



AERA Coordinated Committee Meeting

Committees Meet and Discuss Research and Association Business

AERA President Lorraine M. McDonnell of the University of California, Santa Barbara, welcomed members of 13 standing committees, division vice presidents as Council liaisons to committees, and the AERA Executive Board to the Coordinated Committee Meeting (CCM), held October 24 and 25 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The CCM meeting is an important opportunity for committees to concentrate on their own agendas of work, collaborate with each other, and work with the AERA officers, Council, and staff liaisons.

This annual fall leadership conference coincides with AERA's annual *Brown* Lecture in Education Research, which brought a distinguished scholar on equity and equality to Washington, D.C. (See related article, page 651)

There was considerable cross-committee collaboration at the 2008 CCM meeting. For example, the Communications and Outreach Committee, the Technology Committee, and the Professional Development Committee met to discuss potential initiatives such as Web-streaming of professional development courses and of an expanding number of substantive sessions from the AERA Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and the Research Advisory Committee continued their joint collaboration on enhancement of Annual Meeting quality, focusing in particular on review procedures and innovative use of roundtables and poster sessions. Similarly, in response to a request from Council, the four committees with a focus on social justice—the Social Justice Action Committee, the Affirmative Action Council, the Scholars of Color in Education Committee, and the Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity in Education Committee—were asked to consider potential initiatives that could

advance social justice consideration through education research.

Underlying much in these discussions was a commitment to implementing AERA's threefold mission of advancing knowledge about education, encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education, and promoting the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.

The Graduate Student Council, the SIG Executive Committee, and the International Relations Committee also continued to advance their work at the CCM meeting. Council members met with these bodies at their sessions or at the end of the CCM to further support and encourage their activities. The Publications Committee met for two days following the conclusion of the CCM. Several standing committees, including the Government Relations, Ethics, and Fellows Committees, have work under way that requires separate meetings.



After discussing his new book *Spin Cycle*, Jeffrey R. Henig of Teachers College talked informally with AERA's Jerry Sroufe, Director of Government Relations. (Photos by Tracy Young.)



Discussion continued through lunch and dinner.

On the first day of the CCM, Jeffrey R. Henig gave a luncheon talk on the topic “Must Research Used Be Research Abused? Why Cool Research Gets Into Hot Waters.” Henig, Professor of Political Science and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, based many of his remarks on his new book *Spin Cycle: How Research Is Used in Policy Debates: The Case of Charter Schools*, published earlier this year by the Russell Sage Foundation and the Century Foundation. In his efforts to discover how social science research is “spun” in the public sphere, Henig conducted extensive interviews with researchers, journalists, and funding sources and generated differing perspectives. He also explored data on federal and foundation grants and closely analyzed media coverage as he focused on how controversies about the charter school movement illustrate the use and misuse of research in policy debates.

At President McDonnell’s invitation, members of AERA Council were invited to participate in an informal after-dinner panel, “Navigating Across Intellectual Boundaries.” Three current vice presidents and AERA’s immediate past president shared professional vignettes related to the topic. McDonnell moderated the panel, which featured the following participants: Mark Berends, Division L Vice President, of Vanderbilt University and the University of Notre Dame; Linda Cook, Division D Vice President, of the Educational Testing Service; Richard Mayer, Division C Vice President, of the University of California, Santa Barbara; and AERA Past President William F. Tate, of Washington University in St. Louis.

Jeffrey Henig’s talk on the connections between research and policy and the AERA leadership panel on navigating across intellectual boundaries were opportunities to consider issues of broad relevance to the field of education research. Both of these topics complemented the 2009 AERA Annual Meeting Program theme, “Disciplined Inquiry: Education Research in the Circle of Knowledge,” and



AERA President Lorraine M. McDonnell pauses with AEI's Frederick Hess, a new member of the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee.



The Friday dinner featured the informal panel “Navigating Across Intellectual Boundaries.” Inset: AERA President-Elect Carol D. Lee of Northwestern University asks a question at the evening panel.

contributed to program planning for 2009. In reflecting on the meeting, Executive Director Felice Levine commented, “There is no doubt that the CCM meeting accomplished a lot of work and created a great

deal of buzz about possibilities from advancing education research. The discussion generated some very clear and useful steps of value that AERA should pursue.”