

Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers

2012-2013 Membership

Patrick Goodin, chair (2013)

Tina Fernandes Botts, associate chair (2013)

Luvell Anderson Jr. (2015)

Jacoby Carter (2015)

Rose Cherubin (2014)

Tommy Curry (2013)

Clevis Headley (2014)

Quayshawn Spencer (2014)

Paul Taylor (2015)

Charles Watson (2013)

George Yancy, newsletter editor



2012-2013 Annual Report of the Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers
Submitted by Tina Fernandes (formerly Tina Fernandes Botts)
Associate Chair, 2012-2013
Chair, 2013 - 2016

In late fall of 2012, there was informal discussion amongst committee members that a meeting should be organized and held at the Eastern APA in December. In order to facilitate such a meeting, Michael Bratman, Chair of the APA National Board, authorized the associate chair to act as chair of the committee. The meeting was organized and held on December 29, 2012 and was attended by many members of the committee as well as several "friends of the committee," or volunteers interested in the goals of the committee. Minutes were taken. At the meeting, the following items were discussed as a preliminary matter: (a) the state of the committee, (b) the current leadership situation, and (c) the intent of the acting chair. It was agreed that the committee would increase activity, that the associate chair would thenceforth act as chair, and that the intent of the acting chair was to take proactive steps to effectuate the charge(s) of the committee.

Four subcommittees were also formed at the meeting: (1) a newsletter subcommittee, (2) a web presence subcommittee, (3) a climate studies subcommittee, and (4) a programming subcommittee.

It was also agreed that the work of the committee would be enhanced by the active solicitation of volunteers and that a listserv would be developed consisting of a comprehensive list of black philosophers and their contact information. The committee also discussed the institution of an essay prize, codifying the committee's governing processes and rules, interfacing with the Society for Young Black Philosophers and with the Committees on Inclusiveness and the Status of Women.

In 2013, the four subcommittees made much progress and were involved in the following activities:

Newsletter Subcommittee

(This is an item the committee will revisit at the 2013 Eastern APA.)

Web Presence Subcommittee

The web presence subcommittee developed a webpage meant to operate as a public face for the committee as well as an organizational hub for information relevant to black philosophers and friends of black philosophers. There was much discussion of providing a link to this page on the official APA website for the committee.

Climate Studies Subcommittee

The climate studies subcommittee was very active in 2013. An empirical study on the status of black philosophers was developed, the preliminary results of which were presented at the Diversity in Philosophy Conference held at the University of Dayton. The presentation was very well received. Study developers are also scheduled to present recent work on the study at a session of the upcoming Eastern APA entitled, "Mentoring Early Career Black Philosophers."

Programming Subcommittee

The programming subcommittee agreed that a book launch would be organized for Paul Taylor and George Yancy at the 2014 Eastern APA. It was also agreed that the committee would recommend for one of its two allotted sessions at the 2014 Eastern APA a session on ancient philosophy.

The committee was also involved in the following Activities:

Name Change

The committee requested to have its name changed to the Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers. This name change was approved by the APA Board of Trustees.

Volunteers

Many volunteers were solicited for assistance with the committees' goals and agenda, particularly in the generation of the empirical study. The committee is heartened by the work and support of the Friends of the Committee.

Listserv

The committee began the preparation of a comprehensive list of black philosophers (with contact information) in order to disseminate information relevant to black philosophers to as wide an audience as possible. A preliminary contact list was received from Bill Lawson. It was suggested that David McLean and Frank Kirkland were also in possession of fairly comprehensive lists. Both were contacted for information. As part of the empirical study conducted by the Climate Studies Subcommittee, still more names and contact information were generated.

Essay Prize

(This is an item the committee will revisit at the 2013 Eastern APA.)

Codifying the Committee's Rules

(This is an item the committee will revisit at the 2013 Eastern APA.)

Interfacing with other Committees

The committee interfaced with the Society of Young Black Philosophers to create the empirical study; with the Committee on the Status of Women to present the empirical study at the Diversity in Philosophy Conference at the University of Dayton; and with the Committee on Inclusiveness in order to provide financial support for travel funds for the Diversity in Philosophy Conference.

The Committee organized the following two sessions for the 2013 Eastern APA:

"Mentoring Early Career Black Philosophers"

Chair: Kristie Dotson

Speakers: Kristie Dotson, Quayshawn Spencer, Myisha Cherry, Anika Simpson, Howard McGary, Kathryn Gines, and Christia Mercer

Friday, December 27, 2013, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

"Philosophy and Race"

Chair: Michael Hunter

Speaker: Tina Fernandes, "The Use-Mention Distinction, Racial Epithets, and Hate Speech,"

Commentator: Rodman King

Speaker: Tommy Curry, "In the Fiat of Dreams," Commentator: Dwayne Tunstall
Saturday, December 28, 2013: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The committee also arranged two sessions for the 2014 Central APA:

"William R. Jones"

Speaker: George Yancy

Thursday, February 27, 2014, 12:10 to 2:10 p.m.

"Marx and Critical Race Theory"

Chair: Charles Mills

Presenter: Tommy Curry

Presenter: Timothy Golden

Presenter, Vanessa Wills

Friday, February 28, 2014, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.