

## **JUST THE FACTS**

### **Report to Division 33**

#### **Council of Representatives**

#### **2016 Winter Meeting (Washington, DC; February 19 – 21, 2016)**

Council Representative: Eric Butter

I attended my first Council meeting. After months of preparation in getting caught up on the circumstances surrounding the Independent Review Report (e.g. the “Hoffman Report”) and a one day orientation session for new members of Council, I attended and participated in Council proceedings which included action related to motions prepared after the Toronto Meeting in August 2015, discussion about the progression of the Good Governance Project (GGP), current state of APA from both the current President and Interim CEO as well as reports related to APA finances.

Additional are provided details below.

1. **HOFFMAN REPORT ACTIONS:** All members of Council continued to discuss, process, and struggle with the findings of the Hoffman IR Report. Council and Council Leadership Team (CLT) established work groups to
  - a. review organizational policies and procedures related to conflict of interest, transparency, and governance
  - b. develop civility principles and procedures for Council
  - c. create guidelines for selecting members of future task forces..
2. **MORE IR FALLOUT:** There was a confidential and privileged Executive Session that stirred more questions than answers
3. **CEO SEARCH:** The search for a new CEO will be underway. The search is expected to potentially be completed this year, perhaps before Convention.
4. **HUMAN RIGHTS:** Council approved the inclusion of ethics, human rights, and social justice when the next APA Strategic Plan is developed. The next Strategic Plan is not going to be explored, discussed, or initiated until a new CEO is selected. NOTE: There was great debate about this. Is APA a “human rights” organization? Is it a scientific organization designed to promote psychology in the service of the Public?
5. **OTHER APA STAFF:** Council reviewed prior staff firings and resignations around and since Convention.
6. **NEW JOURNAL:** Council approved a new journal from Division 53 entitled Evidence-based Practice of Child and Adolescent Mental Health. A similar Journal was developed for Division 54 recently. NOTE: It made me think Division 33 may want to revisit the possibility of a Journal?
7. **MOOD:** Council continues to experience significant strife, conflict, disagreement, and even hostility related to issues brought up in the Hoffman Report, the GGP, and diversity representation within APA and Council. NOTE: It strikes me as time to “move on”. I am a strong voice for moving on with business of psychology.
8. **OTHER (non-torture) NEWS:** Council approved two resolutions including:

- a. Opposing HIV Criminalization
- b. Data about Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity.

\*You can find these resolutions on the APA website.

9. FINANCES: Despite the controversy and leadership instability, APA finances are strong and stable.
  - a. The budget is balanced with four months of cash on hand (as required by Council).
  - b. APA has at least \$190 million equity in the two APA buildings.
  - c. Membership dues accounts for a mere 10% of APA revenues, while publications and databases bring the great majority of revenue.
  - d. Despite this good news, there have been unexpected and very large costs related to the Hoffman Independent Report, separation of staff, settlement of the practice assessment case, and several special expenditures such as internship stimulus funds (which is working very well) and the public education campaign (not sure if that's working and I'm a former Public Education Coordinator).
  - e. Thus, there is a plan for APA to curtail spending in 2016, freeze certain positions, and to reconsider some programmatic investments.
10. MEMBERSHIP: There is no good news here.
  - a. Membership is steadily declining in APA, significantly.
  - b. Membership decline in the Practice Organization (APAPO) is declining at an even steeper rate. It is hard to see how APAPO can sustain continued declines at the current rate. NOTE: APAPO appears to be doing important work that likely impacts patients and practitioners related to Division 33.
11. PRESIDENTS MISSION: Dr. McDaniel's is focusing her Presidency on creating a stronger voice and presence for Psychology in the plans for integrated healthcare and healthcare reform. She is hosting a multi-agency/association leadership Summit in April.
12. COUNCIL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: APA hired an anthropologist who produced an ethnographic report on his observations of the organization; it's leadership, and members following the Hoffman Report were considered. His report was immediately challenged by a diverse group of psychologists present at the meeting before he was scheduled to begin discussing the report. The challenge grew into a protest about the limited inclusion of several populations in APA Governance lead by the Woman's Caucus and the Ethnic and Minority Psychological Associations. This was an emotional experience that seemed to have only a limited productive conclusion for anyone.
13. NEW BUSINESS: Several issues of new business relate to our Division and possible future opportunities for us:
  - a. Some members of Council are considering a motion related to identifying the practice of behavior analysis as a psychological practice. This will likely come up at the next Council meeting.
  - b. The Child Adolescent and Family Caucus is very interested in asking APA to develop initiative(s) (clinical materials, resources, advocacy, and/or

policy statements) related to adult transition for people with Autism.