I am in the midst of organizing my project, "What can philosophers do to protect and promote the educational mission of universities?" which was graciously funded by the Berry Fund for Public Philosophy.

This project focuses on engaging philosophers in the fight for academic workplace power, which is critical for ensuring that universities fulfill their educational missions. Simply put, academic employees are on the front line in the fight against university administrators to keep their departments open, ensure fair and adequate funding, and ensure reasonable teaching and learning conditions.

As part of this project, I have already organized one small scale event with graduate students from midwestern universities (including Indiana University, Northwestern, Purdue, Ohio State University, and more). There, we discussed how to defend and secure department resources by organizing at the level of the department (e.g., unifying department heads and graduate students around a common issue and escalating that issue to the level of deans or upper administrators). We discussed the importance of establishing and fighting for department-level standards for teaching and research (e.g., not allowing over 20 students in an advanced Philosophy seminar) that promote both better working and learning conditions. This was a hybrid meeting, and part of the funds from the grant were used on space and refreshments for the event.

Currently, I am developing the nature and scope of a larger event. My goal is to have philosophy faculty and graduate students come together to discuss how philosophers can play an important role in the fight for conditions that lead to better learning and fruitful research. Philosophers are important both because of the precarity they face as more and more humanities departments across the country are stripped of resources, and because of the nature of philosophical education (e.g., small classes, discussion-based learning, reading and writing-based assignments) which sets a standard worth defending and applying to other disciplines in universities. In preparation for this event, I am seeking out interest by connecting with philosophers from other departments who are engaged in academic organizing.

I am grateful to the APA for supporting this project, and I look forward to reporting further details upon completion.