



American  
Philosophical  
Association

# Committee Member Guidelines

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# Introduction

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The American Philosophical Association highly values those who serve the association and the profession as members of APA committees. Committee service is an opportunity for leadership in the association and the profession, and enables the association to better serve its members and the philosophical community. The APA is grateful to those willing to take on these important roles.

By accepting an appointment to serve on a committee of the American Philosophical Association, members make a commitment to the association, the committee, and the APA membership to be an active and engaged committee member and to ensure that the business of the committee is conducted with integrity.

In addition, committee members are expected to comply with the following policies during the term of committee service:

- **APA Membership:** Committee members must pay the appropriate membership dues to the American Philosophical Association for each year of the appointed committee term, in full and on time. (In rare special cases, this requirement may be waived by the executive director and chair of the board of officers.)
- **Participation and Attendance:** Each committee member is expected to fully understand and engage in the activities and responsibilities of the committee. By agreeing to serve on a committee, members commit to making a good faith effort to attend all committee meetings, whether conducted in person, by phone, or by electronic means.
- **Communications:** Each committee member is expected to respond to committee-related phone calls and emails in a timely manner.
- **Confidentiality:** Committee members are often privy to information that is deemed confidential to protect the integrity of the committee's and APA's operations, including but not limited to prize and paper submissions and selection processes. Access to information as required by law notwithstanding, it is a duty of all committee members to honor the confidentiality of such information. If deemed necessary by the board of officers, committee members may be required to sign a confidentiality agreement annually signifying understanding of and agreement with this condition of committee service.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Committee members are expected to abide by codes of professional ethics in disclosing any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest and, as appropriate, recuse themselves from committee deliberations and votes based on such conflicts. If deemed necessary by the board of officers, committee members may be required to sign a conflict of interest statement annually.

# Committee Information

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## Funding

The APA allots \$10,000 in total funding for committee activities each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Committees may request disbursements from the \$10,000 funding pool; these requests are reviewed and either approved or denied by the executive director.

Disbursement requests for expenses associated with activities at divisional meetings (audiovisual expenses, registration for invited speakers, etc.) up to \$500 per fiscal year per committee will normally be approved. Disbursement requests above this limit or for other activities will be approved or declined based on funding availability. Committees should request pre-approval for expenses whenever possible, as funding cannot be guaranteed. **Pre-approval for meeting-related audiovisual expenses is required; audiovisual support not authorized by the executive director in advance will not be provided.**

Committees may also request disbursements for activities from other APA funding pools: the fund for diversity and inclusiveness, the teaching fund, the fund for assistance to overseas philosophers, and the Berry Fund, which funds public philosophy efforts.

Disbursement requests must be made by the committee chair to the executive director.

## Committee Leadership Selection Procedure

### Standard Selection Process

The APA leadership nominations process allows self-nominations, nominations from any member, and nominations specifically from committees. Nominations from committees should be submitted by the chair of the committee (or the chair's designate) and indicate in the nominator statement (a) that the nomination is on behalf of the committee, and (b) the committee's reasons for supporting the nominee.

All committees are invited to nominate new members for their committees, and to solicit nominations from their networks and constituencies. In particular, committees are strongly encouraged to submit at least three nominations for an associate chair vacancy.

All committee nominations must be submitted through the APA leadership nominations system, which ensures that candidates are APA members, that they have accepted their nominations, and that they have submitted materials in support of their nominations: a brief CV (required) and nominee statement (optional but strongly encouraged).

After the nominations period closes, APA staff provides all associate chair nominations materials to the relevant committees. The committees are invited to submit a ranked list of three finalists to the committee on committees. If there are three or fewer nominees for a particular chair or associate chair vacancy, the list of finalists for that position should rank all nominees. A deadline for submitting a list of finalists will be specified.

If a committee provides a list of finalists for associate chair, the committee on committees will choose one of those finalists to be recommended for appointment by the board. The board will either approve the committee on committee's recommendation for associate chair or appoint another of the relevant committee's selected finalists.

If a committee does not provide a list of three finalists by the specified deadline, the committee on committees will select the candidate to be recommended to the board.

### Mid-Term Selection Process

If a committee chair or associate chair resigns or is removed from service during her or his term, it is the responsibility of the chair of the board to appoint a replacement. Depending on the urgency of identifying a replacement chair or associate chair, the chair of the board may opt to use the standard selection process outlined above or an abbreviated process determined by the chair of the board. Whatever process the chair of the board determines is appropriate, it should include an opportunity for input from the current members of the committee.

### Committee Member Appointment Process

Each year, the committee nominations are opened in the fall, normally with a deadline of October 31, for terms beginning July 1 of the following calendar year (nominations made in fall 2017 are for appointments beginning July 1, 2018).

After the nomination process closes, the nominations—including all submitted supporting materials—are reviewed by the committee on committees, composed of four members of the APA's board of officers: the three divisional representatives and the executive director.

The list of committee nominees is available only to the board of officers; names of nominees for a particular committee are not shared with the current chair or members of that committee. However, current committee members and chairs are encouraged to submit nominations for committee service and are welcome to offer statements of support for particular nominees. The committee on committees will take this information into account when recommending appointments.

The committee on committees presents a slate of recommended committee appointments at the winter meeting of the APA board of officers, at which time the board reviews the slate, makes any changes it sees fit, and officially appoints the selected nominees to committee service.

