



APAGS Spring Consolidated Meeting
March 13-14, 2026
Minutes

Participants:

Executive Committee:	Lamia Bagasrawala (Chair), Ty Robinson (Chair-Elect), Ana Urena Rosario (Past Chair; virtual)
Members-at-Large:	Dan O'Connell, Maya Hubbard, Vanessa Anyanso, Jasmine Bigelow, Vardha Kharbanda, Samira Sainsurin
Subcommittee Chairs:	Yoscaira Gomez (CARED), Tom Schlechter (CSOGD), Devon Kardel (ACT), Marianne Chirica (Science), Marisa Moorhouse (Convention)
Subcommittee Vice Chairs:	Josue Martinez (CARED; virtual), Roksana Dobrin-De Grace (Science; virtual)
Staff:	Heather Dade, Ritu Kapur (virtual), Amber Roopan

Minutes

All Education Meeting

- APAGS met with the APA boards and Committees that fall under the Education umbrella (BEA, CABE, and TOPPS) to discuss educational priorities, align future work, examine risks and opportunities for the field, and review potential pitfalls and opportunities for AI use in psychology.

Guest Visitor, Kenneth Polishchuk, APA Advocacy Office

- Updates provided on APA's current advocacy priorities and discussion around student involvement in APA's advocacy activities.
- Discussion about the implementation of higher education provisions from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act:
 - Passed in July, moving to rule-making phase, final rules expected by June, with implementation in July.
 - Changes to student loans
 - Eliminated Grad+ program for new borrowers, sunset as of July 1st
 - Limited loan amounts (cap on grad borrowing)
 - Professional student broadly defined
 - All changes are for new borrowers
 - Appropriations original budget proposed cutting many programs for wholesale elimination, approved budget did not cut or eliminate any of the suggested programs
- Access in mental health act – continuing to push that bill forward

- Advancing legislation on reimbursing psychologists who are under Medicare. Will allow for reimbursement for trainees and postdocs.
- 35% decrease in international student visas issued, Concerns about international students
- Want to change visa rules for students to limit time to 4 years and then they would have to reapply, APA submitted comments opposing these changes. DHS is currently shut down so not clear how long it will take for this rule to be implemented. Will likely go through but predicting lawsuits
- \$100K fee for H-1B Visas. Asked for exceptions for health service
- Accreditation concerns need to protect our ability to accredit programs
- Association has been able to protect programs and mitigate damage through advocacy efforts
- Suggestion: create a one pager that highlights our advocacy wins

Guest Visitor, Wendy R. Williams, Graduate Studies, APA Psychology Team

- Presentation on Graduate Studies in Education Work for 2026 and beyond.
 - Goal 1: Lead in growing psychology literacy and participation: ensure clear pathways into the profession that increase participation and retention, champion psychology's value globally to inspire engagement and career interest
 - Goal 2: Use psychological science to modernize teaching and learning: apply evidence-based practices and integrate technology and AI responsibly to amplify outcomes

APAGS 2026 Workplan Review

- Affordability: Multiyear plan
- Student Engagement
 - Advocacy, creating relationships with ACC and other student leaders
 - Getting students more informed about APAGS and how to get involved
 - Opportunities for students to engage with APAGS and being a resource for students
 - Increase in voting in APA Presidential elections
- Creation of two working groups -- 1) Student Engagement and 2) Affordability.
- Report out from working groups small group discussions
 - Student Engagement Working Group – Samira, Vanessa, Devon, Marisa, Maya, Tom, Josue*
 - How do we get students excited about getting involved in APA and provide information about APA offers?
 - Suggestions:
 - Build on existing resources, directory of current materials/resources: awards, mentoring programs, online engagement, etc.
 - Student shout outs/spotlights,
 - APAGS citations or grad student awards (no financial implications)
 - Reach out to state reps
 - Grad Minds Collective
 - Student engagement award- how are you involved in local state or federal
 - Connect with Campus Ambassadors, SPTAs, and other student leaders

- Why is this an issue? – students don't know about all the resources available, want students feel like they have a home at APA, providing connection, etc., keep momentum going for students at APA
- Think about it as a pyramid – who is the person that will tell students? Is it APAGS, or do we build connections with other groups/stakeholders for them to dispense information to students?
- Consider staff bandwidth
- Working group to meet with staff and determine next steps for long and short term

Affordability Working Group – Roksana, Marianne, Dan, Jasmine, Vardha, Yosclaira

- Google drive has a list of resources
- Question: What do we want to get out of it and what are the deliverables?
- Suggestions:
 - Develop something less static that can change with the times
 - Resource page on the APAGS website
 - Work with CoA to make sure that schools are reporting
 - Create a database to compare programs and make informed decisions
 - Partner with stakeholders like CCTC
 - Disseminate existing lit review, make it student facing and digestible
 - Highlighting changes from Big Beautiful Bill
 - Develop an APA Council Resolution - TBD
- How do we make school more affordable? Consider international students, psych students, etc.
- APA has a page where programs have to report. Salary is not included, could we require programs to add that?
- Living excel document where students or programs could update
- Unofficial Reddit channel where students could be anonymous

Advocacy Priorities Survey

- Request received from the APA Advocacy Office for members to complete their advocacy priorities survey by March 16th. Survey can be submitted by the APAGS Committee as a whole or by individuals (or both)
- APAGS will submit one response on behalf of the APAGS Committee but encourages leaders to submit individual priorities if they wish.
- Lamia to send out priorities survey to the Full Committee. Leaders should complete by Sunday. Lamia will submit the top three priorities to the Advocacy Office after tallying committee responses. Committee members should consider submitting individual responses as well.

