

spig news

Newsletter of AEJMC's Small Programs Interest Group

Fall 2008

New directions for SPIG? What are your ideas?

What's in the future for the Small Programs Interest Group? Vice Head **Vivian Martin** is pulling together a survey that will give the group hard information to use for future convention programming and other discussions. Members can learn more about that by contacting her at MartinV@mail.ccsu.edu.

Questions being considered are:

-- How can we leverage our natural strength – teaching – into better convention programming? People have

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suggested curriculum roundtables, pre-convention panels with past Teachers of the Year, and beefed up writing panels. What do YOU think?

-- Should we continue to grow? There's talk of grasping for full division status – and the far greater number of convention slots that comes with it. What would we do with twice as many programming slots if we got them?

-- How do we spread the word about

SPIG's good works? Everyone should be interested in the nuts and bolts we do so well, but how do we reach them? The ad in the convention program was great, but what else should we do?

-- How do we build up research? The Scholarship of Application competition (quality freelancing and classroom usage) was a hit. How should we build on it? Traditional research has chugged along since with two-three papers a year.

What would bring in more papers?



POLITICS PANEL: Jeff Zeleny of the *The New York Times*, left, Lee Wilkins of the University of Missouri and Ben Adler of the blog Politico discussed coverage of the 2008 Presidential campaign during a panel co-sponsored by SPIG and the Media Ethics Division at Chicago AEJMC.

What's the state of the discipline?

The AEJMC has asked SPIG to assess the state of the discipline – journalism education – from the perspective of its members for use in long-term planning.

We've all talked about the trends in small programs – the growing complexities of assessment, the increasing pressure for publications, and the difficulties in finding the time and resources to build convergence education. (And the flexibility small programs offer.)

So, tell SPIG what YOU think the group's viewpoint is on the state of the discipline in 2008. Float your answers on the listserv (or just send them to jjenks@dom.edu), and they'll be added to a report he's pulling together for the AEJMC-HQ.

Offer a panel for Boston *Send proposals by Oct. 10*

There are plenty of reasons for you to get involved in a SPIG panel at the Boston convention. It's a chance to:

- Share ways you've improved journalism education.
- Get feedback on ideas that you'd like to pursue further.
- Build up the CV to impress your school's rank and tenure committee.
- Get funding to come to the convention.

And there are plenty of ways to do it. You can share your ideas as a panelist, run things as a moderator or pontificate as a discussant. And you can do them on more than one panel.

Once you have an idea and some potential collaborators you'll need to figure out which one of the AEJMC's three categories is the best fit. They are:

Teaching: Almost anything dealing with students; this is the most common for SPIG. The Chicago convention had SPIG teaching panels on: teaching opinion writing, magazine reporting, religion writing, and detecting plagiarism. Contact teaching standards chairs Cheryl Bacon baconc@acu.edu <<mailto:baconc@acu.edu>> or Mary Carmen Cupito cupito@nku.edu <<mailto:cupito@nku.edu>> for these panels.

Research: This will mainly be for the spring refereed paper research competition, but if you feel you have the makings of a

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SPIG is building on its success

By John Jenks
Head, 2008-2009

Small Programs Interest Group

For an organization of small programs SPIG made a big splash at the Chicago convention – nine panels, two awards, a full page ad, lots of collegiality and even a few refereed research papers. In the coming year we intend to build on those successes – and add some new ones.

The key is information and communication.

Many of us have had for years a gut-level understanding that SPIG was mainly about promoting great teaching, advising and mentoring. But it's always good to double check and flesh out these instincts against hard data. So, this year we're going to survey the membership (that's all of us) to discover our skill, interests and what we want for and from SPIG.

Co-Vice Head Vivian Martin has been working out the survey during the past several weeks, and it should be landing in your in-basket soon. Take the time to fill it out. It will make for a better SPIG.

We also need to spread the good news about our group to grow SPIG. There are plenty of ways.

