

# Council Minutes

July 9, 2010  
Chantilly, Virginia

## Council Members Present:

Alfredo J. Artiles (Division G), William C. Ayers (Division B), Arnetha F. Ball (President-Elect), Annis N. Brown (Graduate Student Council), Faith Connolly (Division H), Linda L. Cook (Division D), Barbara G. Dodd (Division D), Dorothy L. Espelage (Division E), William A. Firestone (Division L), Vivian L. Gadsden (Member-at-Large), Karen L. Graves (Division F), Kris D. Gutiérrez (President), Etta R. Hollins (Division K), Carol D. Lee (Immediate Past President), Gale M. Sinatra (Division C), Linda E. Skrla (Division A), Ara Tekian (Division I), Sharon H. Ulanoff (SIG Executive Committee), Angela Valenzuela (Member-at-Large)

## Council Members Absent:

Laura W. Perna (Division J)

## Staff Members Present:

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

## I. Welcome and Introduction by President Kris Gutiérrez

President Kris D. Gutiérrez called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. She welcomed members of Council and AERA staff and thanked the group for attending this first meeting of the 2010–2011 Council. Self-introductions followed. Gutiérrez emphasized the importance of the role that each Council member plays on Council—the governing body for the Association.

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

## 2. Minutes From Previous Meetings

Council reviewed the minutes from the April 2010 Council meeting.

**Motion:** To approve the April 2010 Council minutes. Approved unanimously.

## 3. Report of the President

President Gutiérrez briefed members of Council on the Council Retreat to be held on July 10–11, indicating that the retreat would provide an opportunity for Council to create a blueprint to guide the AERA leadership in the coming years.

Gutiérrez also reported on the 2011 Annual Meeting Program Committee meeting held in New Orleans in June. She was pleased with the wide-ranging topics suggested by Program Committee members for the nine sessions that they will plan. Gutiérrez briefed Council on the Presidential Sessions that are being planned. She indicated that she and Joanne Larson, the 2010 Program Chair, had started the planning process early in her presidential term and that many of the Presidential Sessions had already been solidified. She indicated that she would send the list of these sessions to members of Council to facilitate program planning at the division, SIG, and committee levels.

Gutiérrez announced that the Annual Meeting registrants' voluntary contributions to a local charity will go to Make It Right, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building safe, sustainable, and affordable homes for working families in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. The hope is to collect a sizable sum so that AERA can make a significant and tangible donation to build an "AERA house" for New Orleans.

Gutiérrez also announced that Alan Luke had been selected to present the AERA Distinguished Lecture and Alfredo Artiles to present the Wallace Foundation Distinguished Lecture at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Council discussed plans for the Annual Meeting. Members of Council indicated that they had received very positive feedback from program chairs about the Program Committee meeting. There was strong support in Council for AERA Presidents' planning Presidential Sessions early each year as one of their priority activities so that most of those sessions can be known to divisions, SIGs, and committees and publicized by the fall prior to the Annual Meeting.

Gutiérrez reported on progress in making appointments for the standing committees and award committees. She indicated that she planned to have telephone conversations with each division vice president in the near future to discuss the divisions' goals and plans.

Gutiérrez briefed Council on AERA's independent auditor's report for FY2009. The report showed that AERA management handled the association's financial operations well during a period of economic volatility. Council discussed AERA's property on 17th Street in Washington, D.C., and learned that some renovations had been made to increase interest among prospective buyers.

Gutiérrez led a discussion on the benefit of fixing dates in advance for future Council meetings. Members of Council appreciated knowing the dates in advance and anticipated that this enhancement would benefit future elected officers. Council discussed the occasional need to make adjustments and was supportive of flexibility. By unanimous consent, Council fixed two dates for future meetings: The winter Council meeting will take place on the first full weekend of February, and the summer Council meeting will take place on the last full weekend of June.

Gutiérrez reported on the Executive Board meeting held on July 8. She indicated that, although the majority of the agenda items would be discussed by Council, the approval of award petitions was the responsibility of the Executive Board. The Executive Board unanimously approved petitions to establish the following awards: Division D's Early Career Award in Measurement and Research Methodology; Division J's Outstanding Poster Award; the Caribbean and African Studies in Education SIG's Outstanding Research Paper Award; the Middle Level Education Research SIG's Richard "Dick" Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Research on the Education of Asian and Pacific Americans SIG's Best Paper Award, Distinguished Researcher Award, and Outstanding Dissertation Award. Gutiérrez noted that the Executive Board also discussed the importance of units' being very deliberative in establishing named awards.

