



American Association for Public Opinion Research

Executive Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2023

Executive Council:

Jennifer Agiesta	President
René Bautista	Councilor-at-Large
Paul Beatty	Past President
Jennifer Childs	Secretary-Treasurer
Aleia Clark Fobia	Communications Chair
Michael Delli Carpini	Education Chair
Bianca DiJulio	Associate Membership and Chapter Relations Chair
Ned English	Associate Standards Chair
Liz Hamel	Councilor-at-Large
Allyson Holbrook	Conference Chair
Florian Keusch	Associate Education Chair
Frauke Kreuter	Vice President
Sunghee Lee	Associate Inclusion & Equity Chair
Cameron McPhee	Standards Chair
Alisu Schoua-Glusberg	Councilor-at-Large
Rodney Terry	Inclusion and Equity Chair
Jerry Timbrook	Membership and Chapter Relations Chair
Bob Torongo	Associate Communications Chair
Gina Walejko	Associate Conference Chair

Staff:

Tristanne Staudt	Executive Director
Lailah Johnson	Program Manager
Leon Spinner	Membership Manager
Jackie Weisman	Marketing and Communications Director
Ryan Green	Education Manager

I. Welcome, Call to Order, Review and Approval of October Minutes (A/R) –Agiesta

Agiesta called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm EST.

Agiesta welcomed the Council and opened the session by reminding everyone that the meeting will follow Robert’s Rules of Order. Also keep in mind AAPOR’S IEC goals during the meeting.

Agiesta presented minutes from the October meeting.

MOTION: by McPhee, seconded by Delli Carpini to approve the minutes from the October 2023 Executive Council meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

II. Consent Agendas (A/R) – All

Agiesta asked if any of the items from the consent agenda needed to be pulled out for further discussion. Timbrook reminded Council that the MCR report reflects 2023 membership numbers, not new membership for 2024.

Hearing none, Agiesta asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

MOTION: by Schoua-Glusberg, seconded by Terry to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

III. Appointments (A/R) – All

AAPOR Award Committee

Agiesta presented five nominees recruited across race, age, gender and sector.

MOTION: by Holbrook, seconded by Beatty to approve the nominees. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Policy Impact Award Committee

Schoua-Glusberg presented three renewed nominees and three new nominees recruited across race, age, gender and sector.

MOTION: by Hamel, seconded by Timbrook to approve the nominees. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mitofsky Innovator Award Committee

Hamel presented two new nominees recruited across race, age, gender and sector. There are many long-term standing members, who need to implement rotation/term limits.

MOTION: by DiJulio, seconded by Delli Carpini to approve the nominees. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AAPOR Book Award Committee

Bautista presented four new nominees and two renewed nominees recruited across race, age, gender and sector. A question was raised about whether a person can serve on multiple awards committees - one nominee (from the IEC subcommittee) was placed on two committees. Because she is representing IEC, it was determined ok.

MOTION: by Hamel, seconded by McPhee to approve the nominees. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Conference

Holbrook presented three nominees for the Program subcommittee recruited to reflect racial and affiliation diversity.

MOTION: by Schoua-Glusberg, seconded by Keusch to approve the nominees for Conference subcommittee. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Nominations Committee

Beatty presented five new nominees recruited across race, age, gender and sector.

MOTION: by Bautista, seconded by Delli Carpini to approve the nominees. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

iv. Presidents Report - Agiesta

Agiesta reported that the Strategic Planning committee has held successful initial meetings, and planning is underway for the three surveys that will underpin the early stages of development of the new plan. Surveys will be conducted among current members, former members, and people in our field who have not been members of AAPOR to gauge the priorities and needs of each of these groups and get a better sense of how AAPOR could be helpful to its professional community. Planning is underway for the committee to have a retreat early next year, and Agiesta looks forward to hearing the group's vision for AAPOR's future.

v. Executive Director's report (I/O) - Staudt

****Membership & Chapter Relations****

The 2024 Membership Drive has been ongoing for just over a month, resulting in nearly 200 renewals and the addition of several new members. All new members will now receive automatic onboarding messages starting a few weeks after joining, continuing for their initial months of membership. Each message will highlight a different membership benefit, ensuring that AAPOR remains at the forefront of new members' minds and providing guidance on the best ways to get involved in the organization. For additional details, please refer to the Membership & Chapter Relations (MCR) consent report.

****Conference****

The abstract submission period is in its last week, with the deadline set for this Wednesday. As of Friday, November 10th, we are on track compared to last year. A productive site visit to Atlanta allowed for several room changes to enhance the event's flow. Combined with the new schedule, these modifications are expected to contribute to a stronger and more engaged conference experience. Further insights can be found in the Conferences consent report.

