Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

2021–2022 Membership

Richard Legum, chair (2025)
Rebeka Ferreira (2022)
Shannon Kincaid (2022)
Rebecca Scott (2022)
Bill Hartmann (2023)
Courtland D. Lewis (2023)
Heather Wilburn (2023)
William A. Behun (2024)
Ian M. Duckles (2024)
Justin Holt (2024)
Chloe Armstrong, liaison (2022)

Fritz J. McDonald, Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy, ex officio (2024)

Marc E. Bobro, newsletter editor
Aaron R. Champene, newsletter editor
Projects/Activities Planned, Approach for Accomplishing Plans, and Results of Projects/Activities for 2021 -2022:
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 committee planned to sponsor 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: Jobs and Careers: Teaching Philosophy at a Two-Year College: Find and Keep a Position.” 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:
Panelists:
Timothy Davis (The Community College of Baltimore County)
Richard Legum (Kingsborough Community College, CUNY)

Central Division Session:
Panelists:
Marc Bobro (Santa Barbara City College, CA)
Sahar Joakim (St. Louis Community College)
Richard Legum (Kingsborough Community College–CUNY)
Rebecca Scott (Harper College)
Heather Wilburn (Tulsa Community College Community College)

Pacific Division Session:
Panelists:
Rebeka Ferreira (Green River College, WA)
Ian Duckles (San Diego Mesa College, CA)

Results: We held sessions at each of the divisional meetings.

Our sessions at the Division meetings were better attended than the previous year. The 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 were lively discussions 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 redouble our efforts to making the appropriate individuals aware of the nature of the two-year job market. 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.

We did not publish our two semi-annual Issues of the APA Studies on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

*Approach:* The APA Studies on Philosophy in Two-Year were not published this year as a result of our not receiving submissions. The APA Studies 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:* APA Studies in Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges was not published this year.

*Areas for Improvement:*

With the pandemic receding and with the nationwide trend of college enrollments going down, especially in Two-Year Colleges, our committee members have been drawn away to addressing this issue. We should solicit papers on the topic of the effect of the decreasing size of college age students on enrollment in Two-Year Colleges and strategies to mitigate this situation. In addition, we should solicit papers on the effect of the massive shift to online higher education on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges.

*Recommendation for improvement:*

- We will 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:* We planned to coordinate with the APA Committed on Teaching Philosophy and the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT) have been growing the teaching hub at the APA meetings. Our committed planned to cosponsor session at the Teaching Hub sessions. We planned to work more closely with the Academic Career Opportunities and Placement Committee to better focus on careers in philosophy in Two-Year Colleges.

*Results:* We cosponsored session at the teaching hubs in coordination with the Teaching Committee. We participated with the Academic Career Opportunities and Placement Committee in a webinars on appropriate topics. We had a representative of the committee work with the Virtual Program Committee on presenting APA Webinars appropriate to philosophers in Two-Year Colleges.

*Areas for Improvement: We need to better focus on these areas to increase our participation.*

*Suggestions for Improvement: We need to continue working in coordination with the above mentioned APA committees. We 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 2022-2023 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 as the Higher Education transitions to Virtual Education taking on a larger role in teaching Philosophy.

- 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.
- Provide a forum for improving Philosophy pedagogy, course, and program design in two-year colleges in particular for online and virtual teaching.
- 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, 2022