

Council Minutes

April 30, 2010
Denver, Colorado

Council Members Present:

Alfredo J. Artiles (Division G), William C. Ayers (Division B), Arnetha F. Ball (Division K), Linda L. Cook (Division D), Vivian L. Gadsden (Member-at-Large), Karen L. Graves (Division F), Kris D. Gutiérrez (President-Elect), Joan L. Herman (Member-at-Large), Cynthia A. Hudley (Division E), Carol D. Lee (President), Richard E. Mayer (Division C), Lorraine M. McDonnell (Immediate Past President), Lynne R. Schrum (SIG Executive Committee), Ara Tekian (Division I), Linda C. Tillman (Division A), Susan B. Twombly (Division J), Andrea L. Tyler (Graduate Student Representative)

Incoming Council Members Present:

Annis N. Brown (Graduate Student Representative), Barbara G. Dodd (Division D), Dorothy L. Espelage (Division E), William A. Firestone (Division L), Etta R. Hollins (Division K), Laura W. Perna (Division J), Gale M. Sinatra (Division C), Linda E. Skrla (Division A), Angela Valenzuela (Member-at-Large)

Council Members Absent:

Mark Berends (Division L), Faith Connolly (Division H)

Staff Members Present:

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

I. Welcome by President Carol D. Lee

President Carol D. Lee called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. She welcomed members of Council and staff members to Denver. She extended a warm welcome to all incoming Council members who attended the meeting as observers.

2. Introduction and Orienting Documents

The agenda was unanimously approved. President Lee called attention to the 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 Council rosters and asked members of Council to review them for accuracy. Council reviewed the minutes from the January 2010 Council meeting.

Motion: To approve the January 2010 Council minutes. Approved unanimously.

3. Report of the President

President Lee provided an update on the 2010 Annual Meeting by highlighting three special open forums, 13 working groups, and Presidential sessions, including two featured symposia on education in China—one with China's Vice Minister of Education and the other with higher education leaders. Lee also noted, and encouraged Council members to attend, a special musical performance by students from China. She reported that Annual Meeting registration was at 12,471 at the start of the meeting on April 30, 2010.

Lee reported on the appointment of a subcommittee of Council to work on planning activities and efforts relating to Haiti relief. The subcommittee, chaired by Lee, included President-Elect Kris D. Gutiérrez, Immediate Past President Lorraine M. McDonnell, Council member Cynthia A. Hudley, and Member-at-Large Vivian L. Gadsden serving as members. The subcommittee will work with other AERA members on implementing plans of action.

Lee briefed Council on recent developments at Arizona State University, where the graduate program on education will be dissolved and faculty members will be dispersed into other departments within the university system. She noted that she and Executive Director Felice Levine had sent letters expressing concerns about imminent decisions that could reduce the vitality and significance of scholarship and training in education research. Council member Alfredo Artiles, a member of the ASU faculty, provided a briefing on the situation and expressed appreciation for the support that AERA had extended. Lee noted that AERA will continue to monitor the situation, as a number of AERA members will be affected by the dissolution of the program.

McDonnell expressed concerns about the role of AERA in situations like this, as there may be other cases in the future. Levine pointed out that AERA was urging ASU to pursue a more deliberative process in examining the quality of the research doctorate programs and their contributions to that university and the field. Council expressed appreciation for the letter from AERA because a number of other institutions are experiencing similar financial challenges.

Lee reported on the appointment of Arlette Ingram Willis and Violet J. Harris, both from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, as 2011–2013 coeditors of AERJ's Teaching, Learning, and Human Development section. She indicated that the appointment was made after an extensive search conducted by the Publications Committee.

Lee addressed a number of concerns regarding the "representativeness" of Council raised in recent years by various AERA constituencies, such as members, SIGs, and committees. She indicated that she thought that Council should review the general issue of representation on Council and the role and number of Council members-at-large, with possible consideration of expanding that number. She thought this would be a good issue for Council to consider at its summer meeting.

4. Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect Kris Gutiérrez congratulated President Lee for a thoughtful and coherent program for the Annual Meeting, which engaged the membership and the public. She reported on the theme of the 2011 Annual Meeting, "Inciting the Social Imagination: Education Research for the Public Good" and the appointment of Joanne Larson, University of Rochester, as General Program Chair. Gutiérrez said that she looks forward to engaging education researchers in thinking about how we can use our work for the public good. The Program Committee will meet on June 5–6 in New Orleans, at the site of the 2011 Annual Meeting. Gutiérrez emphasized that it is important for division program chairs serving on the AERA Program Committee to think broadly beyond the interests of their respective divisions. The goal for the

AERA Program Committee members is to use their collective wisdom to create sessions that are cross-cutting. Gutiérrez encouraged division vice presidents and division program chairs to brainstorm about sessions to elaborate the theme.