#### **4. Report of the Executive Director**

Executive Director Felice Levine began her report by thanking President Gutiérrez and Immediate Past President Lee for enabling a smooth transition. She indicated that she and President-Elect Arnetha Ball had already started meeting to help with out-year planning, especially for the 2012 Annual Meeting Program. Levine noted the role of Council as the primary policy-making body of the Association and observed that Council members make an important contribution to charting the directions of the Association. She indicated that, since 2006, the summer meeting of Council had devoted time to the consideration of broad issues of importance to the Association but that this was the first time that the core of the Council meeting had been devoted to the overall mission and ambition of AERA and the advancement of education research. Directing her comments especially to new members of Council, Levine noted that part of the idea for the Council retreat had evolved from Executive Board and Council consideration in January of the communications review. Both groups thought that the review raised challenges and opportunities and that a retreat would provide an opportunity for Council to look ahead. She noted that members of Council who had completed their terms in 2010 were invited to attend the retreat and that several would be in attendance.

Levine referenced the informational briefing materials in the agenda book and the AERA calendar of upcoming meetings and events. She also reported on new AERA books in preparation. She concluded by briefing Council on the need to modify the budget guidelines for the Call for Research Conference Proposals. She indicated that, based on the first two submission cycles (September 2009 and March 2010), the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and staff had concluded that the language of the Call should be modified to make more explicit that most research conference grants would be considerably lower than the \$50,000 maximum allowable under this initiative. Council reviewed the revised Call for Proposals and supported the modification.

#### **5. Review and Approval of FY2009 Audit**

President Gutiérrez explained the audit process currently in place: The President and Executive Director discuss the audit with AERA's independent auditor before the audit and, with the Immediate Past President also participating, discuss the audit report with the auditor after the audit is completed. For the benefit of new members of Council, Gutiérrez noted that the second discussion of the audit includes the Executive Director for a period but that the President and Immediate Past President continue the discussion absent the Executive Director. She indicated that this process was put in place so that officers could speak directly and independently with the auditor, and that many organizations with boards have instituted such practices. Gutiérrez reported that the auditor was satisfied with the FY2009 audit and did not find any areas of concern. Deputy Executive Director Phoebe Stevenson briefed Council on the audit and the audit report, including AERA's balance sheet and statement of income and expenses.

*Motion:* To approve and accept the FY2009 audit. Approved unanimously.

#### **6. SIG Name Change Request**

Council reviewed a proposal submitted by the Inclusion and Accommodation in Large-Scale Assessment SIG to change its name to better reflect the SIG's purpose and goals. Sharon Ulanoff, Council member and Chair of the SIG Executive Committee, indicated that the Committee had reviewed the proposal and supported the SIG's request to change the name to Inclusion and Accommodation in Education Assessment SIG.

*Motion:* To approve the request submitted by the Inclusion and Accommodation in Large-Scale Assessment SIG to change its name to the Inclusion and Accommodation in Education Assessment SIG. Approved unanimously.

#### **7. Review and Discussion of FY2010 Financial Report**

Levine introduced the FY2010 financial report and indicated that the Association had operated with a conservative spending strategy again this year given the economic uncertainties, especially related to Annual

Meeting attendance. She asked Stevenson to brief Council on the overall status of revenues and expenses for the first part of FY2010. Stevenson reported that the difference between the approved budget and the projected outcome was due in part to the higher-than-budgeted revenue from registration for the 2010 Annual Meeting. She indicated that membership-related income was projected to be on budget because of conservative budgeting. She concluded her report by noting that AERA was likely to return to a balanced budget at the end of the year despite the deficit budget approved by Council for FY2010.

#### **8. Resources and Realignment of Membership Dues**

Levine prefaced the discussion by stating that one of her earlier goals as Executive Director was to develop a technological, financial, and human resource structure that was appropriate for the Association at the time. According to Levine, it was equally important to train the staff to be able to execute key functions of the Association across domains. She indicated that although significant enhancements have been made, it is time for AERA to realign itself for the next generation of needs.

Gutiérrez briefed Council on the Executive Committee's extensive discussion on July 8 regarding the need to realign membership dues and the specific motion to do so that the Executive Board had unanimously approved. Immediate Past President Carol Lee reported on the recommendation to increase dues. She said that, despite the volatility of the economy since 2008, the increase in membership dues was necessary to enable the Association to fulfill its programmatic aspirations. She emphasized the importance of communication with the members so that they understand the reasoning and the need behind the increase. Council discussed the fact that the Association had increased membership dues only twice since 2000 and the possibility of loss in membership dues income were members to decide not to renew. Gutiérrez emphasized that a very caring information dissemination approach was a necessity. Council also discussed the possibility of restructuring the dues rate using a sliding scale or graduated dues model, depending on the annual income of members and the pros and cons of such a model.

Council discussed the proposed provision to offer a temporary reprieve on dues to members who experience financial hardship. Issues discussed included the concern that some members might find the disclosure of hardship to be difficult; the importance of handling hardship requests confidentially; the question of whether such a provision is necessary; the possible administrative challenges to be faced by the Central Office; the need for the Association to be sympathetic to members with hardships; ways for AERA to expand opportunities for members, such as videotaping Annual Meeting sessions and providing online access; and ways for AERA to provide tangible benefits in conjunction with raising dues.

**Motion:** To increase dues from \$120 to \$150 for Regular and Affiliate Members, from \$35 to \$40 for Student Members, and from \$100 to \$110 for International Affiliates; and for International Affiliate members from low-income countries as classified by the World Bank, to change dues from \$100 to \$55. In addition, to instruct the Executive Director to prepare an analysis and recommendation on a progressive dues structure based on income, for consideration at the February 2011 meeting of Council. Approved, 15; Opposed, 1; Abstained, 1.

**Motion:** To adopt the proposed hardship provision whereby members confronted with financial hardship due to unemployment or transitional difficulties may request a waiver of dues for 1 year. Approved, 10; Opposed, 2; Abstained, 5.

**Motion:** To request that the Central Office monitor the hardship provision requests on a quarterly basis for 1 year. Approved unanimously.

## 9. Expansion of At-Large Membership on Council

President Gutiérrez led a discussion on the possibility of expanding the at-large membership on Council and the potential value of allowing Council to more fully reflect the breadth of the membership as individuals irrespective of their affiliations in divisions or SIGs. She indicated that the Executive Board had recommended that Council expand from two to six at-large members (two elected each year to serve 3-year terms), with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes each year serving on the Executive Board. Immediate Past President Lee spoke in support of the

proposed expansion as it would provide broader representation on Council. She noted that having a larger number of Council members elected by a larger number of AERA voting members would contribute to members' seeing Council as reflecting the overall interests of education research and AERA.

Some members of Council expressed concern that the increase in at-large membership would have a negative impact on the divisional representation and influence within Council. Levine indicated that greater at-large representation could support division vice presidents in addressing AERA-wide objectives as well as division-wide perspectives. Council also discussed how the work of the Nominating Committee might influence the process and outcome of balancing representation. The topic of representation and continuity on the Executive Board, including a 3-year term served by at-large members as compared with the annual election of non-at-large members, was also discussed. The topic was documented for future discussions.

**Motion:** To recommend to the voting members a By-Laws change to expand the number of at-large members on AERA Council to six persons, with two at-large members being elected each year to 3-year terms and with the candidate who receives the highest number of votes each year serving on the Executive Board. Approved, 16; Opposed, 1; Abstained, 1

## 10. Topics Discussed by the Division Vice Presidents

Division vice presidents met informally on July 8 to discuss topics of importance and interest to divisions. Among the key topics discussed were teacher education and the general characteristics of an effective teacher, the challenges faced by persons engaged in the practice of education research, and the differences between teachers trained in teacher education programs and those trained in other programs. Gutiérrez suggested that several divisions could join forces to lead a discussion, and vice presidents from Divisions C, K, and G expressed interest in doing so. Council discussed the possibility of featuring a roundtable session at the Annual Meeting to enable interested individuals and organizations to engage in a dialogue. There was general consensus on the importance of

determining how best to bring these discussion topics to action.

