APA COUNCIL APPROVES STATEMENT ON IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES; GIVES INITIAL APPROVAL FOR GRADUATE STUDENT VOTING IN APA ELECTIONS

The APA Council on Representatives (Council) met during the APA Convention in Chicago, Illinois. The two APLS Council reps are Tom Grisso and Jason Cantone. Council again voted whether to make all Council members’ votes public to support transparency, but the measure failed with only 56.7% voting yes (two-thirds are required). In brief:

- Council passed a revised policy statement on immigrants and refugees. During Council, there were significant efforts to revise an earlier-proposed statement. The passed resolution, in part, states that APA supports, “practical and humane immigration policies that consider the well-being of immigrants and refugees, and particularly families, including the provision of appropriate medical, mental health and social services.” APA’s work on immigration is available here: https://www.apa.org/advocacy/immigration/ (the policy statement is not yet posted).

- After about four hours of debate across two days, Council, with 73% of the vote, approved creating a new membership category so graduate student members, after one year, will have the right to vote in the APA President-Elect and Board Member-at-Large Elections and the Bylaw Amendment and Apportionment Ballots (which determines how many Council reps APLS gets). As this is an APA Bylaws change, the final vote is from the APA membership, and you will get to vote on this in November. The APLS Council reps both voted in support of this item.

- APA showcased expanded efforts to engage in advocacy with Congress and other organizations. For example, APA is working on issues such as opioid use disorder, the use of artificial intelligence, and workplace stress and health.

- Council adopted as APA policy the (1) Guidelines for Psychological Practice for People with Low- Income and Economic Marginalization and the (2) Race and Ethnicity Psychology Guidelines in Psychology: Promoting Responsiveness and Equity.

- Council approved adding four seats to the Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) in response to the sunsetting of the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) at the end of June 2019, and approved adding the Chair of the
Committee on Early Career Psychologists (ECP) as a member of the Agenda Planning Group (APG). There was discussion about the importance of including ECP leaders in APA governance. APA Division 42 (Psychologists in Independent Practice) won a special commendation for its recent bylaws change to promote ECPs serving as Council representatives. (APLS has one of the few (but rising number of) ECPs serving on Council.)

- Council approved four resolutions related to HIV, rescinding the earlier resolutions and replacing each with revised ones based on more current research. They were listed in the August newsletter.
- A new task force was formed to compile literature and identify strategic partners in order to develop a "public education campaign against racism, discrimination, and hate".
- Council did not support the creation of a task force to explore the viability of calling on the U.S. Congress to create an office for a Psychologist General to oversee, advise, and make policy regarding mental health. The item might come back in the next meeting in February.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Cantone at jasoncantone@gmail.com