The board reserves the right to add members to committees, to subtract members by failing to replace members whose terms expire, or to appoint members for special terms of less than three years or of more than three but no more than four years if such modification will serve the interests of the association. The board also holds the authority to establish new committees or disband existing non-standing committees in accordance with the bylaws of the association.

### Committee Membership Changes

Outside of the regular committee appointments process, only the chair of the board of officers may make changes to committee membership. The chair of the board (in consultation with members of the board of officers, committee members, and other members of the association, as appropriate) has the authority to appoint new committee members, chairs, and associate chairs. This authority is mainly used to fill unexpected vacancies that would hinder a committee's ability to function if they were to remain until the next standard committee appointment cycle. In certain cases, the chair of the board of officers may also remove committee members from service.

**Note:** Though committee page administrators have the ability to add or remove members from the group listing on the website, the power to make and adjust committee appointments lies with the board of

officers. Adding or removing a committee member from the group listing on the website does not change the official membership of the committee. Should the national office discover that committee membership listings on the website are inconsistent with the official committee membership, those inconsistencies will be corrected so that the website reflects the official committee membership.

## Association Membership Policy

It is the APA's longstanding policy that only APA members in good standing are eligible to serve on committees. The board of officers clarified this policy at its 2012 meeting, as follows:

As only APA members in good standing are eligible to serve on APA committees, all committee members are expected to pay APA membership dues in full and on time for each membership year in which they serve on an APA committee. The APA board of officers reserves the right to remove from committee service any member of a committee who has not paid her or his APA membership dues for the current membership year by the time of the board's annual meeting, generally held in early November.

## Committee Sessions at Divisional Meetings

Committees have the right to request a limited number of committee-sponsored sessions on the programs of the three divisional meetings (normally two sessions per meeting maximum). During the meeting planning process, divisional secretary-treasurers contact committee chairs to invite committee sessions. All questions and requests regarding committee sessions should be directed to the appropriate secretary-treasurer.

**Audiovisual support requests for committee sessions must be approved by the executive director in advance.**

## Committee Websites

All committees are provided pages on the APA website. Committees are responsible for updating and maintaining the content of those pages, though the national office can provide limited assistance. By default, committee chairs are assigned administrative privileges for their committees; committee chairs wishing to designate a different administrator should contact the APA's administrative coordinator, Linda Nuoffer ([lnuoffer@udel.edu](mailto:lnuoffer@udel.edu)). Some committees choose to maintain independent websites, though these are in addition to—not instead of—the pages on the APA website.

# Committee Summaries

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The APA has six standing committees (specified in the bylaws) and 14 other committees (created by the board). Committee members are nominated by APA members, selected by the committee on committees, and approved by a vote of the board of officers.

The committee on committees comprises the divisional representatives and the executive director. It is chaired by the most senior divisional representative.

Note that associate chair positions function differently than other committee positions. An associate chair serves in addition to the normal committee membership for the final year of a committee chair's term, after which the associate chair automatically ascends to the committee chair position for a three-year term.

## Standing Committees

### Academic Career Opportunities and Placement

#### Membership

One chair, nine members, and two *ex officio* members: the chairs of the Committee on Non-Academic Careers and the Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges. One member of this committee serves as a liaison to the committee on philosophy in two-year colleges.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

David Chan, chair (2020)

Sam Cowling (2018)

Susan Dieleman (2018)

Miriam Solomon (2018)

Adrian Bardon (2019)

Carolyn Dicey Jennings (2019)

Janet Stemwedel (2019)

Victor Kumar (2020)

Ileana Szymanski, liaison (2020)

Shay Welch (2020)

Amelie Rorty, Committee on Non-Academic Careers, *ex officio* (2018)

Richard Legum, Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges, *ex officio* (2019)

#### Charge

The committee's responsibility embraces all activities of the association relating to the enhancement of academic career opportunities for philosophers, and placement. It works to facilitate the entry of philosophers into appropriate careers in teaching, research, and other work; it informs the board of current employment prospects and opportunities for philosophers; and it supervises employment services offered by the association to its members.

### Inclusiveness in the Profession

#### Membership

One chair, three members, a disability representative, and six *ex officio* members: the chairs of the diversity committees (Committee on the Status of Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies,

Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, Committee on Hispanics, Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophers, Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession, and the Committee on the Status of Women).

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Kenneth Taylor, chair (2019)

Wiebke Deimling, disability representative (2020)

Sally Haslanger (2018)

Michelle Mason (2019)

Noell Birondo (2020)

Brian J. Bruya, Committee on Asian & Asian-American Philosophers & Philosophies, ex officio (2020)

Robert K. Garcia, Committee on Hispanics, ex officio (2020)

Lori J. Underwood, Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophers, ex officio (2020)

Asta K. Sveinsdottir, Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession, ex officio (2018)

Julie Maybee, Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, ex officio (2019)

Charlotte Witt, Committee on the Status of Women, ex officio (2019)

#### **Charge**

The committee is charged with increasing the inclusiveness of the profession. It is responsible for assessing and reporting on the status of underrepresented groups in the profession; advising the board and members of the association of ways in which inclusiveness can be increased; developing and carrying out its own projects to promote inclusiveness; and working in conjunction with the diversity committees.

