1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting came to order at 12:07 PM.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The order of the agenda changed to move the report of the Pacific Division Executive Committee (item #8) to earlier (after Announcements, which is item #5) and then adopted.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes were adopted as published on the APA web site.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** No matters arising from the minutes.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The names of APA members who had passed away since the last meeting were read, and a moment of silence was observed.

6. **REPORT OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Shapiro):** The chair of the executive committee summarized the actions of the committee. (See the executive committee minutes).

   A number of motions were passed, including approval of the program diversity statement, with an amendment to include ethnicity in the diversity categories, an approval of a meeting crisis plan, and an approval of the acknowledgment that the Vancouver meetings next year will be on unceded territory.

   Copenhaver is going to talk with the Divisional Coordinating Committee and then either individually or jointly follow up with the APA Committee on Indigenous Peoples in Philosophy to seek out position on consideration of such language outside of the Vancouver context.

7. **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Copenhaver):** Kenneth Taylor (Past President), Eric Hutton (member at large), Amy Schmitter (member at large), and Rebecca Copenhaver (ex officio), served as the 2017–18 nominating committee. The committee nominates the following for terms beginning July 1, 2018: Penelope Maddy for vice president and Michael Rosenthal for member at large. A motion to elect the candidates was put and carried.

8. **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER:** The secretary-treasurer thanked Aaron Zimmerman for his excellent work as program chair and commended the program committee for an excellent program. She also thanked for their service those members of the committee who are rotating off of the committee. Our next program chair will be Cindy Holder. Copenhaver then thanked Lisa Shapiro and Kenneth Taylor, who are
rotating off of the executive committee. Copenhaver than summarized her report to the executive committee. (See the executive committee minutes.)

There was discussion of the sustainability of the graduate student travel stipend. Ferrer pointed out that the APA Development Committee is actively working on trying to get donors to consider putting their money toward this. There was a suggestion of following up, say, ten years out with people who have previously received graduate student travel stipends to ask people to “pay it forward.” Calhoun asked about adding a space when people are registering asking if they might want to donate to sponsoring a graduate student stipend and complications such an option might raise were discussed.

9. REPORT OF THE APA BOARD OF OFFICERS: Stemwedel summarized her report to the executive committee. (See the executive committee minutes.)

Ferrer summarized her report to the executive committee. (See the executive committee minutes.)

Calhoun summarized her report from November. Collectively we in the APA are thinking more expansively about who we serve and about whose interests we need to pay attention to. We have taken on the UPDirectory and are thinking more extensively about people who are in teaching-intensive positions as well as about both graduate and undergraduate students. Guidebooks are underway for undergraduate clubs, and we have created the new graduate student council. The report of the Graduate Student Council from the November board meeting is on the APA website. We are also thinking about how we serve the public, including starting the public sessions and supporting the committee on public philosophy, which has been around for ten years. Finally, we are thinking about programs and the affected faculties at universities and colleges that are considering or even following through with closing their philosophy programs. The Wisconsin one was particularly upsetting because that program was so strong.

Second of all, there is a developing ability to do things differently within the APA. We are being innovative and not doing business as usual.

We want to stress the importance of philosophy programs re-thinking their programs. (1) Universities are moving increasingly to open access, to getting in more diverse students, and to getting in first generation students. They do not go for a major that is called philosophy. But they do go for a major that is called morality, politics and law. (2) Administrators don’t know what philosophy is. It would be much harder for them to say we don’t need morality, politics, and law. (3) At the graduate level, there aren’t the tenure-track positions to go into. It’s not sufficient to offer a guidebook that says here are the alternative careers. We also need to train them and help them to learn to market themselves to those careers.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business.

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.
PRESENT: Rebecca Copenhaver, Alyssa Ney, Michael Cholbi, Janet Stemwedel, Kwong-loi Shun, Kenneth Taylor, Lisa Shapiro (chair), and Dick Arneson

Guests: Aaron Zimmerman, Cheshire Calhoun, Amy Ferrer

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting came to order at 3:03 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The agenda was amended to move up Aaron’s report on the program committee, from #19 to #6, because Aaron was scheduled to chair a session at 4 pm today.

