

APA Spring Consolidated Meetings
**American Psychological Association of
Graduate Students (APAGS)**

Minutes

Dates: March 14th & 15th

Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC

Participants:

Chair: Ana Urena Rosario

Staff Liaisons: Wendy Williams, Heather Dade, Ritu Kapur (Virtual)

Guests: Aliza Epstein, APA Governance Office,

Elizabeth Louis, PhD, APAGS liaison from the APA Board of Directors, Kenneth

Committee: Aldo Barrita, Lamia Bagasrawala, Daniel O’Connell, Yly Morales, Briana Baker,
Vanessa Anyanso, Jenee Edgerton, Megha Nagaswami, Thomas Schlechter, Vardha Kharbada,
Jasmine Bigelow, Whitney Skippings
(Virtual) Kaley Davis, Marianne Chirica

Friday, March 14th

Discussion/Activity

Facilitator(s)

2025 APAGS Workplan Items

Discussion about APAGS Elections, the APAGS Elections Committee, and the APAGS Presidential Candidate Q&A

Kapur/Barrita
Urena Rosario
Williams/Dade

- All APAGS Members-at-Large are members of the Elections Committee, APAGS Past Chair serves as the Chair of the Elections Committee
- Elections timeline was sent out by staff
- Anyone interested in running for APAGS chair cannot serve on elections committee (members should let staff know if planning to run for chair)
- First meeting scheduled for next week
- Timeline/Tasks: timeline in draft form. Now-May, update call for applications page, May-June, advertising and open portal,

application deadline in Sept – advertise at Convention, bulk of work takes place in Sept. Reviewing applications, interviews, etc.

- Voting period is month of October, Results in early November
- Presidential candidate Q&A: create a space for students to be more informed about presidential candidates.
- First one was done last year in July, each candidate given the same questions
- Very successful, should do it again this year

Subcommittee Workplan Reports & Workplan Items

Subcommittee
Chairs

APAGS-CSOGD

The APAGS-CSOGD chair gave an overview of the subcommittees work. APAGS-CSOGD kickstarted their mentoring program in January. The committee is currently evaluating the process for mentoring program applications and is looking to make improvements. They are also in the process of updating one of their resource guides. The committee plans to organize a social media campaign this year and also contribute to requests for comments on APA's guidelines and resolutions.

Advocacy Coordinating Team (ACT)

The ACT chair informed the larger APAGS committee on the advocacy work being done by the subcommittee. ACT has been focused on advocating for student affordability and loan forgiveness. They have increased awareness of Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) loan repayment programs. The subcommittee has also worked to increase graduate student's awareness about the advocacy process at the state, federal, and local/campus levels. ACT plans to host an advocacy webinar similar to the advocacy skills session at the 2024 APA convention. ACT also plans to create an internal document that will track and measure their advocacy work (i.e. dissemination of advocacy calls to action). Additionally, members of ACT intend to contribute to APA business and provide comments with an advocacy perspective on guidelines and resolutions when requested by APA. Lastly, ACT will create awareness of student leadership opportunities by launching their updated student leadership catalog.

Convention Committee

The Convention committee chair provided an update on APAGS convention related activities. This year at convention, there will be no Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) space for informal programming, however, they may use the Convention Office's informal meeting rooms for additional programming. The Convention Committee selected their 10 hours of formal programming on diverse range of topics, including internships and postdocs. There will also be an in person and a virtual poster session. During Convention, the committee will review programs and identify a recipient for the APAGS Outstanding Professional Development Program Award (Stuart C. Tentoni Award).

APAGS-CARED

The chair of APAGS-CARED reported on the subcommittee's work. She mentioned that the committee has been thinking about the vision for CARED and how they can best serve as a resource for students. If anyone has any

thoughts or ideas, they are encouraged to reach out to CARED. Regarding their already established peer collaboration program, CARED is exploring ways to incorporate mentorship opportunities. Additionally, CARED is looking at ways to ensure information is effectively reaching people particularly at the institution level. They would like to make sure their resources are regularly updated and determine how to distribute the guide to universities and make it easily accessible for students. CARED is open to potential collaborations with other subcommittees.

Science Committee

The APAGS Science Committee chair gave an update on their 2025 work plan items. The Science committee serves on the editorial board of the *Translational Issues in Psychological Science* (TPS) journal, where graduate students are encouraged to participate as peer reviewers. The Science committee is currently working to revamp the TPS reviewer training. Several proposals submitted by science committee members were accepted for this year's convention. Members of the Science committee have provided valuable feedback and comments on various APA call for comments and plan to continue doing so. The Science committee also plans to continue their APAGS/Psi Chi Junior Scientist Fellowship this summer. Additionally, in 2024, the committee gained additional members from the Science Student Council. Since then, these members have quickly contributed to and become acclimated to the work of the subcommittee.

Discussion about APAGS Social Media (gradPSYCH Blog, APAGS Intern, process for social media posting)

After reviewing the analytics of the APAGS gradPSYCH Blog, APAGS staff informed the committee that the blog will be discontinued by the end of March as the engagement (i.e., number of clicks) for blog articles has been quite low. The committee was encouraged to review the blog before March 21st for any articles they deem important to archive. The committee and staff should refer people to the way back machine (<https://web.archive.org/>) to access certain blog content after the blog is no longer live.

