

Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession

2013-2014 Membership

Susana Nuccetelli, chair (2016)

Teresa Burke, disability representative (2014)

Adam Cureton (2016)

Shannon Dea (2015)

Peter Gratton (2014)

Mitchell Avila, *ex officio* (2014)

Tina Botts, *ex officio* (2016)

Brian Burkhart, *ex officio* (2014)

Cheshire Calhoun, *ex officio* (2014)

David Kim, *ex officio* (2014)

Hilde Lindemann, *ex officio* (2016)

Alastair Norcross, *ex officio* (2015)

Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession

REPORT 2013-2014

Dear Members of the APA Board,

I'm pleased to report that during the academic year 2013-2014 the APA Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession developed a number of initiatives designed to promote diversity in the profession and engaged in discussions conducive to a considerable increase in active participation by its members. Here is a summary of our principal activities:

- **Fall 2013**

- 1) We evaluated a number of grant proposals sent to us by the National Office and submitted our recommendations in a timely manner.
- 2) In response to an initiative from the N.O., we elaborated an action plan for promoting the teaching of underrepresented areas of philosophy, whose first step is focused on collecting sample of syllabi from instructors who teach a wide range of topics in those areas. This task required some reflection on the sort of materials and topics more adequate for our purpose. We decided to focus first on building a sample of syllabi, and to that effect developed a preliminary list of diversity areas.
- 3) In connection with (2), we issued a Call for Teaching Materials, which was publicized in a number of appropriate websites, listservs and blogs.
- 4) We organized two sessions for the Pacific Division Meeting of 2014 in San Diego.
 - One session was on "The Morality of the Indian Wars," a topic much neglected by the philosophical community. It featured presentations by James Sterba (University of Notre Dame) and Jordan Curnutt (St. Cloud State University), and commentaries by Bernie Cantens (Moravian College). Chaired by Brian Yazzie Burkhart (California State University, Northridge), the session was well attended and allowed interested participants to exchange contact information for the purpose of continuing the discussion.
 - The other session was previously planned in connection with the development of the APA nondiscrimination policy. Devoted to the topic "Implementing the APA Nondiscrimination Policy," it featured some current and previous members of our committee, including Cheshire Calhoun (Arizona State University), Anita Silvers (San Francisco State University), and Alastair Norcross (University of Colorado–Boulder).

- **Spring 2014**

- 1) We launched the Syllabi Project, which so far has 70 syllabi posted in the Association's website. It contains syllabi in a great variety of philosophical areas. With the help of the N.O. in setting up the site, contributors can now upload their syllabi directly by filling a simple online form. Among other activities undertaken in connection with this project are the following:
 - We have contacted possible contributors individually. We tried to accommodate their suggestions, answered their questions about copyrights for their materials, and finally sent them an email in recognition of their support.
 - We requested contributions and suggestions from members of the APA Board of Officers. Among those who responded were Linda Alcoff, Liz Anderson, Sven Bernecker, Tomas Hill, Dom Lopez, and Sally Scholz.
 - We asked for contributions from members of the APA special Task Force created by Board of Officers with the objective of investigating issues of diversity and inclusiveness in the profession. Linda Alcoff, Liz Anderson, Larry Blum, and Susana Nuccetelli submitted contributions.
 - We asked for contributions from members of the APA Inclusiveness in the Profession Committee. Cheshire Calhoun, Adam Cureton, Shannon Dea, Tina Fernandes Botts, Peter Gratton, David Kim, Hilde Lindemann, and Susana Nuccetelli submitted contributions.
- 2) We planned and organized a special session at the APA Eastern Div. Meeting 2014. It'll be an Author-Meets-Critics Session on Lawrence Blum's *High Schools, Race, and America's Future*, and will feature Tina Fernandes Botts (chair, University of North Carolina/Charlotte), Sigal Ben-Porath (critic, University of Pennsylvania), Linda Martin Alcoff (critic, Hunter College and Graduate Center, City University of New York), and Charles Mills (critic, Northwestern University).
- 3) We began the organization of two special sessions for the APA Central Div. Meeting in 2015. Co-sponsored by the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT), these will be panels devoted to the topic, "Inclusive Philosophy Pedagogy: What Is It and How Do We Achieve It?" In connection with them, we issued a Call for Presentations that had the explicit purpose of encouraging the participation of presenters from underrepresented groups.
- 4) We began the organization of two special sessions for the APA Pacific Div. Meeting in 2015.

- One will be an author-meets-critics session devoted to Jim Maffie's new book *Aztec philosophy* for which we sought and obtained the collaboration of the Committee on Hispanics.
- The other will be a panel discussion on "Transforming the Philosophical Canon."

I would also like to note that, as chair of the Committee on Inclusiveness, I have participated in the APA Task Force on Diversity mentioned above, for which I produced a report and a list of recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the association's current diversity committees.

Finally, I would like to report that, in early August 2014 Professor David Concepcion, chair of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT), invited our committee to co-sign a letter to the APA's N.O. in which he raises concerns about the J-APA editor's attitude towards teaching philosophy as a topic of publications in the journal. In response to the AAPT request, our committee engaged in a discussion about how the APA journal might contribute to inclusion in the profession. Although we declined to co-sign Prof. Concepcion's letter to the N.O. until further discussion of the issues raised by it, the committee was divided on whether the best model for the J-APA is that of a scholarly journal or one of an association's journal. Since the latter model standardly includes, in addition to scholarly articles, letters to the editor and essays about what most members of the association do, which in our case is teaching, five members among eight who participated in this discussion favored the latter model, while two members thought that the J-APA's editor could legitimately exclude from consideration for publication articles on teaching philosophy, and one held that we needed further conversations. We did not reach agreement, but the discussion of this issue was itself a lively indicator of the increasing involvement in the association's matters by committee members.

Susana Nuccetelli, Chair
Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession