

# Council Minutes

June 21–22, 2007  
Washington, D.C.

## Council Members Present:

Eva L. Baker (Past President), Arnettha F. Ball (Division K), Mark Berends (Division L), Linda L. Cook (Division D), Stacy L. DeZutter (Graduate Student Council), David J. Flinders (Division B), Steve A. Henry (Division H), Joan L. Herman (Member-at-Large), Cynthia A. Hudley (Division E), Carol D. Lee (Division G), Richard E. Mayer (Division C), Lorraine M. McDonnell (President-Elect), Patricia S. O'Sullivan (Division I), Robert J. Stahl (SIG Executive Committee), William F. Tate (President), William G. Tierney (Member-at-Large), Linda C. Tillman (Division A), Susan B. Twombly (Division J).

## Council Member Absent:

Nancy Beadie (Division F).

## Staff Members Present:

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

Melissa Junior, Helaine Patterson, Paula Skedsvold, and George Wimberly joined the meeting at selected intervals.

## Thursday, June 21, 2007 (Meeting Day 1)

### 1. Welcome by President William F. Tate

President William Tate 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 amended. In addition, Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 9, 2007, Council meeting.

President Tate informed Council members of the committee liaison assignments for 2007–2008.

### 3. Report of the President

President Tate provided an overview of the agenda and thanked members of Council for suggesting items for inclusion. Tate indicated that Council would be briefed on the Executive Board's actions from the meeting on June 20, 2007, as the items appear in Council's agenda. He reminded Council of the role of Council members and emphasized that they represent the Association as a whole, rather than representing the interests of specific AERA divisions, SIGs, or other units. He urged Council members to review AERA's mission statement and keep it in mind during the meeting.

Tate reported that the 2008 Annual Meeting Program Committee met in New York City on June 1–2, 2007, and has done outstanding work in program planning thus far. A considerable number of noteworthy speakers have already been recommended for Association-wide lectures and sessions. Council discussed how division program chairs can submit sessionwide proposals. Executive Director Felice Levine noted that some, but not many, proposals were submitted for the June Program Committee meeting; therefore, an extension was given for such submissions until the end of July.

### 4. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Felice Levine thanked all Council members, especially Past President Eva Baker and President Tate, for a seamless transition as well as a positive and productive collaboration.

Levine pointed out that the two most recent issues of *Research Points* were included with the agenda materials. These two issues, "Science Education That Makes Sense" and "Do the Math: Cognitive Demand Makes a Difference," have received positive feedback. Levine indicated that *Research Points* not only has wide public dissemination but also is valued by some AERA members, who incorporate issues into their courses.

Some incoming members of Council expressed interest in *Research Points* and asked more specifically about the background of and aspirations for this AERA product. Levine summarized the process of developing each issue of *Research Points*, beginning with solicitation of suitable ideas from the advisory committee and others by the editor, Lauren

Resnick. A researcher editor is appointed for each issue to lay out the general research topic, in which research is linked to educational policy considerations. Drafts are then revised and refined by the issue researcher and the issue writer to ensure that the document is accessible to policy makers.

Levine indicated that the distribution lists include major schools and districts, education policy offices, federal and state agencies, and Congressional offices on Capitol Hill, as well as a specific target group based on the content of each issue. Tate added that the editors aim to ensure that the text is written for a wide audience to include those not in the field of education research. Levine indicated that there would be further discussion of *Research Points* at a future Council meeting because the plan was to evaluate this initiative after several volume years of operation.

Executive Director Levine announced the appointment of Andrea Simon as Director of Meetings effective in July. Levine briefed Council on the relocation of AERA's Central Office. The new office occupies approximately 12,500 square feet across two floors of a new office building at 1430 K Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. The overall design provides an open work environment and encourages collaboration among departments and programs. The openness of the office space enforces the vision of AERA to promote openness and transparency in education research.

Levine briefly summarized the ongoing work of the Management Committee in considering the next revision of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. Council discussed progress in planning since indicating its support of a revision in June 2006. All three associations involved—AERA, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education—are planning to solicit member comments on a shared website.

