

# Council

## Minutes

**June 28–29, 2013**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

### **Council Members Present:**

Gary L. Anderson (Member-at-Large), Wayne J. Camara (Division D), Jennifer Elizabeth Carinci (Graduate Student Council), Mitchell J. Chang (Member-at-Large), Geni Cowan (SIG Executive Committee), Rubén Donato (Member-at-Large), Marybeth Gasman (Division F), Ellen B. Goldring (Division L), Carl A. Grant (Division B), Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Graue (Member-at-Large), Joyce E. King (President-Elect), Margaret G. McKeown (Member-at-Large), Luis C. Moll (Division G), Kathy Nakagawa (Division E; present June 29 only), Margaret Terry Orr (Division A), Barbara Schneider (President), William G. Tierney (Past President), LuAnn Wilkerson (Division I)

### **Council Members Absent:**

Judy Arter (Division H), A. Lin Goodwin (Division K), Adrianna Kezar (Division J), P. Karen Murphy (Division C), Cynthia Tyson (Member-at-Large)

### **Staff Members Present:**

Felice J. Levine, Patricia Martin, Tony Pals, Gerald E. Sroufe

**Friday, June 28, 2013**  
**(Meeting Day I)**

### **I. Welcome and Introduction by President Barbara Schneider**

President Barbara Schneider called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. She welcomed members of Council and AERA staff and thanked them for attending this first meeting of the 2013–2014 Council. Self-introductions followed. Council reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the minutes from its February and April meetings.

*Motion:* To approve the meeting agenda as presented. Approved unanimously.

*Motion:* To approve the minutes from the February 2013 Council meeting. Approved unanimously.

*Motion:* To approve the minutes from the April 2013 Council meetings. Approved unanimously.

### **2. Report of the President**

President Schneider provided an overview of the agenda, discussed her aspirations for the meeting, and highlighted some of the areas for particular Council attention. She indicated that four breakout sessions would address AERA programming and policies in several key areas. Mark Berends, 2014 Annual Meeting program chair, would lead a discussion of the 2014 Annual Meeting theme, “The Power of Education Research for Innovation in Practice and Policy.” The remaining three sessions would consider the evaluation of teachers, principals, and the programs that prepare them and the place of value-added measures, big data, and innovations and improvements in AERA communications.

Schneider noted the importance of continuity in AERA leadership as a way to build on programmatic activities over time. Reflecting on her own commitment to equity, she indicated that the focus on poverty and education, the theme of William Tierney’s presidency, would continue. Schneider emphasized the importance of advancing education research and the role of AERA Council in this effort. She touched on some recent illustrative Council actions, such as the amicus curiae brief that AERA and several co-signers submitted to the Supreme Court on *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*. The brief provided the Court with significant research findings relevant to the case. Schneider stressed the need to continue the focus on important issues such as this, and indicated that this Council meeting would examine other opportunities for AERA Council initiatives.

Schneider briefed Council on developments surrounding the placement of the Grand Hyatt in San Francisco on the UNITE HERE union boycott list. Some

meeting attendees had called for AERA to boycott the hotel, where AERA had reserved rooms for housing and meeting space. However, Schneider said that a labor strike was not taking place at the Grand Hyatt. She said that AERA has a demonstrated commitment to supporting fair labor policies, which plays a role in determining the location of AERA meetings. However, news of the boycott came at such a late date that it was not practical and not in the best interest of AERA’s members to move from the Grand Hyatt. She indicated that this was an unusual situation and that, while AERA has a clear policy on dealing with labor strikes, addressing boycotts is an issue that needs further research and discussion. Council will address this topic in its October meeting.

Schneider provided a summary of the Executive Board meeting held on June 27, 2013. She indicated that, while the majority of the agenda items would be discussed by Council, approval of SIG award petitions was the responsibility of the Executive Board. She reported that nine of the SIG petitions were approved by the Executive Board and three others were referred back to the SIGs for technical reasons. Schneider noted that the Executive Board was pleased with the independent auditors’ report for FY2012 and thanked Executive Director Felice Levine and Director of Finance and Administration Norman Tenorio for their work leading to the successful audit.