## 11. Draft Revision of the AERA Code of Ethics

Levine briefed Council on the work of the AERA Ethics Committee to revise the Ethical Standards. She noted that there had not been a major revision of the Standards since their adoption in 1992. She indicated that, when the Ethics Committee was established by Council in 2007 and seated in 2008, revision of the Standards was a priority in Council's charge. Levine indicated that the Committee had undertaken an extensive analysis, developed a draft revision, and recommended using the title "Code of Ethics" because the document includes both principles and standards. She noted that the revision covered issues previously included in the 1992 Standards as well as some new topics that could not have been anticipated in 1992. She also noted that the Committee had sought to develop a more educative and helpful document and had used as the basis for its work the ethics codes of the American Sociological Association and the American Psychological Association because those codes were more fully fleshed out and thus more informative. She emphasized, however, that careful attention had been given to every one of the AERA standards, so that any alterations and the rationale for each alteration could be documented.

Levine indicated that the draft Code of Ethics was circulated at the 2010 AERA Annual Meeting and was the topic of an open forum held by the Ethics Committee. She reported that the discussion at the forum was very helpful and supportive; although the turnout was not large, the forum drew experienced members with expertise in research ethics and in teaching ethics to graduate students.

Council discussed the draft Code of Ethics. One topic raised was how the Standards related to the expectation that Annual Meeting presenters should fulfill their commitment to present their own work at the meeting. Levine indicated that she would verify but thought that this policy statement was to be found in guidance related to the Annual Meeting, not in the current Standards. A question was raised about enforcement procedures. Levine indicated that those procedures were still

in development and that enforcement was intended to apply only to matters concerning AERA programs and activities. For example, the Code would be enforced in connection with authorship credit on AERA journal articles or Annual Meeting papers or with individuals using substantive information learned while serving on an AERA fellowship review panel for personal benefit or gain. Gerald Sroufe, Senior Advisor and Director of Government Relations, noted that the relationship between the Code and the forthcoming procedures might need to be clarified in the language of the Code.

Levine indicated that the draft Code would be posted on the AERA website (accessible through the Member Portal) for member comment this summer. She urged Council members to examine the draft and provide their comments. She indicated that the Ethics Committee hoped to advance a revised draft Code for Council's consideration by the February 2011 Council meeting.

## **12. Committee Follow-Up Reports Based on January 2010 Council Meeting**

*Research Advisory and Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Joint Committee.* Levine briefed the Council on the follow-up report relating to Annual Meeting enhancements prepared by the Research Advisory and Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures Joint Committee. She noted for new members of Council that this collaborative work and charge to the Joint Committee emanated from a Council Retreat discussion. She indicated that the follow-up discussion by the Joint Committee at the 2010 Annual Meeting focused on four areas: whether to give a reviewer of a given submission access to other reviews of the same submission, submission requirements and paper length, whether paper submitters should select the presentation format, and the AERA Online Paper Repository. Levine reported that the Joint Committee was very supportive of providing reviewers with reviews from other reviewers of the same submission. She indicated, however, that, although the Joint Committee did take up the suggestion advanced by division vice presidents to provide program chairs with the flexibility to change a submission's

session type to one not selected by the submitter, the Committee wished to retain the practice of honoring the preferences of submitters. Another topic discussed was whether to make the Online Paper Repository available to members and registrants in advance of the Annual Meeting. The Joint Committee reaffirmed that the papers are intended to be presented first at the Annual Meeting and that access prior to the Meeting would defeat the purpose and importance of presenting new papers and original work at the Meeting. As a result, the Joint Committee reaffirmed the decision that the Online Paper Repository should make papers for a given Meeting available to members and registrants only after that Meeting. The Joint Committee also considered requests about the length of final papers and whether the intent was to limit the length of final commentary papers. The Committee did not wish to restrict the length of final papers, including commentary papers. This change is reflected in the Call for Submissions for the 2011 Annual Meeting.