#### **International Cooperation**

##### **Membership**

One chair and nine members.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Peter Graham, chair (2019)

Sergio Tenenbaum (2018)

Dorit Bar-On (2018)

Edouard Machery (2018)

Juliet Floyd (2019)

Stephen Gardiner (2019)

Marie-Eve Morin (2019)

Esa Diaz-Leon (2020)

Adam Hosein (2020)

Jiewuh Song (2020)

#### **Charge**

The committee's responsibility is to supervise the international activities of the association. Among its tasks are planning for international conferences, publicizing philosophical activity abroad, facilitating the exchange of information and research between American philosophers and those in other countries, providing support and assistance to philosophers subjected to unfair treatment in other countries, and assisting philosophical organizations abroad.

This committee is also responsible for selecting the winner of the [Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship](#) for the support and dissemination of research in the field of ethics.

The chair of the committee on international cooperation is the APA representative to the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network.

## Lectures, Publications, and Research

### Membership

One chair and fifteen members.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Sven Bernecker, chair (2020)

Elisabeth Camp (2018)

Hilary Kornblith (2018)

William Lycan (2018)

Jennifer Nagel (2018)

Edouard Machery (2018)

Holly Anderson (2019)

Sara Bernstein (2019)

Dominic McIver Lopes (2019)

David Sosa (2019)

Shannon Spaulding (2019)

Peter Baumann (2020)

Julia Driver (2020)

Michael Pendlebury (2020)

Samuel Rickless (2020)

Aaron Zimmerman (2020)

### Charge

The committee oversees the publications of the association and any special lectureships, prizes, and other awards granted by the association; supervises programs intended to support and improve research in philosophy; supervises regular and special publications of the APA; and oversees any research programs of the association. *Ad hoc* subcommittees are normally established to select the recipient of each lectureship or prize. The committee also makes recommendations to the board about new APA prizes.

## Status and Future of the Profession

### Membership

One chair, six members, and five *ex officio* members: the chairs of the five other standing committees.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Sally Scholz, chair (2018)

Jennifer Lackey, associate chair (2018; chair 2018–2021)

Luvell Anderson Jr. (2018)

Eric Schwitzgebel (2018)

Amy Berg (2019)

Sarah Donovan (2019)

Stewart Duncan (2020)

Tiger Roholt (2020)

Krista Lawlor, Committee on Academic Career Opportunities and Placement, ex officio (2017)

Kenneth Taylor, Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession, ex officio (2019)

Peter Graham, Committee on International Cooperation, ex officio (2019)

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Committee on Lectures, Publications, and Research, ex officio (2017)

Alexandra Bradner, Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy, ex officio (2018)

### Charge

The committee is charged with studying and making recommendations to the board of officers concerning trends in graduate and undergraduate education in philosophy and conditions relevant to the employment of philosophers in academic and non-academic work. To this end the committee conducts periodic surveys of philosophers and philosophy departments and monitors changes in higher education in the humanities as reported by the learned societies and by government agencies, working closely with other APA committees when appropriate.

## Teaching of Philosophy

### Membership

One chair, six members, and four *ex officio* members: the chairs of the Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy and the Committee on Teaching Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges, as well as the editors of the *Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* and the president of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Alexandra Bradner, chair (2018)

David Concepcion, associate chair (2018; chair 2018–2021)

Michelle Saint (2018)

Robin Zebrowski (2018)

Zachary Barnett (2019)

Mark Jensen (2019)

Ruth Boeker (2020)

Ian Smith (2020)

Sara Goering, Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy, ex officio (2018)

Richard Legum, Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges, ex officio (2019)

Andrew Carpenter, President of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, ex officio

Tziporah Kasachkoff, newsletter editor, ex officio

Eugene Kelly, newsletter editor, ex officio

### Charge

The committee is charged with assessing trends and needs in the teaching of philosophy and making recommendations for action by the board. It sponsors sessions on the teaching of philosophy at divisional meetings, responds to requests from members and others regarding teaching, and undertakes programs for the improvement of teaching. At the direction of the board, it prepares statements for board approval regarding instruction in philosophy.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy\*](#).

## Other Committees

### Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies

#### Membership

One chair, six members, and one or two ex officio members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Brian Bruya, chair (2020)  
Manyul Im (2018)  
Ethan Mills (2018)  
Jason Chen (2019)  
Hanti Lin (2019)  
Julianne Chung (2020)  
Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (2020)  
Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay, newsletter editor  
Jay Garfield, newsletter editor

#### Charge

The committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of Asians and Asian Americans in the profession. Among its responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices and to advise the board and the members of the association of ways in which they may be rectified; to study and propose ways of encouraging and helping Asians and Asian Americans enter the profession; to promote the interaction between Asian and Western philosophical traditions and to help draw out their mutual relevance. The committee seeks to advance teaching and study of Asian and comparative philosophy. It sponsors sessions on Asian philosophy, comparative philosophy, and other relevant topics at Divisional meetings.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies\*](#).

