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. Gadson (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:

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 progressing 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 Executive Board also discussed issues related to the Bylaws and Association awards, actions were deferred until the issues could be discussed further by the full Council.

President Ladson-Billings indicated that a brief executive session would be held at the end of the morning session.

4. Report of the Executive Director

Key Issues and Activities. Executive Director Felice Levine thanked all in attendance. She reported on AERA’s participation in the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) annual exhibition on June 21. She noted that AERA has been a member of CNSF for several years, but that this was the first time that AERA has sponsored an education research project. Levine explained that the purpose of the exhibition is to showcase research that illustrates the importance of investments in science by the National Science Foundation. She noted that the exhibition was very well attended by members of the U.S. Congress and their staffs and that there was considerable interest in the AERA exhibit.

Executive Director Levine also reported on a media briefing held on June 20 at the National Press Club for AERA’s new book, Studying Teacher Education: The Report of the AERA Panel on Research and Teacher Education. She indicated that the high profile of the issue of teacher education made it particularly appropriate for a media briefing along with the release of this book. Levine also announced that Black Education: A Transformative Research and Action Agenda for the New Century, a volume culminating the work of the Commission on Research in Black Education (CORIBE), was released in June. She indicated that this book too would be featured in selected AERA-sponsored activities this fall.

Council expressed enthusiasm about these new publications. Some Council 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.

Levine also reported on the progress 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 Survey.

Preliminary Report on 2005 Annual Meeting Survey. Executive Director Levine reported that the 2005 Annual Meeting survey was sent to approximately 10,000 attendees with known e-mail addresses in early June. She noted that, thus far, there have been 2,200 respondents to the survey. Levine indicated that the responses were very informative and helpful for planning future Annual Meetings. President Ladson-Billings thanked Levine and staff for the survey and commented that the last time one had been done was for the Atlanta Annual Meeting in 1993. She noted that the use of an electronic survey clearly will allow attendees to respond more readily and will give AERA a broader spectrum of the attendees. Council urged the Central Office to extract feedback relating to student attendees for the Graduate Student Council and to share the survey results with the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and the division vice presidents.

Task Force on Reporting of Research Methods. Executive Director Levine briefed Council on the Task Force on Reporting of Research Methods in AERA Publications, chaired by Pamela A. Moss. Levine noted that the Task Force planned to undertake an intensive analysis of representative research articles. The findings should be helpful to education research as well as other related fields. Central to the discussion would be to identify standards for methods reporting to be used in AERA publications. The Task Force will be meeting in late August and early December. Council discussed the importance of the objectives; the merit of the Task Force’s undertaking its work sequentially or in a phased approach; and the possibility of involving different education researchers in different phases. Levine indicated that she anticipated a preliminary report would be submitted to Council in January 2006.

5. Membership and Journal Subscription Reports

Review of Membership. Executive Director Levine introduced Karen Nedbal, Director of Membership and Marketing. Nedbal reminded Council that this was the first full membership year under the new dues structure. There was an increase in membership from 21,969 to 22,487, and renewal rates have returned to the 2003 level while at the same time new memberships increased by 9%. There has been little change in the demographics of the membership. Nedbal indicated that it is noteworthy that many more members are joining and renewing online. Division memberships have risen in accord with the increased membership, as is expected because members receive a complimentary division membership. SIG memberships have also increased as SIGs continue to be popular because they are tailored to specific interests of members.

Council member Donald Blumenfeld-Jones asked if any membership drives were planned. Nedbal mentioned a number of membership activities either under way or being planned: (1) a “Member-Get-a-Member” drive, which gives members incentives to bring in new members; (2) direct mail to prospective members; (3) exhibiting at conferences of selected organizations in Washington, DC; and (4) a concerted effort to contact lapsed members. Council discussed the positive improvement in membership due to AERA members joining at least one division. Levine reminded Council of the complimentary division membership as part of membership dues and noted that more members were taking advantage of the opportunity. Council discussed the importance of outreach as well as member involvement. The strategies discussed included a “Professor-Bring-a-Student” drive and ways to ensure that members choose a division membership at the time of application or renewal.

Council member Marcia Mentkowski noted that Division I asked its members what other associations they belong to and created a brochure to distribute at the conventions of those associations. Levine encouraged division vice presidents and membership chairs to contact AERA on membership outreach efforts. Council discussed the importance of providing ongoing mentoring opportunities, especially for student members, and strategies to get faculty members involved in mentoring students.

