

Council Minutes

June 25–26, 2005
Washington, DC

Council Members Present:

Eva L. Baker (President-Elect), Donald S. Blumenfeld-Jones (Division B), Marilyn Cochran-Smith (Past President), Vivian L. Gadsden (Division G), Linda S. Hagedorn (Division J), Schuyler W. Huck (SIG Executive Committee), Diane Jass Ketelhut (Graduate Student Council), Gloria J. Ladson-Billings (President), Barbara L. McCombs (Division C), Lorraine M. McDonnell (Member-at-Large), Marcia Mentkowski (Division I), Jody L. Newman (Division E), Mark D. Reckase (Division D), Christine E. Sleeter (Division K).

Carolyn D. Herrington (Division L) and Mary E. Yakimowski-Srebnick (Division H) joined the meeting in progress.

Council Members Absent:

James D. Anderson (Member-at-Large), David F. Labaree (Division F), Rodney T. Ogawa (Division A).

Staff Members Present:

Felice J. Levine, Phoebe H. Stevenson, Gerald Sroufe, Linda Dziobek, Bob Nedbal, Karen Nedbal, Christina Parisi, Helaine Patterson, Robert Smith.

Saturday, June 25, 2005 (Meeting Day 1)

1. Welcome by Gloria J. Ladson-Billings

President Gloria J. Ladson-Billings welcomed Council and staff members; introductions followed. Council members were asked to review the Council roster for accuracy.

2. Introduction and Orienting Documents

Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda as presented. In addition, Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 11, 2005 meeting.

3. Report of the President

President Ladson-Billings reported that the 2006 Annual Meeting planning is pro-

gressing well. The 2006 Program Committee met in San Francisco on June 4–5, 2005. The meeting, chaired by 2006 Program Chair William Tate, was considered to be outstanding in terms of productivity and spirit.

President Ladson-Billings noted that the Executive Board, which met on June 24, would bring three recommendations to Council: (1) an investment policy; (2) a plan for the 2006 Annual Meeting; and (3) a recommendation for future Annual Meeting registration fees. While the Execay,

members raised concerns about the relatively high prices of the books, which might hamper wide access and course adoption. Levine indicated that the prices were set by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates (LEA), publisher on AERA's behalf. She noted that the prices included sizable member discounts and that she thought they were in range with the prices of other comparable books being published, but that she would discuss this issue with LEA and gather comparative information.

June 25, 2005. The Executive Board made with the third edition of *Complementary Methods for Research in Education*. She indicated that AERA has received four proposals from prospective publishers and that she anticipated that a contract will be signed by the end of July 2005. The book could be published in time for the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Executive Director Levine announced that Becky Wai-Ling Packard, an AERA member and assistant professor of psychology and education at Mount Holyoke College, was selected as recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Levine indicated that she had written Packard with congratulations and shared with Council Packard's enthusiastic response about the importance of education research and education.

Motion: It was moved that the Association send Becky Wai-Ling Packard a congratulatory letter. Approved unanimously.

NCME Management and Transition. Executive Director Levine updated Council on the progress of transitioning the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) from under AERA's management to the Rees Group, effective July 1. She reported that, with the assistance of Gerald Sroufe, who acted as NCME's key administrator, the financial situation and operations of NCME were in good order. She indicated that AERA will continue to have a close working relationship with NCME through an agreement to manage its Annual Meeting, which is held in conjunction with the AERA Annual Meeting. While the agreement is for one year, Levine expects this agreement to continue.

Update on Ongoing Initiatives. Levine reported on the AERA-AACTE *U.S. News & World Report* Panel, which met on June 8–9, 2005. She noted that the purpose of this activity was to provide external advice to this magazine on its annual

survey of graduate schools used for the rankings. She noted that the meeting was a very productive session identifying key areas for improvement, including the instructions, definitions, and measures. One of the issues examined was the specification of the survey as rating “Graduate” rather than “Doctorate” programs and that the emphasis on the doctorate needed to be clear. Another topic of discussion was that the *U.S. News & World Report* had been sending its reputational survey to the deans of the schools of education and a second survey to the deans of the graduate schools, who might differ in their roles and knowledge of their schools of education depending on the university. Levine noted that the Panel was recommending that the survey go to the dean of the graduate school of education and that the dean be asked to identify the second recipient.

Council discussed the survey and how it was done. Levine indicated that giving this informal advice through AERA and AACTE could be useful in improving this annual survey. Council was supportive of this task but less certain as to whether it would be necessary or even useful for AERA to seek formal acknowledgment. Council member McDonnell noted that a National Research Council (NRC) committee was anticipating a further study of doctoral programs that yielded a ranking. Levine indicated that, with Council’s support, AERA was pursuing discussions to have education research included as a field in the NRC survey. Council member Mentkowski called attention to the National Survey of Student Engagement (www.nsse.iub.edu), an annual survey of student perspectives that colleges and universities use to understand their students’ learning. Results have been reported in *USA Today* and the *New York Times*, and various associations support its use as an alternative to the *U.S. News & World Report*

addition to their one journal of choice as part of dues. She reported that there had been a slight decrease in institutional subscriptions but indicated that, with reminders and outreach sent to the lapsed institutions, this trend would likely be a temporary phenomenon. Although institutional subscriptions had gone down, they are now back to previous levels prior to 2004. She noted that JSTOR subscriptions by individual members had increased from 18 in November 2004 to 526 in May 2005. Council was pleased with the outcome of this new offering for members.

