



**AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
of GRADUATE STUDENTS

**APAGS Fall Consolidated Meeting**

**Minutes**

Friday, September 23, 2022  
Saturday, September 24, 2022

Chair: Tiffany Parisi

Participants:

Executive Committee: Mary Fernandes, Tiffany Parisi, Quincy Guinadi

Members-At-Large: Courtney Tran, Martina Frubauerova, Kimberly Shore

Subcommittee Chairs: Terrill Taylor (CARED), Emily Boswell-Strain (CSOGD), Erin Kaseda (ACT), Justine Stewart (Convention), LaTrice Wright (Convention), Melanie Arenson (Science)

**Friday, September 23**

**FCM Plenary Highlights and Debrief, *APAGS Executive Committee***

- Information provided on what different boards and committees are working on and what challenges to collaboration there are with other boards and committees.
- What are our challenges to collaboration? Concerns raised about liaison roles
- What are some of the challenges experienced around data collection?
  - CSOGD had concerns about data on LGBTQIA+ students that APA currently collects – informed that APA doesn't collect the data they are looking for, limited the amount and type of questions that they could ask. Limited to quantitative data as opposed to more qualitative data
  - Requested data isn't being collected and starting from scratch is time consuming.
  - Lacking mixed method data collection, is there representation in the data collection?
  - What happens once data is collected? Sometimes isn't communicated clearly
  - Being thoughtful about questions being asked – what are we trying to learn?
  - What are we doing with the information we are collecting?

**APAGS Webinars, *Parisi***

- Idea to produce 3 webinars during 2023 for students
- Opportunity to showcase subcommittee work - ideally would be collaborative
- Content outside of Convention that can be archived as an addendum to the blog and Convention
- What content are we thinking about? Who is the audience – grad students only?
- Content needs to serve strategic plan but also be broad

- Ideas:
  - Financial literacy webinar (PSLF, loan forgiveness) – we already have a lot of content on this, ACT working on infographics on loan forgiveness
  - How to run a business, how to negotiate and market ourselves
  - Gaps in current training
  - Resources about non-academic jobs
  - Science -focused workshops, skill building
  - Leadership Development
  - Post doc wages – advocate for a living wage (stipends, internship, etc.)
  - Advocacy
  - Internship – What to do if you don't match in round I
  - Add a component of marketing APAGS and APA membership during the webinar
  - Landing page slide that talks about getting to know APAGS
  - Suggestion to have pre-recorded videos in addition to webinars

### **Leadership Development, *Guinadi***

The 2023 APAGS Chair provided an overview about her plans for Leadership Development for students and sought the committee's feedback.

- First area of focus for leadership development would be APAGS volunteer leaders, followed by other student leaders in APA and SPTAs, and finally all student members of APA.
  - What can we do internally to continue to be a strong front for psychology students?
    - 1) Strengthen internal relationships (i.e. increase communication, celebrate milestones, revive Slack, connect at Convention, share social media handles, build on APAGS Student Leader Catalog, potentially host a grad student summit)
    - 2) Build leader identity (think about who you are a leader and what leadership style you have, collaborate on projects with student leaders and divisions, increase motivation, try to influence, host discussion tables and booths at convention)
    - 3) Share our knowledge (joint webinar development, train other student leaders on how to comment on items, recruit students to run for APAGS positions, invite leaders to present webinars, share webinars on professional development, increase access to APAGS resources and training opportunities)
- Other suggestions
  - Hosting a joint APAGS/ECP event. This would be helpful in leadership identity after graduating.
  - Having some sort of self-reflection of where you are and where you want to go.
  - Utilize a social media branding expert help to develop academic Twitter identity.
- Next steps: In 2023, the goal is to start leadership development for APAGS leaders. Questions or comments can be directed to Quincy.

<b>Saturday, September 24</b>
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### **Advocacy Discussion**

Guest Visitor: Kenneth Polishchuk, APA Advocacy Office

Kenneth Polishchuk described the current changes to the PSLF that the Department of Education is considering including implementing reforms to:

- (1) the definition of qualifying employer and full-time employment,
- (2) the application and reconsideration processes, and
- (3) the way payments are calculated.

The Department of Education is also considering eliminating interest capitalization on student loans, in cases where it is not required by law. APA believes these are positive changes but also submitted recommendations to:

- (1) clarify PSLF qualifying status for doctoral interns, residents, and fellows,
- (2) waive the requirement that an otherwise eligible borrower must be employed in public service at the time of loan forgiveness,
- (3) codify and extend the temporary waiver, and
- (4) make the elimination of interest capitalization retroactive.

Kenneth thanked those who participated in a recent call to action around PSLF that was sent out on APAGS social media. Along with early career APA members, we submitted more than 300 comments on proposed changes.

Kenneth also reviewed proposed changes to the Income Driven Repayment program.

