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Council Minutes

January 29–31, 2010
Santa Monica, CA

Council Members Present:

Alfredo J. Artiles (Division G), William C. Ayers (Division B), Arnetha F. Ball (Division K), Mark Berends (Division L), Faith Connolly (Division H), Linda L. Cook (Division D), Vivian L. Gadsden (Member-at-Large) by videoconference, 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), Susan B. Twombly (Division J), and Andrea L. Tyler (Graduate Student Council)

Council Member Absent:

Linda C. Tillman (Division A)

Staff Members Present:

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

Friday, January 29, 2010
(Meeting Day 1)

1. Welcome and Introduction by President Carol D. Lee

President Carol D. Lee called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. She welcomed Council and staff members to Santa Monica, California. Introductions followed. She noted that Vivian Gadsden, Council Member-at-Large, was unable to attend in person but would participate by videoconferencing. Council members were asked to review the Council roster for accuracy.

2. Orienting Information

Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda with modifications to the

sequence of agenda items. Council also unanimously approved the minutes of the October 2009 Council meeting.

3. Report of the President

Lee briefed Council on plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting, including Presidential sessions featuring the Vice Minister of Education from the People's Republic of China, a session featuring the presidents of two normal universities in China, and a group of Chinese students who will be performing in a concert. She indicated that Michael Cole will be delivering the AERA Distinguished Lecture and Margaret Beale Spencer will be delivering the Wallace Foundation Distinguished Lecture. In addition, there will be Presidential sessions planned around the theme "Understanding Complex Ecologies in a Changing World." She also briefed Council on a series of international sessions featuring scholars from Singapore, South Africa, and other countries.

Lee provided a summary report on the key agenda items discussed by the Executive Board on January 28. First was a report on the sale of AERA's two townhouses on 17th Street in Washington, D.C. She noted that there have been some prospective buyers and a potential lease arrangement. She indicated that the Executive Board was hesitant about AERA's engaging in a long-term lease especially since a substantial amount of investment to upgrade the building to code would be needed. Finally, Lee reported on the status of three SIGs which were affiliated with external organizations. Due to AERA's requirement that all SIGs must conform to AERA policies and guidelines, these three SIGs have been in discussion with Lynne Schrum, Chair of the SIG Executive Committee, and Felice Levine, AERA Executive Director, on alternative options for affiliating with AERA.

4. Report of the President-Elect on 2011 Annual Meeting Program

President-Elect Kris Gutiérrez reported on the appointment of Joanne Larson, University of Rochester, as General Program Chair for the 2011 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. She announced the theme for the Meeting: "Inciting the Social

Imagination: Education Research for the Public Good."

5. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Felice Levine thanked President Lee for her leadership and Council members for the productive collaboration during the past few months. She reported on the status of the Undergraduate Student Education Research Training Workshop. For the 2010 workshop AERA received 54 applications submitted by students from a range of institutions and disciplines. The workshop will be cochaired by George Wimberly, AERA Director of Social Justice and Professional Development, and Linda Cook.

Levine reported on the AERA-NAEd study "Assessment of Education Research Doctorate Programs" with funding from the National Science Foundation. To date, 113 institutions (in 20 education research fields) have been successfully recruited to participate in the study; verification of education research doctorate programs by these institutions has been completed; and institutional review board approval has been received. Institutions are completing the process of providing faculty contact information for their research doctorate programs so that the faculty survey can commence.

Levine reported that the National Science Foundation has provided a new 3-year award of approximately \$4 million to continue and expand the work of the AERA Grants Program. The program is directed to research and training designed to advance knowledge and build the research infrastructure in education and STEM learning. Finally, Levine reported on new editors for AERA journals: Steven Yussen as *Educational Researcher* editor and Dominic Brewer, Bruce Fuller, and Susanna Loeb as *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* editors. She indicated that editor searches were under way for *Review of Research in Education* (2010/2012) and for the *American Educational Research Journal's* Teaching, Learning, and Human Development section. The JEBS Management Committee also launched an editor search for the *Journal of Educational*

and Behavioral Statistics. Levine briefed Council on the strategic review of journals conducted by the Publications Committee to ensure that each journal was best serving AERA and the field of education research.

6. AERA Fellows Program

With several Council members recusing themselves, Council reviewed a list of 67 candidates nominated for Fellow status advanced by the AERA Fellows Committee. Council also discussed the concern expressed by some members of Council regarding representation of divisions and SIGs among the recommended list of AERA members to be conferred Fellow status. Divisions were asked to recommend appropriate language to be included in the call for Fellow nominations to encourage broad-based participation. In addition, Council discussed ways to ensure that selection criteria are inclusive of all disciplines (such as social science and the humanities) and nonacademic research contributions.

