APA UPDATE

APA Council met during the virtual APA Convention, with Jason Cantone and Margaret Bull Kovera representing AP-LS. A summary is provided below. For more information, contact Jason Cantone (jasoncantone@gmail.com) or Margaret Bull Kovera (mkovera@jjay.cuny.edu). As part of a trial period to promote transparency, APA Council voted whether to suspend APA association rules and publish all Council members’ votes on all open session items. About 50% voted yes, when 2/3 was needed for transparency. The motion has never passed during the trial period.

Council approved two items that will be sent to APA members for a vote to change the APA bylaws. **Your AP-LS Council Representatives strongly support both initiatives and encourage you to vote YES on your APA ballot.** First, 73% of Council voted to support creating a new membership category for graduate students and enfranchise them to vote on APA President-Elect and Board of Directors Member at Large positions, bylaws changes, and apportionment ballots after a year in the graduate student role. Last year, Council passed a similar item that narrowly failed in the membership vote (receiving 65.98% approval when 66.67% was needed). Second, 98% of Council approved a resolution to provide APA Council voting rights to representatives from Ethnic Minority Psychological Associations, who are currently invited as observers on a renewable basis.

Council overwhelmingly (98.8%) voted to approve a position statement on what psychological science has to contribute to an understanding of the COVID pandemic. Your AP-LS Council Representatives worked hard to get some forensic and law-psychology concerns added to the statement before it was passed. The only concern raised at Council was that the statement was US-centric. The title of the statement was changed to reflect that point before the vote was taken. It is available here: [https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2020/08/covid-tracking-resolution](https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2020/08/covid-tracking-resolution).

Council unanimously accepted the report of the Council Efficiency Work Group, which included Jason Cantone as a member. The report provided recommendations to improve the speed and quality of the Council decision making process.

The movers of the final scheduled item – to change the name of Division 42 to the Society of Practicing Psychologists—asked to postpone consideration of the motion until the February 2021 meeting. They noted the significant concerns expressed by a number of divisions and Council members regarding the proposed new name. Division 42 has offered to collaborate with other divisions regarding the name change.

On the consent agenda, APA Council renewed the recognition of Police and Public Safety Psychology as a specialty in professional psychology, as well as resolutions opposing ageism and the ownership of exotic animals as pets, among other items.

Your AP-LS Council Representatives submitted a new item revising the 2014 Resolution on Interrogation of Criminal Suspects. The revision was reviewed and
approved by the AP-LS Executive Committee in March. That item will now begin the APA governance review process.