The APAGS office will not have a summer intern this year because a staff member who primarily manages the intern will be on leave in the summer.

APAGS staff informed the committee of the various APAGS social media channels (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) and provided an update on the number of followers for each platform. Staff also informed the committee about our quarterly newsletter, *Graduate Student Spotlight* and encouraged folks to subscribe. The committee was encouraged to sign up on a spreadsheet to assist with social media content for our channels.

Graduate School Affordability

Guest: Kenneth Polishchuk, APA Advocacy

APA Advocacy Office staff, Kenneth Polishchuk, met with APAGS and provided information about advocacy work being done given the current political climate. The APA Advocacy office is aware of and concerned about the various executive orders related to DEI and plans to eliminate the Department of Education. They are also concerned about the proposed cuts to higher education, particularly the

Urena Rosario

elimination of loans for graduate students. The Advocacy office is currently pushing back against these efforts and have advocated successfully over the past years regarding education at the federal level (i.e., improvements in public service loan forgiveness (PSLF) with over a million borrowers receiving PSLF because of APA's Advocacy efforts). The advocacy office will try to advocate as much as possible against the various executive orders but emphasized that advocacy at the institutional level is incredibly important and encouraged APAGS and APAGS members to spread the word about recent APA advocacy efforts, especially across college campuses.

Guest Visitors

Presidential Trio & CEO

Arthur Evans, PhD, APA CEO; Debra Kawahara, PhD, APA President; Cynthia de las Fuentes, PhD, Past President; Wendy S. Williams, PhD, President-Elect

The full committee met with the APA Presidential Trio and APA CEO to discuss issues of importance to graduate students. In particular, they discussed how APA can work in coalition with others to reduce the financial burden and increase funding opportunities for students from underrepresented backgrounds. These actions included discussions of the advocacy being done by APA to preserve and extend federal programs that support graduate students, while acknowledging the current challenging higher education environment. They also discussed ways that APA can foster leadership development for graduate student members, including the new cohort of leaders on boards and committees. Finally, they discussed how graduate students can participate in APA's actions related to defunding DEI initiatives, immigration related challenges for international students, and other ongoing threats to human rights.

Masters Discussion & Engagement of Master's Students

APAGS staff presented information about the psychology workforce transformation, including how to better incorporate MA-level clinicians given APA's recent decision to accredit MA-level programs. Staff shared data on the current demand (e.g., increased demand for behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder).

Staff also informed the committee that traditionally APA has stated that a doctoral degree is needed for the practice of psychology and to be titled as a psychologist. However, now there have been discussions about creating opportunities for master's level psychology professionals to be licensed. Data was shared on the number of states that independently decided to license master's degree psychology professionals.

Additionally, information was provided about APA's role in education training and competencies including accrediting three master's programs and offering guidance to programs by outlining key competencies for students and faculty. The committee was also informed about the progress of the revised Title and

Williams
Urena Rosario
Barrita
Bagasrawala

Scope workgroup – also known as the Model Licensure Act, where APA provides guidance to states about what they think the title should be for master’s level individuals, as well as their scope of practice. A competency document went forward to Council at their February meeting which unfortunately did not pass because of lack of final decisions on title and scope. The committee was informed that the title and scope document, as well as a revised competency document, may come forward to APA boards and committees for comment and were encouraged to comment and provide feedback on it when/if it does.

Liaison visits

Committee members went to their respective liaison Boards and Committees on Saturday morning to participate in the meetings and report back any relevant information to the APAGS Committee.

Guest visitors

Urena Rosario

Committee for Early Career Psychologists

- Conversation about ways that APAGS and CECP can collaborate on developing resources for students transitioning to ECPs.

Suggested Topics:

- Importance of networking/classes on networking,
- how to start a private practice,
- how to navigate anti-DEI environment,
- Trends/resources that may no longer be available when current students enter the work force and how to replace such resources
- Loan repayment
- Opening a private practice: LLC vs. S-corp, billing platforms, salary negotiations, non-compete clauses, office requirements, etc.
- Non-traditional careers and work outside of HSP
- Career day at Convention, programming on alternative careers
- Information on licensure in different states
- Affordable CEs
- Provide a letter to new graduates with resources
- Consolidating resources into centralized location, making them easier to locate
- Provide information to students earlier in their careers
- Utilize APA Communities

Discussion:

- ECP are 10 years post grad
- Are financial loans going to remain? Medicaid/Health Insurance concerns? Concerns about current policies, insurance authorizations, openings for new patients
- CECP aware of challenges and level of advocacy that is needed

- Provide info to students earlier in their academic career also
- Important to share resources and build community and provide support to each other
- March webinar on student loans
- Next steps: Suggestion for an ECP Q&A, moderated panel discussion, financial literacy program, advertise on social media, advertise to non-HSP students/ECPs
- APAGS staff to meet with CECF staff to discuss next steps further.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of adding Vice Chair positions to all APAGS subcommittees

Barrita

The Full Committee discussed the pros and cons of adding Vice Chairs to all of the APAGS Subcommittees.

Next Steps: Go back to subcommittees for consultation and then bring back feedback to the Full Committee for a vote.

Working Group = CARED, CSOGD, ACT chairs and EC
Staff will update elections materials if passed.

