

Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

2014-2015 Membership

Thomas Urban, chair (2016)

Marc E. Bobro (2017)

Robert Boyd (2016)

Bill Hartmann (2017)

A.J. Kreider (2016)

Richard Legum (2017)

Alexandra Perry (2016)

Basil Smith (2015)

Donna Werner (2015)

Kristen Zbikowski (2015)

Alexandra Bradner, *ex officio* (2018)

September 26, 2014

To: Amy Ferrer, Executive Director, APA

From: Thomas Urban, PhD – Chair, Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges Committee

RE: Annual Committee Report 2014-2015

2014-2015 marked the second year in recent memory that the Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges Committee participated with sponsored sessions at all three APA Divisional Meetings. This practice will continue in 2015-2016. 2014-2015 is also the second year that our committee is associated with both the Committee on Teaching Philosophy and the Academic Career Opportunities and Placement Committee, with our chair serving as an *ex officio* member on each committee. This dual association better reflects the concerns of our two-year college programs which are not only teaching oriented, but also subject to staffing challenges ranging from serious credentialing issues to an excessive dependence on adjunct faculty at many two-year institutions. It is our committee's hope that we will be able to partner with these other committees on initiatives that promise improvement for student success and faculty satisfaction.

As reported last year, the Two-Year College Committee voted in favor of establishing a Two-Year College Newsletter that will report on committee initiatives and feature professional articles by Philosophy faculty specific to the two-year college teaching, learning, and professional environment. It was the consensus of committee members that having a newsletter will encourage two-year college faculty across the nation to become more involved in the APA. The committee's commitment to producing a newsletter continues, however the previous planned launch date of Fall 2015 has been reset to Spring 2016 due to having too few articles submitted by the May 2015 deadline. The new deadline for article submissions is December 4, 2015. Early indications are that there will be a sufficient number of entries to launch the newsletter on the new timeline.

The following is an account of our committee's participation at the three Divisional Meetings. Committee Chair Thomas Urban wishes to express his appreciation to former chair Bill Hartmann, who stood in for him at both the Central and Pacific Division meetings.

Eastern Division – Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, December 28, 2014 – Main Program / Morning (2-Hours) 9 am to 11 am

1. APA Committee Session: How Do I Obtain and Keep a Full-Time Community College Faculty Position?

Arranged by the APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

Chair: Thomas Urban (Houston Community College)
 Speakers: A. J. Kreider (Miami-Dade Community College)
 Sarah Morales (Community College of Baltimore County)
 Richard Legum (Kingsborough Community College–City University of New York)
 Mark Thorsby (Lone Star College)

Professors A.J. Kreider and Mark Thorsby took the lead in presenting overviews of the ins and outs of obtaining a two-year/community college job to a full room of graduate students, junior faculty, and senior two-year college faculty, with Professors Sarah Morales and Richard Legum adding additional detail. The chair then added to this presentation, pointing out differences as they affect faculty at rural and small two-year and community colleges. All told, there were 11 interested APA members at this engaging session, which included both graduate students and faculty. Afterwards, the chair received additional questions via Email from both graduate students and faculty who attended, which were promptly answered.

Professor Rick Repetti (Kingsborough Community College–City University of New York), originally scheduled to speak, had to cancel at the last minute due to illness.

Following the program session, the participants met for a lunch meeting to discuss committee business, particularly the drop in the number of attendees from 2013, and the newsletter. It was thought that the drop was in part due to the scheduled time, being the first morning of the first full day of the Divisional meeting.

Central Division – St. Louis, MO

Friday, February 20, 2015 – Main Program / Afternoon (3-Hours) 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

1. APA Committee Session: How Do I Obtain and Keep a Full-Time Community College Faculty Position?

Arranged by the APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

Chair: Bill Hartmann (St. Louis Community College)
 Speakers: Kristen L. Zbikowski (Hibbing Community College)
 Donna Wenner (St. Louis Community College)
 Lisa Cagle (Washington University)
 Michael Horton (Harper College)

Saturday, February 21, 2015 – Main Program / Morning (3-Hours) 9 am to 12 Noon

2. APA Committee Session: Under What Conditions Does Adherence to Strict Faculty Credentialing Guidelines Doom a Two-Year Philosophy Program, or Will it?

Arranged by the APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

Chair: Bill Hartmann (St. Louis Community College)
 Speakers: Kristen L. Zbikowski (Hibbing Community College)
 Donna Wenner (St. Louis Community College)
 Roxanne Kurtz (University of Illinois – Springfield)

Attendance at both sessions at the Central Division was less than the committee had hoped it would be. This outcome has prompted plans to drop a second session for the March 2016 meeting in Chicago. At the same time, the discussion during the “Jobs” session was lively and those who did attend expressed their appreciation. Eileen S. Nutting, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Placement Director at the University of Kansas later wrote to Executive Director Amy Ferrer, *“I just wanted to let you know that I found one of the APA Committee Sessions at the recent Central APA extremely informative. The session was called “How do I obtain and keep a full-time community college faculty position.” The panelists explained the nuts and bolts of what these jobs are like, how to find them, how to apply for them, and how to position oneself to be a good candidate.”* Though attendance at the second session was limited to the panelists, they too found it worthwhile and informative, particularly as the topic applies to securing credentialed faculty to teach for rural and smaller two-year colleges.

A lunch meeting was held where committee members discussed current initiatives, including the newsletter.

Pacific Division – Vancouver, BC

Saturday, April 4, 2015 – Main Program / Morning (3-Hours) 9 am to 12 Noon

1. APA Committee Session: How Do I Obtain and Keep a Full-Time Community College Faculty Position?

Arranged by the APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

Chair: Bill Hartmann (St. Louis Community College)
Speakers: Sarah Morales (Community College of Baltimore County)
Marc Bobro (Santa Barbara City College)
Basil Smith (Saddleback College)
Mark Thorsby (Lone Star College)
Rick Maycock (West Los Angeles College)
Andy Wible (Muskegon Community College)

The panel discussion on jobs attracted only six attendees. However, it ran over its scheduled time of three hours to a total of six, clear evidence of the interest of those who did attend! The session was preceded by a lunch meeting of committee members to discuss both the upcoming session and other committee business.

While no placement officers attended this session, Bill Hartmann, who has been instrumental in notifying them of our committee's jobs sessions, later represented committee Chair Thomas Urban at Executive Director Ferrer's lunch meeting for chairs. During that meeting, he proposed that a list serve be established for placement officers, and that they be included in the graduate school guide.