### Defense of Professional Rights of Philosophers

#### Membership

One chair, six members, and three *ex officio* members: the three divisional representatives. The ombudsperson for nondiscrimination is not a member of the committee, but is included in committee discussions and deliberations regarding cases that involve discrimination.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Scott Anderson, chair (2020)  
Heimir Geirsson (2018)  
Connie Rosati (2018)  
Marcy Lascano (2019)  
Timothy C. Shiell (2019)  
Ann Garry (2020)  
Mark Pickering (2020)  
Andrea Westlund, Central Division Representative, ex officio (2018)  
Jennifer Whiting, Eastern Division Representative, ex officio (2019)  
Janet Stemwedel, Pacific Division Representative, ex officio (2020)

## Charge

The committee acts for the association in advising and assisting members who complain of violations of their or others' professional rights, attempting when possible to resolve the issues that give rise to such complaints. The committee bases its judgment and its actions on general principles of the professional rights of scholars and teachers, which have been articulated in the *1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* of the American Association of University Professors, pertinent resolutions and statements of the association, and precedents set by the committee in previous cases. Inquiries will be conducted when feasible and appropriate, and the committee may recommend to the board that an institution be placed under censure by the association for serious and continuing violations of professional rights.

## Hispanics

### Membership

One chair, nine members, and one or two *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Robert Garcia, chair (2020)

Cynthia Paccacerqua (2018)

Robert Sanchez Jr. (2018)

Kim Diaz (2018)

Juan Colomina (2019)

Ana Diaz (2019)

Lori Gallegos de Castillo (2019)

Francisco Gallegos (2020)

Marta Jimenez (2020)

Sebastian Purcell (2020)

Carlos Alberto Sánchez, newsletter editor, *ex officio*

## Charge

The committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of Hispanics and Latinos/as in the profession. Among its responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices affecting Hispanic or Latino/a philosophers in their professional work and to apprise the board and the members of the association of ways in which they may be rectified; to advise Hispanic and Latino/a philosophers concerning means of overcoming discrimination that they may encounter; and to make reports and recommendations to the board concerning ways in which full and meaningful equality of opportunity can be provided to all individuals who seek to study, teach, or conduct research in philosophy. The committee is also concerned with teaching and research. It seeks to facilitate an understanding of issues of cultural diversity, identity, and difference and of the range of contributions to philosophy offered by Hispanics. The committee compiles a list of Hispanics and Latinos/as in philosophy.

This committee is also responsible for the annual selection of the winner of the Essay Prize in Latin American Thought for the best unpublished, English-language, philosophical essay in Latin American thought.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy\*](#).

## LGBTQ People in the Profession

### Membership

One chair, six members, and one or two *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and LGBTQ Issues in Philosophy*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Asta Sveinsdottir, chair (2018)  
Perry Zurn, associate chair (2018; chair 2018–2021)  
Mary K. Bloodsworth-Lugo (2018)  
Kenny Easwaran (2018)  
Jose Medina (2019)  
Susanne Sreedhar (2019)  
Kyle Adams (2020)  
Saray Ayala (2020)  
Kory Schaff, newsletter editor, *ex officio*

### Charge

The committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and genderqueer (LGBTQ) people in the profession. Its main responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices affecting LGBTQ philosophers in their professional work and to apprise the board and members of the association of ways in which such practices may be rectified; to inform LGBTQ philosophers concerning means of overcoming discrimination that they may encounter in the profession; and to make reports and recommendations to the board concerning ways in which full and meaningful equality of opportunity can be provided to all individuals who seek to study, teach, or conduct research in philosophy. The committee is also concerned with teaching and research. It seeks to facilitate an understanding of, and investigation into, issues of sexuality, diversity in affectional preference or orientation, sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, and the range of positions represented in theories about LGBTQ people.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on LGBTQ Issues in Philosophy\*](#).

## Native American and Indigenous Philosophers

### Membership

One chair, six members, and one or two *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Indigenous Philosophers*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Lori Underwood, chair (2020)  
Scott Pratt (2018)  
Andrew Smith (2018)  
Brian Burkhart (2019)  
Anne Waters, newsletter editor (2019)  
Robert Figueroa (2020)  
James Maffie (2020)  
Shawn Burns, newsletter editor  
Agnes B. Curry, newsletter editor  
Shay Welch, newsletter editor

## Charge

The committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of indigenous people in the profession and with exploring the sources and supporting the development of indigenous philosophy. Among its main responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices affecting indigenous philosophers in their professional work and to apprise the board and members of the association of ways in which such practices may be rectified; to inform indigenous philosophers concerning means of overcoming discrimination that they may encounter in the profession; and to make reports and recommendations to the board concerning ways in which full and meaningful equality of opportunity can be provided to all individuals who seek to study, teach or conduct research in philosophy. Further, the committee is concerned with the teaching and research of indigenous philosophers and those interested in indigenous philosophy. It seeks to facilitate philosophical understanding of tribal identity and diversity and of different views of indigenous cultures and traditions.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Indigenous Philosophers\*](#)

## Non-Academic Careers

### Membership

One chair and six members.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Amelie O. Rorty, chair (2018)

Stephen Martin, associate chair (2018; chair 2018–2021)

Aine Donovan (2018)

Jennifer Faust (2018)

Jeremy Lent (2019)

Eleni Manis (2019)

James Bruce (2020)

E. Alex Howe (2020)

## Charge

The committee's responsibility embraces all activities of the association relating to the enhancement of non-academic career opportunities for philosophers. The committee supervises programs related to employment opportunities in business, government, and other non-academic areas.

## Philosophy and Computers

### Membership

One chair, six members, and one or two *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and Computers*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Marcello Guarini, chair (2019)

Fritz McDonald (2018)

Gualtiero Piccinini (2018)

Gary Mar (2019)

Dylan Wittkower (2019)

Robin Smith (2020)

Susan Sterrett (2020)

Peter Boltuc, newsletter editor, ex officio  
John Paul Sullins III, newsletter editor, ex officio

### Charge

The committee (created by the board in 1985) collects and disseminates information on the use of computers in the profession, including their use in instruction, research, writing, and publication, and it makes recommendations for appropriate actions of the board or programs of the association.

In addition, this committee awards the Barwise Prize, which is given on a yearly basis for significant and sustained contributions to areas relevant to philosophy and computing.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Philosophy and Computers\*](#).

## Philosophy and Law

### Membership

One chair, six members, and one or two *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and Law*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Matthew Lister, chair (2018)  
Robert Hughes, associate chair (2018; chair 2018–2021)  
Derrick Darby (2018)  
David Wasserman (2018)  
Luis Duarte D'Almeida (2019)  
Anthony Reeves (2019)  
Craig Agule (2020)  
Colleen Murphy (2020)  
*vacant*, newsletter editor

### Charge

The committee monitors and evaluates the relationship between the study of philosophy and the study and practice of law. Among its activities are the publication of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and Law*, periodic surveys of the teaching of philosophical topics in law schools and in undergraduate and graduate courses and programs in philosophy and law, and efforts to advance teaching and study of the philosophical topics in law. The committee administers the selection of the Fred Berger Prize.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Philosophy and Law\*](#).

## Philosophy and Medicine

### Membership

One chair, six members, and one or two *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and Medicine*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Jennifer Hawkins (2019)  
Sarah Conly (2018)  
J. Kelleher (2018)  
S. Matthew Liao (2019)

Kristin Voigt (2019)  
Anna Gotlib (2020)  
Laura Specker Sullivan (2020)  
Mary Rorty, newsletter editor, ex officio  
Mark Sheldon, newsletter editor, ex officio

### Charge

The committee monitors and evaluates the relationship between the study of philosophy and the study and practice of medicine. Among its activities are the publication of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and Medicine*, the sponsoring of panels at each of the divisional meetings, the provision of web links and other resources describing programs in bioethics and/or philosophy and medicine, and efforts to advance teaching and study of philosophical topics in medicine.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Philosophy and Medicine\*](#).

## Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges

### Membership

One chair, nine members, and one *ex officio* member: the chair of the Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy. One member of the committee on academic career opportunities and placement serves as a liaison to this committee.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Richard Legum, chair (2019)  
Ari Krupnik (2018)  
Basil Smith (2018)  
Andrew Wible (2018)  
William Behun (2019)  
Mark Sadler (2019)  
Kerry Ybarra (2019)  
Bill Hartmann (2020)  
A.J. Kreider (2020)  
Ileana Szymanski, liaison (2020)  
Heather Wilburn (2020)  
Alexandra Bradner, Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy, ex officio (2018)

### Charge

The committee oversees activities of the association related to the teaching of philosophy at two-year and junior colleges and initiates efforts to encourage and improve teaching in such institutions. It prepares periodic reports to the board and to the members of the association. The committee seeks to encourage cooperation between philosophers, other teachers in the humanities, and administrators in planning and evaluating instructional programs and in identifying appropriate qualifications for teaching philosophy in two-year institutions, while at the same time advising graduate departments of philosophy concerning ways of preparing philosophers to teach most effectively in a junior college setting.

## Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy

### Membership

One chair and six members.

### *2017–2018 Membership*

Sara L. Goering, chair (2018)  
Wendy Turgeon, associate chair (2018; chair 2018–2021)  
Kristopher Phillips (2018)  
Kyle Robertson (2018)  
Natalie Fletcher (2019)  
Steven Schwartzner (2019)  
Marisol Brito (2020)  
Amy Reed-Sandoval (2020)

### **Charge**

The committee oversees activities of the association related to the teaching of philosophy at the pre-college level and initiates efforts to encourage and improve teaching at this level. It prepares periodic reports to the members of the association and facilitates cooperation between philosophers, teachers, and educational administrators in planning and evaluating instructional programs and requirements for the training and certification of teachers in areas relating to philosophy. The committee also collects and disseminates information on existing programs and instructional materials.

### **Public Philosophy**

#### **Membership**

One chair and nine members.

### *2017–2018 Membership*

Jason Stanley, chair (2020)  
Sarah-Jane Leslie (2018)  
Jason Stanley (2018)  
Justin Weinberg (2018)  
Lori Gruen (2019)  
Paul Henne (2019)  
Gordon Marino (2019)  
Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves (2020)  
John Corvino (2020)  
Rebecca Kukla (2020)

### **Charge**

On the belief that the broader presence of philosophy in public life is important both to our society and to our profession, the basic charge of the committee will be to find and create opportunities to demonstrate the personal value and social usefulness of philosophy.

The work of this committee, which will be coordinated wherever possible with the work of the other APA committees, is expected to include the following kinds of activities:

1. Organize and support programs that demonstrate the personal value and social usefulness of philosophy, such as suitable lecture series, and radio and television appearances by philosophers.
2. Organize and support programs that bring public attention to philosophy and philosophers, such as book signings.
3. Establish ties to national and local media.

4. Prepare appropriate news releases for the divisional meetings of the APA and for other events of philosophical significance.
5. Serve as a conduit so that media and other inquiries can be channeled to appropriate individuals in the profession.
6. Create or support the creation of audio tapes and videotapes useful for calling attention to philosophy and for garnering support for philosophy.
7. Encourage APA members to engage in public debate about significant issues by such means as sponsoring op-ed essay contests.
8. Establish contact with politicians, civil servants, and opinion makers to impress upon them the full scope of the contributions philosophers can make.
9. Make common cause with ethics institutes and other organizations in promoting the engagement of philosophy with broader publics.

## Status of Black Philosophers

### Membership

One chair, nine members, and one to three *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and the Black Experience*.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Julie Maybee, chair (2019)

Rodmon King (2018)

Lucius Outlaw (2018)

Dwayne Tunstall (2018)

Myisha Cherry (2019)

Lewis Gordon (2019)

Keisha Ray (2019)

Kevin Richardson (2020)

Jeanine Schroer (2020)

Olufemi Taiwo (2020)

Stephen Ferguson, newsletter editor, *ex officio*

Dwayne Tunstall, newsletter editor, *ex officio*

### Charge

The committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of black philosophers. Among its responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices and to advise the board and the members of the association of ways in which they may be rectified; to advise black philosophers concerning means of overcoming discrimination that they may encounter; and to make reports and recommendations to the board concerning ways in which full and meaningful equality of opportunity can be provided to all individuals who seek to study, teach, or conduct research in philosophy.

In addition, this committee presents the Joyce Mitchell Cook award, recognizing a book written by a trailblazing black woman philosopher.

The committee also publishes the [\*Newsletter on Philosophy and the Black Experience\*](#).

## Status of Women

### Membership

One chair, nine members, and two or three *ex officio* members: the editor(s) of the *Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* and the director of the Site Visit Program.

#### *2017–2018 Membership*

Charlotte Witt, chair (2019)

Peter Railton (2018)

Lisa Shapiro (2018)

Yolonda Wilson (2018)

Margaret Atherton (2019)

Amy Baehr (2019)

Michael Rea (2019)

Rachel McKinnon (2020)

Julinna Oxley (2020)

Katie Stockdale (2020)

Peggy DesAutels, Site Visit Program Director, *ex officio*

Serena Parekh, newsletter editor, *ex officio*

### Charge

The committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of women in the profession. Among its responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices and to advise the board and the members of the association of ways in which they may be rectified; to advise women philosophers concerning means of overcoming discrimination and gender-specific obstacles that they may encounter; and to make reports and recommendations to the board concerning ways in which full and meaningful equality of opportunity can be provided to all individuals who seek to study, teach, or conduct research in philosophy. The committee is concerned with teaching and research. It seeks to facilitate an understanding of issues of gender and of the range of positions represented in feminist theories and publishes the [\*Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy\*](#).

# Policies

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In addition to the following, relevant policies and statements of the association may be found on the APA website: <http://www.apaonline.org/?statements>

## Policy on Public Statements & Media Appearances

This policy applies to all members of the APA board, staff, and committees (including standing and non-standing committees of the association as well as ad hoc committees and task forces created by the board of officers).

Members of the APA board, staff, and committees may from time to time be asked (or decide of their own volition) to comment publicly on issues relating, directly or indirectly, to their work with or roles within the association. Instances of public comment can include giving interviews with members of the media, signing open letters, writing blog posts, and participating in social media, among other things.

The executive director will be happy to offer guidance to members of the APA board, staff, and committees regarding media appearances, use of social media, and other public statements.

## Speaking on behalf of the APA

Only the executive director and chair of the board of officers are authorized to speak on behalf of the association. Whenever possible and appropriate, the executive director and board chair will consult with the board of officers before speaking on behalf of the organization. Any other person asked to speak on behalf of the association must refer the inquiry to the executive director.

For matters that concern the policies and operations of a division or committee, the executive director and board chair may not be the people best positioned to comment. The executive director may in such cases refer inquiries to the relevant secretary-treasurer, committee chair, or other division or committee officer as appropriate. In responding to such inquiries, those authorized to speak must exercise care to distinguish, where relevant, between divisional and committee policies and practices and those of the APA as a whole.

When making public statements or media appearances, all APA board, staff, and committee members must make clear that they do not speak on behalf of the association unless they have been authorized to do so by the board of officers, executive director, or board chair. This applies when the person commenting will be identified by her/his APA title and/or when the comment relates, directly or indirectly, to the person's work with or role within the association.

## Confidentiality

When making public comment, members of the board, staff, and committees must first and foremost respect the confidentiality of internal association matters, including deliberations, negotiations, personnel issues, and policy matters. Violations of confidentiality are strictly prohibited.

## Impartiality

Members of the board, staff, and committees should be aware that their public statements can affect the work of not only the APA as a whole but also committees or governance bodies on which they serve. Public

statements have the potential to impact one's impartiality in, for example, the review and adjudication of discrimination complaints and professional rights violations as well as deliberations for prizes and awards.

### **Positive comment**

Members of the board, staff, and committees should remember that speaking positively about the APA in public venues can be a powerful tool to support the association's mission and goals, whereas speaking negatively about the association can undermine the association's mission and make it more difficult for the association to address and correct any issues. Those who have concerns about the APA are asked to bring those concerns to the executive director, chair of the board, board of officers, or other appropriate internal party.

### **Reporting and promoting public statements and media appearances**

Members of the APA board, staff, and committees are asked to report to the executive director any media appearances or public statements they make related to their work with or role within the APA. Often, the APA will promote media appearances and public statements via the association website or social media.

### **Divisions and committees**

APA divisions and committees may have separate policies regarding who may speak on behalf of those entities. When doing so, those authorized to speak on behalf of a division or committee must make clear that they speak only for those entities and not for the whole of the association. In addition, to the extent that any statements made may have a bearing on the APA as a whole, division and committee officers are asked to report to the executive director those media appearances and public statements.

## Policies on Letters and Statements on Issues of Public Interest

Advocacy is a key part of the APA's mission, and as such from time to time the APA's board of officers releases letters on issues of public interest. These letters can be found on our [Statements, Policies, and Reports](#) page.

The following lays out the process for requesting a letter from the board of officers on an issue of public interest.

### What kinds of issues are appropriate for a board letter?

Letters from the board of officers are best suited to issues requiring a more timely response that fall into one of the following categories:

- Academic freedom
- Government funding for the humanities and higher education
- Philosophy departments threatened with closure, merger, severe funding cuts, or similar crises
- Conditions of the professional work of philosophers

Other issues of public interest, and especially issues relating to public policy, are best addressed through APA resolutions, which are voted upon by the APA membership. See the [association bylaws](#) for more detail on the resolution process.

Further, in order for a board letter to be appropriate, the following conditions must be met:

- The issue must be of clear professional interest or concern to the APA membership.
- The issue must be related to the APA's mission and/or strategic plan.
- If the issue is controversial, there must be a clear majority viewpoint of the membership on the issue (that is, the membership is not, to the best of the board's knowledge and judgment, deeply divided).
- The facts of the issue must have been sufficiently established. (The APA does not have the investigative capabilities to discover the facts independently.)
- There must be a specific audience/recipient for the letter (e.g., institutional administration, governmental body).
- Going through the longer resolution process will significantly reduce the effectiveness of an APA response.

### Who can request a board letter?

A letter from the board of officers can be requested by any APA member (including board and committee members), committee, or task force, as well as by any philosophy department (including interdisciplinary departments, regardless of the APA membership of their faculty) or learned society. In addition, any member of the board of officers (including the executive director and chair) may place a request for a board letter on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

### How do I request a board letter?

To request a board letter, submit the following information to the executive director, preferably via email to [executivedirector@apaonline.org](mailto:executivedirector@apaonline.org).

- A brief summary of the issue about which a letter is requested.

- A clear case justifying board action on the particular issue, including answers to the following questions:
  1. How/why is the issue of professional interest or concern to the APA membership? How does the issue affect the discipline and/or profession of philosophy? If the issue does not directly affect the discipline and/or profession of philosophy, how does it affect the APA's constituencies?
  2. What specific position and/or action is the board of officers requested to take on the issue? Is there evidence that this position/action will be supported by the majority of APA members?
  3. Who is the intended audience of the letter/resolution?
  4. What contribution can the APA make to the public debate about the issue? What special knowledge or perspective can philosophical inquiry offer on the issue?
  5. How is the issue related to the APA's mission and/or strategic plan?
  6. What impact is the letter intended and expected to have?
  7. Have the facts of the issue been sufficiently established? If so, what are they?
  8. What is the appropriate timeline for responding to the issue?
- Draft text for the letter from the board. (The board reserves the right to revise the provided text or draft entirely new text as it sees fit.)

### **What happens after a request has been submitted?**

Upon receipt, the executive director will share the request with the board chair and vice chair for initial review.

The executive director will research whether there have been any previous letters from the board or actions of the APA related to the issue. If so, the request will be supplemented with those materials.

If one or more APA committees or task forces have expertise related to the request, the request will be provided to them for further review and recommendation on board action. If no APA committee or task force has expertise related to the request, the chair of the board of officers will appoint a group of 3-4 people to review the request and make a recommendation on board action. The executive director, chair, and vice chair may be appointed to the review group, and in any case will serve as advisors to the review group.

For either review process, the executive director will set a deadline for completion of committee/task force review based on the urgency of the issue, the dates of upcoming board meetings, and other relevant factors.

For either review process, if the reviewing committee/group decides to recommend that the board issue a letter, it must provide a draft of that letter for board consideration (which may or may not be based on the draft provided by the requester).

Upon receipt of recommendations on board action following the review process, the executive director, chair, and vice chair will determine appropriate next steps, which will normally be one of the following:

- Placing the issue on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
- Calling a special board meeting to consider the issue.

- Drafting a letter/statement to be considered by the Committee on Public Statements, a subcommittee of the board authorized to issue letters/statements on the board's behalf in certain circumstances.
- Drafting a letter/statement that the full board will be asked to vote on without a meeting (requires unanimity).
- Declining to take board action.

The executive director will notify the person or group making the request upon the final resolution of the request and at any other points during the process that s/he deems appropriate.

The board's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

If the board declines to take action in response to the request, the executive director will provide the requester(s) with information regarding the resolution process.