Gutiérrez reported on her participation in the Indigenous Education Research Symposium and the culminating activity at the conclusion of a series of working-group meetings. She indicated that the meeting was productive and that AERA had taken the right approach in supporting a group of scholars on indigenous education. She indicated that she was unsure if the Social Justice Action Committee would make the topic a continuing priority. She thanked Lee and Levine for their support in moving the project forward.

Gutiérrez announced the dates for the summer governance meetings: Executive Board on July 8, Council meeting on July 9, and Council retreat (for members of both the 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 Councils) on July 10–11. She encouraged members of Council to think about and identify three to four central issues for the Association to address at the retreat and to articulate where AERA should be for the next decade. She appointed Lorraine McDonnell, Council member Arnetha F. Ball, Carol Lee, and Vivian Gadsden to work with her on a Retreat Planning Committee to plan a well-articulated program for the retreat, where there will be breakout groups and discussions. She indicated that the committee will generate questions for Council members to consider in advance of the retreat.

Council discussed the far-reaching impact of Arizona S.B. 1070 and the importance of taking action now before the threat begins a snowball effect. Council discussed the merit of making its statement general (to include other possible states) but agreed that something specific would be more effective in the case of S.B. 1070. Gutiérrez indicated that a number of cities would stage protests on May 2.

Levine briefed Council on AERA's guidelines for policy taking, including the process and criteria for Council action regarding AERA's own governance decisions about where to hold AERA meetings. With regard to the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Diego, she noted that the decision to relocate sessions from the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel to the Convention

Center had been made based on those guidelines. Council discussed the fact that Arizona S.B. 1070 had been amended on April 29. Lee indicated the importance of taking action in a timely manner. Council discussed the proposed AERA statement and supported the amendment to the motion which added language to allow for the possibility of future changes in the law, as well as the possibility that Council will revisit the issue.

Motion: Whereas Arizona State Law S.B. 1070 is so broad in its reach and enforcement powers that it can have an adverse impact on the freedom to travel or assemble without encroachment, be it resolved that the American Educational Research Association (AERA) has determined that it will no longer hold meetings or conferences in the state of Arizona until such time as this law is rescinded or amended or AERA Council otherwise revisits the issue. Approved, 16; Abstained, 1.

5. Executive Director's Report

Levine reported on the appointment of Kerry Bolger as AERA's Associate Director of Government Relations. She indicated that Bolger, a developmental psychologist, brought strong research background on children at risk and expertise in public policy concerns, as well as experience as a congressional staff member.

Levine welcomed incoming Council members and congratulated Arnetha Ball on her election as President-Elect. She thanked Lee, McDonnell, and Gutiérrez for their support and commitment to AERA and education research.

President Lee announced that the Brown Selection Committee had chosen Kenji Hakuta, Stanford University, as the 2010 *Brown* Lecture speaker. The Lecture will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

6. Special Interest Groups

Lynne Schrum, Council member and Chair of the SIG Executive Committee, provided an update on a number of SIGs that were affiliated with external organizations and the alternative arrangements that AERA had been working on with those SIGs. First, she noted, the State and Regional Educational Research Associations SIG has entered into an agreement with AERA to end its SIG status and become an affiliated group. Second, the Society of Professors of Education SIG

has decided to end its SIG status and look for alternative ways to affiliate with AERA. Third, the John Dewey Society SIG will end its SIG status, and its members will vote on whether to reconstitute the SIG as a separate entity from the John Dewey Society. Finally, the Politics of Education SIG will consult with its members regarding its association with the Politics of Education Association and how the SIG can operate within AERA policies and procedures for SIGs.

Schrum reported on requests from two SIGs to change their names. The Foucault and Education SIG proposed to change its name to the Foucault and Contemporary Theory in Education SIG. The rationale for changing the name was to reflect a broadening in the SIG's focus.

Motion: To approve the request from the Foucault and Education SIG to change its name to the Foucault and Contemporary Theory in Education SIG. Approved unanimously.

The Research on Giftedness and Talent SIG proposed to change its name to the Research on Giftedness, Creativity, and Talent SIG to better reflect the types of research in which researchers in the field engage.

Motion: To approve the request from the Research on Giftedness and Talent SIG to change its name to the Research on Giftedness, Creativity, and Talent SIG. Approved unanimously.

7. Election of Executive Board Members

President Carol Lee provided Council with an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Executive Board and its members. The Executive Board acts to advise Council, makes decisions between Council Meetings at an October meeting or through conference calls, and is advisory to the Executive Director, mostly on financial matters. Some matters are delegated to the Executive Committee—for example, site selection for the Annual Meetings. The Executive Board is also responsible for reviewing and approving SIG and division awards. Overall, the Executive Board exists primarily to examine certain issues in detail and advise Council to facilitate efficient and productive deliberation by Council.

