

# Council Minutes

**February 3–4, 2007**  
**Santa Monica, California**

## **Council Members Present:**

Eva L. Baker (President), Nancy Beadie (Division F), David J. Flinders (Division B), Hugo Garcia (Graduate Student Council), Linda S. Hagedorn (Division J), Stephan (Steve) A. Henry (Division H), Carolyn D. Herrington (Division L), Schuyler (Sky) W. Huck (SIG Executive Committee), Gloria J. Ladson-Billings (Past President), Carol D. Lee (Division G), Barbara L. McCombs (Division C), Patricia S. O'Sullivan (Division I), Mark D. Reckase (Division D), Christine E. Sleeter (Division K), William F. Tate (President-Elect), William G. Tierney (Member-at-Large), Linda C. Tillman (Division A)

## **Council Members Absent:**

James D. Anderson (Member-at-Large), Jody L. Newman (Division E)

## **Staff Members Present:**

Felice J. Levine, Gerald E. Sroufe, Phoebe H. Stevenson

## **Saturday, February 3, 2007** **(Meeting Day I)**

President Eva Baker called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

### **1. Welcome by President** **Eva L. Baker**

President Eva Baker extended her warm welcome to members of Council.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda as presented.

### **3. Report of the President**

President Baker thanked the Central Office staff for their support of and service to her and the Association. She reported on the launch of a number of task forces and indicated that additional details would be provided during the Council meeting. She

reported on the successful Third Annual *Brown* Lecture in Education Research, held in October, and the filing of the amicus brief on K–12 race-conscious school assignment.

For the 2007 Annual Meeting, President Baker described the key sessions planned for during and after the Annual Meeting for leaders of international education research organizations. The post-meeting event will be attended by representatives from national and regional education research associations. Members of the International Exploration Task Force will be attending. The purpose of this event is to determine the level of interest and support for the formation of an international education research association. Baker noted how pleased she was with the positive response to the Annual Meeting theme, "The World of Educational Quality," and to activities planned.

President Baker informed Council of the appointment of a task force to review the structure and functions of AERA committees. She will be consulting with President-Elect William Tate and Past President Gloria Ladson-Billings in formulating the charge for the Task Force.

### **4. Report of the** **Executive Director**

Executive Director Felice Levine thanked Council members for working very productively by teleconference, by e-mail, and person-to-person this past year. The flexibility provided by the revised Association Bylaws has enabled the Association and Council to act in a timely manner in making decisions. She thanks Council in particular for its timely decision in filing an amicus brief in two cases pending before the Supreme Court (*Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District*, No. 05–908, and *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education*, No. 05–915).

Levine reported on the status of the build-out for the new AERA office at 1430 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. She indicated that the design and build-out process has been progressing well. She noted that the general contractor has been effective in working with AERA in identifying Local Small Disadvantaged Business Entrepreneurs (LSDBEs) as potential subcontractors to bid on the project, so that AERA can fulfill the percentage use requirement for the tax-exempt bond financing application. She

noted that AERA's real estate advisor has been actively marketing the 17th Street properties and showing the buildings to prospective buyers.

Levine noted that the call for applications to the AERA-AIR Fellows Program, the AERA-ETS Fellowship Program in Measurement, and the AERA Minority Fellowship Program were widely disseminated in *Educational Researcher* and on listservs. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2007. She was pleased to inform Council of the approval of a no-cost extension for the AERA-IES program—with funds to be used for an additional doctoral dissertation research competition. In addition, SAGE Publications has committed \$25,000 per year to support a small grant program for 5 years, which will be directed to emerging scholars within 5 years of receiving their doctorates.

Levine reported that the AERA-NAED Study Committee met in December to plan for the assessment of education research doctorate programs. She noted the favorable response of deans of colleges and schools of education to undertaking this work. She emphasized that the Committee had decided to undertake an assessment as parallel to what the National Research Council was doing in its assessment.

Levine reported that the Standards on Educational and Psychological Testing Management Committee had been informed of Council's resolution relating to the possible partial revision of the Standards within a 3-year time frame. The American Psychological Association (APA) is providing staff support, and AERA will also provide staff (Gerald Sroufe) to support the work of the Management Committee. President Baker indicated that she hoped that the Management Committee could provide information on the plan of action so that AERA Council can provide feedback. There was discussion of sending out invitations for review and comments as well as launching a Web-based survey to receive drafts. Baker urged the Management Committee to rethink the level of public comments for this round of revision as compared with the first revision and to develop a routine procedure for keeping the Council informed about the progress of the revision.