Department of Education is considering implementing the following reforms:

- (1) cutting discretionary income-level from 10% to 5%,
- (2) raising the amount of income that is considered non-discretionary income and therefore is protected from repayment, and
- (3) covering unpaid monthly interest, so that loan balances will no longer grow as payments are made.

Again, APA believes these are positive but will be submitting comments on these as well when the final language is published.

Next, Kenneth described the recent executive action taken by President Biden instituting Broad-Based Loan Forgiveness. In this action, \$10k of student loan debt would be forgiven for individual borrowers with an annual income of under \$125,000 and a household income of under \$250,000. Borrowers who received a Pell Grant as undergraduates will be eligible for up to \$20k worth of forgiveness. APA strongly advocated for such action and has for quite a while. Next steps are as follows:

- (1) The Department of Education will develop an application form in October, and APA recommends filing the form even if you think that they have all your information,
- (2) loan servicers will notify borrowers when the relief has been applied to account, and they will provide information about which loans to which it was applied, and
- (3) remaining loan balances will be re-calculated and monthly payments will be based on new balance.

Although federal taxes will not be calculated on forgiven loans, some states may charge income taxes on this forgiveness. If in doubt, check the FAQ about which states may apply state income tax to this forgiveness at <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/one-time-cancellation>

Finally, Kenneth shared information on a new action APAGS members can take around campus mental health. The *Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant* is up for reauthorization and funding. This is the only federal program specifically dedicated to campus mental health. APA recommends that APAGS members consider advocating for as much funding as possible and for it to be directed to less well-funded institutions who need it most. This action alert will go out for APAGS members to participate the first week of November.

In the Q&A section, students asked about actions that are being taken related to front-end costs of graduate schools (i.e., tuition, cost of living) rather than on debt forgiveness. APA will continue to advocate for federal grant programs like the Minority Fellowship Program, as well as increasing the amount available for Pell (to address undergraduate debt that is carried forward) and to expanding the Pell grant for graduate education. Kenneth acknowledged that the main issue is that most of the costs are not in the hands of the government, but rather disinvestment at the state level for state institutions as well as private institutions.

The Q&A also covered the options for funding for international students, which is limited to some loans (often private sector) and some options for DACA students. Beyond that, not much available. Although APA supports the expansion of options to international students, there is not a lot of public or government will for policies to support this category of students. Currently, the main activity is some action around extending time in the US to work and research for 2 years beyond the graduate degree.

**Guests Visitors: Arthur Evans, PhD, APA CEO; Jennifer Kelly, PhD, Past President; Frank Worrell, PhD, President; Thema Bryant, PhD, President-Elect**

- The trio and CEO expressed excitement about APAGS work and mentioned that APAGS has been a strong voice for grad students and has pushed several initiatives that have made grad student presence more visible within APA. They emphasized the importance of transformation within the organization and how it cannot happen without the student voice.
- The trio and CEO advised APAGS to
  - think of the long game
  - not get discouraged
  - find effective mentorship (folks can reach out to APA past-president about mentoring)
  - engage in self-care
- APAGS had the opportunity to ask the trio and CEO questions about how they made choices that lead them to where they are, and how they decided it was the right time for them to step into leadership roles.
- APA's CEO mentioned that APAGS can contact him with any questions.

**Guests Visitors:**

**Mariann Burnetti-Atwell, PsyD, ASPPB; Jeff Baker, PhD, ABPP, APPIC; Morgan Sammons, PhD, ABPP, National Register**

- Presentations from each guest about the current work of their organizations.
- **ASPPB** – credentials bank, resources for EPPP and PLUS (Psychology Licensure Universal System), Additional resources: CPQ (Certification of Professional Qualification in Psychology), PEP (Psychopharmacology Exam for Psychologists), PSY/PRO, Score

Transfer, CRVS (Closed Record Verification Service), PSYPACT (Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact). Discussion about the EPPP Part 2 – 7 jurisdictions are using Part 2. Resources will be available on the ASPPB website about part 2. Fees are currently discounted - \$300 currently. Will stay at that price until August 2023, will then increase to \$450. Practice materials are being developed now.

- **APPIC** – numbers of internship sites provided, expected preparations for internship in HSP, current initiatives: APPIC surveys, AAPI/APPA, International Issues (border crossing, visas, etc.), keeping APPIC Directory current, ARP/ARP-C, Cynthia Belar Scholarship, Match Data (# of applicants vs. # of internships pretty close, 96% of students matched in 2022), Against moving the internship to postdoc. Do not anticipate virtual interviews going away.
- **National Register** – Credentials banking, update on available scholarships from NR, clinical webinars offered, National Practice Conference- Nov. 9-11, 2022 in DC, resource list from National Register provided, international practice issues being discussed and examined
- **Q&A**
  - Are NR awards considered taxable income? Yes. They don't award money to institutions but there are some ways to work around it. Email Dr. Sammons for more info.
  - APPIC – how can students with marginalized identities determine climate at sites? Do APPIC surveys address the climate of an institution or would they be open to receiving suggestions from APAGS? YES! They have a DEI committee that is looking into this but would appreciate feedback from APAGS. Suggestion to talk to current or former trainees to assess climate.
  - APPIC - Is there any FU on discussion about felony status question? Question has been removed from the APPI. What is the best course of action if a student runs into this question after matching? – check sites to see what background requirements are. IPC is a good way to go if a student runs into this issue. Felony question may be on an HR form for the site. APPIC requires them to put that information on their website. Some sites do not allow medical marijuana – including VA sites.
  - APPIC - International students are excluded from many sites, options reduce further if the site receives HERSA funding. That information is not always publicly known – guidance to programs to make that explicitly available or added to the search platform so that students can screen out sites that they are not eligible for. Jeff will take back to the APPI folks to see how they can make that clearer and more explicit.

