

## Minutes

### Meeting Participants:

**Executive Committee:** Aldo Barrita (Chair), Quincy Guinadi (Past Chair), Ana Urena Rosario (Chair-Elect)

**Members-at-Large:** Brianna Baker, Serena Bradshaw, Elizabeth Espinal, Jenee Edgerton, Jahnavi Pandya, Yly Morales

**Subcommittee Chairs:** Laura Ligouri (CARED), Lamia Bagasrawala (Science), Troy Kearse (CSOGD), Francesca Folio (Convention), Megha Nagaswami (ACT)

**Subcommittee Vice Chairs (virtual):** Kaley Davis (Science), Vardha Kharbanda (Convention)

**APA Staff:** Wendy R. Williams, Heather Dade, Ritu Kapur, Aliza Epstein (Virtual)

**Guests:** Arthur Evans, Jr., PhD (APA CEO), Cynthia De La Fuentes, PhD (APA President), Thema Bryant, PhD (APA Past President), Debra Kawahara, PhD (President-Elect), Wendi S. Williams, PhD, Peter Sheras, PhD (Policy and Planning Board)

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### Informational Items

The APAGS Chair provided an overview of potential items expected for review by APA Board and/or Council in Summer 2024 and updates on the APA Strategic Plan:

1) Association of Jewish Psychologists' Affiliation with APA and Seat on Council as an Ethnic Group (will likely be forthcoming to Boards and Committees for comment)

2) APA's Call for Global Ceasefire Statement – request for Council to adopt as APA policy (will likely be forthcoming for comment).

3) At its February meeting, Council voted to adopt the new APA/APASI strategic plan which includes revised language that enhances specificity, aligns with current EDI strategies, and highlights the importance of partnerships. It replaces the previous plan, approved in August 2019, and follows the mandate requiring Council approval every five years. The chair encouraged APAGS leaders to become familiar with APA's New Strategic Plan.

### Strategic Plan Discussion

The Chair briefly reviewed the newly passed APA strategic plan and the relationship between APAGS's priorities as well as APAGS processes for business items, including APAGS full committee and

subcommittee workplans and APAGS New Business Items (NBIs). The Chair also specifically called the committee's attention to the second "Strategic Goals and Objectives," which is "Prepare the field of psychology for current and future opportunities and challenges" because APAGS is the "future of psychology."

## APAGS Operating Procedures

The Committee was divided into breakout groups where each group was to look over the current APAGS Operating Procedures and report back on gaps, revisions needed, and suggested edits.

Report out:

- First section: distinction between committee and subcommittee; 1.2D – specify what "officer" means (elected or appointed or both), definition of office; 1.2H – how to define "good standing"; tie it back to APA Ethics; what does post-doctoral fellow mean? Can you be an APAGS member as a post-doctoral fellow? Clarify this. Delete "postdoctoral fellow", in 1.G need consistency with Membership Office about degree field; 1.2.g.iii, tie "suspension" into Ethics Code; 1.3 – confirm Association Rules still list these as purposes of APAGS
- Membership (2): M@L duties should be included; name standing committees; have a section for post doc fellows; 2.1 – confirm qualifications criteria and list language from stated documents; 2.3.a – clarify qualifications for membership, 3.1.e – clarify how holding more than one role relates to other groups outside of APAGS
- Governance (3): 3.1a – expand to discuss roles, 3.1.a.iv – question about whether to have specific foci for members at large, even if only 1 or 2; add elections committee as M@L role, specific foci could be guided by the strategic plan; Suggestion to make language so that foci can be changed based on necessity; can go back to election committee to determine what foci is needed in a certain year; Update meetings section; Have more responsibilities listed for positions; 3.1.b – add subcommittees and their roles, 3.3.c – add work plan, 3.5 additional language around updated logistics for FCM & SCM, as well as internal meetings (e.g., scheduling first during business hours), 3.5.c – explain current voting structure (e.g., Straw poll for Subcommittee Chairs), 3.5.g – follow APA rules for accessibility in recording meetings, 3.5.h – determine how to handle meeting minutes other than full committee
- Elections (4): Add vice-chair appointments; Change words Vett and prescribed; change in voting eligibility; voting eligibility needs updating; 4.1F 7 – Call for APAGS Chair needs updating – does chair need to align with APA SP; specific APAGS plan; 4.1A – Updating all members at large; 4.2 add voting in APA Elections & APAGS Elections Committee
- Vacancies (5): expand entire section, what is the removal process, add procedures for steps that need to be taken when someone needs to be removed, what do we do if someone needs to take time away, more guidance on the entire section
- Overall additions/edits: Add process for voting procedures and parliamentary rules (Review Keesey's), add language about representing APA & upholding APA bylaws, add appointment process for liaisons and other positions; add chair reports, add new business item document
- **Working group: Elizabeth, Brianna, Megha, Yly, Serena**

## Voting – Ranking Priorities

The committee spent time completing two surveys that were requested by groups of APA, 1) APA's Advocacy Priorities Survey, and 2) Representation on APA's Board of Directors. The results of the surveys will be shared with the committee post SCM.

