



APAGS February Full Committee Meeting

February 10, 2026 ● 2:00pm

Minutes

Participants:

Chair: Lamia Bagaraswala

EC: Ty Robinson, Ana Urena Rosario

Committee: Dan O'Connell, Chandler Golden, Maya Hubbard, Jasmine Bigelow, Vanesa Anyanso, Marianne Chirica, Samira Sainsurin

Staff: Amber Roopan, Heather Dade, Ritu Kapur

Guests: Wendy R. Williams, Graduate Studies; Nicole Barnes, Head of Education; Elizabeth Louis, APAGS liaison from the APA Board of Directors; Nadi Paranamana and Todd, Jenkins, APA Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Guest: Dr. Nicole Barnes, Head of Education

- Discussion APAGS' current work and priorities: Grad school affordability and student voice in training and education
- What work is Education doing that aligns with APAGS?
 - #1: Psychology team is working on several initiatives, including increasing literacy and participation in psychology, reaching folks earlier in their training/careers, helping the public to better understand psychology and themselves, enhancing pathways into the profession and getting more people involved
 - #2: Focus on psychological science and how it can lend to, support, and enhance other disciplines
- Guest Visitor: Wendy R. Williams
 - Will serve as the doctoral consultant for APAGS

Graduate School Affordability Discussion

Review of past and current APAGS efforts

- This has been a focus for APAGS for a few years now.
- FEES tool came out of early efforts (<https://www.apa.org/apags/resources/fees-tool>)
- Previous APAGS efforts around affordability
 - Student Debt work group (2019), FEES tool and grant proposals, Advocacy, identification of key allies
 - Decision to look beyond just increasing funding

- o Review of data from the yearly graduate student survey, where students expressed concerns around financial needs, especially during the pandemic
- o Collaborated with APA staff to present data at an earlier SCM, with little engagement
- o Literature review on the topic, created a research flow chart, narrowed down major themes that could be addressed
- o Incorporated international student concerns
- o What is the mission & vision behind the current initiative? What are the goals? What are we trying to solve? What will success look like?
- o Increasing financial education was a theme that came up often, and was the focus of work in 2025
- o Collaborated with the Advocacy Office and APPIC
- o Many groups are talking about financial challenges in various meetings and settings; Need to talk to other stakeholders that are affected (like ECPs), who are our potential allies?
- o Challenges: committee bandwidth, transitions, etc.
- o Noticeable decline in grad school enrollment
- o Impact on licensure – EPPP is expensive
- o Standing strategic plan item versus a task force or working group, will take several years to complete

Strategic Planning and Next Steps

- What should we prioritize? What are next steps? Work group formation? What is the end goal?
- What can we realistically do when there are broader issues at work? Financial education – inform students to make good decisions, value in sharing info with various groups, having students in the room for important discussions/decisions
- Funding discrepancies from departments and programs; inflation and rising costs, thinking about student handbooks, do they say you can't work? Can we influence these policies?
- Suggestion for different work groups that tackle different aspects of the problem
- Potential directions: Revising FEES tool, financial literacy resource guides, resolution for Council, partnering with Advocacy
- CCTC and CECF focusing on this issue as well
- Also, consider taxes policies as a grad student; state taxes vary, some states tax stipends or fellowships, others don't
- Follow up on this conversation via email and do a deep dive at SCM

Meet and Greet with EDI Office

Guests: Todd Jenkins, PhD and Nadi Paranamana, PhD, APA EDI Office

- Want to make sure that student voices are centered in all discussions
- Invitation to partner where appropriate
- The Office appreciates students' willingness to challenge status quo - this keeps the organization moving forward
- LGBTQIA roadmap currently being worked on by EDI Office. Will reach out to APAGS-CSOGD.