   The agenda was adopted with this amendment.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: One small change—Kwong-loi Shun had been left off of the 2017 minutes. Minutes were amended to add him to members present.

   The minutes were adopted as published on the APA web site with this small change.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None raised.

5. REPORT OF ACTIONS BY EMAIL: The committee added names to the list of philosophers approved to be added to the program committee.

   The committee approved a $500 contribution to the working of the Teaching Hub.

DIVISIONAL BUSINESS

6. SECRETARY-TREASUER’S REPORT:

As secretary, Copenhaver thanked the Program Chair, Aaron Zimmerman, for a really fantastic program for the 2018 division meeting. She also thanked him for organizing the Public Session on Immigration.

Copenhaver then thanked Ken Taylor and Lisa Shapiro, as it is their last year on the executive committee.

Meeting registrations continue to go up, and pickup for the hotel this year was fantastic. We reached 93% of the room block at the Westin by the March 15th deadline and 78% at the US Grant.
Copenhaver pointed out that because Amy Ferrer had negotiated our minimum down to 55%, the 78% was not a problem. But it is something the committee will need to keep in mind and focus on in the future, it is likely that in the future we will have to meet an 85% attrition rate typically in order to be able to have the meeting at the hotel without an additional tens of thousands of dollars. We have to pay for every room that isn’t filled, and now that Starwood and Marriott have merged, we probably won’t see under 70-75%. If we don’t meet it, we pay for the rooms that weren’t filled, and we pay for the meeting space. We will shoot for 70-75% going forward.

But these are still great numbers for us. The committee was reminded to continue to encourage people to stay at the meeting hotel rather than at an Air BNB or another alternative precisely because it is meeting those attrition percentages that make holding the meeting possible. The Pacific Division is contracted through 2021.

There was discussion of trying to make it more public to the membership that meeting this attrition rates is crucial for the meeting to be possible, and this is part of why the APA encourages staying at the meeting hotel and does not allow people to be on the divisional program more than once.

Copenhaver pointed out that though the APA has done blog posts about this point, they have found that the most effective line of communication to the membership is the members of this committee. She encouraged the committee to pass along this information. Ferrer mentioned that, for example, complaints about not having free coffee available outside of coffee breaks have decreased significantly the more that she explains how much constant coffee costs. (A gallon of coffee costs $70.) Word of mouth and talking about these issues is really important.

Returning to her report, Copenhaver expressed that Pacific was pleased to host the AAPT teaching hub this year. And that’s going to be co-sponsored by a lot of other organizations to make the two-day event possible, including the APA Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy, the APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction, the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, the APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges, and the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization. We think this is going to welcome a whole group of people that perhaps weren’t coming to the meeting before. The end goal is to have one of these teaching hubs at every single one of these meetings. There is a plan to do one at all three meetings next year.

We’re also pleased to host once again the Informal Mini Conference on Inclusiveness and Diversity, co-sponsored by the APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, the APA Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, the APA Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession, the APA Committee on Inclusiveness and Diversity, the APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy, The APA Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession, the APA Committee on the Status of Women in Philosophy, and the Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy.

All of those hard-working APA committees working together to make a coherent mini-program during the conference. And we were able to schedule both of these things in the very same room so that the sessions are in that same place throughout the day.

The national office is offering a new book display option that has increased participation. Ferrer explained that this option begins with a base sponsorship which covers tote bags, etc. Then once a group is a sponsor, they can add on other things. This has given sponsors a lot more choices for
how they participate in the meeting. The APA has found that this has resulted in fewer complains, as they lowered the rate for base sponsorship. The Pacific Division has again had the largest number of sponsors.

There are two levers of sponsorship: sponsor and premier sponsor. And in order to be a premier sponsor, the group has to sponsor all three meetings. This policy has in particular helped to bring up sponsorship for the Central Division’s Meeting.