Motion: To approve the list of 67 AERA members as AERA Fellows in accordance with the recommendations of the AERA Fellows Committee. Approved unanimously.

7. Division Budget Allocation

Levine briefed Council on the division budget allocation formula, which was linked to the membership count as of June 30 each year and which was approved by Council in 2004; a subsequent modification to adjust for inflation was approved by Council in 2008. Given the change in AERA's membership year from an anniversary basis with a June 30 year-end to a calendar-year basis with a September 30 year-end, there was a need to align the membership year-end with the division budget allocation.

Motion: To change the official membership year-end date used in the division allocation formula from June 30 to September 30. The change will go into effect in 2010 to determine the FY2011 division budget allocation. Approved unanimously.

8. AERA and Support for Haiti

President Lee reported on the steps taken by AERA thus far in response to the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti. In addition to a posting on the

AERA website showing the Association's support for the disaster relief and linking to central relief websites posted by the White House and USAID, the message stressed the fact that AERA's effort must be not only immediate but also long-term. The long-term process of rebuilding the infrastructure, including schools, will be substantial.

Council discussed a range of efforts that AERA and education researchers could support in providing assistance to Haiti relief, including organizing grassroots efforts; investing in building local capacity; creating opportunities for children and families to survive; collecting donations as part of Annual Meeting registration, membership renewal checkoff, and on-site collection of donations at the 2010 Annual Meeting; and disaster research in education. A number of Council members were drawn to Executive Director Levine's statement in *Educational Researcher* that education research should also consider how best to craft research that can be of benefit to those who experience natural or human disasters and who quite frequently have been displaced. Lee appointed a subcommittee of Council, comprising Immediate Past President Lorraine McDonnell, Vivian Gadsden, and Kris Gutiérrez, to work with her to identify plans and action items.

9. AERA and Internationalization Opportunities

Levine briefed Council on AERA's work relating to the formation of the World Education Research Association (WERA). Former AERA President Eva Baker and Levine were engaged in fostering worldwide discussions among education research associations and served from 2007 through 2009 as AERA representatives in that activity and what became the formation of WERA. In January 2009, Council approved a plan whereby every other Past President would serve as the AERA representative to WERA once WERA was officially established (which occurred in April 2009). Lorraine McDonnell agreed to serve as AERA representative during WERA's transitional period, with Carol Lee as Past President serving a full 2-year term starting in May 2010. The first election of WERA officers held in December 2009 resulted in Eva Baker's being elected as President and Levine as Secretary General. Levine, who was serving as Interim Secretary General, reported on WERA events at its

September meeting in Vienna, Austria; McDonnell participated. In addition, WERA also introduced a 3-year program plan that included a WERA symposium, a focal set of WERA sessions each year aligned with the meetings of WERA member associations, capacity-building workshops (place-based and Web-based), and research working groups.

Levine and Council member Alfredo Artiles reported on AERA's support, in the form of cosponsorship, of the binational conference "The Students We Share: New Research From the United States and Mexico." Artiles was the AERA representative to the January 2010 conference held in Mexico City. Artiles reported on the effort to strengthen partnerships with other associations around issues of immigration (such as diversity within groups), bidirectional sources of influence, possible residential programs, and Latin American research initiatives. He also addressed the need to connect with the media and funding sources to sustain ongoing work and effort.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 30, 2010 (Meeting Day 2)

10. Executive Session

Council met in Executive Session. Discussion at the Executive Session included the communications review. It was reported out of Executive Session that Council will hold a retreat as part of the summer Council meeting in order to address strategic issues for AERA in the decade ahead. Outgoing members of the 2009–2010 Council were invited to attend the retreat along with the 2010–2011 Council.

11. Report of Research Points Review Committee

Council considered the report and recommendations of the *Research Points (RP) Review Committee*, comprised of Beatrice Birman (Communications and Outreach Committee), Thomas Corcoran (Government Relations Committee), and Vivian Gadsden (Council Liaison). *RP* operates as a programmatic initiative of the Association; in 2009, then-President McDonnell and Executive Director Levine asked the *RP* Review Committee

to undertake this task and prepare a report and recommendations to Council. The Committee was charged with evaluating *RP* and making recommendations as to its continuation and, if it were to continue, how best to proceed in the immediate and long term. It was noted that Lauren Resnick, inaugural *RP* editor, would not continue in her role beyond 2009.

Levine and Gadsden presented the report, which was met with enthusiasm from Council with respect to the importance of *RP*, the need to enhance its operations, and the transitional plan. The one concern expressed by Council was the feasibility of featuring six areas of research each year and how the portfolio would look over time. Council discussed the kinds of issues that need to be addressed to give visibility to education research and higher education. McDonnell suggested that *RP* might benefit from guidance from one of the committees of relevance to the purposes of this product. She thought that, for this published peer-reviewed product of the Association, the Publications Committee might be the best fit. Levine noted that the Publications Committee, the Communications and Outreach Committee, and the Government Relations Committee were consulted in 2002 during the period when Council established *RP*. There was general support in Council for the Publications Committee to provide oversight of this initiative after the transition year proposed in the report and after the selection of the next *RP* editor.

Motion: To continue the publication of *Research Points* as set forth in the report and recommendations of the Review Committee, with the Publications Committee to provide general oversight commencing with the term of the next editor. Approved unanimously.

12. Open Discussion From Division and SIG Perspectives

Lynne Schrum, Chair of the SIG Executive Committee, provided a briefing on the recent activities undertaken by SIGs. She reported that the 2010 AERA election marked the first year when all SIGs needing to conduct election of officers did so as part of the AERA General Election. She noted that almost all SIGs holding elections did participate in the process, though a few SIGs were unable to comply with the requirement that there be two or more

candidates for each race. She reported on SIGs working on draft bylaws and the initial deadline of December 31 for submission of drafts. The process of reviewing draft bylaws and following up with SIGs that had not submitted theirs had been time-consuming, but the plan was for the Central Office staff and the SIG Executive Committee to work with SIGs to make sure that all drafts met the guidelines approved by Council so that final drafts could be submitted for Council's approval at the summer meeting.

Schrum provided an update on the SIG Executive Committee's effort to undertake a comprehensive review of SIGs and their roles within AERA. She reported that the Committee had met by conference calls and that a data-gathering effort would be launched in the spring to solicit feedback from SIG members and officers. The Committee will meet in person in June with the goal of presenting a preliminary report with recommendations for review by the Executive Board in October and by Council in January 2011. Schrum indicated that a moratorium was put in place through June 2011, during which time no proposals to form new SIGs will be considered, in order to allow the SIG Executive Committee to undertake the review.

Andrea Tyler, Chair of the Graduate Student Council (GSC), led a discussion on the selection of Junior Graduate Student Representatives by each division. She indicated that, while each division had its own reason to select a junior representative, it was unclear what kind of role the junior representative would play in the GSC. Tyler indicated that she would share information about roles and responsibilities for graduate student representatives on the GSC with division vice presidents. Tyler also raised the topic of the graduate students participating in peer-review panels. With the change in the peer-review process, there were to be more explicit opportunities for mentoring. Levine indicated that the mentoring aspects were very important both to divisions and to the Joint Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures and Research Advisory Committee (AMPP-RAC Joint Committee) in making these changes.

The division vice presidents met on the evening of January 28 to discuss issues to be brought to the Council. Council member Linda Cook provided the report of the

vice presidents. She reported that most of the discussion focused on ways to improve mentoring opportunities across the Association, such as the possibility of providing feedback to graduate students serving as reviewers regarding other reviews of the same submission. Levine indicated that the changes recommended would be discussed with the Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Committee and with All Academic and could be incorporated into changes that the Council would approve following the 2010 Annual Meeting. Council considered ways to encourage graduate student attendance at the peer-review symposium held during the Annual Meeting, and it was decided that the Association would publish the dates in *Educational Researcher* and the vice presidents would disseminate them through their divisions. Cook indicated that the vice presidents sought ways to promote one-to-one mentoring with graduate students and encouraged policies permitting graduate students to review submissions. Levine explained the current policy encouraging such activity. The vice presidents recommended providing examples of good and poor proposal reviews and other online materials for the education of graduate students and also proposed the development of a webinar experience developed by the AMPP-RAC Joint Committee. Levine indicated that this idea was feasible and would be pursued possibly as soon as this year.