Council member Barbara McCombs indicated that one of the reasons SIG membership continues to be attractive is because members are looking for smaller groups within the Association. She was interested in gaining a better understanding of SIGs, especially those with a large member base. Deputy Executive Director Phoebe Stevenson indicated that the Central Office could provide a summary matrix showing the intersection between SIG membership and division membership.

Review of Journal Subscriptions. Nedbal reported that the number of paid member subscriptions has increased, showing a trend that renewing members who were used to receiving two journals seemed more likely to purchase a second journal in
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 information 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 Executive Board. Approved unanimously.

9. 2006 Annual Meeting Site Complexities

Executive Director Levine and Director of Meetings Smith briefed Council on the ongoing labor situation in San Francisco regarding the dispute between hotel management and the hotel workers’ union. They noted that they and President Ladson-Billings had been conferred closely on this issue. The San Francisco Hilton, one of the hotels involved in the dispute, is the headquarters site planned for the 2006 Annual Meeting. The feasible options for AERA to ensure a viable Annual Meeting in 2006 included: relocate to a different city; stay in San Francisco, but relocate to hotels and sites not experiencing the labor dispute; or stay in San Francisco as planned without making any changes. Due to the relatively large size of the AERA Annual Meeting and the complexities involved in changing venues, an immediate decision would be necessary to enable changes to be implemented. Council discussed the best option available in terms of holding a viable meeting yet being mindful of the possible effect on attendance and financial impact to the Association. The Executive Board had offered the following recommendation:

Motion: Whereas the Council of the American Educational Research Association must ensure a viable 2006 Annual Meeting for the Association, the Council has determined to relocate the Annual Meeting to properties not vulnerable to labor boycotts, with a preference for remaining in San Francisco, if feasible, and with a final decision to be made no later than July 15, 2005. Approved unanimously.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director to transmit the resolution to the Mayor’s Office, the San Francisco Hilton Hotel, and Labor Union. Approved unanimously.

Council urged the Central Office to communicate Council’s decision to AERA members as soon as feasible consonant with seeking to provide the affected hotels and the labor union some opportunity to settle the dispute.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director to communicate the resolution to the AERA Program Highlights—Information and Discussion

Publications. Linda Dziobek, Director of Publications, reported on the use of the Open Journal System (OJS) for electronic submissions and review of manuscripts. She indicated that EEPA was the first journal to use the system and that those involved were enthusiastic. Incoming Editors for AERJ-SLA and RER would be meeting with Central Office staff in July to facilitate a smooth transition as well as for training on OJS. She noted that President-Elect Eva Baker resigned as co-editor of RRE in order to assume the office of President-Elect.

Council member Blumenfeld-Jones raised concerns about the decreased readership of AERA journals and the changing ways of reading journals and searching for relevant sources. Council reflected on the effects of any such changes on citations to journals and considered whether research training and breadth of knowledge are becoming more limited over time. Council member Reckase noted the effect of e-searching for relevant articles and the impact on how graduate students use library resources. Bob Nedbal suggested that AERA could examine strategies to head search lists, such as Google Scholar, as junior scholars are not going to want print editions. Dziobek noted that an increasing number of users were looking for specific articles rather than a complete journal. Council discussed the possible trend of print journals being displaced by electronic delivery of scholarly materials, ways in which the next generation of scholars could or should be trained to read journals, and the need to prepare the next generation of scholars and the responsibility for teaching them how to undertake an effective literature search. Past-President Cochran-Smith suggested a professional development course on how to do a literature search and why it is valuable.

Council member Mentkowski inquired about donation of old print journals. Executive Director Levine mentioned some alternative strategies and suggested that a fact sheet be created for dissemination to members. Past-President Cochran-Smith suggested that it be placed on the website’s FAQs. She also inquired about the reprint policy. Levine reported that the reprint revenue has been modest. Council has adopted a policy for authors to post a copy of their article on their personal website. Levine suggested that a copyright lawyer could teach a copyright course, as was urged by Council member Mentkowski.

Communications. Helaine Patterson, Director of Communications and Outreach, reported that the media briefing for Studying Teacher Education was AERA’s first freestanding event at the National Press Club without other organizational collaborators. She noted that it was well attended, with four members of the main education press present. She indicated that there had been extensive postings, including the press kit from the media briefing, on websites regarding the publication. Patterson distributed samples of the media coverage.