Council member Blumenfeld-Jones expressed concerns that those who joined with one complimentary journal, as opposed to purchasing a second, would become the majority. Levine indicated that there might be other ways of encouraging subscriptions to more than one journal in addition to *ER* (for example, bundling journals at a reduced overall rate with electronic delivery). She noted that AERA journals have operated at a loss but that it is desirable for learned societies to have publishing as a positive income stream. Past-President Cochran-Smith expressed her concern that, because there were fewer member subscribers of AERA journals, the journals might suffer a loss in status over time.

Council member Lorraine McDonnell noted that the decrease in institutional subscriptions might be attributed to growth of JSTOR. Levine said that current articles are not on JSTOR and that the impact of this new product might not be measurable as of yet. Deputy Executive Director Stevenson noted that institutions might be reducing the number of copies ordered as the availability of JSTOR eliminated the need for extra print copies for bound volumes. She suggested, as a strategy to maintain the visibility of AERA journals, that selected articles from journal issues be featured on the AERA website. New features will also draw more traffic to the AERA website.

6. Information Technology Advances

Bob Nedbal, Director of Information Technology and Web Services, reported on how AERA continues to support the mission of the Association and improve communication with members and collaboration among members through the use of infor-

mation technology. He reported on his work with division and SIG web managers to provide instructions about and training on creating their websites.

Nedbal informed Council that the AERA Online Bookstore would be launched this summer. He also reported on the member portal, which provides personalized information to members and leadership. In addition, the Central Office has established listservs for all divisions and SIGs to facilitate ongoing communications. Future plans included the use of webcast to feature selected sessions of the 2006 Annual Meeting, web-based conferencing and workspace sharing capabilities, and online delivery of professional development and training opportunities.

Council member Vivian Gadsden asked how content and technology can be organized in Association webpages so that it is not overwhelming and becomes a realistic tool for all users. Nedbal noted that, in selecting the Content Management System, the Central Office sought to ensure that division and SIG web managers can work in a user-friendly environment irrespective of their technical skills. The system will also enable AERA, divisions, and SIGs to build and maintain content in a more user-friendly, timely, and manageable manner.

Council discussed strategies used to support divisions' web efforts, including the provision of web support for divisions that did not have a webmaster in place, ways in which division vice presidents could be kept abreast of development efforts, and guidelines for web content and listserv usage to ensure that information presented was appropriate. Council suggested that the Technology Committee be asked to recommend guidelines for the use of such tools.

Council expressed enthusiasm about these developments and suggested that the Member Only area feature a "When to renew" display and discussed the possibility of providing a repository of papers for the upcoming Annual Meeting. In addition, Council discussed whether AERA can widely provide LCD projectors for use in sessions at the Annual Meeting. Director of Meetings Robert Smith indicated that the high rental costs for LCD projectors made such service at no charge prohibitive. President-Elect Eva Baker expressed the need for caution regarding the provision of

papers online because of concerns relating to intellectual property rights and the question whether an article would be considered "published" when it is widely distributed online.

All Academic Report. Director of Meetings Robert Smith summarized a number of key improvements that have been accomplished with the All Academic meeting management system. Among the modifications are an improved submission system; new main menu and status summary pages for chairs; enhanced reviewer module; message center with cumulative listings of bulk e-mail sent; content-sensitive help menus; and reporting tools for use by the Central Office staff. Web-based training sessions with 10 to 12 participants each would be held in July and August for divisions and SIG program chairs. Smith also noted that a personal scheduler whereby one can click on sessions and place them in a printable e-schedule had been added to the online searchable program.

President Ladson-Billings noted the positive improvement made in the All Academic System, and Past-President Cochran-Smith expressed appreciation to Smith and others on staff for their work on improving the online components of the Annual Meeting. She urged that all division as well as SIG program chairs be required to receive All Academic training. Council member Gadsden suggested that the appointment of program chairs be limited to those who have access to necessary technology to perform the necessary work online.

7. Executive Session

8. Investment Report, Policies, and Plans

Executive Director Levine reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Planning appointed by Past-President Cochran-Smith in January. The committee's charge included drafting an investment policy and interviewing potential investment managers. Investment policies of similar associations were used to obtain information on best practices. Proposals from four prospective investment managers were reviewed based on the articulated draft policy. Council member Blumenfeld-Jones stressed the importance of having a clear investment policy in place that provides guidance and not constraints.

