

APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

2009-2010 Annual Report

Submitted by Gerald Mozur, Chair

The 2009-2010 year was yet another busy one for this committee. We managed sessions at the Pacific and Central meetings, but cancelled the session for the Eastern meetings due to the personal circumstances of the presenters. Besides this ongoing work, the Committee made definite progress on the credentialing issue for two-year schools. This year brings an end to my term as Chair; Bill Hartmann (St. Louis Community College - Forest Park) assumes the position for the next three years.

Our session for the Eastern Division meeting was entitled "Careers for Philosophers at Two-Year Colleges: Panel discussion with Job Advice." We were going to present a similar program as we did at the Central meetings. This has been a reliable offering by us and we had a nice slate of members on the program: myself, Harold Weiss, Thomas Urban, and Ken Burak (who officially joins this July). However events conspired to prevent three of us from attending and so we decided, reluctantly, to cancel the program. Such a program however is one the Committee may provide again in the future. We provide a forum for graduate students and job candidates to learn about academic life at two-year colleges and get practical job advice. This service is some of the most important work the Committee has done during my six years of membership.

The session at the Pacific meeting reprised a presentation by Ken Burak on his use of yoga in Introductory Philosophy. Ken's paper, "Integrating Yoga into an Introduction to Philosophy Class: Experiments in Experiential Pedagogy," was well-received by the fifteen participants. Committee member Marc Bobro chaired the session. We should recognize that this session was held off-site out of respect for the hotel worker's grievances. The change of venue probably kept some from attending as it was some distance from the official conference hotel.

The Central Division meeting saw our first formal discussion of the credential issue. Our session, "Credentials, Qualifications, and Instruction in Two-Year Colleges," was chaired by Bill Hartmann and involved Thomas Urban, Brian Huschle, Kevin Durand, and Nanchi Umennachi (who officially joins this July). As usual, it was a smallish group as we had about fifteen participants, but the discussion was lively and we certainly used all the time allotted to us. When we adjourned, we proceeded to lunch and extended the conversations further. We were appreciative of Executive Director, David Schrader, joining us. The Committee began this tradition a number of years back and it is one of our more important functions. Since most communication is done long-distance via internet, it is important to maximize face-to-face interactions when we can. This lunch gathering is an ideal context for members to get to know each other.

The major project the Committee intends to complete is a policy statement on credentials for faculty at two-year colleges. We progressed quite a bit with the Central Division sessions. Bill Hartmann, the incoming Chair, and Thomas Urban have taken the lead on this. I would expect that this will come to fruition in due time.

We want to welcome our new members Ken Burak, Brian Huschle, and Nnachi Umennachi, whose terms begin this July. Brian actually re-joins the Committee after having served previously. We want to thank Kerry Stewart for this good service as he steps off the Committee this year, and I want to extend my thanks to all who have served with me on the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Chair and it has been a rewarding experience for me, and although I will be formally off the Committee, I expect to stay in touch and be in attendance at divisional meetings. I would like to suggest, also, to anyone reading this who is at a two-year college and is interested in what support the APA can provide, that you should simply nominate yourself for the Committee. Our strength remains, obviously, in our membership and we need to sustain a strong pool of new members to keep our momentum going forward.

Again, I am grateful to have served as Chair and now officially pass the torch.

Humbly Submitted,

Gerald Mozur, Chair (2007-2010)

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