She also reported that there was good media coverage at the 2005 Annual Meeting and that the pressroom was very successful. She indicated that the Communications staff was in contact with public information officers at researchers’ home institutions and that AERA was well positioned to promote the research contributions of members. She noted that Annual Meeting sessions sponsored by the Communications and Outreach Committee on communications issues were very well received. She provided a brief overview of the successful AERA—Hechinger Institute for Reporters, which was once again embedded in the Annual Meeting this year.

Emphasizing the importance of public outreach, Patterson mentioned that preparation had been underway for the second Brown Lecture to be held in October. She indicated as well that an issue of Research
Points was forthcoming. Levine was asked about prior discussion of the possibilities of Editor Lauren Resnick joining part of a Council meeting for some further consideration of Research Points. Levine indicated that Resnick was available for such a meeting, but, with a review of Research Points due quite soon, it seemed premature to schedule a face-to-face meeting at this point. President Ladson-Billings indicated that Council needed to evaluate the impact of this publication before coming to any conclusion with regard to its continuation. Questions such as whether the publication succeeded in reaching its target audience needed to be addressed.

Government Relations. Gerald Sroufe, Director of Government Relations, reviewed the history of the Government Relations Committee and its goals of gaining access and establishing relationships with education research policymakers in federal agencies and on Capitol Hill to further the work of the Association. Council discussed issues related to the Institute of Education Sciences, its budget situation, and research emphases and priorities. Sroufe noted an example of an important study seeking funding to conduct an international comparative study of how math teachers become math teachers.

Executive Director Levine noted the importance of advancing education research at research agencies as well as at the U.S. Department of Education. She briefed the Council on the situation with respect to potential cutbacks in resources at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and steps underway to ameliorate requested reductions by the Administration for Fiscal Year 2006. She noted that the work that AERA is doing in relation to NSF and the National Institutes of Health are very important pieces of a broader plan to advance education research through sound research policy and advocacy.

President-Elect Eva Baker asked about the status of that plan. Levine indicated that a preliminary map of issues and directions was discussed with the Government Relations Committee with considerable support and positive feedback at the Annual Meeting in April. While Levine and Sroufe had anticipated bringing it to Council in June, they wished to work further on it in interaction with the Government Relations Committee in October at the Coordinated Committee Meeting.

Council member McCombs praised the strategic and broad-based efforts underway to advance education research as a field and continuing support for it.

Motion: To commend the Executive Director and Director of Government Relations for their work on behalf of education research. Approved unanimously.

Professional Development. Executive Director Levine indicated that the Committee on Professional Development and Training has encouraged quality proposals and, at its October meeting, will make selections on courses and minicourses for the 2006 Annual Meeting. In addition, the Committee is beginning to focus on AERA research training opportunities outside the Annual Meeting offerings and on whether the Annual Meeting programming, and any gaps in it, might benefit from more intentional efforts. Levine noted the possibility of distance learning and use of technology to enhance AERA’s role in professional development in education research. She also indicated the possibility of collaborating with divisions on research training courses in substantive areas. Division vice presidents noted that the group had focused its pre-Council meeting discussion on mentoring, training, recognizing, and building the next generation of education research talent.

Executive Director Levine provided a brief update on the AERA-IES Grants Program, plans for the forthcoming AERA-IES Postdoctoral Fellows and Mentors Summer Institute in July, and the new Fellows initiatives with the American Institutes for Research and the Educational Testing Service. She also noted the current status of the AERA Grants Program in light of the funding picture at NSF.

Social Justice. Executive Director Levine made a few additional comments about the October 20, 2005 Brown Lecture in Education Research being given by Claude Steele. She reported that the Social Justice Action Committee would quite soon also be considering whether to hold any pre-day events before the Brown Lecture. Government Relations Director Gerald Sroufe suggested the possibility of Claude Steele being available prior to giving the Brown Lecture so that meetings might be arranged with Hill members or groups such as the Congressional Black Caucus.

Council expressed appreciation for the work of the AERA Central Office staff throughout the year.

Motion: To express Council’s confidence in the ability of AERA staff to make a significant contribution to education research and to the membership of AERA. Approved unanimously.

II. Report from and Discussion of Vice Presidents’ Issues

Division vice presidents introduced a number of issues discussed at their pre-Council meeting. The topics discussed included: ways to share information to strengthen division programs; the need for an archive, common standards, or a handbook for issues of importance to division officers, such as elections; the possibility of a symposium at the Annual Meeting on the linkage of research in divisions and the public interest, possibly through roundtable presentations and follow-up discussions involving senior scholars from each division; the use of a vice president listserv to facilitate the sharing of information and important documents; and mechanisms and tools for providing activities beyond fireside chats at the Annual Meeting. Council discussed the possibility of organizing Annual Meeting sessions on community and relationship-building skills as well as ways to segment a division so that different activities might be used to target specific groups of membership with a division. Council agreed that, while vice presidents set goals for individual divisions, there could be synergistic opportunities to cut across divisions in a pre-day conference. Past-President Cochran-Smith suggested that divisions develop a list of suggested sessions, as they would be of interest to both division and SIG members.