Every one of us knows a few people at small programs who could use SPIG. If we all invited these folks to sign up for the listserv, attend some SPIG session and join the organization we will continue to thrive. In addition, there



JENKS

are scores of colleges and universities within an easy drive of Boston (the 2009 convention site). Let's tell them what SPIG can do for their programs. If you have other ideas to drum up interest, get in touch with new Membership Chair Margo Wilson (Wilson_m@cup.edu) and let her know.

There are some other things that SPIG is doing for us right now. Webmaster Susan Lewis will soon be revamping the syllabus exchange on our Web site <http://faculty.acu.edu/~lewiss/spig/home.html> to make it both secure and accessible for SPIG members. Count on seeing more

syllabi as a result.

You may notice a few other things new about SPIG in the coming year:

*The Teacher of the Year and Scholarship of Application contests will continue, but we'll be looking for better ways to showcase the winners and share their insights.

-- We'll take another run at the Best Practices competition, which may have been too broadly designed to attract applicants last year.

-- This newsletter and the rest will be electronic only. That's right, no paper copy to follow by snail mail. It gives us more flexibility, saves some postage and of course leads to a greener environment.

-- Dues are going up from \$7.50 to \$10 – still a bargain in comparison with other divisions and interest groups.

-- The head and two vice heads will serve as an "executive board" to handle some of the day-to-day business between conferences.

And one of the best ways we can stay vibrant is to offer relevant and creative programming in Boston. You've probably already received a call for panels, plus instructions on how to put a proposal together. This is a great chance for you to explore your interests, share your knowledge and help the profession.

John Jenks is a professor of journalism at Dominican University in River Forest, IL.

Minnesota professor is top winner of GIFT competition

Dr. Jody Mattern of Minnesota State University-Moorhead was chosen as the 2008 Great Ideas For Teachers grand prize winner at the AEJMC convention in Chicago. Her GIFT is entitled "Forging Critical Links Between Academics and Professionals: How to Acquire Input from Working Professionals on Student Advertising Portfolios."

Mattern received a plaque and a \$100 check from the GIFT sponsors: Community College Journalism

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Association, Small Programs Interest Group, Scholastic Journalism Division and International Communication Division. Her GIFT and 24 other great ideas for teachers are included in a special journal.

A few copies of the 2008 GIFT edition are still on sale for \$10, or three for \$25 (plus \$3 each to cover postage and

envelope). To order the GIFT journals, send requests to aejmcgift@yahoo.com.

The non-profit, ninth annual GIFT program received 62 submissions in the spring; 25 scholars were chosen to participate in the poster session at the summer convention with Mattern being judged as the top GIFT scholar.

Read Mattern's GIFT with graphics and get more information about the GIFT program on the official Web site at <http://www.geocities.com/aejmcgift>.

Should SPIG seek division status?

Here's what members said on the discussion list

Ron Hollander, 2006-2008 head: I'll throw in my two cents about why we should seek division status, as I raised it with the Executive Board:

It enables us to do more of what we want to do, more of our programming at conventions. Not to get into all the arcane minutia about the infamous "chip auction" held at the mid-winter meeting where we all vie for panel slots at the coming convention, but being a division doubles our number of chips from 3.5 to 7. This means we can sponsor more panels or programs on our own, rather than having to go from group to group in December hoping to find a co-sponsor so our panels will go. If we sponsor them on our own, we can have all SPIG participants (only if we wish) and don't have to "give" our co-sponsors some participants. That gives us far more independence, puts us in the "driver's seat." We probably can get better days/times. We could sponsor certain special formats that are chip-greedy. Also it lets us be generous to others, because we can contribute chips to their panels to make them a reality.

To me, it seems to be a win-win situation. The way I understand it, we apply for division status to the Council of Divisions at next summer's convention. I frankly don't know all the details of the criteria, but I was told by future AEJMC President Jan Slater that at about 100 we certainly have enough members. Another criterion is have we been active in the three AEJ areas: Teaching, PF&R and Research, and there again Jan just informally said we certainly seem to have been. Finally, if we apply for division and it's not granted, then there's no problem with our remaining an interest group. Also, applying for division gives us yet more prominence with AEJ nationally.

