

Diversity Section Business Meeting
August 9, 2011
Denver, Colorado

Kathryn Epps, President, opened the business meeting at 7am. Approximately 70 people were in attendance. She welcomed everyone and pointed out that everyone received several handouts, including the agenda, the November 7, 2010 business meeting minutes, the financial report, officer nominations, and the midyear meeting flyer. Kathryn reviewed the agenda and recognized past presidents and current officers.

Arianna Pinello, Secretary, presented the November 7, 2010 minutes which were accepted into the records. Henock Louis, Treasurer, presented the financial report.

Mark Dawkins, Past President, announced that Ernst & Young is sponsor of this breakfast meeting. Ernst & Young is committed to diversity and very supportive of our efforts. If any schools have a need for someone to speak about diversity, Ernst & Young can do so. In appreciation of their support, Amelia Baldwin, President-Elect, presented Ernst & Young with a plaque, accepted by Mark Dawkins on behalf of Ernst & Young.

Kathryn Epps reviewed the Diversity section membership report. Currently, the section has 253 active members. There has been steady growth in our membership from 2009-2011 and there has been remarkable growth in the attendance of our midyear meeting. Compared to other sections of the AAA, we have a large percentage (approaching 20%) of members who attend the midyear meeting. Kathryn thanked everyone for their support of the section. Kathryn also recognized folks who have been promoted or tenured in the past year.

Kathryn Epps opened discussion of the section's 2010-11 activities, including the 2010 Diversity Section Conference, research initiatives, and profession diversity initiatives. Raymond Elson announced we had 18 paper submissions of which 13 or 14 were accepted. At the current year's AAA meeting, the Diversity Section has five sessions, compared to three last year. The efforts of all reviewers, moderators, and discussants are appreciated and members are encouraged to attend our session on qualitative research methods in diversity in the afternoon. Kathryn explained that we have reached out to three separate journals that will be invited to present at the 2011 Diversity Section Conference. In addition, we are going to survey doctoral institutions to find out which institutions would welcome diversity-related dissertation topics. We have also reached out to professional organizations who have requested from us a list of volunteers who would be willing to act as mentors. Kathryn invited members to sign up as mentors. Kathryn also announced that our new logo is purple and explained that the biggest change in bylaws is that the AAA has streamlined the council representatives who will now serve a three-year term. Kathryn Epps will serve as council representative for the section.

Kathryn Epps emphasized she has enjoyed serving as President and turned the meeting over to Pamela Smith, Past President & Nominations Chair.

Pamela Smith presented officer nominations. Nominated are: Ray Elson (Valdosta State University) as Vice President; Arianna Pinello (Georgia State University) as Secretary; Louis Stewart (Howard University) as Treasurer; Jan Williams (University of Baltimore) as 2012 AAA Annual Meeting Liaison; Ola Smith (Western Michigan University) as 2012 Meeting Chair; Mark Dawkins (University of Georgia) as Southeast Regional Coordinator; Jason Brown (Indiana University) as Midwest Regional Coordinator; Nicole McCoy (Louisiana Tech University) as Southwest Regional Coordinator; and Theresa Hammond (San Francisco State University) as Western Regional Coordinator. Pam asked if anyone is interested in being newsletter editor, Northeast Regional Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, or Ohio Regional Coordinator. Ena Rose-Green volunteered to be editor; Brigitte Muehlmann (Suffolk University) volunteered to be Northeast Regional Coordinator; Evelyn McDowell (Ryder University) volunteered to be Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator; Kenyal McGee (Central State University) volunteered to be Ohio Regional Coordinator; and Margaret Lightbody volunteered to be International Coordinator. Officers were elected by acclamation.

Pamela turned the meeting over to new President Amelia Baldwin. Amelia announced the 2011 Diversity Section Conference will be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on November 4-6. Submission deadline is September 5th and we are calling for papers in all areas, centered on diversity or other topics. Submissions should be sent to l.stewart@howard.edu.

Amelia recognized Kathryn for her leadership, initiative, and service as President in 2010-11 and presented her with a plaque. Amelia then presented her vision of what we want to accomplish surrounding PRIMO: Profession, Research, Instruction, Mentoring, Organization. We have dealt with profession and research. Amelia added instruction: What are we doing about diversity in the classroom? Regarding organization, we will update our website and we want to document our processes so new officers will know what to do. Amelia encouraged members to attend the midyear meeting and the diversity sessions which were on the program at the AAA.

Amelia called on the PhD Project. Tom Lopez stressed the importance of ADSA and how it provides support for our section. He encouraged folks to join the November PhD Project conference in Chicago and highlighted that for almost everyone in the room, their success has in some way been facilitated by the PhD Project.

Mark Dawkins recognized faculty members who have significant administrative positions.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in November. You can email Amelia at amelia.baldwin@uafs.edu.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50am. Pictures were taken of current and past officers, those recently promoted or tenured, and those holding chaired positions.