Schneider led a discussion on the Common Core Standards and the teaching of mathematics. Council members noted that the Standards are fundamentally changing the classroom landscape on multiple fronts. Schneider informed Council that AERA would be conducting a panel on Common Core Standards, with international colleagues participating to discuss how evaluation works in different countries. She indicated that AERA Past President Alan Schoenfeld had raised the possibility of a joint research-driven effort with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics on this topic.

Schneider concluded with a brief comment about the highly positive aspects of AERA’s presence in Washington, D.C.,

and the Association's impact on public policy. She commended and thanked Executive Director Levine for her strong leadership, which she said was responsible for the scope and depth of AERA's engagement and which had raised AERA's profile and prestige in policy-making circles at the national level.

### 3. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Felice Levine began her report with an overview of leadership transitions for 2013–2014. She thanked President Schneider and Past President Tierney for enabling a smooth transition, noting that the AERA leadership works effectively to ensure continuity as well as change. She noted that collaborations across Councils and presidents make this possible.

Levine briefed Council on the status of the *American Educational Research Journal*, which will be integrated into a single format in 2015. Two new editors have been appointed: Teresa L. McCarty will serve as editor of the Social and Institutional Analysis (SIA) section, and Harold F. O'Neil will serve as editor of the Teaching, Learning, and Human Development (TLHD) section. She informed Council that the Journal Publications Committee has called for nominations for the editorship of *AERA Open*, the new open access publication approved by Council in April 2013. Levine asked Council to consider possible candidates. *AERA Open* will begin publication in 2014.

Levine briefed council on AERA's Virtual Research Learning Center (VRLC), which was launched at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco with five live-streamed professional development and training courses. She thanked Council for its enthusiastic support of this concept. The VRLC offers access to training for professional development and research capacity building in a virtual environment through online and digital technologies. The initial set of courses, as well as lectures from the recent AERA Grants Program Statistics Institutes, will be available in early summer. The offerings through the VRLC

will be expanded further in the coming year.

Council was informed that AERA would continue its collaboration with the Education Writers Association. Levine reported that this past April, AERA and EWA had held a joint seminar in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in San Francisco: "Reporting on Education Research—Data at Your Desk." Levine also briefed Council on her role as a member of a National Research Council panel established to address possible revisions to the Common Rule for the protection of human subjects in research. She noted that this effort would produce recommended changes in rules that essentially have not been altered since 1981. She indicated that a workshop report would be published in September.

### 4. Review of Financial Report and Audit

President Schneider provided a brief overview on the financial report and audit for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012. The 2012 budget was more favorable than projected due to increased publications revenue and higher-than-expected Annual Meeting registrations. Schneider asked Past President Tierney to comment on the FY2012 budget and the Association's financial picture. He noted that AERA is strong and healthy financially and has a favorable portfolio, and that the increase in net worth is the result of higher revenue than anticipated and prudent cost-savings by the executive director, as well as of an effective investment strategy.

Schneider reviewed the 2012 audit process, explaining that AERA had recently switched to a new independent auditing firm. The firm issued a favorable report, which the AERA Executive Board recommended that Council approve. Schneider described the procedures followed by the audit committee, which included independent discussion with the auditor without the participation of the Executive Director.

**Motion:** To approve and accept the recommendation of the Executive Board that the 2012 audit be accepted. Approved unanimously.

### 5. Report and Recommendations From the SIG Executive Committee

Schneider noted that the Executive Board is responsible for approving Special Interest Group (SIG) award petitions. Twelve petitions were presented to the Executive Board and nine were approved. Three would be approved following minor edits. Schneider asked Geni Cowan, SIG Executive Committee (SIG EC) chair, to brief Council on a proposal to form the new Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis SIG. Cowan said that the SIG EC supported the formation of the SIG and voted to advance the petition to the Executive Board. They felt that the proposers of the SIG presented a sound basis for its creation, and they conducted adequate due diligence to ensure that the area of focus of the SIG did not overlap with those of other AERA units. The SIG EC recommended that Council approve the proposal.

**Motion:** To approve the proposal to form the new Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Special Interest Group. Approved unanimously.