Jim Simon, former head: I am ambivalent about this. As the person who represented SPIG at the last three-year accreditation, I can tell you the expectations of a serious research competition go way up if we become a division. Given the nature of our

membership, I don't see us being able to generate enough good papers (with the normal 50 percent rejection rate). And, looking at programming ideas over the years, I don't see a lot of evidence that we are being cheated because we have so many good ideas that we can't get them approved. I hate to sound so conservative, but current structure has served us well and I am reluctant to see it change.

Kim Landon: I agree entirely, Jim. I believe this wastes our time, as there is little reason to justify Small Programs as an entire division in AEJMC. I especially don't see us gaining that status in the current atmosphere when the organization is looking for ways to streamline. AEJMC officials have agreed over and over again that we represent our constituency well. Recent efforts toward adding awards, the GIFT and Hot Topics programs, and our fantastic track record of turning our programming chips into many co-sponsored programs serve both small programs faculty and AEJMC well. Let's put our efforts into building our membership and honing our efforts.

Ron Hollander: Jim, I respect your opinion as the "grey sage" of SPIG (reference to insight, not to years), but perhaps it's time to at least try a move in a new direction. I don't know, and I can hardly pretend to expertise in this area. However, having been at the last three winter meetings, I can say that if we'd had double the chips, our programming might have been still more inventive and creative. Maybe we'd have tried a back-to-back workshop session. Or a mini-plen. Maybe something more original than just a series of talking-head panels (in which I was involved as much as the next member). I do know for sure that we wouldn't have had to do all the horse-trading we did, going from table-to-table, seeking co-sponsors. Especially as we've been talking now about changing things, about doing "quality" rather than "quantity" in our programming, trying new formats, doubling our chips would be



TOP SCHOLAR: John Hanc of the New York Institute of Technology accepts the Scholarship of Application award from **Ron Hollander** out-going SPIG head during the SPIG awards luncheon at Buca di Beppo restaurant.

a key to accomplishing that.

About the research, we won't know until we've tried going up before AEJ. Remember, too, we specifically wanted to expand the definition of research/scholarship with our new competition in scholarship of application (which drew a good response, and that was just from within SPIG). Seeking Division status would give us a good platform from which to make that case. And frankly, I don't know how many conventional papers some of the other divisions produce. How many from our friends at CCJA, for instance? I propose that the newly minted Executive Board look into that.

Another thing: Becoming a division would eliminate what I feel is second-class status as an interest group. Remember, it is called the Council of DIVISIONS. I introduced the idea with AEJ of changing the name to CODIG. I never even got a response from the current head of COD. The AEJ prez said he did raise it at the board of directors meeting, but then the

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Michael Bugeja of Iowa State University and Vivian Martin of Central Connecticut State University react during the Chicago panel session “Opinion Writing in the Age of Blogs: Teaching Responsibility to Balance Rights in the Student Press and Beyond” co-sponsored by SPIG and the Media Ethics Division.

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research panel, submit it to Teresa Housel housel@hope.edu <<mailto:housel@hope.edu>> or Carol Dykers dykers@salem.edu <<mailto:dykers@salem.edu>> .

Professional freedom and Responsibility: This is a catch-all category for important ideas that don’t fit into teaching or research. Last year SPIG’s PF&R included panels on mentoring junior faculty and dealing with overzealous Institutional Review Boards. Dave Weinstock weinstod@gvsu.edu <<mailto:weinstod@gvsu.edu>> and Michael Longinow longinow@biola.edu <<mailto:Michael.longinow@biola.edu>> are the point people here.

Float your ideas on the SPIG listserv, chat with your colleagues and get in touch with the chairs about your ideas. Come up with a snappy title, short description and a few potential panelists (and partners) and submit -- by Oct. 10 - a formatted proposal to the appropriate people.

The chairs will pull the proposals together and forward the best to co-vice heads and program chairs Vivian Martin and Ann Colbert by Oct. 17. During the next two weeks Vivian and Ann, along with Head John Jenks, will vet the panels,

On Nov. 1 they send the lineup to the AEJMC where all division and interest group proposals are assembled in a massive master list. That’s used to negotiate the final lineup at the AEJMC Mid-Winter meeting. You’ll know by early December whether your panel made it.