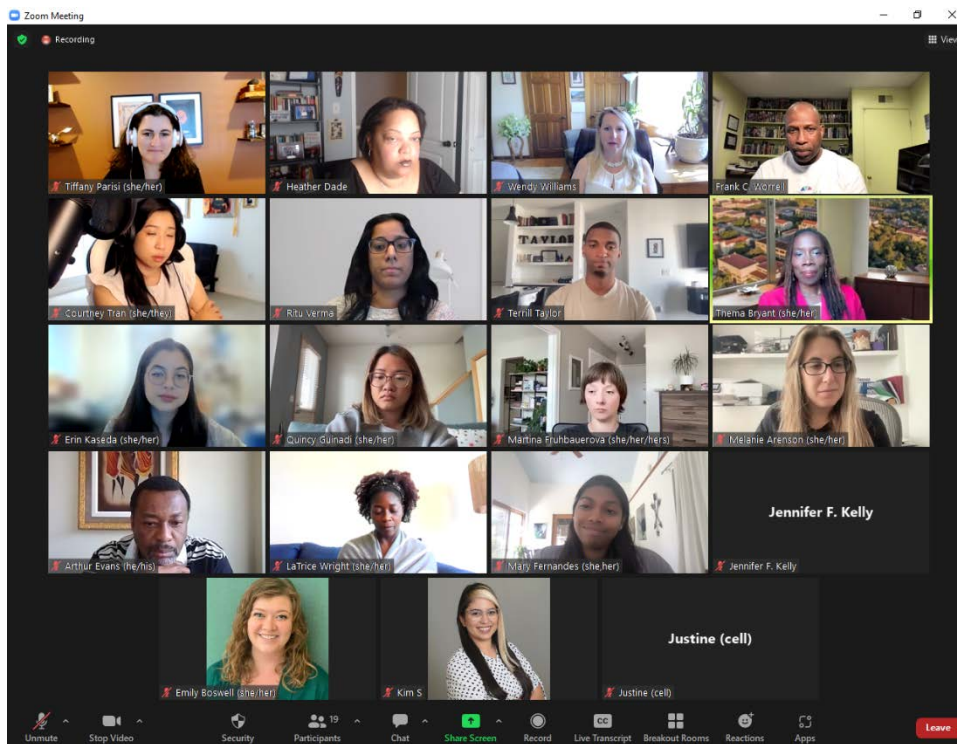
### **APAGS Updates**

EC Communications Guidelines. Over the year, the EC has found opportunities to expand and refine operating procedures, particularly as it related to communications guidelines. The EC presented a working draft to of a communications guideline document to the committee. Leaders are invited to review and to give feedback (draft is in the supplemental agenda materials), as well as consider if they might want to engage in a similar process for their subcommittees. The EC is also open to bringing this back to another meeting so that folx have time to process and discuss.

Elections. The Elections subcommittee (Mary, Courtney, Terrill, LaFay) have been hard at work reviewing the pool who applied for the chair-elect and member-at-large positions. They have slated the candidates from the pool and voting will begin October 14<sup>th</sup> and close November 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition, subcommittee chairs are being interviewed and then subcommittee members will be reviewed. Finally, the Election committee will then certify the selections.

Student Vote. As the COR approved student seats for 11 committees, as well as sending student seats on 7 boards and 1 committee to the membership for a bylaws vote. A pro-con statement will be included because COR voted for this. When the voting is live graduate students will not (yet) be able to vote, but can encourage people to vote generally, but can only encourage them to vote in favor if they make sure to be clear they are asking as an individual (e.g., make sure to remove any label from your signature line, or any connection to APAGS, etc.).

Student Vote Mobilization. The student vote mobilization group has been putting together lists of people who are stakeholders and collaborators (e.g., Student groups in Divisions and SPTAs) as they move into mobilization efforts so that can connect with those groups. They have decided on two educational pushes: (1) education about APA elections process and (2) how to actually vote. Then last stage of their plan is the actual “get out the vote” component so that we can maximize graduate student voting for the first time in 2023.



*Guest visitors, Dr. Arthur Evans, Dr. Thema Bryant, Dr. Jennifer Kelly, and Dr. Frank Worrell meet with the APAGS Committee.*