Cowan presented a proposal to dissolve the Communication of Research SIG. The SIG's officers informed the SIG EC that members of the SIG had agreed to dissolve it at their April 2012 business meeting. They said that the SIG no longer met the requirements for a "healthy and vital" SIG. The SIG has only 55 members, a number below the requirement of 75. Cowan noted that the officers are encouraging members to join the Research Use SIG.

**Motion:** To dissolve the Communication of Research SIG as a unit of AERA for good and sufficient reason. Approved unanimously.

### 6. Annual Innovations and Matching Resources to Expand Activities

Levine briefed Council on the status of the matching fund initiative that was introduced in the 2013 Annual Meeting as a one-time experiment to expand annual meeting-related activities undertaken by SIGs and divisions. She noted that the response from SIGs and divisions to this

initiative was quite low, perhaps because more planning time was needed. Levine noted that the program could be valuable and that a longer timeline might result in greater interest and response. She recommended that the program be continued for another year and that the call for proposals be issued earlier to allow SIGs and divisions additional planning time. She suggested that the program be reevaluated by Council in June 2014.

**Motion:** That the matching resource initiative be extended for a second year and be reevaluated at the June 2014 meeting of the AERA Council. Approved unanimously.

### **7. Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon: Continuation and 2014 Plan**

Council discussed the awards luncheon, which was held for the first time at the San Francisco Annual Meeting. In the past, awards were conferred at the presidential address. The San Francisco event exceeded all expectations. Levine said that opening up the luncheon to table sponsors resulted in a sold-out event. Council discussed the importance of being inclusive by providing empty tables for those who do not wish to have lunch. Levine noted that the opportunity was provided for individuals to participate without having lunch. Levine also noted that the sponsorships for tables were so low in cost that AERA was underwriting the shortfall for tables. She and Council agreed that the pricing structure would need to change for 2014. Schneider commended Kristen Renn for her successful chairing of this event. In a straw vote, Council decided unanimously to continue the awards luncheon in 2014.

### **8. AERA Annual Meeting Site Selection: Guidance and Policy**

Schneider briefed Council on the Executive Board's discussion about AERA's current meeting site selection policies. She noted that this was a timely topic in light of the UNITE HERE placement of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco on a boycott list. Because AERA's policy does not specifically address boycotted hotels,

more research and discussion by the Executive Board is needed before considering whether a policy on the issue is required. Council members observed that a boycott involves complex issues with consequences for both meeting participants and hotel workers. The Executive Board and Council will consider the topic further.

### **9. Substantive Issues Related to AERA Programming and Policies**

President Schneider provided an overview of the substantive discussion topics. She indicated that she had invited speakers to lead discussions on topics related to AERA programming and policies.

#### *The Power of Education Research for Innovation in Practice and Policy*

Schneider introduced Mark Berends, 2014 Annual Meeting program chair, who gave Council an update on the meeting program. Discussion centered on the meeting theme, "The Power of Education Research for Innovation in Practice and Policy." Schneider emphasized that ideas were welcomed and that she and Mark hoped that this discussion might help to shape research-based program themes. Topics considered included the consequences of multi-generational poverty for learning and the achievement gap; the broad social, structural, and contextual issues affecting education; how to better prepare/involve policy makers and users of research findings; how much research-based evidence is used in decisions (for example to close schools or other financial decisions); and the effectiveness of previous reform efforts. Schneider observed that the world is changing dramatically and that a salient question is how education researchers can weigh in effectively on the critical problems affecting society. Council noted the importance of AERA's continuing focus on raising the profile of education research, and its emphasis on policy making based on sound research. Council members concluded this discussion by focusing on the need for AERA to harness new technologies

for more effective communication of innovative research.

#### *Evaluating Teachers, Principals, and Programs That Prepare Them and the Place of Value-Added Measures*

Gerald E. Sroufe, senior advisor and director of government relations, chaired a session titled "Evaluating Teachers, Principals, and Programs That Prepare Them and the Place of Value-Added Measures." Presenters were Douglas N. Harris, co-editor of *Educational Researcher's* special section on value-added methods; Margaret Terry Orr, vice president, Division A; and Wayne Camara, vice president, Division D. In February 2013, Council had affirmed support for issuing a policy statement on value-added measures. At that time, President Tierney asked that Council address the issue at the June meeting to give additional time to consider the topic fully. Council members noted that a special section of *Educational Researcher* would examine value-added measures. Sroufe explained that the purpose of the presentation and background materials at this meeting was to provide information on this very complex issue. Council engaged in further discussion and a consensus emerged in support of the preparation of a statement, noting that such a statement would serve the public good and advance the field of education research. Council urged that this be done by the February meeting, where a full discussion would be possible.

