

American Psychology-Law Society  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, May 24, 2024 | 12pm Eastern

**Voting Members – 10/11 voting members were present.**

<u>P</u> Dan Murrie, President	<u>A</u> Virginia Barber Rioja, Member at Large
<u>P</u> Christian Meissner, President-Elect	<u>P</u> Natalie Anumba, Member at Large
<u>P</u> Barry Rosenfeld, Past President	<u>P</u> Jessica Salerno, Member at Large
<u>P</u> Lindsay Malloy, Secretary	<u>P</u> Jen Groscup, APA Council Representative
<u>P</u> Jennifer Perillo, Treasurer	<u>P</u> Margaret Bull Kovera, APA Council Representative
_____	<u>P</u> Cecilia Allan, Student Committee Chair
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**P** Present    **A** Absent

Quorum = 6 of 11  
(more than 50% of  
voting members of the  
EC, per the by laws)

**Guests/Non-Voting Members**

- Eyal Aharoni
- Ashley Batastini
- Ana Belmonte
- Christopher Bishop
- Eve Brank
- Tiffany Clomax
- Jennifer Cox
- Dave DeMatteo
- Jordan Donson
- Amanda Fanniff
- Lara Guzman-Hosta
- Emily Haney-Caron
- Lisa Kan
- Andre Kehn
- Megan Kienzle
- Lauren Kois
- Jason Lawrence
- Alicia Nijdam-Jones
- Krystia Reed
- Tara Ryan
- Meg Ternes

**Guests/Non-Voting Members from Synergos:**

- Joy DesMarais-Lanz
- Emma Paskoff
- Marcus Fierek

\*Indicates that a motion was made.

## **I. Call to Order – Welcome**

President Murrie called the meeting to order at 12:05pm Eastern.

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

\*President Murrie made a motion to approve the agenda. There were no additions. The motion passed.

## **III. Motion to Approve the Previous (March) EC Meeting Minutes**

\*President Murrie made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous EC meeting in March, 2024. There were no objections or corrections. The motion passed.

## **V. Awards proposal to increase the number of divisional awards (Meissner & Rosenfeld)**

Past President Rosenfeld talked about the efforts of Lora Levett during her presidential year to increase the awards that AP-LS gives, noting that we give fewer than many other APA divisions. He and President Elect Meissner have been working on moving Lora's initial efforts forward and increasing the number of awards that AP-LS gives. In relation to that, Corrections Committee Chair Batastini had put together a proposal for a Corrections Committee award and we are returning to that following initial discussion of it at the March 2024 meeting. Rosenfeld noted that the Corrections Committee award should be separate and distinctive from other awards given by the division and not specific to a career stage.

Batastini discussed having the Corrections Committee award focused on “significant contributions to correctional psychology” and that it would perhaps rotate, focusing on early career one year and more advanced career stages in other years. For details like honorarium, etc, the Corrections Committee is happy to go along with what is decided with the other awards.

Several members expressed confusion at this point and that they had the expectation that the Nominations and Awards committee was going to work on a general policy about awards before considering committee-specific awards (e.g., policies that made sure we had inclusive criteria for existing awards, potentially standardizing the money awarded and have it be toward conference attendance, etc).

Rosenfeld noted that the idea was to protect the premiere awards at the division level and that committee-specific awards shouldn't conflict with those awards. He does not believe that the Corrections Committee award would conflict with those awards.

Other members indicated that they would like to see the more general policy on awards in writing first so that we can vote on it before we consider field-specific awards. They also noted that the strategic planning efforts that we engage in soon as a division should give us a better idea of where our weaknesses are and having this fuller picture would help with considering committee awards.

Batistini indicated that she thought the Corrections Committee award could serve as a model for other committees who wish to bring forward awards, and that there is precedent for other committees giving out awards (e.g., Teaching and Mentoring Committee). She said that she would continue to push for a Corrections Committee award.

\*Past President Rosenfeld made a motion to approve the Corrections Committee proposed award, with the details of the award (e.g., honorarium, etc) to be worked out later. The motion did not pass.

President Elect Meissner noted that they will bring a general policy to the APA EC meeting, work with the Corrections Committee to revise their proposal in light of that policy, and that there is still potentially time to solicit nominations for that award (should it get approved) prior to the 2025 AP-LS conference.

## **VI. Treasurer's Report (Perillo)**

President Murrie thanked Treasurer Perillo for her hard work, especially in recent months.

1. Treasurer Perillo brought up the check issue that arose at our March 2024 conference, with APA only sending approximately half of the checks that needed to be distributed at the conference. She would like to encourage all committee chairs to think about whether checks related to their committee need to be distributed at the conference or whether they can be paid as direct deposits after the conference as the latter would be substantially easier and less likely to lead to errors. She mentioned that certain checks (e.g., those for students) should still be given at the conference but that we should all consider ones that can potentially wait until afterward.