Baker indicated that she will ask the Task Force on Testing Standards to identify

specific standards which should be updated. Baker encouraged Council to review the Standards and share ideas and suggestions with her and Sroufe. Her goal is to create a synthesized AERA view about revision of the Standards. She indicated that it will take approximately 6 months to plan and recruit a full Standards Revision Committee to be formed by 2008. It is anticipated that the revision process may take 3 to 4 years.

Levine and Baker briefed Council on AERA's participation in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), along with APA and the National Council on Measurement in Education, in a Technical Advisory Group. The work of the Technical Advisory Group would determine to what extent AERA would likely participate in ANSI. The Executive Board had recommended that Council approve such participation.

**Motion:** To support the Executive Board's recommendation for AERA to participate in ANSI and the budgetary implication. Approved unanimously.

Levine provided a 6-month report on membership (July 1–December 30, 2006). The membership count has remained strong (25,006 in December 2006 as compared with 24,082 a year ago), and the renewal rate is stable. The modest dues increase, which went into effect on January 1, 2007, has not created any noticeable negative feedback from members.

## 5. Publications

Executive Director Levine reported on the subscription status of AERA journals from July 1 to December 31, 2006. Levine discussed the migration to electronic delivery of the journals starting with volume year 2007. She announced the introduction of *Educational Researcher* on the HighWire platform starting with the January 2007 issue. She indicated that all AERA members will have online access to all journals for the first issue of the 2007 volume year through May 1. In addition, members will have access to back issues of their subscribed journals from 1999 to the current volume year. She indicated that additional online packages will be offered in the near future. Council was pleased with the transition to SAGE and complimented the attractive new cover designs for the AERA journals. President Baker complimented Levine on her hard work in making a smooth transition to SAGE.

Levine announced the appointment of Allan Wigfield as Editor and Patricia Alexander, Robert Croninger, and Bruce VanSledright as Associate Editors of *AERJ-TLHD* for volume year 2008–2010.

Levine announced that the American Statistical Association (ASA) was interested in discontinuing co-ownership of the *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics (JEBS)* with AERA. ASA sought to continue to co-sponsor the journal without joint ownership and thus to collaborate with AERA on the substance, content, and editorial policies of *JEBS*.

**Motion:** To support the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in assuming full ownership of the *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics (JEBS)* and continuing to collaborate with the American Statistical Association on the substance, content, and editorial policies of *JEBS*, and, accordingly, to delegate to the Executive Director the responsibility for working out the terms of and executing a new agreement. Approved unanimously.

President Baker commended the model of having two editorial teams alternating in the production of volumes for the *Review of Research in Education (RRE)*, indicating that this approach improved the efficiency and timeliness of publication. The two editorial teams were Laurence Parker (for Volumes 29 and 31) and Judith Green and Gregory Kelly (for Volumes 30 and 32). Council thanked Laurence Parker for completing his term and for his leadership in getting *RRE* on track for timely publication.

**Motion:** To support the Publications Committee's recommendations (a) that two *RRE* editors or editorial teams work concurrently—with each editor or editorial team being responsible for alternate volumes—and (b) that each editor or editorial team serve for 2 years with a possible extension to a 3rd year. Approved unanimously.

Levine briefed Council on the Publications Committee's consideration of whether and in what ways AERA might publish articles or journals in one or more languages beyond English. In the context of a request for AERA to publish a bilingual journal, Levine indicated that, after extended discussion over a number of meetings, the Publications Committee concluded that Council should take up and provide guidance on the general issue of whether the

Association should engage in the incorporation of more than one language beyond English into its scholarly programs and communications.

## 6. Annual Meeting Program and Planning

President Baker reported that Daniel Koretz, 2008 Program Chair, has done an excellent job in communicating what quality research means to all involved in the Annual Meeting program development, as well as in selecting a slate of very interesting and diverse speakers for the Presidential Sessions. She noted that special outreach will be done to encourage attendees, especially graduate students, to take advantage of the breadth of topics and speakers.

