meetings of ed psych chairs; similar activities happen in other fields. The group agreed that Wolters should make his presentation about the research at this year's business meeting. Anderman will be presenting his address the following year, thus we have an opportunity to create alternative programming this year and think this will be of broad appeal to members.

Anderman reported that Heather Davis attended the Board of Educational Affairs in place of Jessica Summers and that she will send a written report. He also noted that the BEA has developed web site that has demonstrations of classical experiments in psychology that can be used as a teaching tool.

The Graduate Student Affairs Committee had been expected to send documents for review at this meeting regarding a proposed survey and a mission statement for the committee. Anderman will contact them about getting materials for the April meeting.

The group discussed the continued issue of who receives funding to attend APA, and whether members of the Publications Committee, given their extensive work and the expectation to meet at the conference, should receive a reimbursement of the conference registration fee at APA. This was approved unanimously. Noting the increased costs of attending APA and the importance of also having board members present for the meetings held at that time, the group voted unanimously to reimburse executive committee members for conference registration beginning in 2010, a date that is after the current tenure of all sitting members of the board.

The final report from Anderman was in regard to negotiation of a contract for *Educational Psychologist*. Anderman has worked closely with the Publications Committee chair Patrick Kyllonen, and with the APA legal counsel they have reviewed submitted contracts from the two publishers selected by the board from the RFP process. Anderman reported that the Taylor and Francis contract is an excellent contract and financially good for the division and they are recommending it. He noted that anyone who subscribes will have electronic access, there is a substantive guaranteed royalty, the current Editorial Manager submission system will continue, the editor will receive a sizeable stipend as well as funds for an annual luncheon

with the board, and the publisher will fund a student award. Taylor and Francis will fly the editor and a division representative to an orientation meeting and this will happen again each time there is a new editor. The division retains full copyright and the publisher will digitize back to volume 1. The board unanimously approved accepting the contract, pending ratification by the Publications Committee, which was discussing the contract simultaneously, and also commended Anderman and Kyllonen for their work on this process.

On the second day of the retreat the group focused on strategic planning and goals. Anderman explained that

with the new contract for *EP*, the division could afford to commit \$40,000 a year to new initiatives. The group brainstormed a number of possibilities for future development of the division:

- *Building visibility within APA:* We need to publicize what the division and its members do, via articles in the *Monitor* on hot topics in education (which they have requested) and also in the division spotlight section, and by making better use of the APA public relations network. We could also work with APA lobbying toward the provision of more federal funding for ed psych research.

- *Building more awareness of educational psychology:* This could include designing a brochure on educational psychology, for those considering graduate school. We need to revamp the division web site so there is helpful information on career options and graduate training. We could also work on responding to relevant articles in the press, e.g., the current article on medication for ADHD needs a response on the educational implications.

- *Building linkages to educational psychology programs:* The board agreed we would like for every ed psych program in the country to be affiliated with the division in some way. We need to start developing a stronger identity, with linkages to programs and chairs.

- *Building membership:* The membership is aging (average is 60) and numbers are declining. We could build membership by targeting new faculty and graduate students. We could target programs that Wolters identified in his survey and send the new division brochures to graduate students with a letter from the president regarding division services. We could work with journals to build membership, and could target recruit-

ment on relevant educational boards. APA has a membership services office and we need to make better connections with them. We can also build alliances with related organizations (e.g., EARLI, AERA, ICLS, etc.). We need to work on this with membership lists in hand and think about how to involve a broader base. We could use pages in *EP* to communicate with members and potential members. We could also trade page space with other journals.

- *Recognizing that individuals have limited conference funds, try to make our conference more attractive in a limited market.* In addition to building the program, we need to create a better welcome to new members, and to think about how to improve the conference experience for all division members. We could work on developing the reception as a more welcoming activity, for example.

- *Supporting early career development of Division 15 members:* One topic of discussion tabled from last year was the establishment of research awards. Another was whether we might create a faculty mentoring program, similar to the graduate student program; we acknowledged the importance of differentiating the activities of these events.

- *Organizing a conference on the teaching of educational psychology:* As discussed in previous meetings, this would build on the success of the 1996 conference.

- *Providing funding for members to organize other conferences* on topics of relevance to educational psychologists.

We took the following actions:

The group agreed to refer membership development ideas to the new membership committee, chaired by Karen Murphy.

We agreed on the importance of the division web site. We need both a content person and a webmaster. Nancy Perry will investigate as to what APA can do in this regard and what the costs are.

Wolters agreed to report back to the board on his survey questions regarding perceptions of Division 15 among educational psychology programs.

We unanimously voted to allot up to \$25,000 for the establishment of research awards for early career research in the area of educational psychology, up to \$7,500 each.

Anderman will lead this and the board will select the first group, rather than establishing another committee at this time. We will reimburse conference registration if individuals are accepted to present the results of their research at APA. Everyone applying has to be a member at the time of application, and the application process will include a proposal narrative, a budget, a c.v., and a list of references. Ellen Mandinach agreed to draft the ad for the program, and to develop a draft of procedures for selection.

We agreed on the importance of programming for early career faculty, and Jenefer Husman agreed to write a proposal for the April meeting.

We discussed whether the teaching of educational psychology conference should be a separate event, perhaps held in early summer, or a pre-conference event like SRCD's teaching conference, and voted to hold it as a pre-conference event in 2009. We hope this will also strengthen conference attendance and think this

makes it more affordable for members rather than requiring separate travel. We can also benefit from APA support on logistics and could apply for CE credit, if this seemed desirable. The group discussed whether to hold this in alternate years with the methodology pre-conference that will be piloted in 2008, but deferred decisions, pending the outcome of the initial events. We will seek underwriting of support, in addition to providing division funds. Registration fee will be low, with reduced costs for members.

Perry and Reeve agreed to work on the development of an RFP for small conferences and workshops proposed by members.

We concluded the meeting with appreciation to Lyn Corno for her generous hospitality in hosting the retreat.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Hofer, Secretary

Submissions to *Educational Psychologist*

Gale M. Sinatra, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is the editor of *Educational Psychologist (EP)* and invites members of Division 15 to submit manuscripts to EP for blind, peer review. EP is currently the highest ranked journal in educational psychology according to the Web of Science Impact Index figures. EP publishes scholarly essays, reviews, critiques, and theoretical and conceptual articles, but does not publish results of empirical studies. Please submit manuscripts through the following webpage:

www.editorialmanager.com/ep



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NEWSLETTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Lisa D. Bendixen, **NEP 15 Editor**, and Florian C. Haerle, Assistant to Editor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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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, via email Lisa.Bendixen@unlv.edu.