

**American Association for Public Opinion Research
Executive Council Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

ATTENDANCE

Outgoing and Incoming Council:

Rene Bautista	Outgoing Standards Chair
Ipek Bilgen	Outgoing Associate Membership & Chapter Relations Chair, Incoming Chair
Ginger Blazier	Incoming Associate Secretary-Treasurer
Rachel Caspar	Outgoing Associate Education Chair, Incoming Chair
Josh De La Rosa	Outgoing Communications Chair
David Dutwin	Outgoing Past President
Allyson Holbrook	Outgoing Education Chair
Jessica Holzberg	Outgoing Communications Associate Chair, Incoming Chair
Ricki Jarmon	Incoming Councilor-at-Large
Ashley Kirzinger	Incoming Associate Standards Chair
Mary Losch	Councilor-at-Large
Gretchen McHenry	Outgoing Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Incoming Secretary-Treasurer
Dan Merkle	Outgoing Vice President, Incoming President
Marco Morales	Incoming Associate Communications Chair
Kristen Olson	Outgoing Associate Conference Chair, Incoming Chair
Emilia Peytcheva	Incoming Associate Education Chair
Patricia Moy	Incoming Vice President
Lydia Saad	Outgoing Secretary-Treasurer
Nora Cate Schaeffer	Outgoing President, Incoming Past President
Mandy Sha	Outgoing Conference Chair
Darby Steiger	Incoming Associate Conference Chair
Tamara Terry	Outgoing Membership & Chapter Relations Chair
Tim Triplett	Outgoing Associate Standards Chair, Incoming Chair
Angelique Uglow	Incoming Associate Membership & Chapter Relations Chair
G. Evans Witt	Outgoing Councilor-at-Large

Invited Guests:

Michael Elliott	JSSAM Editor
Emily Geisen	Survey Practice Editor
Brittany Hobson	OUP Marketer for POQ/JSSAM
Rebecca Lane	OUP Editor
Eric Plutzer	POQ Editor
Dianne Rucinski	Chair, Diversity Coordinating Committee
Ting Yan	JSSAM Editor

Staff:

Delia Murphy	Executive Director
Eric Bailey	Senior Director of Communications
Melanie Goff	Program Manager, Conference and Awards
Sam Nysetvold	Program Manager, Membership and Chapter Relations
Daniel Choppa	Program Administrator, Operations and Education

I. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 1:04pm ET / 12:04pm CT.

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Council reviewed the minutes from the April council meeting.

MOTION: to approve the minutes. Losch moved, Merkle seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Schaeffer noted that the following consent reports were presented for information:

Councilor Reports:

[CALs 20192020 Report 0513.docx](#)

[Consent Conference 05 2020.pdf](#)

[Education 19-20 May Report and Business Meeting.docx](#)

[MCR May Annual Report and Business Meeting.docx](#)

[Past President Report 050820.docx](#)

[President 20192020 Report.docx](#)

[Standards Committee May Report and Business Meeting 5 12 2020.docx](#)

Journal Reports:

[JSSAM AAPOR report.docx](#)

[POQ Annual Report 2020 final.pdf](#)

[SurveyPractice May Report and Business Meeting.docx](#)

Other:

[AAPOR Customer Service Tracking.xlsx](#)

MOTION: to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Witt moved, Dutwin seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

III. NOMINATIONS

Council brought forth the following appointments:

Bautista presented two nominations to serve on AAPOR's Transparency Initiative Coordinating Committee. It was also noted that Kirzinger's position on the TICC would need to be filled as she is an incoming Councilor.

Triplett noted that the chair of the TICC should also sit on the Standards Committee.

ACTION: Triplett to review the Committee Tracker and ensure that the Standards Committee members and Subcommittee members are accurately included.

MOTION: to approve the nominations. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. RECORDING OF PRESENTATIONS FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

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| 1. President's Report | Nora Cate Schaeffer, President |
| 2. Past President's Report | David Dutwin, Past President |
| 3. Secretary-Treasurer Report | Lydia Saad, Secretary-Treasurer |
| 4. Membership and Chapter Relations Committee Report | Tamara Terry, Chair |
| 5. Standards Committee Report | Rene Bautista, Chair |
| 6. Communications Committee Report | Josh De La Rosa, Chair |
| 7. Councilor-at-Large Report | G. Evans Witt, Councilor-at-Large |
| 8. Education Committee Report | Allyson Holbrook, Chair |
| 9. Reports from AAPOR Journals | |
| a. Public Opinion Quarterly | Patricia Moy and Eric Plutzer, Editors |
| b. JSSAM | Michael Elliott and Ting Yan, Editors |
| c. Survey Practice | Emily Geisen, Editor |

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10. Conference Committee Report

Mandy Sha, Chair

Councilors presented their end of year reports. The reports were recorded to be used as part of the Business Meeting at the upcoming Virtual Conference. Following the reports, Councilors had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the reports. No specific questions were asked.