Executive Director Levine reported on the high number of proposal submissions received and strong pre-registration for the Annual Meeting. She noted that it was hard to estimate level of attendance in comparison with 2006 in San Francisco because of the return to the customary Monday-through-Friday format and the particularly high draw of San Francisco as a city.

President-Elect William Tate announced the theme for the 2008 Annual Meeting: "Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Community: Toward Civic Responsibility." He encouraged Council members to provide feedback and suggestions. Past President Ladson-Billings noted how well the theme will fit with the location of the meeting—New York City.

President Baker reported on the Executive Board's selection of future meeting sites in New Orleans for 2011 and Vancouver for 2012. She reported that the Executive Board was still weighing sites for 2010. Levine urged Council to keep the selections confidential until negotiations with host cities are finalized.

Baker briefed Council on the selection of the AERA lectureships for the Annual Meeting: James Anderson will deliver the AERA Distinguished Lecture, and Deborah Lowenberg Ball will deliver the DeWitt Wallace–Reader's Digest Distinguished Lecture. Baker reported on a discussion and recommendation by the Executive Board in October 2006 intended to clarify, synchronize, and standardize the selection process for the two distinguished lectures.

**Motion:** To support the recommendation of the Executive Board that the selection of speakers for the AERA Distinguished Lecture

and the DeWitt Wallace–*Reader’s Digest* Distinguished Lecture be made by the AERA President and Annual Meeting Program Chair, based on recommendations from the Program Committee, and that the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Manual be revised accordingly. Approved unanimously.

## 7. Update on Task Forces

President Baker and Executive Director Levine provided an overview of the task forces that were recently launched and those under way from last spring. Baker indicated that AERA members were very willing to serve and contribute to the task forces and that setting very specific goals and tasks to accomplish within a specified period of time seemed to be welcomed by members (in contrast to committees with longer terms and ongoing charges.) Levine highlighted the work of each task force and urged Council to review the information on the task forces included in the agenda books.

The Task Force on Data Sharing planned to hold an open session at the 2007 Annual Meeting to gather input from members regarding data sharing and archiving as they relate to the conduct of education research. The task force planned to present a set of recommendations to Council in June.

The Task Force on Standards for Reporting on Humanities Research in AERA Publications, chaired by Marilyn Cochran-Smith, has been working on developing standards to complement those developed for social science–based research. Council discussed the nature of humanities research, noting that it reaches beyond what AERA journals would publish. Council discussed the limited opportunities for work in the humanities to be published in AERA journals. There was some discussion of the possibility of having a special section of an existing or new journal that would feature works in the humanities.

The Conflicts of Interest Task Force has held one conference call meeting and is planning on presenting a draft report to Council in April and a final report in June. The task force is constructing a matrix of all possible conflicts of interest relating to professional organizations. The task force solicited examples and concerns related to conflict of interest from Council members.

The Fellows Task Force held an initial meeting via conference call and was very favorable about the possibility of AERA’s introducing a fellows program.

Two subgroups have been formed—one to look at criteria and another to examine different models for a fellows program. The plan is for both groups to reconvene and work through the development of an integrated report and recommendations after subgroup activity. President Baker indicated that the task force was considering a number of key questions such as the benefits, costs, and signals sent about the breadth of quality research in education were a fellows program to be introduced. She noted that the group evidenced a resounding positive feeling that the establishment of a Fellow designation was a good idea. Council discussed the potential interaction between various awards made (e.g., divisions’ “lifetime achievement award” recipients) and the status of Fellow.

Levine encouraged Council to share aspirations and suggestions with all of the task forces, so that input from Council can be taken into consideration.

## 8. Proposals to Form New SIGs

Council member and SIG Executive Committee Chair Schuyler (Sky) Huck reported that the SIG Executive Committee received and reviewed seven proposals for the formation of new SIGs in October. The Committee approved and recommended four proposals for Council’s consideration: Cognition and Assessment; Doctoral Education Across the Disciplines; Safe Schools and Communities; and Social and Emotional Learning. Huck indicated that the Committee’s review of the proposals centered on the uniqueness and focus on education research of each of the groups.

Council discussed the implication of continued growth in the number of SIGs for session allocation for the Annual Meeting, as all divisions and SIGs receive session allocation from a common pool of available sessions based on proposal submissions. Council also discussed whether there should be a cap on the total number of SIGs. Council member Christine Sleeter, Chair of the SIG Task Force, indicated that the SIG Task Force had decided not to set a cap but to look at the process by which SIGs can be retired.