Council discussed the recommendations endorsed by the Executive Board, which would allow the AERA investment portfolio to be divided into two segments: a long-term segment that would utilize a more balanced investment strategy (diversifying the asset allocation to include equity in addition to fixed income) and a short-term segment that would utilize a more conservative and timed investment strategy so that funds can be used to support programmatic initiatives. Council asked about the proportional split into two segments. Council member Blumenfeld-Jones noted that while the Executive Board discussed the types of splits for purposes of modeling different scenarios, the Board planned on seeking the advice of the investment manager in terms of the final target and transition plan.

Motion: To approve the recommended investment policy as amended by the Ex-607 a

Points was forthcoming. Levine was asked about prior discussion of the possibilities

Council discussed the mentoring role played by senior scholars and the importance of getting schools and departments involved. Executive Director Levine indicated that the Organization of Institutional Affiliates can play an important role and suggested a panel session on mentorship at the Annual Meeting.

Sunday, June 26, 2005 (Meeting Day 2)

12. AERA Bylaws Revision

The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Bylaws, chaired by Hilda Borko commencing when she was Past President, was reported on by Council member Lorraine McDonnell. She indicated that she hoped, following discussion, that Council would endorse the proposed Bylaws revisions so that they could be presented to the AERA membership for a vote as part of the 2006 election. She reminded Council that the intent of the proposed revisions was to incorporate previous amendments into the text, to bring the Bylaws up to date, to streamline the Bylaws to provide future flexibility, and to meet other legal requirements. For example, AERA's legal counsel observed that the Bylaws no longer meet requirements for incorporation in the District of Columbia because the office of Secretary/Treasurer was not specified. In addition, the Bylaws were written at a time when the Annual Meeting was, procedurally, a business meeting with papers, and now specific attention must be paid to the separate business meeting function that occurs.

Highlights of the proposed Bylaws changes include: more general language for the termination of membership; extending the Executive Director's term from 4 to 5 years; changing the number of days' notice that an observer of the Council Meeting must give from 30 to 10; requiring that division Bylaws be approved by Council; and removing the numerical requirement of 30 as the number of members needed to form a SIG. Executive Director Levine noted that Bylaws rarely state operational rules and details and that the intent was to give Council the authority to set specific rules for the Association in the context of a general framework in the Bylaws. She used the Publications Manual as an example of specific policies approved by Council and implemented by the Publications Committee.

to reevaluate the Bylaws periodically. Some members of Council felt that it was a policy issue to be determined by Council and not a clause in the Bylaws.

Motion: To add to Article XIV, Section 3, that the Bylaws are reviewed every 10 years.

Executive Director Levine pointed out that, while the language is not a problem per se, it is not necessary and not in the spirit of defining the structure of an organization. She indicated that, every time the Bylaws are amended, there is essentially a review of Bylaws.

Council member Blumenfeld-Jones withdrew the motion.

Motion: Council approves the revised Bylaws and recommends Bylaws for membership approval. Approved, 15; Opposed, 1.

Council discussed the next steps in advancing the proposed modifications to the membership. Past-President Cochran-Smith asked whether, if the revised Bylaws were sent to the membership, the proposed changes could be defeated over a single issue. Levine pointed out that any part could be segregated for a separate vote, but that doing so increased the complexity of the ballot. Council member Mary Yakimowski-Srebnick added that there are issues that may be controversial and recommended voting on sections sequentially. Council member McDonnell felt that, if sections were to be pulled out, turnout might decrease. Executive Director Levine thought that including details in the explanation would be better than separation.

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members what they are getting from the increase in terms of service. Council member Yakimowski-Srebnick shared her appreciation of what AERA has done with very limited resources. Council members thought the comparative data from other associations pointed out how low the AERA rate structure would remain as well as the need for additional revenue to run a meeting of comparable purpose.

Council member Ketelhut pointed out that graduate students would experience the largest percentage increase (60%) and expressed her concern. Council discussed

though there was no chair in place to request one. Council was supportive of this idea and recommended that the Technology Committee be allocated a \$700 budget, with the understanding that, once a chair is appointed, he or she would be encouraged to submit an additional budget request to support the work of the Committee where applicable.

Motion: To approve the Fiscal Year 2006 budget as recommended by the Executive Board and as modified by Council. Approved unanimously.

15. SAGE Proposal for Distinguished Research Award

The Committee on Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity (SAGE) proposed to establish an annual Distinguished Research Award for an individual whose career has been devoted to the study of women, gender, or sexuality in education and who has significantly advanced the field of education research. Discussion of the proposal included the issue of duplication of the long-established Willystine Goodsell award, ambiguity about procedures for identifying and selecting awardees, costs associated with the award, and the distinctive purpose of the award. Council, following the recommendation of the Executive

May. It planned to present a set of draft recommendations to the Executive Board at its October meeting.

Allocation of Annual Meeting sessions to SIGs was one of the specific charges to the Task Force and received a good deal of the attention of both the Task Force and Council. Sleeter reported that, at the present, not all SIG members were AERA members, including some SIG officers. This discussion generated a motion to require membership in the Association for those holding office or serving as program chairs. While some Council members expressed reservations regarding the reaction of SIGs to such a change in policy, others felt that no organization should have persons in leadership positions who are not members.

Motion: To require that all SIG officers and program chairs be AERA mem-