ACTION: Goff to contact Award Committee chairs regarding the award session of the Virtual Conference.

V. DIVERSITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dianne Rucinski joined the meeting at 2:50pm ET / 1:50pm CT to provide an overview of the Diversity Coordinating Committee's (DCC) work in the past year.

The Inclusive Voices Award was transitioned from the DCC into the AAPOR award committee structure. This reinforced the DCC's intention and commitment to involve more members in the work of AAPOR.

Regarding the Student-Faculty Diversity Pipeline Awards, Rucinski noted that identifying and recruiting these dyads required a lot of outreach and cold-calling. The DCC required the assistance of the student awards committee to find the right fit. The DCC secured 8 winners for the Diversity Pipeline Award this year.

SurveyFest took place at Stanford this year, and the DCC is now looking to plan a fall SurveyFest, possibly virtually. This may allow us to reach students and schools that are more ethnically and racially diverse.

PLAYPOR was scheduled to take place at the annual conference for child care. Offering this option was an important signal to AAPOR members that AAPOR wants to be inclusive and provide the ability for child caregivers to attend the conference.

Rucinski noted that the membership database has been lacking information, making it very difficult to track diversity progress, but recognized the database improvements recently made by MCR. This year, personal letters were sent to all Honorary Life Members (HLMs) along with an appreciation plaque, inviting them to attend the annual conference at a discounted rate. Rucinski noted that there are still areas in need of progress: data tracking and member demographic data.

The DCC needs to be supported and the report includes ideas for a new structure for the DCC. Merkle asked if there was a new member that was slated to become the new chair. Rucinski stated that she would stay on until a new chair is found, but noted that AAPOR needs to better diversify its leadership pipeline.

ACTION: Council to search for nominees to lead the DCC, as Rucinski indicated stepping down when a new chair is identified.

VI. REPORT FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Rebecca Lane and Brittany Hobson joined the meeting at 3:00pm ET / 2:00pm CT to provide a report from Oxford University Press (OUP) on two of AAPOR's journals, POQ and JSSAM .

In 2020, the journals have been seeing increased usage levels and starting to meet historical numbers. However, due to COVID-19, there was a downward drop in usage beginning in March. OUP has implemented Google's "Universal Access" to allow people to access the journals while not on location at their universities or organizations.

Regarding journal production for POQ, OUP has moved its contract to a new supplier, hoping to improve production time and speed and is expecting to see results in the next few months. The pandemic has been a unique opportunity to make updates to the process. POQ's excellent uplift in this year's Impact Factor (IF) was noted.

Focusing on JSSAM, OUP is supporting the content growth of the journal. JSSAM's IF to be released this summer is estimated to be 1.782. This IF should put the journal into the top 50%, which will allow it to petition

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for inclusion in Clarivate's Journal Citation Reports, which in turn will bolster the journal's success. Lane noted the addition of a 5th special issue of the journal in 2020 and 2021 that was approved by Council.

It was noted that whenever Council would like to discuss cost savings, OUP staff are available to provide and review data. A discussion regarding the future of print should be had as the open-access as well as read-and-publish movements gain traction. OUP is moving towards open access and is working on a risk analysis for the financial impact for these journals in the coming years and will share this as soon as it is ready. There are multiple options to sustain revenue such as changing the pricing for subscriptions, increasing open-access fees, growing the number of published articles in the journals, and installing a few downstream revenue options.

Council noted that its new Committee on the Future of AAPOR Journals will help consider these suggestions.

VII. MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Terry introduced the procedures and guidelines document for volunteer service. This new document is a combination of two updated prior documents. Its purpose is to build transparency in expectations for volunteer service.

MOTION: to accept the volunteer service policy. Committee Motion, no need for a second. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MCR would like to make the Membership Database Ad Hoc Committee a permanent subcommittee. As a formal subcommittee under MCR, it will be able to provide membership metrics and work with AAPOR staff to keep the database current.

MOTION: to accept making permanent the membership database subcommittee. Committee motion, no need for a second. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

ACTION: Morgan Earp will be invited to come to a future Council meeting to talk more about the database improvements.

ACTION: Chairs to reach out to their respective committees to check-in with their subcommittees and get a better understanding of term limits, etc.

VIII. PROCEDURE FOR AWARDS COMMITTEES

Councilors reviewed the Procedure for Awards Committee document, which outlines processes and timeline of actions for award committees throughout the year. The document has been reviewed during previous Council meetings and is now finalized and ready for Council approval.

