

APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

Annual Report 2008-2009

Submitted by Gerald Mozur

The Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges had an active year. Although we did not manage a session at the Eastern meeting, we sponsored two sessions at the Pacific and two sessions at the Central divisional meetings. In addition, we expect to launch our online newsletter this September and we have made some progress on the issue of credentialing. I will explain these in order.

First, at the Pacific meeting we sponsored a session addressing online teaching entitled, "The Promise and Peril of Online Teaching." This was directed by Geoffrey Frasz. Geoffrey served as chair and presenter of the session. The second session was entitled "Experiments in Teaching Introduction to Philosophy." Geoffrey Frasz chaired this session and Ken Burak (Northampton Community College) presented his paper "How to Integrate Yoga into an Introduction to Philosophy Class: Experiments in Experiential Pedagogy." All reports were that both sessions went well, although with modest attendance.

Second, the Central Division meetings again saw us sponsoring Geoffrey's wonderful presentation on online teaching. He was joined by Brian Huschle, and Bill Hartmann. This time we titled Geoffrey's presentation as "Promises and Perils of Online Teaching." The session was sparsely attended but the interaction among those who did was excellent. Besides committee members (Tom Urban and Gerald Mozur joined in) we had enough people to fill up the small room we were assigned. This is a recurring topic that seems to fill a niche. Instructors are always interested in learning of different approaches to online courses.

The other session was a continuation of our commitment to providing accurate information about job prospects and academic life at two-year colleges. The session was entitled, "Job Applications and Academic Life at Two-Year Colleges." Gerald Mozur chaired the session with Brian Huschle, Bill Hartmann, Tom Urban, and Donna Werner making up the panel of discussants. This session drew a small crowd, but nonetheless, the quality of discussion and the direct advice we gave to specific individuals was well-worth it. The last couple of times we have offered this session we have drawn small crowds, but the good part of this is that those who do attend get some personal attention that they might not have otherwise received in a large audience. So, I think we are making a difference little by little with this sort of session. If we help one or two people to find a position and succeed at a two-year college, then that is a job well done on the part of the Committee.

Third, recently, Geoffrey Frasz has had the opportunity to put together our newsletter. It was a slow process but is now, at this writing, coming to pass. The first edition will post some articles from some of our previous divisional meetings and will invite contributions for the future. We owe a great thanks to Geoffrey for seeing this project through. We expect it to be up and running during the fall semester.

As we look ahead to the next year, we have made progress toward formulating a policy statement about credentialing of philosophy faculty at two-year schools. We are tentatively organizing a session at the Central Division meetings next year devoted to this topic and which we hope will include some accreditors or officials from such organizations. Bill Hartmann, Tom Urban, and Donna Werner have begun this work.

We welcome our new members Marc Bobro, Kevin Durand, and Robert Sutton and look forward to working with them in keeping our committee moving forward. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Geoffrey Frasz (who is rotating off) as he has been instrumental in organizing our Pacific sessions as well as been a constant presence at the Central. His work on getting the newsletter going is a good punctuation mark of the significance of his contribution. I know we have able members, but Geoffrey will be missed. Although Bill Hartmann rotates off this year, we expect him back next year. Bill continues his association with the committee and is working with us to organize the Central meeting next year. So, Bill is both on and off the committee, so to speak. Bill's work has been critical in our offering of workshops and sessions for job seekers interested in the two-year college venue. We look forward to seeing Bill next year.

Humbly submitted,

Gerald Mozur, Chair

Committee on Philosophy in Two-year Colleges

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