## **Presidential Trio**

The full committee met with the APA CEO, Dr. Arthur Evans, and the current APA Presidential Trio, APA past-President Dr. Thema Bryant, APA President Dr. Cynthia de la Fuentes, and APA President-Elect Dr. Debra Kawahara, to discuss issues of importance to graduate students. In particular, Dr. De la Fuentes discussed her vision for how APA will operationalize the "prepare the field" portion of the newly passed strategic plan, including increased attention to funding for graduate students and advocacy for graduate school affordability through things like the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program. Dr. Evans also emphasized the need to support people coming into the field so that the profession is strong when they come out of programs. In addition, Dr. Kawahara discussed her plans for her presidential initiatives in 2025 which plan to also focus on strengthening the pathways into psychology. Finally, members of the full committee had a few minutes to discuss their concerns with this group around supporting those in states with anti-DEI initiatives, as well as funding and opportunities for international students.

## **Breakout Group Discussion (Elections & Subcommittees)**

Breakout Groups Report Out:

### ***Subcommittees***

- Advocacy work to be done across subcommittees, how to support ACT
- Opportunities for collaboration around EDI initiatives
- Need for a living document where subcommittees can access and learn about other tasks being currently done by other subcoms

### ***Elections***

- Review of internal election process
- Applications due in Sept
- Want more visibility and outreach (beyond Convention) – contact Divisions and SPTAs

## **Student Voting**

APAGS is working to educate graduate students on the process of voting following their newly passed voting rights. Students will be able to vote for president elect, BoD, and division apportionments. This workgroup will create informational items (infographics/FAQ) that will be distributed to create

awareness about the APA elections. Staff will lead the workgroup in developing these informational items.

### **Breakout Discussion Report Out (Affordability & Town Hall)**

#### ***Affordability***

During the breakout session on “Graduate school affordability,” members of the full committee discussed some broad issues that they see as impacting the landscape. These range from “hidden costs” of graduate school including travel expenses to practicum sites and childcare for those with families, to the lack of unions/collective bargaining for graduate students at many institutions. They also spent time identifying the variety of audiences they might want to engage in conversations around affordability (e.g., faculty/deans, state legislators, federal legislators). They also reflected on some of the feedback from the presentation the night before, including the need to solicit both narratives from graduate students about their difficulty meeting basic needs, as well as soliciting “best practices” from institutions who are doing a good job in support graduate students. They also discussed the suggestion of building on past APAGS work, including the FEES tool. Next steps are to map out a multi-year plan, which might include a landscape and opportunity analysis, because it is a complex issue and APAGS needs to know/tailor what the “ask” is for each group. This group will receive a doodle poll to find a time to meet in April.

#### ***Town Hall***

For the Presidential candidate Town Hall/Forum, the group discussed targeting July as the month for it, and they will work backwards from there to determine what needs to be done. Specifically, the next important step is to generate questions for the candidates and have them ready four weeks prior to event. The plan for generating questions is to solicit from APAGS leaders first, then the membership, and to organize questions around themes that emerge (e.g., affordability). The APA Election committee will vet the questions once collected and will distribute to the candidates. The event itself will be live and then the recording will be distributed. This workgroup should expect follow-up emails and an update to be given at the full com meeting in May.

### **One Initiative**

APAGS leaders shared one initiative that they are passionate about and/or interested in working on. Some of the initiatives included grant reviews, working on comments, APAGS Operational Procedures, infographics to attract voters for APA Elections, APAGS Elections, leadership development, re-doing ACT leadership catalog, social media content, blogs, updating APAGS-CSOGD climate guide, presidential Town Hall, CARED peer collaboration program, creating a plan for distributing CARED recently updated resource guide, recruiting APAGS leaders at convention, and revamping reviewer training for the APA Translational Issues in Psychological Science Journal.

## Conference Committee Presentation on Graduate School Affordability - Friday, March 22

In collaboration with the Office of Strategic Insights, the APAGS Executive Committee presented data in an optional “conference committee” on Friday evening on the current challenges of graduate school affordability and how APAGS members are struggling to meet financial obligations while in school, not just in terms of debt upon graduation. This presentation encouraged Boards and Committees to think about how they can better support students’ financial burdens while in school, including advocacy at a variety of levels (i.e., within their own programs and communities, at the state and national levels).

### APAGS Full Committee and Staff