Past President Ladson-Billings noted that SIGs serve the purpose of providing a mechanism for members to get connected in smaller groups based on common interests. Given the breadth of AERA’s constituencies, it is important for AERA to provide a home to members who otherwise might feel like outsiders. She encouraged

divisions to seek ways to connect with SIGs that share similar interests.

**Motion:** To accept all four recommendations from the SIG Executive Committee and approve the formation of the four new SIGs. Approved unanimously.

Council suspended the meeting for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and resumed meeting at 2:00 p.m.

## 9. Issues of Short- and Long-Term Significance in Guiding AERA

President Baker introduced several discussion topics, indicating that Council would consider these issues in breakout sessions to facilitate its consideration of important issues. She noted the three topics outlined in the agenda book: (1) working ideas for AERA’s vision for an international education research organization; (2) quality of the AERA Annual Meeting; developing a charge for the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and Research Advisory Committee; and (3) use of languages beyond English by AERA. President Baker divided Council and staff into several subgroups.

The first group to report back, consisting of Linda Tillman, Christine Sleeter, William Tate, Hugo Garcia, and Gerald Sroufe, was charged with exploring the use of languages beyond English by AERA. A number of options were examined, including production of featured issues of publications as exemplars of how dual languages can be used; exploration of the theme of use of multiple languages at the Annual Meeting; use of Web-based actions on the AERA website, such as introductory information on the Annual Meeting; use of Annual Meeting activities to highlight the use of multiple languages; transcribing abstracts and keywords into other languages to facilitate searches; and reprinting journal articles in different languages.

Council discussed the extent to which aspects of the Association would benefit from building an infrastructure to feature multiple language use. Council discussed the fact that, while English appears to be the language used for science, using multiple languages could enhance scholarly exchange with counterparts who conduct research in languages other than English.

President Baker indicated that options can be explored further and suggested that the subgroup explore, through e-mail communication with the Executive Board, the

possibility of forming a task force. She also recommended that the International Relations Committee be engaged in the discussion. She requested that the subgroup present a plan, including estimated costs and a preliminary report to Council in June, and submit a more detailed plan with a budget to be reviewed systematically by the Executive Board in October so that any budgetary requests can be incorporated into the FY2008 budget recommendations.

The second group reporting, consisting of Carol Lee, Carolyn Herrington, Patricia O'Sullivan, Eva Baker, and Mark Reckase, was charged with developing working ideas for AERA's vision for an international organization. The group agreed that the effort should not result in a new organization that takes resources away from AERA and should not be an elitist group. The group concurred that the organization will most likely be a federation of organizations. The group further suggested that, at the post-meeting of international representatives in April, the goals should be (1) to have participants leave the meeting with strategies for developing syntheses of research topics that are applicable to countries across the world, such as immigration; (2) to be willing to use their own meeting time to address those concepts; and (3) to identify an enthusiastic group to write a grant to seek funding. The group suggested that the following topics be explored in preparation for the April meeting: Identify topics that will resonate with an international audience; profile the participating organizations to find out how they are structured; generate good social integration at the meeting (Association-wide or division based); consider use of electronic dialogue; identify criteria for contact persons who will help institutionalize the relationships; create reciprocity of Annual Meeting slots so that AERA members can participate in meetings of other associations; review the charge of the International Relations Committee in the light of these activities; and identify opportunities for graduate students.

The third group reporting, consisting of David Flinders, Schuyler Huck, Barbara McCombs, William Tierney, Gloria Ladson-Billings, Phoebe Stevenson, and Felice Levine, was responsible for developing a charge for the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and the Research Advisory Committee to examine the quality of the Annual Meeting. The group discussed the quality of education research as it relates to

the Annual Meeting. Topics addressed included the question whether the use of an elaborate mechanism for proposal review yields commensurate high-quality proposals; ways to deal with situations where participants do not attend; the challenge of intensified pressure to publish faced by many researchers; and efforts by the Association and its units (Divisions and SIGs) to undertake more activities. The group discussed the possibility of using plenary sessions to feature high-quality education research and ways to improve sessions, such as paper discussion presentations and poster sessions (for example, the use of discussants and chairs; and grouping of papers). The group developed the following charge for a joint committee effort of the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and the Research Advisory Committee:

#### **DRAFT CHARGE (2-3-07)**

##### **The Quality of the Annual Meeting: Charge for the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and the Research Advisory Committee ("Joint Committees")**

The Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee (AMPP) and the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) are asked to examine how best to enhance the quality of the AERA Annual Meeting. The Joint Committees are asked to consider what is required for submission and review, how the peer review process operates, what improvements might be introduced, and whether the format and structure of the Annual Meeting maximize opportunities for the presentation of excellent work (from emerging to senior scholars). The Joint Committees are asked to review and examine different types of sessions and modes of presentation, which formats are most promising (as they are or might be modified), and whether there are innovations in the format or structure of the Annual Meeting that could enhance the Meeting as a forum for the communication and dissemination of new knowledge. The Joint Committees may, as part of their work, collect or examine information from within the Association, through comparative study of other research societies of comparable size and scope, and through discussions with members and attendance. The Joint Committees will

provide Council with a more refined set of goals and plan by June 2007 and will undertake this task with a report to Council by the midwinter 2008 meeting.

This joint effort will be co-chaired by the chairs of the constituent committees—that is, the chairs of AMPP and RAC. In addition to the Council liaisons serving as internal members of this joint effort, one or two additional members of Council will take part.

President Baker noted that the sense of quality in the past (e.g., including a well-developed and completed paper as a step toward publication) is no longer the only pathway in today's publishing world. Online publication and online provision of resources have made publishing much faster. Council discussed the efforts of an AERA task force on the Annual Meeting of 10 years ago to expand different formats of presentation and its impact in shaping, to some degree, what is supposed to be provided at a presentation at the Annual Meeting. Council expressed the need to develop a review process to ensure that the existing session formats are effective and to examine the current time frame for sessions with regard to striking a balance between authors having time to present more complete presentations and time for discussion. Finally, Council discussed ways in which AERA can foster the accumulation of knowledge when formal papers or references are not available for attendees.

#### **10. Procedures, Policies, and Position Taking**

*Graduate Student Council Nomination and Election Procedures.* Council member and Graduate Student Council (GSC) Chair Hugo Garcia briefed Council on GSC's proposed nomination and election procedures. The revised process was developed, as part of the GSC Handbook revision, to broaden participation of both nominees and voters and to ensure that the process is in line with AERA's nomination and election process.

**Motion:** To approve the proposed nomination and election procedures for the Graduate Student Council. Approved unanimously.

*Division Discussion Lists.* Council discussed the migration of division discussion Listservs from Arizona State University to the AERA Central Office. Council wished to express its enormous debt of gratitude to Gene Glass for all that he has done for AERA in building such a useful tool. Discussion

lists as well as announcement lists are member benefits and thus are restricted to AERA. Division vice presidents indicated that they wished to have more division-based control of content of information being disseminated, such as whether job announcements should be permitted.

*NCATE, Private Sector Organizations, and Position Taking.* President Baker briefed Council on a request that was considered by the Executive Board in October. The request was for AERA to sign on to a letter in opposition to perceived reduction in specificity about sexual orientation in the draft revised standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The Executive Board determined that AERA should not comment on these standards but should call attention to the position and policies of the Association regarding diversity through other mechanisms, such as a session at the Annual Meeting or a column in *Educational Researcher* to attend to the challenging circumstances of gay, lesbian, and transgender persons in education, and the need for research to support sound policy on these matters. Council discussed the matter and the importance of AERA activities and programs as a context to stimulate research and communication of knowledge about inclusion and discrimination in education.

*U.S. Department of Education Contract Security Clearances.* President Baker reported that the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) and other federal research agencies have imposed more extensive criteria for security clearance requirements on personnel working under federal contracts and sub-contracts. She noted that there is a sense of suppression and intimidation because of the imperative nature of the new procedures. The Executive Board reviewed the efforts undertaken by the Central Office staff, including the strategies pressing for clarification of the intent and implementation of the directive on the topic from the Department of Education.