Senior Advisor and Director of Government Relations Gerald Sroufe presented a request brought to Council by the Joint Committee on Testing Practices (JCTP), of which AERA is a member. The proposal is to update one of the committee's publications, *The ABC's of School Testing*. Several Council members expressed their support for proceeding with this work, indicating that such an update should be useful.

**Motion:** To support the Joint Committee on Testing Practices' request to undertake a revision in content and format of *The ABC's of School Testing*. Approved unanimously.

By unanimous consent, Council indicated appreciation to Jonathan Dings for the quality of his work as AERA's representative to JCTP, where he also serves as co-chair.

Executive Director Levine reviewed the membership report with Council. She indicated that there is a need for better measurement of member demographics. Council discussed the relatively low percentage of Native American and Hispanic members. Council also discussed whether the annual membership tabulation date of June 30 would be changed in light of the change in membership year from anniversary to calendar year. Levine indicated that it probably should remain June 30 for certain allocations based on membership numbers and that she and Deputy Executive Director Phoebe Stevenson would examine this issue and further update Council.

Levine provided highlights of the journal subscription report to Council. She noted that the *American Educational Research Journal* is most in demand by subscribers. She also noted that the *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics* is doing quite well, particularly for a specialty journal.

## 5. Report From and Discussion of Division Vice President Issues and Items

Council member Patricia O'Sullivan summarized the discussion from the Vice Presidents' Dinner. She noted that the vice presidents had largely focused their discussion on the mentoring/orientation meeting for vice presidents that would be held following the June Council meeting this year; how best to alter the next vice presidential terms to stagger more evenly the rotations on Council; the importance of developing a division manual; and ways that divisions could collaborate on Annual Meeting sessions.

## 6. Task Force Reports

**Task Force on Ethics.** The Task Force on Ethics presented its recommendations to Council to establish an Ethics Committee and to undertake a revision of the Ethics Code. Council discussed the need for creating such a standing committee and the benefit of developing policies concerning professional ethics for education researchers. President Tate indicated that there had been situations

in which the Association was not equipped to address issues relating to ethics. Levine indicated that the primary purpose of this committee would be educative and advisory. She noted that the Task Force recommended a complaint-handling function for the committee but only for issues pertaining to the programs and functions of the Association, where AERA already had responsibility, and not for all ethical issues that AERA members might encounter in their professional relationships or work.

Several Council members noted that it would be advantageous to have a mechanism in place for educative purposes and for situations when issues relating to ethics arise within AERA. President-Elect Lorraine McDonnell raised the question of whether forming an Ethics Committee is the best strategy, in contrast, for example, to engaging the services of a professional ethicist or ombudsperson when the need arises. She was concerned that such a committee could overreach in reviewing issues. Council discussed whether ethics-related cases could be handled by the Executive Board. Past President Baker and Executive Director Levine explained the importance of relevant expertise. They further noted that one of the charges for the inaugural Ethics Committee is to develop procedures for handling ethics complaints and that Council would have a further opportunity to assess whether the processes met the spirit of the conception before approving this function for the committee. Levine also noted that the inaugural committee would be selected by the President, Past President, and President-Elect. Council member Joan Herman suggested adding the phrase "when sought" to indicate the circumstances under which the Ethics Committee would review cases. Council also discussed amending the recommendations in the report to ask the inaugural Ethics Committee to recommend the expertise that would be relevant for committee service.

**Motion:** To amend the Task Force report to include asking the inaugural Ethics Committee to advise Council on the range of expertise deemed useful in the selection of membership to the Ethics Committee. Approved unanimously.

**Motion:** To approve the establishment of a standing Ethics Committee with the functions and structure as set forth in the report and recommendations of the AERA Task Force on Ethics. Approved unanimously.

**Motion:** To undertake a review of the Ethical Standards of the AERA as set forth in the report and recommendations of the AERA Task Force on Ethics. Approved unanimously.

**Task Force on Conflicts of Interest.** The Task Force on Conflicts of Interest presented its policy recommendations to Council in a document entitled *Policy on Conflicts of Interest Within AERA*. Council member O'Sullivan, Chair of the Task Force, noted that this policy would complement the formation of an Ethics Committee because the policy addresses the difference between bias and conflicts of interest. The recommended procedure included a requirement that an appointed or elected officer sign a statement that he or she has read the relevant AERA materials about conflicts of interest and will adhere to the policy.

