Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

2020–2021 Membership

Richard Legum, chair (2022)

Deirdre Frontczak (2021)

Mary Gwin (2021)

Kenneth Pike (2021)

Rebeka Ferreira (2022)

Shannon Kincaid (2022)

Rebecca Scott (2022)

Bill Hartmann (2023)

Courtland D. Lewis (2023)

Heather Wilburn (2023)

Chloe Armstrong, liaison (2022)

David Concepcion, Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy, ex officio (2021)

Marc E. Bobro, newsletter editor

Aaron R. Champene, newsletter editor
Projects/Activities Planned, Approach for Accomplishing Plans, and Results of Projects/Activities for 2020 -2021:
The committee planned the following projects and activities pursuant to its goals and objectives:

Panel Discussions on Teaching Philosophy at Two-Year Colleges at each of the annual APA Eastern, Central, and Pacific Division Meetings

Approach: The chair planned a committee sponsored panel discussion for each of the three divisional annual meetings based on the advice of the committee members. The sessions were entitled: “APA Committee Session: Getting and Keeping a Full-Time Position in Philosophy at a Two-Year College.” The sessions primary objectives were to (1) disseminate information to job seekers and graduate department placement officers about the “ins and outs” of teaching Philosophy at two-year college, (2) to provide a forum for discussing pedagogy and administrative issues that are germane to two-year college Philosophy professors, and (3) provide a forum for APA participation for two-year college philosophers.

The following panelists were recruited for the sessions from current and former committee members:

Eastern Division Session:
  Chair: Richard Legum (Kingsborough Community College)
  Speakers:
  Shannon E. Kincaid (Kingsborough Community College, CUNY)
  Richard Legum (Kingsborough Community College, CUNY)
  Rick Repetti (Kingsborough Community College, CUNY)
  Timothy Davis (Community College of Baltimore County)

Central Division Session:
  Chair: Richard Legum (Kingsborough Community College–CUNY)
  Speakers:
  Aaron Champene (St. Louis Community College)
  Bill Hartmann (St. Louis Community College - Emeritus)
  Rebecca Scott (Harper College)
  Heather Wilburn (Tulsa Community College Community College)
  Kristen Zbikowski (Hibbing Community College)

Pacific Division Session:
  Chair: Marc Bobro (Santa Barbara City College, CA)
  Speakers:
  Rebeka Ferreira (Green River College, WA)
  Mary Gwin (San Diego Mesa College, CA)
  Kenneth Pike (Florida Tech)

Results: Our planning was to keep the committee’s work on track by holding sessions at each of the divisional meetings.

Our sessions at the Division meetings were less well attended that usual. A contributing factor was the meetings being held virtually via Zoom because of the pandemic. These sessions were attended by full-time and adjunct two-year college faculty members, graduate students applying for and interested in learning about job opportunities at two-year colleges. There was a lively discussion about the application through hiring process at community colleges, as well as the rewards and challenges of teaching Philosophy in this environment.

Areas for Improvement:
We need to pick up our efforts to making the appropriate individuals aware of the nature of the the two-year job market. In particular, we need to find a way to engage graduate department placement officers and advisors to provide them with an understanding of the application and hiring process.

Recommendation for improvement:

- The process for offering and getting placed in a two-year college Philosophy job is significantly different from both the four-year college teaching focused job and the research focused college and university positions. Given the trends in enrollment, the two-year college Philosophy jobs have become more critical to the future of Philosophy in the US. We planned on improving on getting the word out to graduate departments, especially department placement officers, and to graduate students about the availability of Philosophy jobs in this segment of the market. We should try to provide online Zoom sessions in the future to augment the face-to-face sessions that we have. In addition, we should look into connecting with the Graduate Student Council of the APA to explore ways of connecting Philosophers to job opportunities and to improving their success in gaining employment in this sector of higher education.

Publication of the one of the usual two semi-annual Issues of the APA Newsletter on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

Approach: The Newsletter was published this year, but only in the fall. We did not receive sufficiently many submissions of appropriate quality to warrant its publication in the spring. The newsletter provides a forum for Philosophers to submit papers on subjects related to the committee’s charge. Papers are peer-reviewed by the editorial staff composed of current and former members of the committee.

Results: One issue of the Newsletter was published in the fall of 2020.

Areas for Improvement:

- As the pandemic recedes we expect to have a better stream of appropriate quality articles for publication.

Recommendation for improvement:

- The continued effort of the editors continue to work on resolving this issues.

Coordination of Effort with the Committee on Teaching Philosophy and the Academic Career Opportunities and Placement Committee

Approach: The teaching committee and the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT) have been growing the teaching hub at the APA meetings. They are interested in our sponsoring Teaching Hub sessions related to pedagogy. Moreover, their focus is on these sessions leaving little room for the regular session that we have about what it is like to teach at a two-year college and how to get and keep a job in this environment. We have discussed coordinating our work more closely with the Committee on Teaching Philosophy on pedagogy related session. We continue to run such session at the teaching hubs.

We need to engage with the Academic Career Opportunities and Placement Committees in order to engage two-year college Philosophy faculty members in the work of the committees and the APA to advance Philosophy.

Results: We continue to work on sessions for the teaching hub in coordination with the Teaching Committee.

Areas for Improvement: While members of our committee participated in the Teaching Hub sessions, the conflicting scheduling between the Teaching Hub and Two-Year College Philosophy Committee session is once again a problem.

Suggestions for Improvement: We need to work to more closely connect the work of the two committees. In addition, we should work with the Committee on Academic Careers Opportunities & Placement as our mission intersects with the missions of these other two committees. Focus on this is essential with the end of the terms of the committees’ chairs with whom we have built relationships to ensure a smooth transition. We also need to
reach out to the Graduate Student Council to insure that graduate students are aware of the opportunities available to teach Philosophy at Two-Year Colleges and to aid in their understanding of the process of getting and keeping a full-time job.

**Goals and Objectives for the Projects and Activities:**

The APA Committee on Philosophy in Two Year Colleges planned projects and activities for 2021-2022 continue to focus on the following goals and objectives:

- Create an awareness and understanding in the Philosophy community about the two-year college segment of the job market for philosophers and the process for obtaining and keeping such a position.
- Develop documentation of the process of identifying, obtaining, and keeping two-year college Philosophy teaching positions for qualified philosophers.
- Expand APA membership among two-year college Philosophy professors by identifying and increasing the value of the APA to members of this community.
- Identify issues of concern to two-year college Philosophy professors to the APA.
- Provide a forum for improving Philosophy pedagogy, course, and program design in two-year colleges.
- Discuss and disseminate information about events and trends affecting philosophers in two-year colleges and their effect on the discipline of Philosophy, e.g., credentials for teaching, effects of changes in enrollment.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Legum, Chair
September 30, 2021