

Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession
Submitted by Peter J. Markie

The Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession presently has the following membership: Wayne Davis, Ann Garry, Sanford Goldberg, Patricia Kitcher, Hilary Kornblith, Peter Markie, Charles Taliaferro, Betsy Decyk (ex officio), Leslie Francis (ex officio), Carol C. Gould (ex officio), Gary Hagberg (ex officio) and Anita Silvers (ex officio). Members who left the committee when their terms expired in the past year are Michael Burke, Cheshire Calhoun, Paul Humphreys and Paul Roth.

In the fall of 2009, the committee endorsed a recommendation to the APA Board that a taskforce consisting of journal editors, members of the Status and Future of the Profession Committee and members of the Committee on Lectures, Publications and Research be established to draft a best practices statement for Philosophy journals to serve as a guide for them in the ongoing development of their policies. That group has been established and is currently at work on a draft statement.

In the spring of 2010, the committee responded to a request from APA Executive Director David Schrader that it consider whether the 1996 Statement on Research should be revised to include a statement on the ranking of Philosophy journals. Director Schrader's request was occasioned by the European Science Foundation's ranking of journals and concerns raised about the ranking by some other professional associations, including the International Association of Research Institutes in the History of the Arts and the Royal Irish Academy. The committee has endorsed a recommendation to the Board that the Statement on Research be revised to include the following:

The American Philosophical Association does not rank philosophical journals nor does it sponsor or endorse any rankings of philosophical journals that are compiled by others. The American Philosophical Association recognizes that there is often a need for comparative information about journals. It encourages those seeking such information to consult multiple sources, to do so critically, and to keep in mind that a particular journal's place in any ranking is not, in itself, a reliable indicator of the philosophical quality of any individual article that appears in it. Rankings of journals also pose a risk of bias against particular areas, topics, methods, or traditions in philosophy. While those evaluating candidates for academic positions, tenure, promotion, and research grants should consider the quality of a candidate's published work, and while the overall quality of a journal can be a general indicator of the quality of the articles it contains, no ranking of the journals in which a candidate's work appears is a substitute for the detailed assessment of that work by experts in the candidate's area of research.