A lengthy discussion was also held about one of the changes associated with the improvements adopted to advance Annual Meeting quality: the "preferred session format." Vice presidents raised concerns about the requirement that the type of session specified by submitters may not be modified by program chairs. Levine indicated that the change had been recommended by the AMPP-RAC Joint Committee and adopted by Council because of the concerns of submitters that they were assigned to a session format that was not of their choosing. The new procedures preclude reassignment by program chairs to any session format not identified by the author as being acceptable. The vice presidents acknowledged this problem but felt stringent adherence to the policy constrains development of sessions and maximum involvement of members. The vice presidents proposed that the submission

system be revised to provide for a “check preferred” format and include the idea that a different format might be assigned. Levine indicated that the topic would be discussed by the AMPP-RAC Joint Committee so that Council could make a decision as to whether to alter this new procedure.

The vice presidents also noted and were pleased with the flexibility provided for 2010 to move symposium sessions into roundtable sessions and requested that this continue as a permanent change. Levine noted that the proposed modification could work in the case of moving from a symposium to a roundtable but reported that the AMPP-RAC Joint Committee should have an opportunity to discuss this possible amendment and report back to Council. Were it acceptable to all, she indicated the modification could be continued for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Levine noted that she thought these ideas provided latitude for additional improvement, but she also urged in general trying out the new procedures recommended by the Joint Committee and approved by Council before altering them. She indicated that Council had approved evaluating the changes after a 3-year period and that the systematic effort to collect feedback from different stakeholders had already commenced.

Division vice presidents offered a number of suggestions for making the Council meetings more productive: fewer agenda items, electronic-only delivery of briefing materials, focus on actionable items, recommendations by the Central Office of actions to be taken, and a suggested timeline for consideration of each item. Lastly, the division vice presidents recommended that the dates of Council meetings be established well in advance. Currently, dates are set following the election of new officers, but this is often insufficient notice for scheduling. It was agreed that, beginning with calendar year 2011, Council meeting dates would be scheduled for the same pre-defined weekends each year (e.g., last weekend of January).

13. Update on High-Profile Education Research Workshops

Lee reported on the planning process for the Research Workshop on GLBT Issues in Education. She indicated that the broad-based call issued by the planning committee to solicit input and ideas on research on LGBTQ issues in education had generated

much communication from the Queer Studies SIG. Council discussed the function of the planning committee and the need to communicate the nature of and selection process for research conferences. Council was mindful of the need to consider the history of GLBT issues and how different disciplines (such as in the social and behavioral sciences) approach the issues. Lee indicated that an action plan had been put in place to inform the Queer Studies SIG on the process and the activities planned, to revise the call for input, and to turn a Presidential session into a GLBT town hall meeting at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The town hall meeting will be widely promoted to increase its visibility and participation.

14. Financial Update and Planning

Levine first reported on the improved value of AERA's investment portfolio: As of December 31, 2009, the long-term equity portfolio had increased by 31.66%, long-term fixed income by 4.14%, and near-term programmatic account by 7.30% as compared with the value a year earlier. Lee indicated that the Executive Board had discussed the status of AERA's investment portfolio with AERA's investment manager by conference call and was pleased with the general recovery trend and the steps taken by the investment manager to rebalance the asset allocation according to the ranges set forth by AERA's investment policy.

Council discussed whether AERA could offer a one-time reduction in registration fee in 2010 as a number of institutions had drastically reduced the availability of travel funding for faculty and students. Council also noted that a reduction of \$20 would not make a significant difference as AERA's registration fees were some of the lowest among social science associations and that most of the expenses were travel and lodging related. A number of division vice presidents indicated that the divisions were setting funds aside to provide some travel support for graduate students.

Deputy Executive Director Phoebe Stevenson briefed Council on the financial statement for FY2009. Although the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009, had not been finalized, the projection was for a positive return on a cash basis. The briefing was followed by a detailed discussion of the proposed FY2010 budget for the Association and its divisions and

committees. Levine indicated that the proposed budget was crafted conservatively for both revenue and expenses. Due to the continuing economic uncertainties faced by the nation and academic institutions alike, the budget reflected steady membership dues income as compared to 2009 and a 7% reduction in Annual Meeting registration income as a result of a lower estimate for the number of registrants for the Denver meeting. Council discussed the proposed budget prepared by the GSC and noted that an adjustment was necessary to maintain its budget at the FY2009 level. The revised budget for the GSC was \$19,520. Council also noted that the budget needed to be adjusted to cover the increase for new staff hiring that would be phased in over the 2010 year, as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion: To approve the proposed FY2010 budget, as amended. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 31, 2010 (Meeting Day 3)

15. Education Research Advocacy and Policy Issues

Council discussed the Executive Director's annual report on mission-oriented policy- and position-taking and plans, which included a plan for 2010. Levine noted that the policy directive “AERA Position Taking and Policymaking Processes Guidelines,” adopted by Council in January 2005, called for this report to brief Council on education research advocacy work and plans. She noted that this report is also considered by the Government Relations Committee. President Lee and other members of Council noted that the report provided an excellent briefing on the Association's work and trajectories in this important arena of external advocacy, education, and representation on behalf of education research. A number of Council members indicated that the new format of this report facilitated its use for discussion.