MOTION: to accept the award-committee procedure/policy document. Schaeffer moved, Witt seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

This document will be given to all award committee chairs as they begin their deliberations.

ACTION: Council to let Murphy know if things need to be corrected in this procedure document moving forward.

ACTION: Staff to review the description of the awards against the website and ensure that everything is accurate. Special consideration to be given the Inclusive Voices award as it is no longer under the purview of the DCC.

IX. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MOTION: to formalize the History Committee as a subcommittee of the Education Committee. Committee motion, no need for a second. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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X. iCivics PROPOSAL

In March the Civics Education Subcommittee presented some initial information about a program to work with iCivics, and Council asked the Subcommittee to have iCivics put a proposal together. Council reviewed the proposal and Saad noted that any spending at this point would be deficit spending that would need to be taken out of investments. Schaeffer asked if this could be a sponsorship opportunity whereby an organization's sponsorship of the infographics could help cover the cost of the proposal. There is a \$5000 financial commitment for the infographics, and AAPOR would also need to designate some experts to work with the iCivics team. This project will complement the communications work of Stanton nicely and could be a good opportunity to get AAPOR in front of a different audience.

ACTION: Murphy and McHenry to look at Stanton contract for the possibility of reallocating funds.

MOTION: AAPOR to agree to provide \$5000, and identify election experts willing to collaborate on this project, given that the money comes from funds taken from the Stanton project or new revenue (such as a new sponsorship). Holbrook moved, Caspar seconded. The motion passed by majority vote.

XI. STANTON COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Dutwin provided an overview of Stanton's efforts in 2020 on communication strategy, proactive media outreach, social/content marketing, and engagement with journalism organizations. Stanton has been developing a more streamlined approach to journalist inquiries. Council is hopeful that the program will see more success around the election. Council also discussed needing to continue to assess the program and review metrics developed by Stanton to determine success.

Dutwin also provided a brief update on the work of the Committee on Public Opinion. The Committee submitted several proposals for funding of different work from its subcommittees to various foundations, with the hope that some of that funding would be used to fund future work with Stanton. However, funding has not yet been secured and it is unlikely at this point given the situation with COVID-19.

XII. JOURNAL ITEMS

POQ-AC Charge

Schaeffer reviewed the charge to the POQ Advisory Committee for approval by Council. This will require sustained attention from Council moving forward to ensure the future of the journals. The charge has been seen in previous meeting materials and vetted by a number of people, including the POQ-AC.

MOTION: to approve the Charge to the POQ Advisory Committee, with the understanding that the document is provisional and may have upcoming changes. Schaeffer moved, Triplett seconded. Excluding one abstention, the motion passed by majority vote.

JSSAM Editor Appointment

Ting Yan will be stepping down as co-editor of JSSAM, so a search has been conducted for a new co-editor. Three applications for editorship were received and the Council discussed the merits of each as well as the recommendation provided by the JSSAM Advisory Committee.

Council discussed monetary support for the new editors. Some councilors shared concerns over this due to the current economic climate. The request was for \$10,000 per year to help cover costs and travel, with the possibility of matching funds from the university of the editor. The American Statistical Association (ASA) has no financial responsibility for JSSAM, so it would not help monetarily support an editor. ASA also does not make money from the journal. If AAPOR wanted to talk with ASA about potentially changing the financial share, now might be a good time.

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MOTION: to approve the recommendation for editorship to go to Kristen Olson, with compensation to be discussed and determined at the Executive Committee level. Losch moved, Terry seconded. Excluding two abstentions and one Council member absence, the motion passed by majority vote.

XIII. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

There was an amendment to the Conduct Policy, and Council would like to bring back into the document some language that had been removed during the legal review. Council would also like to bring Kellen on to provide for ombuds services and to provide this service to chapters.

MOTION: to accept the track change edits in the Conduct Policy as included in this document below.

MOTION: to approve a contract with Kellen for ombuds services for case-by-case work on complaints and potential violations to the Conduct Policy at a rate of \$200 per hour.

MOTION: to approve that Kellen Ombuds services will be also available to AAPOR chapters for any potential misconduct issues by one of their members. However, associated fees will be covered by AAPOR chapters.

MOTION: to accept the three above motions together in one vote. Committee Motion, no need for a second. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

ACTION: MCR to speak with the Chapter leaders and have a meeting to solicit feedback about the policy during the comment period.

ACTION: Standards Committee to share the timeline via email with Council.

XIV. COUNCIL TRANSITION

Schaeffer officially passed the gavel to Merkle. Schaeffer and Merkle thanked Councilors for their service.

The meeting officially adjourned at 5:25 pm ET.