Council discussed the possible constraints that this requirement would place on the President and vice presidents when making committee appointments. Past President Baker indicated that, for certain appointed positions, it is very helpful to know the appointee well, for example, when one is a collaborator. She wondered if this really represented a conflict of interest. Council also discussed the possibility that not everyone would sign and return the statement and whether this would signal a violation of the policy.

O'Sullivan noted that the scope of the policy was set forth by reference in the document. Levine indicated that she thought that she and O'Sullivan could make adjustments to the proposed policy to clarify the domains in which conflicts of interest guidelines applied and that AERA should have such standards in making decisions or in deliberations where individuals could act in self-serving ways or to serve others whom they might wish to benefit because of their relationship to them. Without a formal resolution, Council supported O'Sullivan and Levine's working together to return a draft to address the concerns expressed and also meet the goals of Council in seeking such a conflicts of interest policy for those acting on behalf of AERA.

**Motion:** To table the motion to adopt or modify the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Conflicts of Interest within AERA. Approved, 15; Opposed, 1.

## 7. International Exploration

Past President Eva Baker reported on the work of the Task Force on International

Exploration and the inaugural meeting of international education research associations, held in Chicago on April 13–14, 2007. She indicated that the inaugural meeting was very successful. Participants unanimously approved a Statement of Agreement, resolving to continue the dialogue and to work together toward development of approaches that would serve to advance education research through well-articulated worldwide objectives. Some attendees at the April meeting were eager to begin the process of formalizing an international institutional framework for education research, while others supported the idea that models for any future entity had yet to be developed and that this inaugural meeting was a discussion at a very early stage. Baker indicated that the Task Force on International Exploration provided guidance for her and Executive Director Levine in the initial development phases and that a number of task force members attended the April meeting.

President Tate indicated that he thought continuing advice could be provided to AERA representatives by the AERA Committee on International Relations because this international effort involved international communication and exchange. He further noted that he had asked Past President Baker to continue to represent AERA over the 18-month planning period, along with Executive Director Levine, to maximize continuity in this effort. President-Elect McDonnell wondered if the standing International Relations Committee serving in this role would change the scope and charge of the International Relations Committee. Council member Carol Lee was concerned about the representation from Africa and South America in forming an international research organization. She suggested that the organization should actively seek representation from educational organizations of indigenous peoples who may not be represented in the AERA counterparts in other countries. Lee further suggested that the Association find ways to include the AERA divisions and SIGs in the activities of the evolving international research organization. Baker noted that significant efforts had been made to secure representation from all continents. She indicated that AERA might need to allocate some resources and approve a budget to provide financial support for associations or relevant organizational units that otherwise might be unable to have representatives attend. She noted that AERA had provided some modest assistance for the April meeting

and said that she knew of no instance where a representative was prevented from attending the inaugural meeting for financial reasons.

**Motion:** That the International Relations Committee explore means of involving underrepresented research areas and indigenous research entities in the ongoing effort to enhance the internationalization of education research. Approved unanimously.

**Motion:** To delegate to the AERA International Relations Committee ongoing responsibility for advising AERA representatives as they continue to work on this international initiative to advance education research worldwide. Approved unanimously.

## 8. New SIG Proposal

Council member Robert Stahl, Chair of the SIG Executive Committee, reported that three SIG proposals had been received and reviewed by the SIG Executive Committee, but two had been returned to their proposers for further development. The proposal that the committee recommended to Council for consideration was for the formation of a new SIG on Confucianism, Taoism, and Education. Stahl indicated that the SIG Executive Committee had asked the organizing group to consider broadening their coverage to include all Eastern philosophy but that the group was more comfortable with the scope as presented in the proposal. Several Council members did not see the proposed SIG as a research-based group but rather as a means to create dialogue among AERA members. Stahl noted that the formation of a new SIG would create a forum for members to do research systematically. He further indicated that the proposal's 60 petition signatures constituted the highest number submitted for a new SIG proposal in 5 years. Some Council members thought that the formation of this new SIG might bring in new AERA members.

