

Council Minutes

October 24, 2009
Washington, D.C.

Council Members Present:

Alfredo J. Artilles (Division G), Arnetha F. Ball (Division K), Mark Berends (Division L), Faith Connolly (Division H), 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 Council)

Staff Members Present:

Felice J. Levine, Phoebe H. Stevenson

Absent:

William C. Ayers (Division B)

I. Welcome and Introduction by President Carol D. Lee

President Carol D. Lee called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Report of the AERA Council Subcommittee to Review Issues Related to the Fellows Program

Council considered a report prepared by the Council's subcommittee to review issues related to the AERA Fellows Program. The subcommittee consists of Council members Arnetha F. Ball, Vivian L. Gadsden, Joan L. Herman, Cynthia A. Hudley, and Richard E. Mayer, as well as Margaret Beale Spencer (representing the AERA Fellows Committee) and AERA Executive Director Felice J. Levine (ex officio). The subcommittee's report was a response to Council's motions at its June 2009 meeting to establish a subcommittee

to further explicate the existing selection criteria set forth by the Fellows Task Force and prepare recommendations for Council's review in October.

Council discussed the four recommendations advanced by the subcommittee: (1) Increase the number of Fellows Committee members from six to nine and ensure that the members represent the Association's diversity of scholarly and research perspectives; (2) urge divisions to create approaches and strategies to increase the pool of Fellow nominations and submissions both within and across divisions; (3) expand strategies to announce, notify, and invite AERA members to submit nominations; and (4) enhance the effort to urge Fellows to make nominations. Although there was general consensus on the four recommendations, the subcommittee was divided in reference to Recommendation 1. Some members expressed a need for stronger language in the charge to broaden the Fellows Committee's criteria for moving toward equity in racial/ethnic, gender, and disciplinary representation. Other members expressed a need for the application of equally high standards for all divisions.

President Lee expressed her concern that some divisions, such as Division H (Research, Evaluation, and Assessment in Schools) and possibly Division I (Education in the Professions), whose members' work may be of a different nature from that of other divisions, might not be readily acknowledged. She noted the need for AERA to create opportunities for all divisions and to determine what should be valued and what kinds of standards should be applied with respect to scholarship and work in the professions. The goal is to ensure that qualified scholars and researchers are nominated and reviewed fairly. Lee acknowledged that the Fellows Committee needed to continue to enhance its awareness and sensitivity to diversity.

With regard to Recommendation 2 of the report—to urge divisions to create approaches and strategies to increase the pool of Fellow nominations and submissions both within and across divisions—Council member Susan B. Twombly (Division J) indicated that Division J had assembled a committee to consider and

advance nominations. Council discussed the need to communicate the purpose of the Fellows Program and the selection criteria to AERA members. Lee indicated that the general spirit of Recommendation 2 should be adopted, and she encouraged divisions to share strategies.

Hudley noted that AERA is a diverse organization and that it is therefore important for the Association to explore options to recognize scholars in different fields. Although the "Fellow" designation is meaningful among psychologists, for example, it may not be readily recognizable in other fields. Hudley emphasized the need for Council to recognize the diversity of AERA's membership.

Lee summarized the strategies suggested by Council members as follows: setting aside time to discuss how divisions can support the nomination process; asking divisions to begin to identify other kinds of evidence of esteemed scholarship in the field and to encourage Fellows and division members to advance nominations; encouraging Fellows to nominate individuals across divisions; embodying the spirit of diversity in the nominations and selection process; continuing to review available data to determine if progress is being made toward achieving our collective goals; and actively promoting and monitoring the success of recruitments.

Lee asked division vice presidents to prepare a short summary of areas and ways in which their respective fields recognize exemplary scholarship that may not be in the current mix. Immediate Past President Lorraine M. McDonnell recommended that the Central Office collect data on what proportion of Fellows make nominations and what proportion make nominations outside their divisions.

Motion: To approve the four recommendations offered in the subcommittee's report. Council will revisit the issues at its January meeting. In addition, Council will review additional data on patterns of nominations. Division vice presidents will share information on ways in which their fields recognize exemplary scholarship, and the criteria used. Council will make recommendations to divisions for use in future nominations. Approved, 11; Abstained, 3.

3. Report on AERA and the World Education Research Association

President Lee indicated that a more in-depth discussion of the World Education Research Association (WERA) would take place at Council's January meeting. She invited McDonnell, who is AERA's representative to WERA, to provide an overview of her participation in the WERA Council meeting in Vienna, Austria, in September 2009.

McDonnell reported on the WERA Council Meeting, planned by interim President Ingrid Gogolin (University of Hamburg) and interim Secretary General Felice Levine. McDonnell indicated that a number of key initiatives had been accomplished, such as the official launch of the WERA website, completion of legal work to establish WERA as a chartered entity in the District of Columbia, and an inaugural ceremony and symposium with accompanying publicity. She indicated that representatives from the 25 founding member associations had voted to approve membership for the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) and the Taiwan Education Research Association (TERA).

McDonnell indicated that the key action item before Council was the upcoming election for WERA's first full-term officers: President, President-Elect, and

Vice President (each serving a 2-year term) and Secretary General (serving a 4-year term). The deadline for nominations was November 25, 2009, and each nominee needed to be endorsed by his or her founding member association and three other associations (for a total of four founding member associations).

Lee indicated that it would make sense for AERA to consider nominating individuals who had been active in WERA—Eva Baker (a Past President of AERA), Lorraine McDonnell, and Felice Levine. McDonnell noted that consideration for making a nomination for the Secretary General position is critical, as AERA must be willing to commit financial resources to support the organization. In addition, it is important to establish the process that AERA should use to determine whom to endorse as candidates.

Levine indicated that Council also needs to determine how AERA will act in the long run as it meets with expanded opportunities for involvement in various activities sponsored by WERA. She also pointed out the following issues for consideration:

(1) As an Association, AERA needs to determine, in the short term, whether it wishes to endorse someone from its leadership to run for WERA office and

whether that decision resides with the WERA representative or in consultation with another AERA body.

- (2) During the ramping-up years, member associations from more affluent countries may need to extend more financial support.
- (3) It is important for all WERA member associations to continue to advance their shared goals, commitment, and vision and transcend the interests of each association.
- (4) WERA is currently following an election process in accord with the WERA constitution; but looking ahead, WERA Council needs to determine whether to further detail the procedures.

President Lee suggested that time be set aside at each Council meeting to discuss WERA's evolution and progress. She suggested that AERA should nominate someone to run for WERA office and that Levine would be the most logical nominee. Council discussed whether it should weigh in or defer the decision to the Executive Board.

Motion: To defer to the Executive Board. Approved unanimously.

4. New Business and Adjournment

There was no new business. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.