Levine highlighted key elements of the 2010 plan, giving special attention to the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) reauthorization and to reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Council reviewed an interim report on the work of the IES Task Force and a strategic plan for AERA involvement

in the reauthorization of IES. Gerald Sroufe, Director of Government Relations, and Levine noted that this initiative was intended to produce a set of sound non-partisan recommendations that will be influential in shaping the reauthorization of IES and to further situate AERA to be a strong, effective voice regarding federally supported education research.

Levine provided a brief overview of plans to launch a project in 2010 related to ESEA reauthorization. An important element of this initiative is to engage the AERA Government Relations (GR) Committee and the Research Advisory Committee as partners in this effort. Levine noted that she, Sroufe, and Thomas Corcoran, Chair of GR, discussed this topic in a meeting in early January and also that there was a helpful call with President Lee participating. She further noted that, since the preparation of the draft plan by Sroufe and Levine, the Obama administration seemed to be pushing the possibility of ESEA reauthorization on a faster track. Thus, the plan would be altered to start the project earlier but still provide an open opportunity for AERA member ideas and input.

Council members discussed the plans and were very supportive of both these initiatives and the deliberative steps in place with AERA leadership and membership. Although no formal resolution is required regarding the Executive Director's Annual Report and plan, a motion was framed and so adopted.

Motion: To support the Executive Director's report on policy and position taking and the 2010 plan. Approved unanimously.

16. New IRS Form 990 Filing and Governance Requirements

Levine briefed Council on the new Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, the tax return that charities and tax-exempt organizations are required to file annually with the IRS, and accompanying guidelines for governance practices that nonprofit organizations are required to follow. Council members were informed about the requirements that have direct impact on members of Council. First, beginning in 2010, the Executive Board and Council will need to review and approve Form 990 before it is filed on November 15. Members of

Council will be reviewing the form materials electronically or by mail in early November and will need to approve the document within 48 hours because of the filing deadline.

Levine provided an overview of the Whistleblower Policy that tax-exempt organizations are expected to have in place to ensure that organizations have procedures for handling employee complaints. She indicated that AERA already has in the AERA Staff Handbook such a provision, which is designed to ensure that those who have complaints or grievances regarding the treatment of others or the handling of any issue have a process that ensures that they will not be retaliated against.

Motion: To approve the Whistleblower Policy. Approved unanimously.

Levine briefed Council on the need for officers and employees to review the Conflict of Interest Policy and sign a document confirming such act. In addition, a statement of disclosure will be provided to officers annually so that any potential conflict-of-interest relationships can be disclosed. Council members were given both documents for signature indicating that they had read and understood the policy and would abide by it.

Motion: To approve the Annual Statement of Disclosure. Approved unanimously.

Lastly, Levine indicated that, adapting to Form 990 provided an opportune time for AERA to articulate and formalize the Association's document retention and destruction policy. The IRS Code mandates that a tax-exempt entity retain certain information related to its tax exemption and its filings with the IRS. A copy of the Document Retention and Destruction Policy was reviewed by Council so that members of Council could be made aware that AERA is accountable for this policy and that such policy is followed by the Central Office.

Motion: To approve the Document Retention and Destruction Policy. Approved unanimously.

Stevenson stated that, while none of the components relating to Form 990 presented to Council for consideration were required by the IRS, AERA is following these policies in order to maintain a high level of financial accountability.

17. Implementation of Annual Meeting Changes

Levine briefed Council on a number of changes relating to the Annual Meeting that were implemented during the 2010 transition year. The changes implemented for the 2010 Annual Meeting included requiring the upload of a full paper or narrative paper for paper and session submissions; earlier submission deadline of July 15; introduction of an online paper repository; innovation relating to session formats (especially the use of roundtables); and the use of peer-review panels in the place of ad hoc reviewers by units. Council discussed feedback received from program chairs, members, and Annual Meeting participants.

