Status of Disabled People in the Profession

2020–2021 Membership

Adam Cureton, chair (2023)
Eva Feder Kittay (2021)
Samantha Godwin (2021)
Joe Stramondo (2022)
Maeve O'Donovan (2022)
Teresa Blankmeyer Burke (2023)
Kevin Timpe (2023)

David T. Wasserman, SPD President, ex officio
The Committee on the Status of Disabled People in the Profession (CSDPP) was constituted on July 1, 2020.

Here is a brief summary of our main activities and outcomes during our first year of operation:

- We organized ourselves as a committee.
- We began ongoing discussions about projects that our committee could pursue in the coming years.
- We reached out to the chairs of other APA committees to introduce ourselves and to discuss possible collaborations.
- We developed accessibility guidelines for APA conferences that are now being implemented. We plan to continue updating and revising these guidelines.
- We developed language for the APA Grant Proposal application, which has been updated to reflect our suggestions.
- We provided periodic guidance to parts of the APA about disability issues (including ones that concern COVID-19). We plan to continue doing so.
- We sent a representative to the APA Live Programming Committee.
- We had a long and serious discussion about Student Teaching Evaluations, which was prompted by a request we received to sign a petition.

We are still finding our bearings as a committee. Our process for developing and pursuing our projects is primarily to have discussions over email, solicit one or two volunteers to take the lead on a project, and provide those people feedback and support as needed. Overall, our committee functioned well despite some periods of inactivity and COVID-related issues.

Our plans for the current year are to pursue the following projects in addition to our regular advisory roles:

- Start a disability section on the APA Blog with regular posts about disability issues.
- Develop guidelines for organizing accessible conferences in general.
- Organize sessions on disability issues at APA Conferences.
- Organize a webinar on disability issues.
- Begin discussions about starting a mentoring program for graduate students and early-career faculty members with disabilities.