2. APA sent several checks for payment without our approval and when AP-LS inquired about them, APA voided the checks. Unfortunately, this led to several people attempting to cash checks that were now canceled and thus the checks "bounced," people incurred late fees etc. At least one of the affected payees was a system-impacted individual who incurred late fees and other consequences (e.g., frozen bank account) as a result of this APA error. APA has admitted fault, and has agreed to pay the late fees associated with these canceled checks. The person responsible for the error is no longer at APA, and we are hopeful that this won't happen again in the future. Treasurer Perillo and others suggested that AP-LS should do something else to help the system-impacted individual who was affected by this error. Providing this individual with additional funds was discussed among EC members. One member suggested that it may be helpful to also provide them with a letter for their bank/creditors explaining what had happened so that it does not affect their credit going forward.

\*A motion was made that AP-LS send an apology letter with a \$500 payment to this individual and, in the event that APA does not follow through on their agreement to cover the late fees and other consequences that they experienced, AP-LS would do so even without receipts etc. based on a good faith understanding of the consequences that they experienced. The motion passed.

3. Some expenses from last year were charged to 2024. APA has admitted that this was their error, and they are working on updating our accounting records. Furthermore, we have not

received any financial records from APA past March 2024, and the records that we have received this year thus far are incorrect. Thus, Treasurer Perillo does not have final numbers related to the March conference or the first portion of 2024, and the numbers that she does have are not worth sharing due to these inaccuracies. We did go over budget at the March conference, as we have done for several years now, though how much over we won't know until the final, accurate numbers come in.

4. Some people who did not register for the conference wanted to still receive their travel awards.

\*Treasurer Perillo made a motion to change our policies for relevant funding mechanisms (e.g., travel awards, caregiving grants) to make it clear that anyone receiving a travel grant or caregiving grant to attend the conference must register and attend the conference. The motion passed.

## **VII. Inquiry regarding liaison/exchange from America Academy of Psychiatry and Law (Murrie)**

President Murrie announced that we had correspondence from the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law (APL; sort of our analog in the world of psychiatry) essentially asking about developing some sort of more formal relationship with us as an organization.

APL proposed a liaison/exchange that could take a number of different forms depending on what makes sense for us. For example, there could be a delegate in each organization that attends the other's conference and reports back as part of a formal role. There could be a conference tab associated with this – some of the proposed ideas have budget implications, whereas others do not. Other options might include waived registration booth fees for both organizations, registration swaps for the delegate of each organization, etc. The goal would be to improve communication and collaboration across our organizations.

One member suggested that a general policy is needed here because we have received several of these types of requests from organizations (e.g., SPA) but we need to think about longer term directions here and think about it more broadly. Are we privileging certain groups? Are we serving all members with such partnerships? What is AP-LS gaining? What about other organizations that many of us interact with (e.g., SPSSI)?

DesMarais-Lanz mentioned that other clients that she works with have a policy on partnerships. With their permission, she will gather these policies so that our EC can potentially use them as models for developing our own policy.

One member mentioned that we need to think through the implications of these relationships and make sure that we are not just being reactive but rather proactive. We (our mission, values, etc) should be driving these relationships and not the other way around. Currently, we are approving such relationships in a more piecemeal way and then there is precedent.

One member made a request that we think through ways to assess the effectiveness of these relationships (e.g., are they bringing folks into AP-LS?) so that we use a more data driven approach to making these decisions going forward.

\*President Elect Meissner made a motion to continue this discussion after the Governance Committee has come up with an associated policy for AP-LS, hopefully using policies received from DesMarais-Lanz as models, and to send a friendly message to APL that conveys that we are working on a general policy. The motion passed.

### **VIII. Continuing Education (CE) Chair Appointment and request for new shadow chair opportunity (Kan)**

CE Committee Chair Kan indicated that there had been no other committee members willing to take on her role as CE Chair for next year. One committee member agreed to do it if they could serve as a shadow chair for next year. Kan indicated that the financial ask is minimal. Treasurer Perillo reminded everyone that we do not do budgeting for next year until August and so any financial ask will have to come in August.

\*Kan made a motion to approve a proposal that would allow for a CE Committee Shadow Chair with the financial implications to be decided later this year. However, it was determined that Kan could proceed with this plan without a motion so it was not voted on.

### **IX. Joint video workshop with Division 18: race, ethnicity, and diversity in psychological evaluations in criminal legal settings (Murrie)**

President Murrie noted that this joint video workshop (which will happen in late June) with Division 18 on race, ethnicity, and diversity in psychological evaluations in criminal legal settings received enthusiastic support from the AP-LS EC when it was brought up in a previous meeting. However, there was a need for it to come from a specific committee and budget. President Murrie said that he could fund it with his presidential budget.

\*President Murrie made a motion to approve this video workshop using funds from his presidential budget. The motion passed.