*Fellows Committee.* Levine provided a brief history of the AERA Fellows Program and the origin and rationale for the grandparenting guidelines. She explained that the program was built on grandparenting AERA members who were fellows in programs of other associations, which led to higher numbers of AERA fellows from research fields that had such programs. She reminded Council that there had previously been discussion in Council about how best to work with divisions to ensure a broader range of nominations from various research fields and disciplines. She noted that the membership of the Fellows Committee had been expanded to broaden representation, as well as to handle the large number of nominations received. Levine briefed Council on changes to the nomination process introduced by the Fellows Committee, including provisions that members of the Fellows Committee can no longer advance or endorse a nomination (which eliminates the need for recusal during the deliberation process) and that only one person (nominator or endorser) can be from the same institution as the nominee.

Levine also reported on the Fellows Committee discussion on whether to expand the purpose of the program by altering the Fellows selection criteria,

which explicitly include breadth of scholarship and exceptional contributions to the development of research opportunities and settings. Levine indicated that the Committee had discussed the recommendation to modify the selection criteria or language but concluded that the current language places emphasis on a wide range of research productivity. The Committee unanimously recommended against further action at this time.

Council discussed the challenges for the Fellows Committee in understanding the more practice-oriented work that is being done in the field, as the Committee's members are mostly from academic institutions and might therefore be less able to recognize good research and scholarship in other arenas. Council discussed how the membership of the Fellows Committee could be made more diverse and how the Committee could monitor the nominations advanced over the next few years to determine if there is in fact a problem with its ability to recognize high-quality work from different fields of research. Council introduced no change in the stated purposes of the Fellows Program or the selection criteria.

## **13. Update on Ongoing Initiatives**

Council discussed a number of ongoing AERA initiatives. It also discussed how to facilitate AERA-wide awareness of activities undertaken by the Association, for example by means of a calendar noting key events.

*Update on LGBTQ Research Workshop.* Levine briefed Council on plans for the Research Workshop on LGBTQ Issues in Education Research and the goal to produce not only a high-quality workshop but a report that can synthesize and contextualize the state of research in this area. She stressed the importance of, and AERA's commitment to, advancing research in underserved areas. Levine indicated that the research workshop had been rescheduled for fall 2010 to allow additional time to solicit ideas in LGBTQ research from scholars within the AERA membership as well as in other related fields. She indicated that the comment period had been extended through August 2, 2010, and that the research workshop was scheduled for September 24–26.

Levine reported that George Wimberly, AERA Director of Professional Development and Social Justice, would provide

leadership for the research workshop. She noted the continued collaboration with the Queer Studies SIG. Levine indicated that Connie North, current Chair of the Queer Studies SIG, has now joined the planning committee for this initiative and is keeping SIG members informed of the process by posting updates on the SIG listserv. Council discussed the need to ensure that the bibliography on LGBTQ research is inclusive, especially in light of major works published in journals and other publications in 2009. Council member Karen Graves, a member of the planning committee, expressed her thanks to all who had been involved for their contributions.

*Update on ESEA Reauthorization.* Levine reported on the ongoing activities related to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The goal of AERA's initiative is to produce a set of research briefs on ESEA priority

topics and implement an aggressive outreach plan to foster consideration of the relevant research in ESEA deliberations. Levine indicated that two committees—the Government Relations and Research Advisory Committees, working together as the Joint GR-RAC Committee—have been collaborating with AERA Central Office staff to identify high-profile issues related to ESEA reauthorization where education research knowledge can play a role.

Levine reported that Kerry Bolger, Associate Director of Government Relations, will serve as study director for this initiative, which includes an open call to members, soon to be released, seeking input related to a “working set” of possible topics. Levine indicated that, based on this outreach and additional research and with the input of the Joint Committee, small task teams would be invited to undertake briefs for *Research Points* or *Research Points*-type products. Levine emphasized that the

ambition was to start identifying topics and producing briefs and related dissemination plans on a demanding timetable that would allow AERA to be flexible and responsive in bringing research to bear. She noted that Bolger would take the lead and that the Joint Committee would have ongoing involvement—with Levine, Gerald Sroufe (Director of Government Relations), Bolger, Tom Corcoran (Chair of the Government Relations Committee), Deborah Vandell (Chair of the Research Advisory Committee), and President Gutiérrez serving as the coordinating committee.

President Gutiérrez indicated that the ESEA reauthorization initiative is of great importance to her personally and to education research. She also emphasized the importance of research in influencing and helping to craft sound policy.

#### **14. Adjournment**

President Gutiérrez adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.