**Motion:** To prepare a statement on value-added measurement under the imprimatur of the Association. Approved, 13; Opposed, 4.

#### *BIG DATA—Shaping the Next Generation of Education Research and Researchers*

President Schneider chaired a session called "BIG DATA—Shaping the Next Generation of Education Research and Researchers." Hakizumwami Birali Runesha (Birali), director of research computing at the University of Chicago, addressed the topic "Big Data: High Performance Computing in the Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences." He discussed how

new technology and the growing speed of computers are transforming our society. Runesha indicated that a major area of growth for big data use is in the social and behavioral sciences. Particular challenges ensue from federal funding of research, which requires data-sharing arrangements. Council members discussed other issues related to big data, such as confidentiality, intellectual property rights, access issues, and personal security for human subjects. Schneider noted that big data is a topic of critical importance for the social and behavioral sciences and that it is important for AERA to be at the forefront of the issue. She concluded by asking Council to consider what AERA's role should be in shaping the framework around big data sessions.

The Friday meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

## **Saturday, June 29, 2013 (Meeting Day 2)**

President Schneider called the meeting to order 8:30 a.m.

### *Innovations and Improvements in AERA Communications*

AERA Director of Communications Tony Pals led a discussion on the AERA communications program. He noted that ongoing evaluation and refinement of the program are critical to its success. The framework of the program is based on three pillars: effectiveness of the AERA website, expanded use of social media, and proactive media relations.

Council members were invited to brainstorm ideas for innovation in these three areas in breakout groups and report back to Council. Ideas raised by Council members included:

- Expand reach to engage more diverse audiences and cross-pollinating of ideas.
- Improve search capabilities of the website; streamline graphic approach, using less text.
- Increase use of videos on AERA events and meeting sessions and use of biographical pieces on AERA Fellows and other leaders in the field.
- Consider using TED-like events as a way to disseminate information, stimulate thinking, and exchange ideas.
- Use social media such as Facebook for teaching and advocacy.
- Seek more education research coverage in the mainstream media.

## **10. Dissemination Plans for AERA Higher Education Recommendations and Reports Emerging From 2012–2013 Task Forces**

Levine provided Council members with a summary of the *AERA Report and Recommendations on Evaluating Education Research, Scholarship, and Teaching in Postsecondary Education* and the *AERA Statement on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty* that were approved by Council in April 2013. Levine discussed a possible dissemination plan that included a release of the reports and a statement in national and education trade media at the start of the academic year, exposure on the AERA website and on social media, and partnering with appropriate organizations to offer more exposure for the report and statement.

## **11. Committee Restructuring and Review of Committee Charges**

Levine provided some orienting remarks on the role of committees within the

AERA governance structure. Committees are created by Council to serve the Association unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws. Levine briefed Council members on the Council liaison role and the draft charges for the different committees. Schneider informed Council that committee liaison roles for 2013–2014 had been finalized and indicated that she had taken into account requests from Council members.

## **12. Access and Equity: Higher Education in a Post-Fisher World**

Schneider chaired a discussion on the role of AERA in addressing affirmative action issues in the future. She observed that the amicus curiae brief that AERA submitted to the Supreme Court on *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* was an important step, and she thanked Levine for her strong leadership in that effort. A panel consisting of Executive Director Levine, Council Member at-Large Mitchell Chang, and President-Elect Joyce E. King made initial presentations that led to an engaged discussion by Council. Going forward, Levine said that AERA is planning to collaborate with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on a project to chart a research agenda based on issues crucial to legal and social policy in higher education. Schneider said that AERA needs to continue to contribute to this discussion in a manner that is meaningful and effective. Council noted that AERA was providing useful resources for scholars working in the area of affirmative action.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.