Resuming her report, Copenhaver shared that The Presidential Address is to be given by Kwong-loi Shun and that Gary Watson is the Dewey Lecturer.

This year we have two special memorial sessions. We have a session in honor of Marilyn Adams, which is co-sponsored by The Templeton Foundation, the UCLA Department of Philosophy, and the Rutgers University Department of Philosophy. And we have a session in honor of Delia Graf Fara, which is co-sponsored by The Sanders Foundation, the Princeton University Department of Philosophy, the MIT Department of Philosophy, and the Cornell University Department of Philosophy.

In addition, the division is covering travel stipends for 61 graduate students who are on the program, totaling $24,400.

Regarding registration fees, the Pacific Division raised fees for 2018 and 2019 meetings by $10 for APA members and non-members and $5 for student members. It is the intention of the Pacific Division XC on this matter is not to consider rate increases again until 2019.

The bulk of any surpluses are earmarked to support member services and national initiatives. The divisional executive committee is committed to directing an increasing share of divisional revenues to important national initiatives.

As treasurer, Copenhaver moved on to a discussion of the budget. The three divisions of the APA, along with the National Office, have adopted a new budgeted process that has increased transparency and clarity and makes budgets easier to plan. This next year will be year two under the new budgeting process, which will make it easier to track and assess revenues and expenses over time.

So far under this new budgeting scheme, the fiscal profile of the Pacific Division is good. However, keeping our costs flat, projections indicate that our modest surpluses will begin to drop through 2020. We can expect expenses to rise. For example, we expect hotel costs to rise as the economy on the west coast continues to grow. In this last round of negotiations, we found that we had to increase our F&B (food and beverage) commitments.

Our reserves consist in a savings account, three low yield secure savings instruments (19, 26, and 39 month), and a Starwood Preferred Guest Points account.

We are now the only division with funds in accounts separate from the block of funds managed through the National Office. Later in the meeting we will discuss possible options for future investment of the Pacific APA reserve funds. (See below in the minutes.)
Copenhaver shared some goals she has set for herself for 2018. Now that she has been in her position for two years, she hopes this year to create three guidebooks in 2018 to facilitate meeting preparation: (1) program chair (2) program committee (3) secretary-treasurer. The first two guidebooks should help with communication and information and decrease mistakes.

The third guidebook brings Copenhaver to another task for 2018, which is for both the ST and the XC: the Secretary-Treasurer Emergency Succession Plan. For Copenhaver’s part this means she needs to create a guidebook, which she also feels is just good practice. For the part of the XC, we have been directed by the Divisional Coordinating Committee to craft an explicit policy governing the emergency replacement of the Secretary-Treasurer. This may, but need not, be formulated as an addition to the divisional bylaws. We will discuss this later. (See below in minutes.)

Finally, along with the other STs, Copenhaver will look over our divisional page on the APA website and check to see that everything is updated and to see if there are ways to make some of the information easier to access and, if applicable, more uniform across the divisions.

There was a discussion of the role and importance of commentators on the divisional program. Cholbi suggested that he thought it would be helpful for the APA to write a commentary on their importance, since many universities won’t pay for people to come and serve as commentators. Perhaps a good explanation from the APA as to why commentating is so important might help participants secure funding from their institutions. Copenhaver and Ferrer agreed to discuss this suggestion with the Divisional Coordinating Committee.

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET: Better to think of this as a proposed budget than as a budget.

The floor was opened for questions on the budget. A revenue drop is predicted in an effort to be conservative but also because rebates that used to be possible are no longer being offered by the hotels, and these used to contribute to our revenue.

A new budget will be circulated by email.

8. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD (Stemwedel):

This is Stemwedel’s first year. She reported that the board of officers is heavily invested in trying to create and sustain an organization that brings all sorts of value to its members beyond hosting three meetings and helping with job placement. This is not only the right thing to do but pragmatically beneficial in an aim to increase membership. That said, the board learned that the membership is down, something that other professional organizations are seeing as well. This may be because people have a more transactional view of what a membership in a society is about. But the initiatives that are underway are looking at maybe giving people more of what they need but also creating a sense that we are all part of the philosophical community.

