

Council Minutes

April 13, 2012
Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada

Council Members Present:

Judith A. Arter (Division H), Alfredo J. Artiles (Member-at-Large), Arnetha F. Ball (President), Barbara G. Dodd (Division D), Dorothy L. Espelage (Division E), William A. Firestone (Division L), Marybeth Gasman (Division F), Carl A. Grant (Division B), Kris D. Gutiérrez (Past President), Nicholas Daniel Hartlep (Graduate Student Council), Etta R. Hollins (Division K), Luis C. Moll (Division G), Laura W. Perna (Division J), Gale M. Sinatra (Division C), Linda E. Skrla (Division A), Ara Tekian (Division I), William G. Tierney (President-Elect), Sharon H. Ulanoff (SIG Executive Committee)

Council Member Absent:

Vivian L. Gadsden (Member-at-Large)

Incoming Council Members Present:

Gary L. Anderson (Incoming Member-at-Large), Ann E. Austin (Incoming Member-at-Large), Wayne J. Camara (Division D), Dolores Delgado Bernal (Incoming Member-at-Large), P. Karen Murphy (Division C), Margaret Terry Orr (Division A), Cathy Anne Rosenberg (Graduate Student Council), Barbara L. Schneider (Incoming President-Elect), Cynthia A. Tyson (Incoming Member-at-Large), Luann Wilkerson (Division I)

Incoming Council Member Absent:

Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Graue (Incoming Member-at-Large)

Visitor:

Christina Mazuca (Project Manager for Barbara Schneider)

Staff Members Present:

Felice J. Levine, Patricia A. Martin, Gerald E. Sroufe, Phoebe H. Stevenson

1. Welcome by President Arnetha F. Ball

President Arnetha Ball called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. She welcomed the members of Council, President-Elect William G. Tierney, incoming President-Elect Barbara L. Schneider, incoming Council members, and AERA staff.

2. Introduction and Orienting Documents

President Ball discussed the meeting agenda and asked Council to review the 2011–2012 and 2012–2013 Council rosters for accuracy, as well as the minutes from the February 2012 Council meeting.

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

Motion: To approve the February 2012 Council meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

3. Report of the President

President Ball provided an update on the 2012 Annual Meeting. She reported that she had received positive comments from attendees who were excited about the meeting in Vancouver, noting the state-of-the-art meeting facility, the beauty of the city, and the weather. Ball invited Council members to attend the Opening Plenary session, *The Knowing Circle of Indigenous Education: It Is Not Enough Just to Know*, featuring Linda T. Smith. Ball noted the importance of AERA's acknowledgement of the indigenous history of the Vancouver area. She also reminded Council members of the AERA-wide Opening Reception at the conclusion of the Opening Plenary and invited them to the Presidential Reception.

Ball discussed the Annual Meeting program, thanking Cynthia Tyson, 2012 Annual Meeting Program Chair, for her leadership and hard work. Ball also thanked the divisions and SIGs for contributing to the richness of the meeting program. She noted that, in keeping with AERA's aspiration to "Go Green," there would be broad use of technology at the meeting, for example, the online searchable program delivered to hand-held devices and *Vancouver Preview*, the daily electronic

alert reporting news from the meeting. Ball thanked the division vice presidents who had submitted videos relating to the meeting theme and noted that the videos would be posted on the AERA website after the Annual Meeting. She encouraged Council members to attend the discussion sessions with authors of commissioned essays on the meeting theme.

Ball informed Council that the editorial appointment for *Educational Researcher* would be announced in the very near future.

4. Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect William Tierney announced the theme of the 2013 Annual Meeting: "Education and Poverty: Theory, Research, Policy and Praxis." He briefed Council on the three task forces commissioned at the February Council meeting, reporting that he had appointed chairs and members for all three and that all the appointees had agreed to serve. Dorothy L. Espelage will chair the Task Force on the Prevention of Bullying in Schools, Colleges, and Universities; James S. Fairweather will chair the Task Force on Evaluating Educational Research, Scholarship, and Teaching in Postsecondary Education; and Adrianna Kezar will chair the Task Force on Standards for Part-Time, Adjunct and Contingent Faculty.

Tierney discussed plans for the 2013 Program Committee meeting, to be held in San Francisco on June 9–10. He also reminded the Executive Board and Council about the summer governance meetings, to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on June 22–24.

5. Report of Executive Director

Executive Director Felice J. Levine briefed Council on the results of the 2012 AERA election. She indicated that approximately 23% of AERA voting members had participated in the election, a percentage that is typical for many associations.

Levine discussed the relocation of the 2013 Annual Meeting from Atlanta to San Francisco and the response from members and the public. An e-mail announcing the change was sent on February 24, 2012. Most comments on the announcement

arrived within two or three days of the announcement. All who commented received a response from the executive director. Levine reported a high level of interest in the meeting relocation and the Georgia law that led to it. She said that most members had responded in a supportive way.

Levine provided an update on the resolutions on the Tucson Suspension of Mexican American Studies adopted by Council at its February 2012 meeting. On February 22, AERA sent letters to all members of the Arizona State Legislature and the Tucson school board notifying them about the AERA Council action. In addition, letters were sent to the state superintendent of schools and the Tucson District 1 superintendent and deputy superintendent. On February 23, AERA issued a news release distributed widely to journalists across the United States.

Levine informed Council that the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives had accepted AERA as a member. She indicated that participation in the organization would further AERA's effectiveness in its key role of advocating for and influencing STEM education and research.

