Committee on the Defense of the Professional Rights of Philosophers

2018–2019 Membership

Scott A. Anderson, chair (2020)
Marcy P. Lascano (2019)
Timothy C. Shiell (2019)
Ann Garry (2020)
Andrew Sepielli (2020)
Donald W. Bruckner (2021)
Tziporah Kasachkoff (2021)
Jennifer Whiting, ex officio (2019)
Janet Stemwedel, ex officio (2020)
Mark van Roojen, ex officio (2021)
2018-19 Annual Report of the APA Committee for the Defense of the Professional Rights of Philosophers

2018-19 Membership:


The committee received requests for assistance from a small number of members, though these requests did not fall squarely within the committee’s mandate. In one case, we received a request to intervene on behalf of an APA member with the publisher of their book, to request an accounting of sales and possible royalties due to the author. This resulted in an encouraging response from the publisher, but not a fully satisfactory resolution of the situation, so far as I’m aware.

One matter considered late in the previous year’s activity which I now see was not included in last year’s report was the following: The committee received a suggestion that the APA look into the terms of the standard contracts academic authors are often required to sign when publishing articles and books, which frequently give authors little or no control over how their work is used subsequently in republications, such as in edited collections. I and another committee member discussed these issues with the chair of the APA committee on Lectures, Publications and Research, and we agreed that this was something that the APA should consider incorporating into its best practices guide for journal publishing. This suggestion was forwarded to Amy Ferrer who indicated that it would be taken up in the August 2018 meeting.

Over the course of 2018-19, the CDPRP continued to work to address a complaint from an APA member mentioned in last year’s Annual Report. A request for responsive information from the institution against whom the complaint was made had not been satisfactorily answered as of the end of this year’s committee’s service (June, 2019), and so the complaint remained unresolved at that time.

I believe the above constitutes the full range of requests for the committee’s services in the past year.

report prepared by Scott A. Anderson, Chair

*Mark Pickering resigned from the committee in September 2018, and was subsequently replaced by Andrew Sepielli