

**Report of the President**  
**Art Blume**  
**June 27, 2016**

**Summary of activities: An introduction**

The EC has had an extremely busy year with numerous emergent issues to address. The EC meets as a group typically once a month on a conference call. One initiative has been to improve the transparency of our activities by posting minutes of our meetings of the web site for membership. In addition, the web site has been updated in other areas, thanks to the hard work by Wendy Peters on our behalf.

Several of our committees have been active over the past year (reports to follow on their activities). We need more volunteers to help us out on committees. A very few are carrying the water at the moment. We would very much value more participation.

**Our relationships with APA**

The second biggest challenge of my term so far has been the relationship with APA. Just after my term began, the Hoffman Report on APA's participation and collusion with torture of people by the CIA was released, resulting in a flurry of activity by the EC and serious discussions about our relationship with an organization linked to such activities. As you may remember, we had established a close working relationship with the Ethics Committee of APA and the head of the Ethics Office Stephen Behnke joined us in Logan on more than one occasion. Unfortunately, Dr. Behnke was one that was implicated in the Hoffman Report and ultimately left his position at APA. We have struggled with these changing relationships and the emotional consequences related to what has happened. On behalf of SIP, I communicated our concerns and frustrations to APA related to this situation.

An Ethics Commission was formed to evaluate the organization in the wake of the Hoffman Report. One of our members, Melinda Garcia, was nominated to participate but was not selected. I conveyed SIP's dismay to APA that Melinda was not selected, given her hard work and expertise on the commentary. There was no response to this memo from SIP.

In February, there was a critical incident involving microaggressions specifically toward Native people during the Council of Representatives (CoR) meeting that Melinda will speak about later in her report. Various forms of communication with APA through the EMPA CoR reps, the EMPA presidents (excluding ABPSI since they no longer have a rep to Council), the Alliance, CNPAAEMI, CEMA, and others have shared our frustrations about this incident and years of other incidents like this. To my knowledge, none of these expressions of concern have been responded to by the APA Board.

In summary, there has been an inordinate amount of time spent trying to challenge APA to do better as an organization.

**Fiscal concerns**

One fallout from APA's troubles has been a closer look at our own financial sovereignty as an organization. As mentioned on the list serve, we have been dependent upon grants from Division 45 and OEMA (Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs of APA) to fund certain activities. The request for changes in the due structure reflects an effort to disentangle our financial health and well-being from the financial health and well-being of Division 45 and OEMA.

**Proposal for change in dues:**

- SIP's EC has been discussing these concerns for several months, and during the last EC meeting, decided to make a recommendation to you that SIP dues be changed to the following levels:
- Undergraduate Student Annual Dues: \$5

- Graduate Student Annual Dues: \$15
- Early Career Professionals (5 years or less after graduation): \$45
- Mid or Late Career Professionals: \$55
- Retired Elders: \$30
- Institutional SIP chapter dues remain unchanged at \$500
- Suggestion was made on list serve by members to offer a lifetime membership option of \$1000

### **The Alliance**

The Alliance has been working on a number of grant related efforts but we have not participated fully due to ethical concerns. I have conveyed a sense of dismay with the current mission orientation toward grant related projects that effectively exclude our participation. The EC has struggled with our level of participation in the Alliance due to these and other issues. There is a financial expectation that we will send representatives to once a year meetings (to coincide with EMPA national meetings on a rotating basis) and to host Alliance meetings on a rotating basis. The Alliance was originally formed to have a national group at the level of President across all the organizations (including APA). CNPAAEMI is similar but meets at level of Division 45 president and OEMI and not the APA president.

### **CNPAAEMI**

Ethics monograph under the leadership of Melinda Garcia is progressing. Gayle Morse represented SIP on an ethics panel at the Teachers College Roundtable in January and Kee Straits will be representing SIP on a panel on ethics at APA later this year. The next monograph will be on alternative paradigms for psychology. I will presenting at APA in a symposium related to the paradigms project.

### **Report to Congressional Caucus**

I was invited to talk on health disparities among Native boys and men, specifically substance abuse and related consequences, in front of a U.S. House of Representatives bipartisan caucus on the health of boys and men on May 24.

### **PBS**

On behalf of SIP, I was contacted by a PBS reporter in November who wanted consultation on cultural sensitivity regarding an investigative report on suicide in Indian country. It is tentatively scheduled to be aired next year.

### **Native Sports Mascots**

SIP EC voted to sign on to an amicus brief supporting a group challenging the trademark of property for items with Native sports mascots on them. In addition, a student asked for support in January from SIP in a battle to change the school system mascot. I supported the student with our statement, and with a letter that was sent to the school board urging retirement of the mascot.

### **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

Melissa Tehee and Carolyn Barcus have produced an amazing event schedule as you have seen so far and will continue to see tomorrow. Their efforts have been phenomenal.

### **Thank you**

A big thank you all my relatives who have participated in SIP activities over the last year (list serve, web site, conference, retreat, representing SIP at other meetings or in front of other groups, SIP governance, etc.). SIP is better for what you have done. Let's keep up the good work into the next year.