**Motion:** To accept the proposal to form a new SIG on Confucianism, Taoism, and Education as recommended by the SIG Executive Committee. Approved, 11; Opposed, 2; Abstained, 3.

## 9. Discussion on Research Policy Issues

*FERPA.* Executive Director Levine briefed Council on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the challenges it has created for researchers seeking access to school records and information. She indicated that FERPA would most likely be the

topic of AERA's second high-profile research conference (the first was Race-Conscious School Assignment) and that the Government Relations Committee was very supportive of a focus on this issue. Levine outlined the status of the possible cooperative project with the National Research Council (NRC) on this issue. She noted that AERA would have special responsibility for dissemination of the workshop results if a workshop were held in cooperation with the NRC. She indicated that one possibility would be to disseminate papers prepared for the workshop in a special issue of *Educational Researcher (ER)* if the editors of *ER* and the Publications Committee supported the idea. Levine indicated that she expected that over the summer and early fall the specifics of the project would take form.

*U.S. Department of Education Contracts and Security Clearances.* Levine briefed Council on the issue of clearance procedures for researchers working under government contracts, and specifically those at the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). AERA is seeking clarification from the DOE as to the regulations that would require clearance of research personnel who are not working on federal information systems or in federal facilities. Levine noted that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has clarified that HSPD-12 does not require security screening procedures for such research contractors. Although there may be an issue as to whether agencies have discretion to undertake screenings, Levine indicated that agency discretion should pertain to the level of clearance where HSPD-12 is applicable and not to broadening the scope of HSPD-12. She also noted that, in addition to confirming that the Presidential Directive was not intended to reach to all contractors, OMB requested that AERA provide examples of the reach of contractor screening requirements at the Department of Education in order to ascertain what the clearance mandate is about and its legitimate purpose.

Levine indicated that other relevant scientific and research organizations were joining and supporting AERA in this effort. She noted that the American Association for the Advancement of Science staff has been dedicating significant time to this concern. In addition, AERA has been working with several staff members on Capitol Hill and has the support of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, of which AERA is a part. She emphasized that the next step was

to meet with representatives from the DOE and the OMB in July for further discussions on this topic.

President Tate commended Levine and staff for their work on both topics.

### **10.–12. Council Working Groups**

Council met in three working groups to discuss topics designated as important: (1) The Quality of the Annual Meeting, (2) Quality Publishing, and (3) Capacity Building for Education Research. After separate discussions, each group reported back as follows (items 10–12).

#### **10. The Quality of the Annual Meeting**

President-Elect McDonnell, Deputy Executive Director Stevenson, and Council members David Flinders, Steve Henry, Herman, and Linda Tillman participated in the discussion on the quality of the Annual Meeting. President-Elect McDonnell reported back to Council on the group's deliberations, which included a discussion about incentives, such as awards for outstanding papers, and standards that should be used by proposal submitters and reviewers. The working group thought that publicizing acceptance rates by divisions and SIGs would lead to stronger proposals over time. Council member Richard Mayer noted that the Division C Program Committee Chair had suggested the creation of a Standing Board of Reviewers. Council discussed how AERA fellows could be asked to play a role as reviewers and mentors to help train high-quality reviewers. Levine indicated that the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and Research Advisory Committee would examine these comments at their joint meeting in August.

#### **11. Quality Publishing**

Past President Baker, Publications Director Melissa Junior, Senior Advisor Sroufe, and Council members Linda Cook, Cynthia Hudley, Mayer, and Stahl participated in the quality publishing discussion. In the report back to the full Council, Mayer indicated that the group noted that articles published in *Educational Researcher (ER)* tend toward advocacy as much as toward major research contributions. The group suggested that it would be helpful for the editors to have a clearer mission statement. Executive Director Levine indicated that the current editors and the Publications Committee are

dedicated to advancing *ER* as a significant research journal of broad interest and that the editors have been actively considering ways to enhance and strengthen the journal along the lines being discussed. Council suggested inviting articles to stimulate additional quality submissions. Council also discussed some of the obstacles that *ER* and its editors have faced, particularly in identifying work that synthesizes broad research areas. Council encouraged and supported changes that would result in *ER*'s becoming a premier journal.