President Ladson-Billings noted the New Members’ Breakfast Session at the Annual Meeting and suggested that, as a means of fostering communications through the Association, it could be done within the divisions as well. Council member McCombs proposed the topic “What are the issues that cut across divisions?” and President Ladson-Billings commented that this is the type of long-term question she hopes Council would begin to discuss. Council member Gadsden felt that graduate schools of education should be more engaged in providing mentoring opportunities for graduate students.
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.

Council member Schuyler Huck presented a motion crafted by the SIG Executive Committee to maintain the minimum membership requirement of 30 members for SIGs in the Bylaws.

**Motion:** To replace language for Article X with language recommended by the SIG Executive Committee.

Council member McDonnell spoke against the motion. She also reported that the subcommittee tried to make parallel changes for divisions and SIGs. Council discussed the fact that numerical membership requirements should be treated as a policy issue with flexibility to be changed rather than being incorporated in the Bylaws, which is essentially a constitutional document.

**Substitute Motion:** To substitute Article X, Section 1, with language suggested by Council member Huck. Approved, 2; Opposed, 14.

Council discussed whether it was appropriate for Council members to seek input from their respective units on issues under consideration by Council. President Ladson-Billings spoke against this approach. She explained that Council is the governing body of the Association, and as a Council member, one has larger responsibilities than representation of one’s division or SIG. Council further discussed the dual responsibilities of a Council member. While there might be times when it is appropriate to get advice and consent from the group one represents, the Bylaws topic should transcend the interest of individual units and serve the well-being of the Association as a whole. Council discussed varying views as to whether specifying 30 as the minimum membership requirement for SIGs would indeed ensure the viability of SIGs. Council turned to a discussion of the SIG Handbook of Policies and Procedures and noted that each SIG must adhere to the rules, regulations, and standards that are contained in the Handbook. President Ladson-Billings emphasized the fact that the proposed Bylaws included the elevation of the importance of the SIG Executive Committee as one of three committees included in the Bylaws while other committees exist at the discretion of Council.

Council member Huck withdrew the main motion.

Council’s discussion turned to whether there should be a provision in the Bylaws 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 Cochrane-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.

A motion to have Council review the final revised Bylaws by mail or e-mail was introduced, but withdrawn in favor of having members of Council who were on the Bylaws subcommittee undertake the final review to ensure that all Council-recommended changes were incorporated.

13. **Financial Issues**

**Annual Meeting Registration Fees.** Executive Director Levine brought forth the Executive Board’s recommendation to support an increase in the Annual Meeting registration fees beginning in 2006. Levine and Director of Meetings Smith spoke to the need to increase Annual Meeting–related revenue. Council felt that the proposed increase was rational and sound and discussed the importance of conveying to
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 the possibility of lowering the graduate student registration fee increase by $5 and increasing the regular member registration fee increase by $5 for both preregistration and on-site registration and the fact that among similar associations AERA has the lowest rates for students. Discussion turned to alternate ways by which graduate students can be supported, such as scholarships; students obtaining support from their universities; the need to heighten awareness, such as by means of letters to deans; encouraging faculty members to make contribution to support students; and alternative sources, such as division budgets, to make travel grants to students.

**Motion:** To modify the proposed fee change as follows: Additionally increase the AERA member fee by $5 and reduce the AERA student member fee increase by $5. Approved, 15; Abstained, 1.

**Motion:** To approve the increase in the AERA’s Annual Meeting registration fees as recommended by the Executive Board with the Council modification to the AERA student member fee and AERA member fee included for both pre- and on-site registration. Approved, 15; Abstained, 1.

**Division Budget Carryover Within VP Terms.** Executive Director Levine indicated that divisions typically have under-spent their annual allotted budgets and that under the new policy that went into effect in Fiscal Year 2005 any unspent budget can be carried forward from year to year within a vice president’s term. Since the Association as a whole does not carry forward net income (positive or negative) from year to year, there needed to be some accounting structure to hold these carryover funds. AERA’s accounting firm, Rubino and McGeehin, advised that Council authorize the establishment of a Council-designated restricted account in which unspent funds can be expensed in each fiscal year and which would operate according to the division budget policy established by Council.