Executive Director Levine reported on what the Association has been doing on this issue and emphasized that this was a key area of concern and activity on the AERA's research policy agenda. She indicated that she hoped that a revised draft directive would be released by DOE soon so that it could be examined and commented on. She indicated that AERA, meanwhile, has been fact gathering to determine what other federal agencies are doing and to assess what the

federal-wide requirements are. She noted that it was important to determine both the extent of the problem and whether DOE is unique or overreaching in its policies. Meetings were also continuing with officials within the Department of Education. Government Relations Program Director and Senior Advisor Gerald Sroufe added that Representative Miller (House Science Committee) plans to call for an inquiry and hearing on the chilling effects on science and the integrity of science, in which he specifically mentioned the DOE. Sroufe noted that AERA will make special efforts to reach committee staff to provide information and to help shape what issues are examined and experts invited to speak at any hearings. Both Sroufe and Levine have been interviewed by the *New York Times* on the topic.

The first day of the Council meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.

## **Sunday, February 4, 2007 (Meeting Day 2)**

President Baker called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

### **11. SIG Name Change**

Council discussed a request submitted by the Education, Science and Technology SIG to change its name to "Learning and Teaching in Educational Leadership." The name change reflects the broadening interests of the SIG's members in recent years as its membership has grown from 116 to 188 in 4 years. The proposal had been reviewed and approved by the SIG Executive Committee.

**Motion:** To approve the SIG's name change from "Education, Science and Technology" to "Learning and Teaching in Educational Leadership," as recommended by the SIG Executive Committee. Approved unanimously.

### **12. Report on AERA Investment Portfolio**

Executive Director Levine reported on the solid performance of the investment portfolio, which has increased in value during the past year. She was pleased to inform Council of the completion of the incremental migration process to systematically diversify the Association's portfolio to invest in the equities market in accordance with the AERA investment policy. At the end of November

2006, approximately 34% of the investment portfolio was diversified in equities.

### **13. FY2006 Audit Report**

President Baker reported on the successful completion of the independent financial audit for the 2006 fiscal year. She complimented the Central Office for a clean audit without a management letter noting any concerns.

**Motion:** To accept the FY2006 audit as recommended by the Executive Board. Approved unanimously.

### **14. Six-Month Financial Budget for FY2007**

Deputy Executive Director Phoebe Stevenson presented a 6-month report for Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1–December 31, 2006). AERA is making the transition from a July 1–June 30 fiscal year to a calendar-year-based fiscal year (January 1–December 31), so the 6 months reported will constitute a short fiscal year. An independent audit will be conducted in May.

### **15. FY2007 Proposed Budget**

Executive Director Felice Levine presented the proposed budget for the new 2007 fiscal year (January 1–December 31, 2007). She reminded Council that, due to the change in fiscal year, the majority of the budget items had been approved by Council in June 2006; many key activities approved in the original budget commence during the last 6 months of the old fiscal year. The proposed budget took into consideration significant changes in operational costs relating to the relocation of the new AERA Central Office; an increase in membership dues income as the result of the dues increase that went into effect on January 1, 2007; and the transition of the AERA journal publishing program from self-publishing to a contractual arrangement with SAGE Publications to publish AERA journals on the Association's behalf. Committee and division budgets approved by Council in June 2006 will be carried forward for the new fiscal year.

**Motion:** To approve the FY2007 proposed budget as recommended by the Executive Board. Approved unanimously.

### **16. Open Discussion From Divisions and SIGs**

Council discussed feedback received from SIGs regarding the change in session allocation formula. SIG session allocation was previously based on membership counts but is now to be determined by the number of

proposal submissions received by each SIG, as is true of divisions. It is anticipated that this allocation formula will be more efficient and more equitable. Executive Director Levine indicated that the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee will review the impact of the new allocation guidelines.

Levine reported on the assistance from the Disability Studies in Education SIG with AERA's provision of support for disability-related services at the Annual Meeting. Other SIG-related issues discussed by Council included a SIG planning a parallel conference in Chicago at the same time as the AERA Annual Meeting for authors of rejected papers; a SIG offering separate lodging arrangements for members outside the AERA room blocks; and the value of the SIG Executive Committee's reporting to Council regarding the health and key areas of interest relating to SIGs.

Council discussed the relationship between divisions and SIGs and the need to be mindful of scheduling conflicts between sessions of divisions and SIGs that share common interests and overlapping members, such as the Division B and Qualitative Research SIG business meetings.

