



18 June 2007

Board of Officers  
American Philosophical Association  
31 Amstel Avenue  
Newark, DE 19716-4797

Members of the Board:

On behalf of the editorial board for *Questions: Philosophy for Young People*, I am writing to request a continuation of the APA's partial underwriting of our journal. It is my understanding that the board prefers a move to an annual funding decision, instead of a multi-year commitment. Thus, we are seeking a project grant of \$500 to partially off-set publication costs for the journal.

#### **Project Purpose and Benefits to Profession**

*Questions* is an annual journal dedicated to providing a medium for young people to contribute their philosophical reflections while also giving them and their teachers resources for engaging in philosophy in the pre-college environment. The variety of work that we publish is fairly broad within those parameters. For example, the 2006 issue included among other items an essay by a high school student on Plato's *Republic*, a short-story by a high school student exploring the idea of a totalitarian society, a discussion on having students write poetry to explore philosophical ideas, and the winning entries of the Kids Philosophy Slam competition. While we do include short transcripts of some class discussions, these transcripts are not a dominant part of the journal. (This is in keeping with the APA's request in the initial funding agreement.)

The current issue is the first that Alison Reiheld and myself have shepherded from beginning to end; the prior chief editor, Jana Mohr Lone, began the process of assembling the 2006 edition. The final article selection is currently finishing its way through the blind-review process that we are using; as such I cannot give you exact content for the newest issue. However, we have been able to secure a number of good resource reviews and lesson-plan oriented articles. We believe that this is the first step to creating a journal that is even more useful for those doing philosophy with young people.

Over the last six years, *Questions* has been serving the profession of philosophy by striving to assist both classes of readers - young people and adults who work with young people. Current professional philosophers have an outlet for work that they are doing with children, and the pre-college audience increasingly is becoming exposed to the possibility of doing philosophical work seriously. As we mentioned in our last funding request, the only journal that comes close to covering the same content and audience that we do is *Thinking*, published by Montclair State University. However, unlike *Questions*, *Thinking* tends to focus on scholarly articles on cognitive development, the history of philosophy with children, and empirical research on outcomes of pre-college philosophy instruction. We see ourselves as filling a need

in that we provide much more room for the outlet and examination of the work that young people can and do produce.

### **Timeline of project**

*Questions* is published annually over the summer months. The activities associated with the journal can be broken down into programmatic and production oriented tasks.

#### *Programmatic tasks*

Throughout the year members of the editorial board seek out potential submissions to the journal. The bulk of this work is understandably done by Alison Reiheld and myself in our roles as co-editors of the journal. Some of this outreach is through scholarly conferences; for example, we presented on work with pre-college students at both the last APA-East and at the most recent AAPT conference. However, the bulk of this outreach is from seeking out and contacting potential contributors, reviewable resources, and programs for pre-college philosophy. We view these sorts of tasks as program building, in that a contact in one year may result in submissions in later years.

#### *Production oriented tasks*

Since its inception *Questions* has been published in the summer. While the initial deadline for submissions was earlier, we have shifted the deadline to the end of March. This is for two reasons. First, the prior (December 31) deadline apparently was often overlooked in the flurry of activities at end of a term and year. Submissions would routinely be sought out in the spring for the upcoming issue, resulting in larger scramble for content. In addition, we have a working relationship with the Kids Philosophy Slam to publish their winning entries. Since their selection of winning students does not occur until mid-May, and page layout could not occur until their entries were received, it made more sense to time the deadline nearer to their submissions and the actual publication.

As submissions roll in throughout the course of the year, and certainly following the deadline, Alison and myself are in contact with those who have sent in work to keep them apprised of the status of their work. We also at this point do some preliminary editing work and guide the authors in improvements to their articles. In early May we distribute to all members of the editorial board a rubric for article selection along with anonymized copies of all submissions that appear on target. Over a period of several weeks the entire board is in email discussion about the articles, and provides feedback regarding which pieces seem best suited for publication. Alison and I then collate the comments, selecting the individual pieces that eventually run in the journal. Because of the pre-editing process we have little need for additional editing and re-writes at this point. All authors are contacted to let them know the status of their pieces.

