

Council Minutes

April 9, 2007
Chicago, Illinois

Council Members Present:

James D. Anderson (Member-at-Large), 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 (Immediate Past President), Carol D. Lee (Division G), Barbara L. McCombs (Division C), Jody L. Newman (Division E), 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)

Observers (Incoming Members of Council):

Armetha F. Ball (Division K), Linda L. Cook (Division D), Stacy L. Dezutter (Graduate Student Council), Cynthia A. Hudley (Division E), Richard E. Mayer (Division C), Robert J. Stahl (SIG Executive Committee), Susan B. Twombly (Division J)

Guest:

Kate Corby (AERA member and liaison to AERA from the Association of College and Research Libraries)

Staff Members Present:

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

1. Welcome and Introductions by President Eva Baker

President Eva Baker called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. She welcomed all members of Council as well as the incoming Council members attending the meeting as observers. The agenda was unanimously approved. President Baker called attention to the approved minutes from the Executive

Board's October 2006 meeting that were included in the agenda book for Council's information. As the minutes of the February 2006 Council meeting were distributed on site, action on them was deferred until later in the meeting. Subsequently, the minutes were approved unanimously without change.

2. Report of the President

President Baker shared the positive responses received regarding the theme of the 2007 Annual Meeting. She indicated that there were approximately 1,800 international participants from 63 countries represented. The number of pre-registrants reached 13,600 before the opening day of the Annual Meeting, suggesting that this could be the largest Annual Meeting ever. Council discussed the feedback received regarding the discontinuation of advance mailing of printed programs for the Annual Meeting. Executive Director Felice Levine indicated that very few complaints had been received. Council member Barbara McCombs indicated that some members had expressed concerns about the searchability of the online program. Council discussed the need to clearly feature the options for individuals who want to use the All Academic searchable program and the PDF files for the full printed program on the AERA website. President Baker suggested that Council members send feedback and suggestions to her, President-Elect William Tate, and Deputy Executive Director Phoebe Stevenson, so that issues can be tracked and discussed and features enhanced.

Baker reported on the work of the Task Force on *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. She reported that Suzanne Lane, AERA's representative on the Standards Management Committee, had been invited to join the Task Force. Baker urged Council to review the summary of the discussion enclosed in the Council agenda book. She called attention to the Task Force recommendations for expanding the use of examples, such as illustrations of positive and negative views and topical areas to be featured, such as views of second language learning and technology-based assessment.

Past President Ladson-Billings asked if the work of the Task Force has any budgetary implication. Baker noted that there is a restricted fund (including funds from sales

to support the activities surrounding the revision. Baker indicated that there will be an open call for suggestions (as recommended by the Standards Management Committee) and that the National Council on Measurement in Education and the American Psychological Association are having a 2-month open call period. The Standards Task Force thought a 1-month open call would be sufficient for AERA.

Motion: To forward the report of the Task Force on *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* to the Standards Management Committee. Approved unanimously.

3. NCATE Diversity Standard

President Baker informed Council that because of the fullness of the agenda at this very brief Council meeting, she would recommend the discussion on this topic be limited to 20 minutes. She provided a brief overview on the topic, including the original request submitted by Theresa Quinn and Erica Meiners asking AERA to sign on to a letter in opposition to reduced specificity about sexual orientation in the revised standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Baker also reviewed with Council the Executive Board's discussion and actions in October 2006. She reported that her column "From the Desk of the President" and the *AERA Position Taking and Policymaking Processes Guidelines* published in the January/February 2007 issue of *Educational Researcher* led to an e-mail of criticism from Quinn and Meiners. She noted that her use of the term "gender equity" was interpreted as excluding sexual orientation. She also noted that she had reached out to the organizers to set up a face-to-face meeting before the start of the Annual Meeting but that they had declined the offer. She indicated that she then scheduled the topic as an agenda item at the Open Business Meeting and invited Quinn and Meiners to participate to discuss the topic further and openly. They declined the offer but, directly before the start of the Annual Meeting, indicated that AERA member William Ayers would speak. Council indicated the importance of identifying key focal points so that there will be directions for the Open Business Meeting rather than just open discussion.

Council discussed the importance of maintaining professional deference to other organizations in dealing with issues such as NCATE's diversity standard. Baker suggested that there is no organizational "home" within AERA other than special interest groups (SIGs) where interested persons have a platform to discuss topics such as sexual orientation. She suggested the possibility of setting up a task force to further study the topic or putting together a research workshop to bring experts on the topic to study the issues.