Council discussed the growth of the Annual Meeting and the challenges faced by divisions and SIGs as a result of the program's size. Specifically, Council was interested in exploring ways to ensure that members' participation in the Annual Meeting does not become restricted to their own interest areas because of the growth of the overall program. Council suggested that the Central Office explore ways in which the searchable program can provide tools to enable members to look more broadly at the opportunities provided. For example, attention might be called to similar and related sessions based on the result of an initial search.

Division vice presidents discussed the importance of providing orientation to new vice presidents. One strategy is to plan a vice presidents' retreat in June following the Council meeting. Council members Linda Tillman, David Flinders, and Patricia O'Sullivan will serve on the planning committee. The Central Office will appoint a key contact person for the effort and AERA staff will be available to answer questions. Barbara McCombs, Christine Sleeter, Linda Tillman, and Carolyn Herrington will be involved in the April orientation meeting for new Council members.

Council discussed the disadvantages of the current rotation of vice presidents' terms, with six VPs rotating off at the same time and 1 year having no rotations off Council. Council saw only advantages to having more uniform levels of experience in Council across all 3 years. Council agreed that a different rotation involving four vice presidents rotating off each year should be put in place, and sought to return to this issue.

**Motion:** To request that Central Office staff work out a transition plan so that cohorts of four vice presidents will be rotating on and off each year. Approved unanimously.

Council discussed the possible use of a "consent agenda" so that items that are discussed by the Executive Board can be dealt with quickly and immediately while more time can be spent on substantive issues, such as the discussion of quality of research. Past President Ladson-Billings expressed concern that a consent agenda may be perceived by some members as a lack of transparency. Council discussed the conflicts relating to vice presidents' role as Division VPs versus the role of being a member of Council. Council discussed how engagement of Council meetings can be managed so that important issues can be discussed in addition to taking care of business/operational items, so that Council can benefit from the collective wisdom of the group. It was suggested that the vice presidents' report be placed earlier in the agenda, following the reports of the President and Executive Director, so that issues for discussion can be raised early in the deliberations.

Council discussed additional topics of interest and importance. Salient topics included strategies for the Association to engage its members beyond the Annual Meeting; the concept of internationalization; strategies for communication between Council and members; and transparency. Council discussed how, when issues and interests are raised by members, to most effectively communicate information about actions taken back to the members. Vice presidents were interested in exploring ways in which they can communicate the collective goals and consensus of the Association to their members, and ways in which they can advocate for the Association.

President Baker urged Council to think broadly about opportunities before the Association. Council discussed the possibility of having vice presidents write columns on certain topics; featuring topical meetings held in different parts of the country to engage

members; using division and SIG business meetings to discuss topics of importance; exploring communication ideas that are bottom-up instead of relying totally on traditional avenues (such as publications); and conducting an impact analysis of new approaches. Baker urged Council to send her and Executive Director Levine thoughts on communications issues and Council agenda building. She will share with President-Elect Bill Tate and summarize information for dissemination back to Council.

## 17. New Business

Executive Director Levine reported that the AERA Annual Meeting has been selected as a site for the Decade of Behavior Lecture in 2007. James Jackson, University of Michigan, was nominated by AERA and selected to give the lecture.

Council discussed the topic of Annual Meeting program quality and suggested that the Joint Committee of Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and Research Advisory Committee perform an audit on the Annual Meeting proposal review process, including but not limited to the number of reviewers for each unit, the number of reviews submitted, and rankings used in the reviews.

President Baker appointed Council members Carolyn Herrington, David Flinders, and Mark Reckase to join the Joint Committee of the AMPP and RAC as Council representatives.

Council explored ways to make the Annual Meeting program more manageable as the program continues to grow. The possibility of using an amazon.com model—where the system can make suggestions of related sessions and mapping of similar and related topics and sessions—was considered. Council was also interested in exploring additional ways in which new and emerging topics can be highlighted.

Baker thanked Council for the meeting and thanked staff for their hard work.

### *Dates for future meetings in 2007:*

- Executive Board: June 20
- Council: June 21, 22
- Division Vice Presidents' Retreat: June 23
- Fourth Annual *Brown* Lecture: October 18
- Coordinated Committee Meeting: October 19–20
- Executive Board: Afternoon of October 20 and half day on October 21

## 18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.