The board hopes that the new teaching hubs will bring in a stronger representation from our colleagues that teach in community colleges and perhaps even K-12. The board is creating a guidance document focused on adjuncting and will speak not just to people who are in that
position but also to the institutions that are employing them, imploring those institutions to be humane in their treatment of our brethren.

In the future, the board aims to think of ways the APA could be supporting those who are in the category of adjuncting who can’t buy a home, or save for retirement, etc. And also the Ph.D. philosophers who are completely unemployed. Finding ways as a professional community to be able to do things to help the situations of those individuals but also those groups of people.

The board has also been keeping an eye on the larger environment for philosophy and philosophers, including developments in places like Wisconsin. There has been a judgment in the wider society that philosophy departments might not be necessary in universities. A department advocacy toolkit is in the works to help departments that have been targeted for cuts or elimination. It would help departments to explain that what we do is valuable, speaking to a variety of different audiences from parents, to students, to legislators. Customizable flyers to help sell philosophy as a high-value major worth celebrating and worth supporting.

Taylor pointed out that the session for adjuncts at the Eastern was really powerful and suggested the possibility of providing space on the various divisional programs for adjuncts. He pointed out that it is a bit complicated for them to just openly compete with graduate students and others. Perhaps we ought to think creatively as a division about what space we can provide on the divisional program. Copenhaver agreed to get information from Rebecca Kukla (organizer of the adjunct session at the Eastern) and to reach out to some divisional committees. We may consider the possibility of trying something like this out in a non-official capacity to see how it goes.

9. REPORT OF THE CEO OF THE APA (Ferrer):

Public Statements: The APA issued public statements on key issues, including a joint statement opposing CDC banned words (AAAS), a joint statement opposing proposal to tax tuition waivers (ACLS), a joint statement on immigration (AAAS), a statement on harassment, bullying, and intimidation of philosophers, and a statement on valuing public philosophy. The APA also created a new procedure for issuing public statements that will enable a faster response. They also participated in an organized effort among ACLS societies to facilitate collaborative advocacy efforts.

New Prizes: Launched and awarded APA’s first-ever teaching prize in collaboration with AAPT and TPA, launched and awarded Danto prize with ASA, approved and began fundraising for an Ernest Sosa Prize and an Ernest Sosa Fellowship, and developed a plan for the Berggruen winner to give an annual lecture at the Pacific Division Meeting.

Appointments: Reappointed John Heil editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Philosophical Association, appointed Laurie Shrage as ombudsperson, and promoted Mike Morris to Deputy Director, which has allowed Ferrer to do some bigger picture things.

Grants received and awarded: Mellon grant to support diversity institutes renewed for further three years; Mellon grant joint with AHA on HBCU faculty inclusion approved; joined a publication ethics project receiving a small amount of further Mellon funding; made $25,000 in small grants, $20,000 in diversity grants several micro-grants from donor funds; made several thousand dollars
in travel grants through Travel Assistance Fund for Philosophers of Color and Diversity Institute Alumni Fund (in addition to grad student travel stipends).

Other items of note: The APA launched our graduate student council, voted to wind down three topical committees (Computers, Law, and Medicine), revised job market guidance documents, created and will soon launch a department advocacy toolkit, voted to accept proposal to take over UPDirectory, assisted Data Task Force in analyzing APA and PDC data on faculty changes over past four decades, adopted a new investment policy, approved FY2018 budget (balanced, but very close), and received a clean audit. Ferrer also joined the board of Delaware Humanities Forum and AAC&U and will be joining NHA board in March.

The committee discussed the call to make statements and the impact of making them, both on membership and on the target groups. Ferrer pointed out that making joint statements with other groups is one way of making more of an impact but also a way of reducing the amount of work for each individual society.

10. INVESTMENT AND RESERVE FUNDS DISCUSSION (Becko): Item for discussion.

As discussed above (see item 6), we are currently the only division that holds its reserves separately from the consolidated accounts managed by the National Office.