Council also considered other steps to ensure that AERA journals are of the highest quality. Mention was made of the importance of attracting strong candidates for editorships and the value of examining the editor search process. Council members requested an annual report to Council of the journal submission and acceptance statistics. Levine indicated that the Publications Committee had recently revamped the editor search process and would appreciate the concerns being raised in Council. She noted that the information requested by Council would be provided and that more information would also be made available on journal submission and acceptances in the AERA Highlights section of *ER*, as other research societies customarily do.

#### **12. Capacity Building for Education Research**

President Tate, Executive Director Levine, Director of Social Justice and Professional Development George Wimberly, and Council members Stacy DeZutter, Lee, O'Sullivan, William Tierney, and Susan Twombly participated in the discussion on capacity building for education research. Council member O'Sullivan reported back to the full Council on the group's discussion. The group agreed that there will be much to learn from the database resulting from the AERA-NAEd project assessing doctoral education research programs. The group considered a range of ideas, including sponsoring undergraduate research; obtaining funding to work with different schools to advance and assess research training; convening meetings on how to work with deans of school of education; producing broader methodology workshops; helping education researchers write proposals; instituting faculty exchange programs; and exploring ways to capitalize on AERA's Organization of Institutional Affiliates (OIA).

### **13. Policy and Position Taking**

Council discussed the AERA Guidelines on Position Taking and Policymaking Processes and how the guidelines served the Association in making deliberative decisions in different domains. President Tate provided an overview of how the guidelines offer a framework for AERA as a research organization to address matters of research support and research policy, matters pertaining to AERA's own operations as an organization, and matters about which there is a research base and the Association might wish to take a position. He emphasized the importance of structure and process. Executive Director Levine noted, too, that the Association should be very transparent in setting forth a process whereby members can bring a request for AERA to act or take a public position and how that process would generally involve working through relevant standing committees of the Association.

**Motion:** To approve the Executive Board's recommendation to support the plan for the Association to provide a user-friendly guide for members regarding how to bring issues before the Association and how the Association, through its organizational structure, responds to such requests in keeping with its mission as a research organization. Approved unanimously.

**Motion:** To use the existing governance structure as a vehicle for issues to be brought to the Association. Approved unanimously.

**Motion:** To approve the Executive Board's recommendation to support the provision of training to chairs of AERA committees regarding their roles and responsibilities, including those relating to the implementation of AERA policies and procedures. Approved unanimously.

#### **14. Discussion on NCATE**

Executive Director Levine briefed Council on the status of the situation regarding the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The Executive Board, at its October 2006 meeting, unanimously declined a request submitted by several AERA members to sign on to a letter to the NCATE regarding the inclusion of language about sexual orientation and social justice in its new standards. At the same time, the Executive Board unanimously adopted a second motion to address this issue consonant with the spirit of the concerns and with AERA's mission as a research society. The issue was discussed in a column written by

then President Eva Baker and published in the January/February 2007 issue of *Educational Researcher*. Subsequently, several members voiced their concerns regarding the Executive Board's decision and planned a protest at the 2007 AERA Annual Meeting in April.

Levine indicated that, as encouraged by Council in April, she and then President-Elect Tate met on April 11 with the initiators of the protest and representatives from the Queer Studies SIG, the Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC), and the Committee on Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity in Education (SAGE). She noted that it was a productive exchange and that an agreement was reached to provide more information on (1) AERA positions with respect to sexual orientation, and (2) the process whereby AERA could take positions and how members can approach the process directly or through units of the Association. Levine also reported that she and Tate had indicated at the April meeting that AERA had an initiative to hold research workshops on important issues and that the Association was exploring holding such a workshop on research on sexual orientation in education and educational institutions.

President Tate reported that the Executive Board had discussed and unanimously supported these strategies at its meeting on June 21. Council further discussed additional resources that could be helpful in the development of the workshop, such as Division B members who are known experts.

**Motion:** To support providing information on AERA policies related to sexual orientation and on how to bring issues to AERA for possible position taking as well as on AERA's holding a research workshop on sexual orientation in education. Approved unanimously.