Council discussed how best to respond to members and other interested parties at this time. Council member Tierney observed that, while NCATE had not removed language about sexual orientation from the revised standards, the language should be added. He noted that there was an open call on the NCATE website soliciting input from interested persons; therefore, he expressed the view that making suggestions at this time should not be perceived as AERA intruding on another organization's agenda.

Past President Ladson-Billings emphasized that, while AERA had been acting expeditiously from the time the response from the organizers was received, perhaps additional investigative work was needed. She stressed the importance of the Association's following its deliberative process rather than being reactive. Council reviewed AERA procedures for responding to petitions and considered the possibility of inviting a representative from those raising this issue to brief Council, perhaps providing an opportunity for Council to ask "investigative questions."

Baker agreed that AERA might have responded too quickly without doing sufficient research on the topic. Council discussed the merits of forming a task force. Council member Carol Lee reminded Council that AERA's governance body already has committees in place for these topics, e.g., the Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC), and that there may not be a need to appoint a separate task force. She recommended charging the SJAC to undertake the investigative work and to seek information from relevant groups.

Council member Tierney suggested that, although the specific issue of responding to the NCATE standards may have become moot, what needs to be looked at is how AERA should put the policy-taking statement into practice. Levine indicated that the purpose of the guidelines, which

were jointly developed by the Social Justice Action Committee and the Government Relations Committee and unanimously approved by Council, is to allow the Association to address social justice and other policy-related issues. Several members of Council agreed that the statement is well developed but that perhaps that the process of implementing the principles should be reviewed.

Motion: To charge the Social Justice Action Committee to look at the response to NCATE and to address the issue of sexual orientation in collaboration with the Queer Studies SIG and other relevant units to get broader input in a timely manner and report back to Council. Approved, 13; Opposed, 1; Abstained, 4.

Council member McCombs indicated that she felt uncomfortable voting at this time because there was insufficient information and recommended that President-Elect William Tate consult with representatives from the relevant bodies. Tate indicated that he would make a strenuous effort to meet with the two organizers of the proposed protest, the Social Justice Action Committee, Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity in Education (SAGE), and the Queer Studies SIG before the end of the week.

Motion: To rescind the original motion. Approved, 13; Opposed, 2; Abstained, 3.

Substitute Motion: That President-Elect Tate be asked to meet during the week of the AERA Annual Meeting with the Chairs of the Queer Studies SIG, the authors of the letter in opposition to the NCATE standards, and the Chairs or chair designees of the Committee on Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity in Education and the Social Justice Action Committee, and to report back to Council on how AERA should proceed. Approved, 17; Abstained, 1.

Council member Patricia O'Sullivan indicated that, if the groups involved failed to come to a consensus, the issue would need to be handled by SJAC. Council member Carol Lee stressed the importance of AERA's Social Justice Director working to involve the relevant committees when receiving similar requests in the future. Levine noted that the original request came first to the President in September and that with the Executive Board meeting so close, Baker put it directly on the agenda of the Executive Board. The subsequent request from Quinn and Meiners to the Social Justice Director sought AERA opposition to the NCATE Standards, and he

informed them that it was already on the agenda of the Executive Board.

4. Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect William Tate reported on the theme for the 2008 Annual Meeting: "Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility." Tate noted how pleased he was that James Anderson would serve as Program Chair. He indicated that he and Anderson hoped a "theory in action" approach would bring something broader and more longstanding to New York City than the typical Annual Meeting. He said that important education and domestic policy issues will be addressed and made more transparent. He encouraged Council members to provide suggestions. Council members' suggestions included more explicit inclusion of federal and state politics, including higher education, and attention to teacher education issues.

The 2008 Program Committee will meet on April 13 in Chicago and again on June 1–2 in New York City.

5. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Felice Levine reported on the topic of research contractors for the U.S. Department of Education undergoing security clearance. She indicated that there were questions about the scope of the Office of Management and Budget directive that was the basis for the security clearance procedures that went into effect in 2006. She outlined the work that the Association was undertaking to gain clarity on what was required and the extent to which it is federal-wide or unique to contractors working with the Department of Education. She reported that the feedback provided by members in response to her recent e-mail blast to the full membership on the topic had been helpful and very positive. She noted that the feedback had come from contracting officials in institutions as well as from those working under contracts.

Tate raised the question of how AERA can continue communication with the organizer of the petition while the Association performs due diligence on the issue. Sroufe indicated that this was being done but noted that some members who had raised concerns, and shared concerns, wanted the information to be treated confidentially. Council member Nancy Beadie said that members of Council should be more informed about the policy issues so that they can be engaged in

communications with members. Tate indicated that perhaps the Coordinated Committee Meeting in October could be used as a time for more substantive issues such as security clearance and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Ladson-Billings indicated that the President and Executive Director deal with many issues and receive a lot of feedback and that it would not be practical for Council to be involved in all. Baker agreed but also noted that Council members were always encouraged to suggest agenda items when they wished more discussion and information. Council member Christine Sleeter urged a clear process whereby Council members can make suggestions. A reminder will be sent out to Council in advance of the June meeting seeking agenda suggestions.

Council member Carolyn Herrington commended the staff on the work done on the security clearance issue.

Levine reported on the work undertaken by AERA relating to FERPA and indicated that AERA was eager to reconcile FERPA with access to information consistent with privacy act protections. She indicated that the National Research Council (NRC) has an interest in working in this area and that AERA will be working in coordination with the NRC on a research-intensive workshop.

Levine concluded her report by noting that the Coordinated Committee Meeting will be held on October 19–20, 2007. She reminded all members of Council, including those incoming, that the Fifth Annual *Brown* Lecture was scheduled for October 18, 2007. President Baker announced that Margaret Bills Spencer, University of Pennsylvania, was selected to present the lecture.

Levine reported on the relocation of the Central Office. It is anticipated that the June Council meeting will be held at the new office and that the VP retreat will be held there as well.

6. Report of the AERA Fellows Task Force

Levine called attention to the comprehensive report of the AERA Fellows Task Force, provided in the agenda book, and to some of the key points (e.g., selection criteria, nomination process, and establishment of the program). Council discussed the possibility of and requirements for self nomination: permissible if two recommendations are provided and all other criteria are met. Council

also discussed the grandfathering of fellows from other designated associations as a means of initiating the process, and how the grandfathering practice may affect the selection process. Some Council members expressed concern about the selection process being restrictive to a small group of persons. Levine explained that the Task Force thought that a Fellow designation had a larger purpose not just of honoring individual, personal accomplishment but of communicating to the broader community, to the next generation of researchers, and to other relevant audiences that value excellence in research.

Motion: To accept the recommendation of the Task Force to establish a Fellow status. Approved 16; Abstained, 2.

7. Election of the Executive Board

Gerald Sroufe, AERA Director of Government Relations and Senior Advisor, conducted the election of three members of the new Council to serve 1-year terms on the Executive Board, following procedures provided in the Association Bylaws. The following persons were selected to serve: David Flinders, Carol Lee, and Patricia O'Sullivan.

8. SIG Name Changes

Council reviewed the proposals submitted by two SIGs to change their names to better reflect their missions and purposes. The SIG Executive Committee had reviewed the proposals and recommended their approval by Council.

Motion: To approve the proposed name change from Adolescence SIG to Adolescence and Youth Development SIG. Approved unanimously.

Motion: To approve the proposed name change from Teaching in Educational Administration SIG to Learning and Teaching in Educational Leadership SIG. Approved unanimously.

9. Affirmative Action Council Chair Selection

Council reviewed a proposed process to select a chair submitted by the Affirmative Action Council (AAC). The proposed plan contains procedures that are in accordance with the AERA Bylaws. In addition, the proposal included a provision for the AAC to meet by teleconferencing or to take action or make decisions outside of meetings in

accordance with the AERA Bylaws. The AAC may also vote in the election of chair by postal mail, electronically, or by other means as determined by Council.

Motion: To approve the proposed process for the selection of chairs for the Affirmative Action Council. Approved unanimously.

10. Implementation of Staggered Terms for Division Vice Presidents

Because of insufficient time to consider this agenda item at the Council meeting, the item was deferred until the June meeting. Levine asked outgoing Council members to provide input.

11. Minority Fellowship Program

Because a record number of applications (72) were received for the Minority Fellowship Program in 2007, Council discussed the proposed request to increase the total number of awards from three to five for this year. Council had made a special, one-time provision to increase the number of awards from three to four in 2006 in response to a large number of applications. The request for an increase to five awards this year will maintain the competitiveness of the fellowship while supporting additional young scholars who show promise for careers in education research. Levine explained that the earned revenue from the restricted funds is not sufficient at this point to allow for a permanent increase.

Motion: To approve a one-time allocation of \$26,000 with funds drawn from the Minority Fellowship Program restricted account to provide the MFP Selection Committee the latitude to make two additional awards for 2007–2008. Approved unanimously.

12. Service Recognition for Outgoing Council Members

To express the Association's appreciation to outgoing Council members, President Baker and Executive Director Levine presented plaques and thanked all members for their commitment and support. President Baker received unanimous thanks from the Council and a gift from the Association for her presidential accomplishment and leadership.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.