Ball announced the selection of Vanessa Siddle Walker of Emory University to present the 2012 *Brown* Lecture in Washington, D.C., on October 25, 2012. She thanked the members of the *Brown* Lecture Selection Committee for their work.

6. Education Research Service Projects

Ball briefed Council on AERA's Education Research Service Projects (ERSP) initiative, which aims to promote and advance a culture of pro bono professional service among education researchers. Ball had presented an initial plan at the February Council meeting to engage AERA members in serving the public good, and Council encouraged further development of a new initiative working with a Council Subcommittee. The service projects are expected to be of direct benefit to local educational organizations and entities through use of research and research expertise and to provide the

Association and the education research field with visible indicators of the extent to which such a program can directly benefit communities and help shape a commitment to service. In its report, the subcommittee proposed that the ERSP program be established for an initial three-year period at a total cost of \$150,000. Ball indicated that the Executive Board had reviewed the subcommittee's report and recommendations and had unanimously recommended that Council support the initiative as proposed.

Motion: To approve the Education Research Service Projects initiative as proposed. Approved unanimously.

7. AERA Amicus Brief in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*

Levine gave an overview of the issue of race-conscious affirmative action in higher education admissions, which again came before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*. The Court had examined the constitutionality of race-conscious affirmative action in 2003 and 2007, and AERA participated by submitting an amicus brief to aid the Court in identifying, understanding, and evaluating social science research bearing on issues that the Court confronted.

Levine reviewed the issues in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* and the relevance of key areas of research. She noted that a special Presidential Symposium on this high-profile case would be held at the 2012 AERA Annual Meeting.

A draft resolution was submitted to Council authorizing the Association to prepare and file an amicus brief for the Court, to ensure that social science knowledge would be presented and taken into account in the case.

Motion: Be it resolved that the American Educational Research Association prepare and file a brief amicus before the Supreme Court setting forth the social science research that needs to be taken into account in the case of *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*. Approved unanimously.

8. Election of Executive Board Members for 2012–2013

Council members from the 2011–2012 cohort elected Council members Carl A.

Grant, Margaret Terry Orr, and Laura W. Perna as members of the Executive Board for 2012–2013.

9. Approval of SIG Draft Bylaws (Consent Agenda)

The AERA Central Office advanced draft bylaws for 76 special interest groups (SIGs) for approval by Council. Levine noted that the draft bylaws had been reviewed by AERA legal counsel, who had worked with the SIG chairs on revisions where necessary. She indicated that some of the draft bylaws required minor revisions relating to the SIGs' awards and publications. AERA staff continues to work with the remaining SIGs to finalize their bylaws.

Motion: To approve the SIG bylaws presented, pending revisions of language for awards and publications. Approved unanimously.

10. Update on Communications Enhancement

Report on Launch of New AERA Website

Deputy Executive Director Phoebe H. Stevenson briefed Council on the new AERA website, which was launched in March 2012. With the new website, AERA is well positioned for enhanced communications with members and the public. *AERA Highlights* has been moved out of *Educational Research (ER)* and is now delivered electronically each month and posted on the website. The transformation of *Highlights* was part of the vision for the new site.

Stevenson noted that what is currently in place represents the design, content, and functionality of Phase 1. AERA Central Office staff will continue to enhance the functionality of the website in the coming months, as Phase 2 is deployed in the summer. Enhancements will make the website more interactive, offering a platform for collaborative work, with social media tools and capabilities for web-based conferencing and members' postings and exchange of information.

As part of the launch of the AERA website, division and SIG content managers have been trained to use the content management system (CMS) to

update information on their web pages. Initial feedback from a number of content managers showed the new system to be very intuitive and easy to use. Content managers were encouraged to attend one of two CMS training sessions offered at the Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

Levine reported on the introduction of *Annual Meeting Previews*, a new, electronically delivered alert that highlights special Annual Meeting sessions and events. *Previews* will be disseminated to all AERA members and meeting attendees on a daily basis throughout the Annual Meeting. In addition, a news report will sent each day to public information officers and the media. Interviews with selected authors, journal editors, and other experts will be videotaped and posted on the website.

Report on the New Member Database

Stevenson noted that, in addition to the new website, a new association

management system (AMS) was launched in March. The new database established a framework for enhanced communication with members and the public, in addition to providing a robust contact database and software to support the operations of the Association.

11. New Business

Past President Kris Gutiérrez, who chairs the Council Subcommittee on Roles and Responsibilities of Committees, reported on the subcommittee's progress. She indicated that input collected from standing committees is being synthesized under her leadership. She will share the synthesized information with Tierney and Levine. Gutiérrez, whose terms as Council member and chair of the subcommittee end in 2012, recommended that when the subcommittee is reconstituted, past presidents be included, as they provide historical understanding of AERA and the

work of its committees.

12. Service Recognition for Outgoing Council Members

Arnetha Ball was recognized by AERA and Council for her work as 2011–2012 president. Outgoing Council members Barbara G. Dodd (Division D), Vivian L. Gadsden (Member-at-Large), Kris D. Gutiérrez (Past President), Nicholas Daniel Hartlep (Graduate Student Council), Gale M. Sinatra (Division C), Linda E. Skrla (Division A), and Ara Tekian (Division I) were also recognized for their work, as they would conclude their terms on Council at the end of the 2012 Annual Meeting.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.