### **X. AP-LS Conference Report (AP-LS Co-Chairs and Paskoff)**

Emma Paskoff (Mattison) reported on our 2024 conference in Los Angeles. Highlights included:

- 1252 people registered either for the conference or a pre-conference workshop, which is very similar to the 1244 total in 2023
- More than half of the people who registered for the 2024 conference were students.
- \$21,000 came from our 14 sponsors/exhibitors, which was a slight increase compared to last year
- Total conference F and B (food and beverage) came to \$107,000 with taxes and fees

Treasurer Perillo noted that our F and B requirement for AP-LS 2025 in Puerto Rico is \$175,000 so we need to spend an extra \$68,000 there compared to LA. Thus, a registration fee increase is

likely. Everyone is encouraged to think about using the conference site for any gatherings such as for their committees in order to reach that F and B minimum (e.g., the EC dinner).

## **XI. APA Conference Report (APA Co-Chairs and Paskoff)**

Andre Kehn (APA Co-Chair) shared several updates:

- Very exciting news that a Division 41 symposium at APA (Psychological Biases in the Legal System) will be on a “Feature Stage” at the conference. Saturday, 11am – 11:50am. <https://www.xcdsystem.com/apa/program/euJ3pFp/index.cfm?pgid=1287&sid=37314>
- APA has not released catering information yet.
- Early bird registration for the conference ends on May 31, 2024.
- Please fill out the survey that Mattison sent out so that they know who will be attending APA and can plan the dinner and other activities accordingly, especially as they are trying to be conscientious about budgets.
- The EC meeting will be Thursday morning, and the EC dinner will be Thursday night (August 8, 2024).
- The AP-LS Business Meeting and Social Hour will be held Friday night (August 9, 2024).

## **XII. AP-LS 2026 Site Visit to Reno**

Emma Paskoff (Mattison) and President Elect Meissner recently visited the three potential hotel sites in Reno for AP-LS 2026 (Grand Sierra, Peppermill, Atlantis).

Following the visit, the choice was narrowed down to either the Peppermill or Atlantis. Paskoff presented information about and maps of both conference sites. Key points:

- Atlantis is more spread out than Peppermill with attendees having to use a pedestrian walkway to get to plenaries, etc. In past years, attendees have complained about the conference space being too spread out (e.g., in Denver).
- The Peppermill is one giant ballroom that can be broken up into meeting rooms that seat 200 people each. All rooms seat the same number of people except the plenary room which is larger.
- Peppermill dates were March 12-14 which is more in line with when our conference is typically held; Atlantis dates were March 26-28.
- A major issue that emerged in the EC discussion is the fact that the casino floor is very separate from the conference space at the Peppermill, and this was not the case at Atlantis. Several EC members were concerned about smoke affecting people’s conference experience or precluding them from attending. One member indicated that this is a significant accessibility issue.

\*President Murrie made a motion to approve the Peppermill in Reno as our March 2026 conference site. The motion passed.

## **XIII. Strategic Planning Proposals**

Joy DesMarais-Lanz shared her screen showing the basics of the 5 proposals received for AP-LS to work with consultants to conduct our strategic planning efforts. There was significant

variability in the cost. DesMarais-Lanz and President Elect Meissner would like to go back to two of the companies (Synergos and Vista Cova) to get final, full proposals from them.

EC discussion ensued and members inquired about what the environmental scan entails and whether AP-LS could do that piece ourselves, whether some aspects are needed at all or right away (e.g., the program impact matrix could be done separately, perhaps 1 year into the strategic plan), and what exactly the retreat involves and when it might occur. (It was noted that if we have any retreat in the days leading up to the APA conference, then the APA reps would not be able to attend).

Members expressed some concern about discussing the proposals (one of them being Synergos) with Mattison members present, so Mattison members temporarily left the meeting.

Broadly, the remaining discussion focused on whether and how AP-LS would benefit from a consultant/neutral party to engage in the strategic planning efforts, how much labor we can put on our EC members for the strategic planning, and getting a more detailed idea of the scope of services offered by the outside consultants so that AP-LS can determine what we can do versus what we would want a consultant to do.

\*President Elect Meissner made a motion to approve, first, forming an internal small group to determine our needs in the strategic planning process and our abilities to meet them within the AP-LS organization, and second, to solicit full proposals from Synergos and Vista Cova. The motion passed.

#### **XIV. Announcements**

1. Results of the AP-LS elections just came out. They were very close. Randy Salekin will be the next President Elect and Caitlin Cavanagh will be the next Member at Large. Congrats!
2. Treasurer Perillo reminded all committee chairs that “official” AP-LS conference volunteers are different from volunteers that make up our committees, and the latter do not get their conference registration fees waived. We need to work on clearing up this confusion as committee chairs.
3. Emma Paskoff (Mattison) noted that there were several people who attended the March 2024 conference who did not register. This costs the organization money, and we will likely need to consider better security measures/badge checking in the future.

#### **XV. Meeting Adjourned**

President Murrie adjourned the meeting just before 3pm Eastern.