**No APA division, committee, or task force, nor any individual member or non-member, may assert or imply the association's position on a policy issue or other issue of public concern except through the process described herein or through the resolution process.**

## Policies on Newsletters

### Newsletter Guidelines and Content

Given that the APA has a [statement on best practices in journal publishing](#), the board of officers directs the committees publishing newsletters to provide specific information for potential contributors, consistent with this statement, and that this information be published in each newsletter and on appropriate pages on the APA website. The precise content of that more specific information is up to the committees, working with their respective newsletter editor(s), to decide. At minimum it should include the following:

- an electronic and/or regular mail address for submissions and any relevant instructions for submissions (e.g., word count limit, number of hard copies, deadlines)
- the editor's contact information
- the kinds of submissions that are welcome
- the time frame in which submitters can normally expect a decision

Further, the board affirms that all APA newsletters must be substantially open to submissions; that is, APA newsletters may not operate on an invitation-only basis. We also encourage the committees to make transparent their policy for reviewing submissions, particularly whether there is anonymous review and who makes the decision to accept or reject a submission.

### Newsletter Editors

Committees publishing newsletters are responsible for selecting and setting the terms of service of their newsletter editor(s). If a newsletter has been without an editor for one year or more and the committee has failed to select a replacement, the chair of the board of officers may appoint a new editor.

The chairs of committees publishing newsletters are responsible for ensuring that the editorship of their respective newsletters is conducted in a professional manner consistent with policies set by the committee and the statement on best practices for journal publishing. Chairs of committees publishing newsletters may elect to serve, at their own discretion, as managing editors of their respective newsletters.



## Policies on Complaints and Sanctions

Also online at <http://www.apaonline.org/?complaints>

From time to time, members bring to the APA complaints against either institutions or individuals for violations of professional rights or professional ethics or for discrimination. These policies serve to outline the ways in which the APA handles such complaints, how the APA assists in resolving disputes informally whenever possible, and what formal sanctions may be imposed in response to complaints that cannot be otherwise resolved.

*Note: The term "complaint" herein refers only to complaints related to violations of professional rights or ethics or to discrimination, even when this is not explicitly stated.*

### I. Submitting a Complaint

Any individual may bring a complaint to the APA and ask for informal advice and help resolving it (hereafter referred to as "informal complaint"). Only APA members may request that the APA investigate a complaint in order to determine whether the institution should be sanctioned (hereafter referred to as "formal complaint").

Complaints involving professional rights violations should be directed to the committee on the defense of professional rights or ethics (via its chair), while complaints involving discrimination (including sexual harassment) should be directed to the ombudsperson for nondiscrimination. Complainants are welcome to direct complaints to both parties in cases where both discrimination and professional rights may be at issue.

In accordance with the APA's discrimination complaint procedure, following receipt of an informal complaint, the ombudsperson for nondiscrimination or chair of the committee on the defense of professional rights may provide advice or assistance in resolving the matter. If thereafter the individual feels that his/her institution has not resolved the problem to his/her satisfaction s/he may file a formal complaint.

Formal complaints regarding discrimination should follow the APA's [Discrimination Complaint Procedure](#).

Complaints submitted to other committees, committee chairs, leaders, administrators, or staff within the APA will be directed to the appropriate party or parties as outlined above. No other parties within the APA are authorized to review or take action in response to complaints.

### II. Complaint Resolution and Archiving

The committee on the defense of professional rights and the ombudsperson for nondiscrimination are the only parties authorized to bring recommendations for sanctions in response to a complaint to the APA board of officers. The board of officers makes all final decisions regarding complaint resolution and sanctions. The decisions of the board of officers are not subject to appeal.

Following the resolution of any complaint, a formal report including supporting documentation must be provided to the national office for archiving.

### **III. Anonymity of Complainants**

Any public statements related to a complaint will be anonymized to the extent reasonable: the name of the complainant will be redacted and institutional figures will be referred to by position rather than by name. Institution names will be made public, however.

### **IV. Complaints Under Review Elsewhere**

Except in very special circumstances, the APA board of officers will not act on any formal complaints regarding matters that are currently under investigation, adjudication, mediation, or litigation in another body (e.g., the court system, the AAUP, a university or department) and in no case will decide on an action of censure regarding matters that are currently under investigation, adjudication, mediation, or litigation in another body. Members are free to bring complaints to the APA for formal review after other proceedings have concluded, at which point the APA will consider appropriate sanctions.

While other proceedings are ongoing, members may make informal complaints as specified above. The ombudsperson for nondiscrimination and the chair of the committee on the defense of professional rights may offer informal counsel and support while other proceedings remain ongoing, though they may not, except in very special circumstances as noted above, bring recommendations for formal sanctions to the board until all other proceedings have concluded.

### **V. Complaints Against Institutions**

The APA allows two types of formal sanctions against institutions: censure and letter of concern. Recommendations for censure or letters of concern must be brought to the board by the committee on the defense of professional rights, or by the ombudsperson for nondiscrimination, after formal complaint review. All letters of censure or concern will be made available to the public, anonymized as described in section III above.

### **VI. Complaints Against Individuals**

The APA does not sanction individual members of the association or the profession, nor does the APA mediate disputes between members. However, certain actions may be taken in response to particular circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

- If a particular work is found through the formal process of a university or publisher to contain plagiarized material, that work is ineligible for presentation at any APA meeting.
- If an order of protection is in place against an individual who wishes to attend an APA meeting, that person may be barred from attending that particular meeting if the person holding the restraining order plans to attend that meeting and the circumstances of the meeting make it impossible or unreasonable for the order to be obeyed with both parties in attendance. Whenever possible, the person holding the restraining order should contact the APA at least one month in advance of the meeting so that all parties can be notified appropriately.