Council members Alfredo J. Artiles, William C. Ayers, and Ara Tekian were subsequently elected to serve on the Executive Board for the 2010–2011 year.

8. Budget Modification Requests

Cross-Discipline Research Meeting on Understanding Complex Ecologies in a Changing World. President Lee submitted a proposal for AERA to hold a small, intensive research meeting that aims to engage scholars from a range of disciplines in examining the promise of an ecological perspective in the study of social and human phenomena beyond education and learning. The purpose of the proposed meeting would be to yield a synthesis report useful in catalyzing research interest in other fields, spawning collaborations with education research, expanding the frameworks that guide doctoral training, and encouraging funding agencies to widen their horizons of interest (or providing justification for them to do so). Disciplines whose associations might be represented at the research meeting include anthropology, sociology, political science, and geography. The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) might also be represented.

Council discussed the possibility of also engaging international organizations. Lee indicated that she will be AERA's representative to WERA and that it is her intent to foster conversations on the topic. Council discussed the vision for this ongoing collaboration beyond a research conference. Lee and Levine explained the importance of AERA's taking a lead on this important topic. Lee indicated that she anticipated a series of AERA activities surrounding issues of broad cultural intersections and cultural contexts in learning, an area of study that may bring about important shifts in the next 2 years.

Motion: To approve the proposal for the Cross-Discipline Research Meeting on Understanding Complex Ecologies in a Changing World and the budget request of \$18,000. Approved unanimously.

Research Conference Initiative. Levine reported that there were 31 submissions for the spring cycle for the research conference initiative. She indicated that the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) had met on April 29 and conducted a preliminary review of the proposals and would be meeting again on May 5. The RAC asked for the flexibility of increased funding to accommodate the possibility of accepting a higher number of quality proposals.

Council members expressed concerns that, because AERA's approved budget was carefully crafted for FY2010 with an allotment of \$100,000 for research conferences, making an exception due to the number of worthy proposals could hamper the Association's ability to meet future demands. Levine noted that future calls for applications would need to include more stringent criteria for funding levels. She indicated that the request before Council was for latitude with additional funding but that she hoped awards could be made within the approved budget. Council concurred that there is a need to watch the pattern of proposal submissions so that AERA can determine if an increase in funding for research conferences is necessary in the long run, especially with more cross-fertilization of research ideas taking place among researchers. In general, Council members shared a belief in the importance of AERA's providing a structured way to promote education research and its advancement, a goal that is central to AERA's mission.

Motion: To approve the provision of an additional \$50,000 for research conferences should the Research Advisory Committee determine that additional resources are necessary to support high-quality proposals for the 2010 cycle. Approved, 15; Opposed, 2.

9. Education Research Advocacy and Policy Issues

Levine provided background information on the ESEA and IES Reauthorization Task Forces. She encouraged Council members to disseminate the background information provided in the Council agenda materials as well as to attend the sessions planned on both of these important issues. She asked that feedback be forwarded to Gerald Sroufe, Director of Government Relations.

10. Update From Research Advisory and Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Joint Committee

Council discussed concerns raised by some members regarding holding the Annual Meeting over a weekend. Levine provided an overview of the rationale for moving to weekend rotation and the move away from Easter and Passover. In addition, she reported on the success of the 2006 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, which

was held over a weekend and set a record by drawing 14,000 attendees. Many members of Council indicated that a weekend rotation is attractive to attendees who are unable to take a full week off from their work responsibilities to attend the Annual Meeting.

Andrea Tyler, Council member and Chair of the Graduate Student Council, raised the issue of graduate student participation as reviewers. Levine responded by providing an overview of plans in place for implementation at the 2010 Annual Meeting, which included a special session featured by the Research Advisory and Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Joint Committee on how to become a reviewer. In addition, panelists of the session will be videotaped so that helpful instructions and information on peer review can be posted on the AERA website for broad dissemination to interested persons who were not able to attend the Annual Meeting. In addition, Levine briefed Council on the Joint Committee's discussion earlier on April 30 and the continued effort to monitor feedback from session chairs and attendees.

11. Service Recognition for Outgoing Council Members

President Carol Lee was recognized by AERA and Council for her work as the 2009–2010 AERA President. Outgoing Council members Arnetha Ball (Division K Vice President), Linda Cook (Division D Vice President), Joan Herman (Member-at-Large), Cynthia Hudley (Division E Vice President), Richard Mayer (Division C Vice President), Lorraine McDonnell (Immediate Past President), Lynne Schrum (SIG Representative), Linda Tillman (Division A Vice President), Susan Twombly (Division J Vice President), and Andrea Tyler (Graduate Student Representative) were also recognized for their work as they neared the end of their terms as Council members at the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Deputy Executive Director Phoebe Stevenson was recognized by Council for successfully completing her doctoral study in higher education management at the University of Pennsylvania.

12. Adjournment

Council adjourned at 3:45 p.m.