

**Minutes for the TOPSS Committee Zoom Meeting
August 18, 2025, 7:30 PM Eastern time**

Participating on call: Natasha Alston, Michael Berndt, Kari Hall, Joshua Viau, Jennifer Thompson, Frank Worrell, Jenni Redifer, Emily Leary Chesnes, Beth Schwartz, Aliza Epstein

Unable to participate: Stephanie Franks, Melissa Rogers, Virginia Welle, Hideko Sera

Approving July meeting minutes

TOPSS approved minutes from the July 28, 2025, TOPSS Committee meeting.

APA Awards Discussion

TOPSS discussed a request from APA's Board of Directors asking each APA board and committee to conduct a review of any awards under their purview and to submit a report categorizing each award as ones to be either sunset, paused, or continued.

TOPSS reviewed and discussed the following three awards: the APA TOPSS Charles T. Blair-Broeker Excellence in Teaching Awards, the APA TOPSS Competition for High School Psychology Students, and the TOPSS Recognition of Academic Achievement certificates. After discussing each award and considering each awards' reach, impact, uniqueness, and alignment to APA's strategic plan, the Committee decided to recommend continuing each award program. Natasha offered to draft a rationale explaining how each award advances APA's mission and strategic priorities.

TOPSS College Faculty Representative Call

TOPSS was asked to consider possible nominees for the next TOPSS college faculty representative to join the Committee after Jennifer's three-year term ends this December. Committee members considered names of possible nominees and noted the call should be shared with the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. Recruiting a wide range of nominees was encouraged. Staff will share when the submission database is online.

TOPSS Subcommittees

Committee members broke into two breakout rooms to discuss subcommittee work.

The subcommittee on resources discussed revisions to the TOPSS webpage on psychology clubs and noted that Psi Alpha should be mentioned on the revised page. Frank and Natasha offered to update the text.

The professional development and regional teaching networks subcommittee discussed the next TOPSS webinar on AI. Members also revisited the recommendation to develop a set of best practice guidelines for TOPSS-sponsored professional development.

Next TOPSS Calls

The next planned call will be held Monday, September 15, at 7:30 PM eastern.