Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers

2019-2020 Membership

Michael O. Hardimon, chair (2022)
Kevin A. Richardson (2020)
Jeanine W. Schroer (2020)
Olufemi Taiwo (2020)
Dismas A. Masolo (2021)
Camisha A. Russell (2021)
Jacqueline R. Scott (2021)
Dominique Greene-Sanders (2022)
Aminah Hasan-Birdwell (2022)
Anthony Neal (2022)

Stephen C. Ferguson II, newsletter editor
Dwayne A. Tunstall, newsletter editor
Lewis R. Gordon, APA Blog Series Editor
Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers
Annual Report
Michael O. Hardimon, Chair

1. As Chair I sent out an email in June of this year to the listserv of Committee members and philosophers interested in the work of the Committee inquiring about their thoughts concerning asking the APA to post a statement in support of Black Lives Matter that would address police brutality and the issue of anti-Blackness within the profession. I wrote and distributed a draft of a statement. This led to an extended lively, thoughtful discussion and provided a forum in which people of color could share their thoughts and feelings about the murder of George Floyd and many others and the subsequent protests. It provided the participants with a sense of community and connection in a very difficult time. On the basis of this discussion I formulated a statement that read:

   The APA supports the Black Lives Matter movement in its demand for an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of black people. The APA is committed to addressing the problem of anti-blackness in the profession.

The board voted to approve the statement and posted it on the APA website. Committee members and others on the listserv were heartened. Although symbolic, the posting of the statement represented recognition of the urgency of responding to the current political situation and addressing issues of race within the profession.

2. I have been following up on a suggestion by Ron Sundstrom’s (coming out of the listserv discussion. See B1 above) that the committee conduct a series of interviews in which Black APA members were asked to report on their experiences as Blacks in the profession. The interviews might be produced as a series of videos. The idea is that this project would be of intrinsic interest as a kind of oral history and function as a kind of qualitative needs assessment, identifying difficulties that Black members encounter and ways in which anti-Blackness is manifested in the profession.

3. Tina Botts proposed having a session at a meeting of the Association in which she could present work from the book she is currently drafting on the police and policing. I found two other young philosophers interested in presenting on the topic, Amelie Wirts and Raff Donelson, and submitted a proposal for a regular session at the 2021 Pacific Division Meeting. Clair Morrissey, the program chair, wrote back saying that she thought it a “fantastic proposal” and agreed to add the session to their “proposed sessions” document for the members of the Program committee to adopt with the proviso that, if no one adopts the proposal, she will. The committee’s next move is to submit proposals for the Eastern and Central Meetings.