## Friday, June 22, 2007 (Meeting Day 2)

### 15. Division Vice President Term Transition

Executive Director Levine summarized Council interest in altering the rotation of Council members to provide for more balanced experience on Council each year. She reminded Council that, at the Division Vice Presidents' meeting, preceding the February 2007 Council Meeting, the vice presidents had supported changing the election rotation

schedule of vice presidents from six to four at a time—the objective being to facilitate a more balanced level of experience on Council instead of the current rotation that results in wide fluctuations in Council experience. At the request of Council, a model was developed by the Central Office to allow for this change. Several division vice presidents to be elected in the upcoming elections will have 2-year terms to make a smooth transition possible. Some vice presidents volunteered their divisions' vice presidents-elect to serve a 2-year term while other divisions were chosen to have their vice presidents-elect serve a 2-year term by lottery in order to ensure that each cohort of vice presidents included small and large divisions in the mix.

(Note: Council requested that *Educational Researcher* publish a full description of the rotation schedule and the divisions that will have one cycle of a 2-year vice presidential term to establish this rotation.)

**Motion:** To approve the division vice president transition plan for terms of service as proposed. Approved unanimously.

### 16. Communication and the Advancement of Education Research and AERA

*Innovation in Education Research*. Prior to the Council Meeting, President Tate had asked Council members to prepare to contribute two to three major research breakthroughs, findings, or accomplishments, along with relevant citations, in education research that merit consideration in an essential map of the field. Some of the ideas summarized below reflect the substance and level of engagement of Council members with this task.

Council member O'Sullivan noted that medical schools have begun using performance assessment for evaluation instead of an interview. Council member Flinders talked about reconceptualizing the tradition of critical thinking to allow for new traditions. President-Elect McDonnell added that studies of education policy implementation have provided a more valid picture of how policy-induced change occurs by moving from just a top-down focus to one that also examines the role of those actually delivering services. Council member Twombly pointed to research on how college affects children.

Council member Arnetha Ball discussed innovations and new thinking about teaching and teacher education and technology. She also noted the important role played by emerging literature on cultural linguistics,

cross-disciplinary research in language, and the role of language in teaching and learning—including teacher expertise in language. She indicated that, because each classroom is different, it is a mistake to use scripted lessons.

Council member Mayer said the field is making progress in the area of the science of learning; there is a solid understanding of how people learn in different fields. Just studying how people learn in general is not enough; one must teach learning strategies, cognitive process instruction, and metacognitive strategies. Council member Lee addressed issues regarding social context and contextual influences and on how thinking works in schooling.

Council member Cook cited three accomplishments in educational measurement: the popularization of item response theory that was accomplished by Frederic Lord's research and publications; the implementation of the Mantel-Haenszel procedures for the analysis of Differential Item Functioning brought about through the work of Paul Holland and Dorothy Thayer; and the use of Evidence Centered Design for the design and development of educational and psychological assessments, explicated in the work of Robert Mislevy.

Council member Henry discussed the use of meta-analysis as a research method as it has been very helpful in advancing knowledge. The Tennessee Stars Project used Hierarchical Linear Modeling to show the adverse effects of having a poor-quality teacher for 3 years in a row. A 5-year longitudinal study published in *Science* by Robert Piante evaluated what was happening in the classroom, where the environment was good, and where the outcome was good.

Council member Mark Berends noted the new abundance of longitudinal data that have permitted researchers, especially economists, to apply propensity score analysis. Council member Herman discussed looking across the nuggets of information and looking at education research comprehensively on a higher level. Council member Tierney spoke about social and cultural capital and college choice, and the exploration of the role that information plays in going to college. Council member Tillman talked about the importance of identifying research that is counter-intuitive.