Council returned to the discussion of the participation of graduate students on peer-review panels. Many thought that, while such involvement was important, plans to provide mentoring opportunities and feedback to graduate students were not well implemented. Levine indicated that individual units were encouraged but not required to provide feedback and mentoring opportunities to graduate student reviewers. She emphasized the fact that program chairs were able to access reviews submitted by graduate students though the scores were not taken into consideration for the calculation of the final score. Council discussed the pros and cons of making reviews visible to other reviewers who provide reviews of the same submission and the possibility that reviews could be made available to graduate student reviewers as an educational tool. Levine raised the concern that reviews are confidential but indicated that this issue would be considered by the AMPP-RAC Joint Committee at its meeting in April. A recommendation from the Joint Committee would be brought to Council in July.

Council urged that, in making future site selections for the Annual Meeting, the Central Office take into consideration the need to identify alternative housing for graduate students and other meeting attendees who are interested in less expensive options. Alternatives such as housing in universities, apartment sharing, and other affordable options should be explored. Council also sought clarification on how Presidential sessions were selected. Lee indicated that the President has the

honor of making decisions on Presidential sessions, though each year's Program Committee provides input and feedback and takes the lead in developing a set of nine sessions.

A member of Council raised the possibility that the two Presidential sessions featuring the Vice Minister of Education from China might be met with resistance by some AERA members and meeting attendees due to China's human rights record. It was noted that officials coming to a gathering of intellectuals would anticipate that they may be confronted in a respectful way regarding official policies.

Lastly, Council discussed the introduction of the new roundtable format. Levine noted that roundtables at a session will be spaced quite far apart so that attendees can gather around a roundtable with the presenters. There will not be any formal presentations by authors; instead, there will be maximal interactions among presenters and attendees moderated by the session chair. Council members urged all program chairs to discuss the different session formats and offer successful models used by other organizations.

18. Governance Issues

Lynne Schrum, Chair of the SIG Executive Committee, led a discussion of three name change requests submitted by SIGs. She indicated that these requests have been reviewed by members of the SIG Executive Committee, who offered their support. The Comprehensive School Reform SIG proposed to change its name to the School Turnaround and Reform SIG in order to reflect a broadening in the scope of its focus.

Motion: To approve the request submitted by the Comprehensive School Reform SIG to change its name to the School Turnaround and Reform SIG. Approved unanimously.

A second request related to the Ecological and Environmental Education SIG's proposal to change its name to the Environmental Education SIG in order to be more inclusive of the varied research foci of its members.

Motion: To approve the request submitted by the Ecological and Environmental Education SIG to change its name to the Environmental Education SIG. Approved unanimously.

A third request was submitted by the Narrative and Research SIG to change its name to the Narrative Research SIG to prevent erroneous interpretations of the SIG's focus.

Motion: To approve the request submitted by the Narrative and Research SIG to change its name to the Narrative Research SIG. Approved unanimously.

Lastly, the Paulo Freire SIG proposed to change its name to the Paulo Freire, Critical Pedagogy, and Social Justice SIG to encourage participation from scholars with a wider variety of research tools. Schrum indicated that the SIG Executive Committee was concerned that there already exist two other SIGs with social justice as part of their name. As a result, the SIG EC's recommendation to Council was to approve the group's alternate name.

Motion: To approve the alternate name submitted by the Paulo Freire SIG: Paulo Freire, Critical Pedagogy, and Emancipation SIG. Approved unanimously.

Levine and Schrum briefed Council on the extensive and time-consuming effort involved in working with all SIGs to develop bylaws that conform to the AERA bylaws approved by AERA members in 2006 and to the guidelines for SIGs as specified in the Council-approved SIG Handbook. To date, a total of 128 sets of draft bylaws from SIGs have been received, with 36 other SIGs in the process of finalizing their drafts. The review process involves careful vetting by staff from the Central Office, a process of working with SIG chairs to revise and resubmit, a final review by the SIG Executive Committee, and a presentation to the AERA Council for final approval. Once the draft bylaws are approved, the relevant SIGs will present the bylaws for adoption by SIG members. The process requires significant staff time devoted to reviewing bylaws and interacting with SIG chairs. Levine and Schrum recommended a strategy by which the process could move forward in a practical and expeditious manner without consuming an unnecessary amount of time from the full Council. It was recommended that Council delegate the final approval process to a Council subcommittee that would act outside of regularly scheduled Council meetings. This would enable the review and approval process to take place in the coming months with the goal of approving all submitted bylaws by the end of the summer.

Motion: To appoint a subcommittee of Council to review and approve SIG bylaws. Approved unanimously.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.