****Financials****

Anticipated to conclude 2023 with a slight surplus, our cash levels are lower than recommended best practices (three months). With substantial payments due in the period between now and spring, including conference deposits (AV, hotel, badges, and mobile app), journal editorial expenses, and chapter dues, the accountant and Staudt recommended a \$300k withdrawal from reserves to manage these obligations. For more detailed financial information, please consult the Financials report.

VI. Secretary/Treasurer report (I/O) - Childs

Please refer to the detailed financial reports for September and October for a comprehensive overview.

It's noted that OUP (Oxford University Press) tends to make early payments in the year but also occasionally delays payments, posing challenges in monthly budgeting.

Looking ahead, there are plans to conduct a meeting with the Investments Committee in January to discuss and strategize financial matters further.

VII. Journal Update (I/O) – Delli Carpini

****JSSAM and POQ Proposals****

There are currently four applicants for JSSAM, and the deadline for POQ is in December. Nominees for both journals will be presented to the council in the new year.

****JSSAM Support****

A meeting with the American Statistical Association has been scheduled to discuss the requirements for additional support, such as a copy editor or other professional assistance for JSSAM. Updates on this matter will be shared with the Council to ensure transparency and collaboration.

VIII. Affinity Group Connection (I/O) - Timbrook

There is a concern regarding non-AAPOR members being able to maintain affiliation with Affinity Groups. The Membership & Chapter Relations (MCR) team is actively addressing this issue and is set to meet with the Inclusion and Equity Committee (IEC) Affinity Subgroup Subcommittee to discuss and determine a direction forward.

IX. Conference Updates (I/O) – Holbrook

The conference schedule has been revamped with positive initial feedback. The kickoff event is now the Presidential address. A plenary session before lunch on Friday has also been introduced. As of now, there has been no negative feedback on these changes.

A successful site visit facilitated the relocation of exhibitors to the main floor of the conference. The submissions for the conference are on track and comparable to the number received last year, indicating a positive response from the community.

Holbrook began discussions of a pre-conference “idea” group that will be more fully fleshed out in the coming months.

X. Frank Newport Proposal (I/O) – Beatty

The prototype report summarizing public opinion on a particular topic, in this case gun control, was available to Councilors prior to the meeting, along with responses prepared by Frank Newport and colleagues to address questions posed by the Council at the previous month's meeting. Beatty reminded Council that the next step discussed at the previous meeting was to seek outside feedback on the prototype. He proposed sharing the report with Dan Vergano, Senior Opinion Editor for Scientific American, who has expressed willingness to assess the prototype and to identify other appropriate journalist reviewers.

Discussion followed about the viability of producing publications of this type. Beatty clarified that the original proposal presented last year to the Publications Subcommittee involved a new journal. Last year's Council and the Publications Subcommittee did not feel it had enough information to support that, but the Council commissioned the prototype as a test of concept. Additional discussion centered on the prospective costs and commitment involved in producing such publications, and whether demand justifies those costs. However, the most immediate next steps were to vet the prototype with a variety of prospective users, potentially including journalists, congressional staff, and other users of public opinion data on gun control and gun safety.

To ensure that next steps provide useful information in understanding potential audiences, Beatty and the Councilors at Large agreed to formalize the review process, including both potential reviewers and specific questions to raise with them. Additionally, Beatty will request additional data from Newport regarding resources and level of effort required to produce the prototype.

XI. AAPORnet Future (I/O) – All

After some discussion on AAPORnet of the continued usefulness of a simple listserv as a platform, Council discussed potential paths forward. There is consideration of surveying the membership regarding the potential move to a different platform. Staff is simultaneously reviewing alternatives and related pros and cons.

XII. Standards Committee Update (I/O) - McPhee

There is an existing but dormant Standards AdHoc Committee that was originally established to address gaps related to the merging of nonsurvey data with survey data. Despite being chartered, the committee faced challenges in making progress but was also never formally disbanded.

The proposed course of action is to bring the AdHoc Committee's charge back into the Standards Committee to assess whether the need still exists. The intention is for this subcommittee to evaluate whether forming a task force to generate a comprehensive report on the subject is warranted.

The specific proposal involves presenting updated charge language and a list of potential committee members to the Council in December. It is recommended to explore potential contributors from the FCSM (Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology) conference program who might be interested in participating in this committee. This initiative aims to revisit and address the challenges associated with merging nonsurvey data and survey data within the AAPOR community.

XIII. New Business

A friendly reminder that the call for award nominations is currently underway. Noting a recent decline in nominations over the past few years, there's encouragement for Councilors to actively participate by submitting nominations and disseminating the call to ensure a robust pool of candidates for AAPOR awards.

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION: by Timbrook, seconded by McPhee to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.