Guest Visitors, APA Presidential Trio and CEO

Wendi Williams, APA President; Debra Kawahara, APA Past President; Linda Woolf, APA President-Elect; Arthur C. Evans, APA CEO

- Discussion about how APA and the Pres Trio intend to support graduate students during this difficult political climate.

APAGS Elections Committee Update

- The Chair of the APAGS Elections Committee provided updates on their work for 2026:
 - Discrepancies noted between application and rubric from last year; Elections Com reviewing documents this year to make sure everything is consistent
 - Discontinuing Presidential Candidate Q&A this year but will send questions to candidates and provide information to students via the listserv.
 - Call for applications out over the summer
 - Recruitment
 - Committee is asking folks to reach out to their networks to recruit applicants
 - Convention –5-minute presentation at the APAGS social
 - Committee members attending Convention should walk through APAGS poster session to engage with students and encourage them to apply for positions
 - Also considering how to get out the vote – student voting numbers are low
 - Any M@L interested in running for Chair should notify Elections Com and recuse yourself from Elections Com activities

Operating Procedures Discussion

- 4.1.4 – APA bylaws state requirement is that a student in good standing within the past 12 months. Contradicts what is listed in the OPs. Remove 4.1.4.3 and 5 and add something about grad students who are in good standing within the last 12 months to make consistent with the bylaws.
- Will vote on language online so that folks can have exact language prior to voting
- 5.2 Recall – add in good standing as a graduate student member
- Add bylaws language in 1.2.7 about what a grad student in good standing
- 5.5.1 – if Chair of a subcommittee, Vice chair should take over the rest of the term after approval from the elections com and new Chair will suggest new VC and get approval from Elections Com
- If there is a subcom chair vacancy, VC chair will step in will and appoint a VC regardless of time of the year. Vice chair will step up
- Make language vague enough that provides some flexibility
- Suggestion to have elections committee discuss and propose language for this section
- “Will transition into the Role” should be the language
- Elections Committee to review 5.5.1 & 5.5.2
- EC and staff to draft language for 5.2 and 4.1.4

Subcommittee Chair and Liaison Report Out

- *APAGS-ACT* –Advocacy tool kit, pushing out APA Action alerts, helping students inform schools/programs about policy changes, supporting students in current climate – spotlighting existing services
- *NCSPP*- shared efforts on school affordability, would like to support effort and collaborate in any way possible.
- *APA CECP* – a lot of similarities between our work plans this year. Opportunities for collaboration. CECP would like to brainstorm with APAGS at a future meeting.
- *APAGS Science* – JSF grant reviews, TPS Journal, teaching students that they can be reviewers, TPS training teaches students how to review, Convention session at APA last year,

- *APAGS Convention* – review process completed, selected programming, no Internship Workshop this year, Ambassador Program, Scavenger Hunt Bingo, compiling mentorship programs to distribute at Convention, Asked for support from Committee at the APAGS booth look into caucuses for travel grants
- *APAGS-CSOGD* – Mentoring program, relationship with IPSYnet, revising LGBTQIA+ Climate Guide, Pride Month Campaign, collaborating with other groups within APA
- *APAGS-CARED* – January Peer Collaboration Program, would like to do again in the spring and fall, social media and outreach, increased visibility, Updating resource guide, increased visibility for CARED, connecting with Divisions
- *CCTC* – open to partnering on financial wellness and affordability, also looking at how to support students around EDI efforts
- *APPIC* – upcoming meeting this summer

Visit with Student Seats (Working Lunch)

- Informal discussion with students on APA Boards and Committees where students were asked to introduce themselves, ask the APAGS Committee any questions they have, and share updates on their group's current work.

Policy and Planning Self Study

Guest Visitor, Blanka Angyal, Policy and Planning Board

- Survey is administered by P&P every 2 years
- Each member completes the survey, then APAGS reviews all answers as a whole, and provides notes back to P&P
- P&P's charge is to review the structure and function of the organization to determine best practices
- Goal is for committee to determine what is working well and where you could improve
- 20 minutes to complete
- Deadline December 1
- Provide P&P a summary of findings
- Question: For Subcommittee Chairs, should questions be answered as an APAGS Full Committee member or as a subcommittee chair, responsible for the specific communities they represent?
Answer: For now, answer as APAGS Full Committee member

Guest Visitor, Mira C. Jourdan, Treasurer, APA Board of Directors

- Discussion about ways in which APA leaders can work together to be more impactful and advance common goals.
- Discussion about student needs, barriers to leadership, and future vision for APA
- Concerns raised: potential for a new internship crisis, affordability, current political climate, student protections (especially international students), support for student caregivers

Guest Visitor, Kwanda Grava, APA Committee for Global Psychology

- Discussion about their recently passed resolution to promote global perspectives, how they can support students in getting involved in global psychology, and how to raise awareness about this area of psychology

- Resolution to promote global perspective: asked for feedback on rubric. Will share rubric with APAGS so members can review it.

Wrap Up/Closing

- Next Steps: All Committee members should complete the P&P self study by August 31
- Advocacy Priorities submit as APAGS, individuals can/should submit as well, due Monday
- Vote on changes to operating procedures via email. Elections Com and staff to submit language changes.
- Working groups (Affordability and Student Engagement) to meet and develop plans for the rest of the year.