Once the accepted articles are known, Alison and I begin the process of determining what order the pieces will run in, and sketch out a preliminary layout. All of the content and our ordering of pieces is sent to our publisher, the Philosophy Documentation Center, for initial layout. We both go over the proof copies, make corrections, and when done approve the printing. Our goal is to go to press in July so that the issue will be mailed in August and on hand at the beginning of the academic year.

## **Budget and Finances**

No member of the board, including the co-editors, is compensated for time on the journal. The incidental costs associated with the gathering of submissions and review copies has thus far been absorbed by our institutions. As such, the only costs for the project are those associated with typesetting, printing, and mailing. For this reason, the Philosophy Documentation Center retains funds for the journal. We receive quarterly updates related to financial matters.

To put it plainly, *Questions* would not exist without the continued past involvement of the APA. The APA underwrote completely the first issue, and starting with the second issue has contributed \$500 annually. Beginning in 2003 in honor of the death of Lori Fells, an editorial board member and associate director of the PDC, the PDC has "matched" the APA's contribution to the journal. (Their contribution comes as a credit to our account; in essence they are writing off a portion of the production costs of the journal.)

Subscription rates were low for the early years, partially because the journal was easily available for free at APA conferences. It remains the case that the first two issues are available for free on our website (<http://www.pdcnet.org/Questions.html>). The numbers have been improving more recently, but it remains the case that *Questions* is financed through contributions not subscriptions. In part because of the early low subscription rates, the Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children at University of Washington (the home of Jana Mohr Lone, the prior editor in chief) covered shortfalls. In one case the shortfall was \$872.

The current funding commitments we have are \$500 annually from York College of Pennsylvania (home to Rory Kraft) and \$200 annually from the Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children. Last year we received \$500 from Michigan State (home to Alison Reiheld), but this funding was not considered an ongoing commitment. In addition, as mentioned above the PDC has committed to matching the \$500 contribution from the APA.

Without the APA's funding (and thus, without the PDC match), we have commitments for \$700 annually. The total production cost for the last issue was \$1783.91. As you can see, with our funding commitments and the APA's direct and indirect contributions we are able to draw only minimally on subscriptions.

We have seen an increase in subscriptions since the APA and AAPT presentations, and are in discussions for indexing the journal (which we believe will lead to additional subscriptions since many libraries will not purchase un-indexed journals). As Alison more fully goes onto the job market we are also hopeful that we can receive commitment to funding from her new employer.

## **Steering Committee**

Attached are CVs for the academic members of the project steering committee/editorial board. The board is:

Christina M. Bellon, Asst. Professor of Philosophy, California State University,  
Sacramento

John Davis, Founder, Kids Philosophy Slam

Betsy Newell Decyk, University Ombuds, California State University, Long Beach

Sara Goering, Asst. Professor of Philosophy, University of Washington

Ashraya Gupta, student, Columbia University

David Heise, Asst. Professor of Philosophy, Humboldt State University

Rory E. Kraft, Jr., Asst. Professor of Philosophy, York College of Pennsylvania  
Rosalind Ekman Ladd, Professor of Philosophy, Wheaton College  
Jana Mohr Lone, Director, Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children  
Megan Mustain, Asst. Professor of Philosophy, St. Mary's University  
Michael S. Pritchard, Willard A. Brown Professor of Philosophy, Western Michigan University  
Alison Reiheld, Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy, Michigan State University  
David Shapiro, Faculty Member, Cascadia Community College  
Hugh Taft-Morales, Teacher, Edmund Burke High School, Washington, DC  
Wendy Turgeon, Asst. Professor of Philosophy, St. Joseph's College

### **Summary of Request**

*Questions: Philosophy for Young People* is requesting that the APA provide funding of \$500, as it has in years past, for the continued publication of the journal. We believe that we provide a valuable service to current professional philosophers and are an outreach mechanism to attract future philosophers. The impact of the APA's contribution is effectively doubled through the PDC's matching of APA funding. We are thankful for the past support from the APA and hope that continued funding will enable this young publication to continue to grow and serve as an outlet for an underserved area of philosophy.

If you have questions or desire clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rory E. Kraft, Jr.  
Asst. Professor of Philosophy  
York College of Pennsylvania  
Co-editor, *Questions*  
rkraft1@ycp.edu