**Motion:** To establish a Council-designated restricted account for the carryover funds from divisions. Approved unanimously.

Council discussed in general terms the effect of the carryover of potentially large amounts within a vice president’s term. President Ladson-Billings suggested that a discussion of division budgets be placed on the January Council meeting agenda. President-Elect Baker asked for divisions to report on planned expenditures at that time so that Council could better understand how carryover funds would be used.

### 14. Financial Reports and Proposed Budget

**Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Report and Analysis.** Deputy Executive Director Stevenson noted that, while Council previously had approved a deficit budget for Fiscal Year 2005, a balanced budget was anticipated because of above-budget revenue from interest income, membership dues, and the Annual Meeting. Conservative spending by all departments in the Central Office and savings from personnel expenses due to staged hiring also contributed to the positive net income projection. Relatively lower costs, as compared with budget and favorable exchange rates, also resulted in below-budget expenditure for the Annual Meeting held in Montréal. Levine said that the objective was to have a balanced budget by the end of Fiscal Year 2006, which has essentially already occurred.

**Fiscal Year 2006 Proposed Budget.** President Ladson-Billings indicated that the Executive Board had reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006 carefully and that there were a number of recommended modifications. She noted that committee chairs had been requested to provide a narrative with their budget requests. Deputy Executive Director Stevenson summarized the deliberations on committee budgets as advanced by the Executive Board.

Proposed budgets from the SIG Executive Committee, the Government Relations Committee, the Graduate Student Council, the Research Advisory Committee, and the International Relations Committee were all recommended by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board recommended that the Books Editorial Board hold one meeting at the October Coordinated Committee meeting in 2006 rather than the proposed two separate meetings for Fiscal Year 2006.

The request of the Communications and Outreach Committee for funding for the chair to travel to Washington, DC, to meet with potential session organizers was not recommended. The Executive Board recommended that such meetings be combined with the Coordinated Committee Meeting in October and that one session, not two, be granted to the Committee for the 2006 Annual Meeting. Furthermore, in the future, the Committee would be asked to submit professional development course proposals or make a formal request to Council for an ongoing session allocation.

The Scholars and Advocacy for Gender Equity (SAGE) Committee has been proposing a mentoring session through the Professional Development and Training Committee’s course proposal process. The Executive Board asked that the SAGE Committee clarify its role in providing mentoring to AERA members and submit a prospectus for the Executive Board’s review in October. The Executive Board noted that other mechanisms for mentoring might broaden the number of students reached better than the current approach of a pre—Annual Meeting workshop for only 15 graduate students. In addition, the request for $1,000 for their proposed award is being deferred, as the Committee is being asked to revise and resubmit its proposal for a SAGE-sponsored award.

The Scholars of Color in Education Committee utilized its funds with a wide impact on mentoring activities. The Executive Board recommended the approval of $6,000 for the mentoring dinner.

Executive Director Levine noted that the budget request from the Task Force on Reporting of Research Methods is new; the request is for the group to have two meetings of 12 people each. In addition, the SIG Task Force budget is to allow for one meeting in October in conjunction with the Coordinated Committee Meeting. Levine indicated that the Executive Board recommended these requests for approval by Council.

Council member Yakimowski-Srebnick noted that she thought the Technology Committee should receive a budget, even
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 Board, decided to ask the Committee for clarification of these issues. A model for making the award request based on the proposal submitted for the Social Justice in Education Award will be provided to the Committee to facilitate its work.

Motion: To accept the Executive Board recommendation. Approved unanimously.

16. SIG Task Force

Council member Christine Sleeter reported on the progress of the SIG Task Force, which she chairs. The Task Force was created by Past-President Marilyn Cochran-Smith to undertake a comprehensive review of all aspects of AERA’s Special Interest Groups with regard to formation and continuation, membership, Annual Meeting session allocation, governance and accountability, and growth and to make recommendations to Council. The Task Force’s perspective is that SIGs serve unique functions in AERA (e.g., contributing to scholarship, organizational cohesion, and opportunities for small-group networking and leadership) that should be strengthened, while also giving rise to challenges that should be addressed (e.g., session allocation). The Task Force had a short meeting in April followed by a second meeting in San Jose in 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 members, effective immediately. Approved unanimously.

17. Future Council Meeting

It was determined that the winter meetings will be on January 27, 2006, for the Executive Board and on January 28–29 for Council.

18. Adjournment

President Ladson-Billings adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.