APA ITEMS OF INTEREST

The APA Council of Representatives (COR) will meet during the upcoming APA Convention in Chicago. Your AP-LS representatives are Tom Grisso and Jason Cantone. Of the more than 36 topics COR will discuss during the meeting, the below nine are likely of most interest to AP-LS members.

1. Graduate Student Voting. Council is asked to approve amendments to the APA Bylaws and Association Rules that would create a new membership category for masters and doctoral students and provide “Graduate Student” members (after a year) voting rights in the following elections: APA President-Elect, Board Member-at-Large, Bylaws, and the Apportionment Ballot (which determines how many Council representatives we get).

2. Tangentially-Related to the Hoffman Report. Council is asked to withdraw a new business item that sought to increase transparency in APA reviews and investigations. This item, introduced in 2018, appears to be a response to the Hoffman Report/Independent Review. In part, it would require all data used in an investigation/review to be immediately released upon release of the investigation/review and this would apply retroactively. Boards and committees have opposed this item, including the Committee on Legal Issues (COLI), which detailed potential ethical and legal complications. Council is also being asked to approve the withdrawal of another, related new business item, to have COLI make determinations of international law expertise regarding whether a given national security detention setting outside the U.S. and Canada is in compliance with APA policy.

3. HIV-Related Resolutions. Council is asked to approve the archiving of four resolutions related to HIV and then adopt as APA policy each of the following revised resolutions:
a) 2019 Resolution on Drug Abuse Treatment to Prevent HIV Among People Who Inject Drugs.

b) 2019 Resolution on Neuropsychological Assessment of Persons Living with HIV Infection

c) 2019 U.S.-Based Legal Liability Related to Confidentiality and the Prevention of HIV Transmission Resolution.

d) 2019 Combination Biomedical and Behavioral Approaches to Optimize HIV Prevention Resolution

4. Race and Ethnicity. Council is asked to adopt as APA policy the Race and Ethnicity Psychology Guidelines in Psychology: Promoting Responsiveness and Equity.

5. Economic Marginalization. Council is asked to adopt as APA policy the Guidelines for Psychological Practice for People with Low Income and Economic Marginalization.

6. Trauma Guidelines. The APA Division of Trauma Psychology submitted Guidelines for Psychologists Regarding the Assessment of Trauma in Adults. That Division is asking Council to adopt their guidelines as APA policy, but it is unclear if Council will take any action at the upcoming meeting, as the item notes that a revised version will be submitted to the Board of Professional Affairs for review at their November 2019 meeting.

7. More Guidelines. There is also a pending business item to establish a task force that will create guidelines on how to write guidelines. This is in addition to the current Advisory Steering Committee for Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines as well as the APA Guideline Development panels. This is as meta as it gets. Thanks for reading this far!
8. Felony Convictions/ “Ban the Box”. The APA Ethics Committee will provide information on its new pilot program for review of felony convictions of APA applicants. Beginning in January 2020, as a pilot program for three years, the Membership Board will remove the felony reporting question from the applications for undergraduate students, and add the following language to accompany the ethics reporting question for full and associate members and graduate student affiliates: “A conviction or prior sanction is not necessarily a bar to membership. Applications are reviewed on an individual basis, and a variety of factors are taken into consideration.” Data will be collected for three years to determine any increase in the number of individuals applying for APA student affiliation or membership.

9. Immigration. Council is asked to approve a policy statement on immigration. In part, it reads, "Be it resolved that APA reaffirms its 1998 resolution in supporting practical and humane immigration policies that consider the well-being of immigrants, and particularly immigrant families, including the provision of appropriate medical and mental health services. APA also calls upon the federal and state governments to provide sufficient funding to ensure these services are provided.”

Any comments? Send them to Jason Cantone, at jasoncantone@gmail.com.