Historically, all of our funds, were under the management of the Pacific Division. At the 2017 Board meeting, the Board approved an investment policy statement that makes it clear that were we to transfer our reserves to the consolidated funds managed by the National Office, we would retain control over the funds, including liquidation. Given this new policy, we may consider whether to begin transferring our reserves to the consolidated funds as they time out.

A couple of years ago, everything but reserves was given to the general fund. It is the management that is under the National Office. The oversight and ownership of all funds remains with the Pacific Division. One of the advantages of moving these funds over to the National Office is that the greater the amount of funds they have to work with the greater return they can get. In addition, the financial advisor is the financial advisor for a reason. He has the knowledge of how to manage these funds.

Discussion of the possibility of transferring the management of the reserve funds to the National Office. There were questions about the circumstances in which the reserves would be spent, and it was clarified that these funds are for security, especially for meeting failure and disasters not covered by meeting insurance. There was some concern expressed about limiting the investment to investments that do not invest in fossil fuels or guns or similar political and ethical issues that can arise with investments. There was also consideration of an interim strategy in which the money would be moved to CDs under the purview of the National Office. This would greatly increase the percentage on the returns. This discussion was initial and is to be continued.

11. SECRETARY-TREASURER EMERGENCY SUCCESSION PLAN (Copenhaver):

We have been directed by the Divisional Coordinating Committee to craft an explicit policy governing the emergency replacement of the Secretary-Treasurer. This may, but need not, be formulated as an addition to the divisional bylaws. This will be voted on by email.
There was discussion of the plan and agreement that such a plan should exist but disagreement about whether the plan need only include a plan for who selects the replacement or should also include an explicit suggestion of who the replacement should be.

12. PROGRAM DIVERSITY STATEMENT (Copenhaver): The Pacific Division has had a Diversity Statement for some time now. The Divisional Coordinating Committee has asked all three Divisions to adopt a single Diversity Statement covering programs. The Eastern and Central have adopted the revised Diversity Statement and now it comes to us.

There was discussion of the Diversity Statement, including the proposed change to add “ethnicity” to the statement.

The committee voted to approve the revised Diversity Statement.

13. MEETING CRISIS PLAN (Copenhaver and Ferrer): The Divisional Coordinating Committee has asked all three divisions to adopt the Meeting Crisis Plan. This has been discussed by all three STs, the DCC, and voted on by the board. This came out of the DCC and out of the legal review we had a number of years ago.

There was some discussion of the need for meeting insurance and of what such insurance covers in the event of a meeting crisis.

There was some discussion of holding meetings in places that according to new California legislation, participants would not be able to get reimbursed for travel. Ferrer explained that if we wanted to ban such places as meeting locations we would have to hold a membership vote. But there is another way: we can choose (and do choose) not to have meetings places if an assessment of the site indicates that a significant portion of our membership would not attend or would not be able to attend. In such a case, it doesn’t make sense for us to contract there, so we do not.

There was a motion to approve the meeting crisis plan, seconded, and carried unanimously.

14. PROPOSAL FOR BERGGRUEN PRIZE LECTURE (Ferrer and Copenhaver): Working together with the Berggruen Institute, Ferrer and Copenhaver were able to create a new Prize Lecture celebrating the annual Berggruen Prize winner. Because the Prize Lecture will typically be given at the Pacific Division, the XC should vote on it. The National Board has already voted to approve. The Berggruen Institute is investing in being significantly located in Southern California, and is awarding an annual $1 million prize in philosophy. The first went to Charles Taylor and the second to Onora O’Neel. Ferrer and Copenhaver think it is a good idea for the Pacific Division and the Berggruen Institute to work together.

There was a motion to approve having the Berggruen Prize Lecture at the Pacific. It was seconded and then carried unanimously.

15. PROPOSED INDIGENOUS HOST NATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR 2019 APA (Copenhaver): Next year’s Pacific Division meeting is in Vancouver. Under Truth
and Reconciliation, given the practices in British Columbia, it would be unusual for such a statement not to be included on the program and said at some point during the conference.

