AAPT Board Teleconference Meeting
February 21, 2014

I. Opening

A. Call to order: 5:03 PM ET

B. Roll call – Dave Concepción, Emily Esch, Russell Marcus, Scott McElreath, Andy Carpenter, Kevin Hermberg, Stephen Block-Schulman, Jennifer Wilson Mulnix, Mike Mulnix, Mimi Marinucci,

C. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2013. By consensus

D. Approval of Agenda. By consensus.

II. Committee and Other Reports

A. Executive Director (Esch): Registration page with PDC is set up, some minor tweaks need to occur. March 11th is date for conference web page to go live and the conference acceptances to go out. Total cost for members is below the past total costs. We will rent a shuttle with limited slots, $20 one way, $40 round trip. There is the possibility of a private shuttle service for folks who the timeline does not work for – but will be pricier. Other conference stuff will come up in committee reports, but willing to answer questions now or later.

B. Treasurer (Kraft): An email with a longer description of the year-end financials went out on 2/10. The short version is that cash on hand is $5,480.12 in checking and $64,111.66 in savings. For the year we ended up out-performing the budget. We added $1,520 to the reserves when we had planned on drawing down from them this year.

After some brief discussion it was decided to stop looking into investing a portion of the reserves in CDs (as previously approved by the board.) Banks with CD interest rates above the low savings interest we currently get have not been willing to have us purchase CDs – their rates are apparently only for individuals.

C. Communications Director (Hermberg): We have renewed the contract for web hosting. We are also looking at moving it to a non-commercial (i.e. school) site rather than continuing to pay for hosting. The work has begun on starting a T&L blog for the summer conference. And, as a reminder, as much
as possible, we should all work on hosting/posting AAPT stuff through our site rather than on other pages.

D. Speaker and Awards (Elreath): Committee worked on clarifying the merit award, sent out via attachment. After thinking about the criteria, and the nomination process, decision was to award it this year to Emily. Scott to get letter and plaque for presentation at the conference. At next board meeting will vote on formally accepting the criteria and process.

Two speakers: Todd Zakrajsek and Amy Ferrer to be plenary speakers. Both have agreed to the time slots that work best for us. Amy on Saturday. Todd on Thursday afternoon.

Teaching Fellows: Three nominations, none of the three seemed to quite meet the criteria for the award. In a stall pattern thinking about what the next option should be. To be on the agenda for next meeting.

E. Teaching and Learning (Block-Schulman): Graduate seminar: Stephen, Donna, Mimi to facilitate. The call has been distributed already, trying to get information directly to the graduate programs in US and Canada within the next week. Application by April 11th. Web presence, as noted above, being worked on already. The deadline to notify APA of who the seminarians are is May 1st.

Various folks have copies of lists for emails, etc. They are all going to be shared with Stephen and Emily.

F. Program Committee (Marcus/M. Mulnix): 52 proposals for first deadline, 18 for second. Total is just a few more than last conference, which is disappointing given the amount of distribution of the call. But we should have plenty to have good program. There is the possibility that the location played a factor in the less-than-expected amount of proposals. Since, Austin is hip and cool and all.

Russell is almost ready to send out responses (accept, revise, no) to folks. Will wait until March 11 so that the website and everything is ready when acceptance rolls out. Second round of reviews needs to occur, but should not take much work to get it done. Any revisions go through the program chairs, so not a big deal.
G. Lenssen Prize Committee (Carpenter): Readings have been distributed, ranking is going to occur within week, and meeting to happen to compare.

H. APA-Pacific – have 14 applications for the conference.

I. Five applications for the facilitator workshop, they may be integrated into the T&L seminar given the smaller number than anticipated.

J. The conference program will go through multiple drafts as the sessions get moved around. Mid May is needed for a first draft – the board looks at this one. Then changes based upon presenter schedule requests, other needs.

III. New Business

A. Discuss diversity panel at conference (Block-Schulman/ Concepción):
Stephen submitted a panel proposal focusing on diversity/inclusive pedagogy, but Dave thought that perhaps it would be better to have an invited panel. The focus would be on the underrepresentation of women in philosophy generally, and grad school in particular. Possibly Kathryn Norlock and others talking about own experiences and practices. What pedagogical issues can we bring out of this? If we made it an invited panel, what compensation (waiving the registration?). Amy Ferrer already leaning toward focusing on diversity. Perhaps have her on the panel as well as her talk? Seems most fair to have it be its own plenary session. A morning session? Probably easier to not include Amy formally in this session. Friday morning session seems best – sets the theme for the conference and spreads the diversity throughout the whole conference. Consensus on having it be an invited session, looking at $500 a panelist (3 panelists), waive registration. More discussion to occur on specifics via email.

B. Discuss publishing proceedings (Esch): We have been approached in the past from several publishers about doing a conference proceedings book. Given our relationship with the PDC, we checked with them for possibilities. They would be willing to do an online only version for not much expense. It would be accessible for free to members; search by content would be available to everyone – citable, etc. Cost between $300 - $500 expected. Would include typesetting, etc. Do we have someone who wants to be the editor for this? Consensus that the project and the expense is good, will work on finding an editor.
C. Discuss possibility of celebrating historical nature of this conference (Esch):
People have been asking, if anyone has ideas it needs to be fleshed out. Dave proposed maybe a panel by some of the founding members, short – half-hour, 45 mins, tied to the wine and cheese reception? Inviting several of the founding group, waiving the registration fee for them. Get a commitment from a few first, use their names to invite others. Reception back on Thursday, work this into that.

IV. Announcements/Other discussions

Russell’s question: given the number of special sessions, should we look into moving some sessions into the evening? Increase number of concurrent sessions? Probably have to wait to see how it maps out. Consensus seemed to be that if possible avoid evening sessions, but we will wait to see how the logistics work out.

Mimi checked on the status of the possible board meeting at APA-Pacific. Few board members will be there, so no board meeting.

Brief question about the possibility of cutting down on the number of board meetings at the conference. One board, one member meeting suggested. May need to use 10 mins at start of a plenary session to do some light work (getting a nomination committee, etc.) Email Emily with concerns if any.

Dave gave us all compliments for being nice people.

V. Adjournment: Wrapped up at 6:15 ET.

These minutes approved by the Board July 30, 2014