*Communications Strategies*. President Tate introduced the discussion by noting that AERA's communications strategies have greatly improved. He indicated that he

and Executive Director Levine sought for the Association to work further on communications approaches and urged Council to view this discussion as an opportunity to contribute ideas. He thought that it was important for both education research and the role and work of AERA to be better understood by relevant publics. President-Elect McDonnell suggested cultivating op-ed pieces and placing them strategically in publications. She also noted the importance of developing relationships with the op-ed editors. She suggested involving the OIA deans and providing incentives for faculty to work harder at disseminating their research work in the popular media. Tate added that, given the intensity of the criticism of education research, AERA itself has to be strategic and intentional in promoting the sound use of quality research. He suggested the possibility of meeting with the editorial boards of newspapers. Council member Tierney noted that it is necessary for reporters to understand to whom they should go when an issue comes up. Past President Baker proposed creating a monthly e-mail blast directed to editorial boards about different topics as they relate to real-world examples. She observed that the media need to have context, and they need accessible materials in their hands.

President-Elect McDonnell suggested providing the media with human-interest stories about education research that could appeal to the layperson. Communications and Outreach Director Helaine Patterson suggested offering a professional development course for education reporters, because education is an entry-level assignment for reporters. Council member O'Sullivan urged that the Central Office disseminate information in the form of "AERA in the News" to make members more aware of Association activities. Council members supported this attention to communication issues and encouraged holding a conference call with the Communications and Outreach Committee to initiate thinking about the topic before the Coordinated Committee

Meeting in October. Council expressed an interest in being kept informed about communications approaches as they evolved and were implemented.

## 17. Annual Meeting

*Proposed Increase in Annual Meeting Registration Fees.* Executive Director Levine introduced the topic of increasing Annual Meeting registration fees and noted that Council had indicated an interest in reviewing these fees every other year—with an increase in 2005 for the 2006 Annual Meeting. She noted that AERA's fee structure is still well below that of similar societies. The Executive Board had unanimously recommended the proposed increase and had discussed the provision of LCD projectors to all non-poster/roundtable sessions. Levine noted that the lack of automatic provision of LCD projectors in session rooms and the high rental costs were among the most frequent complaints received from members. Council discussed how the fee increase is necessary for maintaining the financial health of the Association. Council discussed additional options to the Executive Board's recommendation and ideas for how to introduce members to the new plan.

**Motion:** To approve the increase in AERA's Annual Meeting registration fees as recommended by the Executive Board. Approved, 17; Abstained, 1.

*Division and Session Allocation for 2008.* Executive Director Levine presented the allocation plan for the 2008 Annual Meeting in New York City, where there will be a total of 56 meeting rooms available for division and SIG substantive sessions. With 26 time slots over 5 days, the available meeting room space could accommodate up to 1,456 sessions.

**Motion:** To approve the total allocation of 1,456 sessions to divisions and SIGs. The allocation will be made according to the allocation formula adopted by Council in January 2006. Approved unanimously.

*Future Annual Meeting Site Locations.* Executive Director Levine announced that the Executive Board had selected Denver for

the 2010 AERA Annual Meeting via conference call in May. She reminded Council members that New Orleans had been selected by the Executive Board, at its meeting in February 2007, for the 2011 Annual Meeting and Vancouver for 2012. Council discussed the advantages of having the Annual Meeting over a weekend rotation. Levine indicated that, after Council's approval of and support for the use of weekend rotation for the Annual Meeting at the June 2006 Council meeting, staff now consider meeting packages over a weekend favorably, but have not excluded Monday–Friday packages from future site selection processes.

## 18. Financial Picture and Reports

Executive Director Levine and Deputy Executive Director Stevenson reviewed the Investment Report, the Audit Report for the Interim Fiscal Year (July 1–December 31, 2006), and the Fiscal Year 2007 Financial Report. President Tate noted that AERA's current financial reporting is excellent. Stevenson explained that the audit is for the 6-month period ending December 31, 2006, which is part of the transition to the new calendar year–based fiscal year. The next audit report will be in April; in it, Council members will see an increase in assets and liability because of the new office purchase.

**Motion:** To approve the auditor's findings of the Audited Financial Statements for 6 months ending December 31, 2006. Approved unanimously.

## 19. Future Council Meeting

It was determined that, if appropriate hotel arrangements can be made, the winter meetings will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 25, 2008, for the Executive Board and on January 26–27 for Council.

## 20. Adjournment

President Tate adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.