There was a motion to adopt the proposed language. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

In light of the discussion surrounding the acknowledgment, Copenhaver and Ferrer are going to look into the possibility of having an elder open the Presidential address at the 2019 meeting.

16. REGISTRATION FREeloading (Ferrer and Copenhaver): Update on the steps we’ve taken to try to reduce freeloading. There were a large number of people that did not respond to our encouragement to do the right thing, but the largest proportion of people who did respond informed us that they did not show up to the meeting and so they did not register.

There was a suggestion that the APA Pacific Division Support Assistant (Donohue) keep a list of people that have informed us they will not attend the conference for various reasons so that we know that they are not freeloading. But it was also pointed out that even people who cancel are in a sense free-riding, since they have chairs and commentators lined up.

About $10,000 was lost to free-riders.

17. MEETING SITes AND DATES (Copenhaver): The three divisions of the APA and the National Office now coordinate on joint multiyear contracts for sites. Coordination allows us to secure favorable rates in attractive cities and reduces our liability and minimum room block attrition rates. Because the Pacific is booked through 2021, we anticipate working on another round of hotel proposals in 2019, unless working on something earlier benefits negotiations in the other divisions. When we send proposals to hotels at this stage we will, as we did last time, ask for bids for any time of year and any city in the west in an effort to find a hotel that can accommodate our program during a time that does not overlap with Passover or Easter.


18. APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The committee approved a slate of candidates for the nominating committee and was encouraged to send Copenhaver more names by email.

The acceptance rate has gone done. This is not yet on the statistics on the APA website. Down this year to about 20% from 30% 12-year average.

Zimmerman thinks it is possible that members of the program committee are rejecting submissions in order to avoid the work that goes with organizing a session once it has been acceptance. If you see someone with a low number, that is something to be noted. Zimmerman did his best to dole out an even number of submissions. So if someone has a number of less than 5 and there were a healthy number of submissions assigned to them, that person should be told that they need to accept more in the future.

Recommendations:

One committee member didn’t do the work that they were responsible for and should be replaced on the committee.

General advice for incoming chair that Zimmerman has also communicated via email. (1) There should be a listserv for the committee. (2) People should know the consequences of giving a grade to a submission. (3) Communicating with the chairs of the session should be added to the program chair’s timeline of duties. This is one way to try to make sure that papers are given to commentators with enough time, and comments are given to speakers with enough time. (4) AV reminders should be added to the timetable.

Zimmerman organized the public session this year, but this is not a required duty of the program chair. This year’s public session is on the philosophical aspects of immigration, which is an important topic in our current political environment. Zimmerman was successful in securing the San Diego Public Library. They ended up co-sponsoring the event, which means that we are not paying for the venue. (Savings of about $6000.) Zimmerman invited a great number of speakers, but unfortunately people have been dropping out of the past couple of weeks and months.

Zimmerman hopes it will be a good session.

Becko thanked and congratulated Aaron Zimmerman.

There was discussion of gathering data about people who submit papers for refereeing and perhaps keeping an eye toward diversity on the program, in particular toward those who are from non-research institutions.

The space on our program is absolutely maxed out (due to space and the size of the meeting.) As for scheduling, it already is sort of impossible to fit everything in. The more sessions you have, the harder it is to avoid situations where good sessions on similar areas compete with one another. If you grew it much larger, you wouldn’t add to anyone’s experience because you would divide audiences.
Some discussion of the quality of papers accepted as well as the grading system.

20. PUBLIC SESSIONS (XC Committee): For us this continues to be something we’re committed to but is still experimental. We are really looking forward to this year. We’re going to continue this experiment. It does cost us money.

21. APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Reviewed a list from Cindy Holder (future program chair) for possible appointments to the program committee.

There was a motion to approve the list. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

22. PROGRAM CHAIR APPOINTMENTS:

Motion to approve Cindy Holder for 2019 and Cindy Stark for 2020 as first refusal. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

23. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE BUSINESS MEETING: The business meeting agenda was approved.

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

25. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.