Here’s format for panel proposals

“OK, I’m interested,” you say, “but what do I need to do?”

That’s the question that may be on your mind as you consider the SPIG call for panel proposals. Here’s a step-by-step outline of what’s expected, with a model proposal:

Start to fill in a form like the one that follows. Shoot for a title, a brief (one or two paragraphs) description, what role you want, and any potential panelists you might suggest. We’ll use SPIG members to help fill out the panel. Think about other divisions or interest groups that would be good partners, but don’t make promises at this stage.

Here’s a model:

SPIG Joint Teaching Panel Proposal with CCJA

Contact (SPIG): Ron Hollander, Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ. hollanderr@mail.montclair.edu <<mailto:hollanderr@mail.montclair.edu>> . (973) 667-9337 (home); (973) 655-7311 (office)

Contact (CCJA): Beverly S. Bailey, Tulsa Community College, Tulsa, OK. bbailey@tulsacc.edu <<mailto:bbailey@tulsacc.edu>> . (918) 633-8567 (home); (918) 595-7045 (office)

Working Title: Where Does Journalism Belong? Finding a Happy Home in a Liberal Arts Setting

Moderator: Ron Hollander, Montclair State University

Suggested Co-Sponsors: CCJA

Session Summary: A broad range of panelists explores the challenging question of where do journalism programs flourish best in the sometimes daunting forest of liberal arts programs. Most have moved from English, but there are surprising pros and distinct cons to remaining in this once-traditional home. Does journalism thrive best under the umbrella of Broadcasting and/or Mass Communication, where most programs have now migrated? If so, how does one go about extricating them from the rigid grip of English? Panelists share their varied trials and tribulations.

Possible Panelists:

John Neal, Brookhaven
Jim Sernoe, Midwestern
Jim Simon, Fairfield
Sally Turner, Eastern Illinois

Estimated Cost: None

Contact person for the session: Ron Hollander, Montclair; hollanderr@mail.montclair.edu <<mailto:hollanderr@mail.montclair.edu>>

Here’s your chance to engage the pros

SPIG has a growing reputation as a place where the rest of AEJMC comes for terrific insights into teaching. SPIG leaders want to build on that, but they also want to show the leadership that members of the group know how to bring professionals into convention panels to talk about how they face real-world issues of ethics, freedom of the press and the responsibilities journalists and public relation practitioners.

Send ideas on this as soon as possible to Michael A. Longinow michael.longinow@biola.edu or David Weinstock weinstod@gvsu.edu.

Newsletter edited by Dr. Richard Hendrickson

John Carroll University, Cleveland

Contact: newsprof@mac.com, 440-570-2779

Take a Boston panel idea off the SPIG shelf

Some good ideas for SPIG panels didn't make it last year, and should come back. Others came up at Chicago, or are already perking on the listserv. For an idea of what's been done in previous years, take a look at the following list. For ideas on what's happening now, watch and contribute to the listserv. SPIG sponsored and co-sponsored panels from 2002 to 2008 (missing 2005 San Antonio convention)

2008 (Chicago)

1. Teaching. "Teaching Religion and Public Affairs Courses" with RMIG.
2. Teaching. "Opinion Writing" with Ethics (Teaching).
3. Teaching. "Internationalizing Your Curriculum: Tips for Teaching Students to Become Successful Global Communicators" with CCJA.
4. Teaching "Yer Cheatin' Heart': Student Plagiarism and Administration Lip Service" with CCJA (teaching)
5. Teaching. "Preparing Students to Work in Trade Magazines"
6. PFR. "Hot Topics" (Election Reporting)
7. PFR "IRB 'Mission Creep' vs. Academic and Journalistic Freedom"
8. PF&R. "Mentoring: It's More than Just a Hearty Welcome" with RMIG.
9. Research / scholar-to-scholar
10. GIFT mini-plen

2007 (DC)

1. PFR. HOT TOPICS w/ Ethics "Media Coverage of the Tragedy at Virginia Tech: Rising to the occasion, or Sinking to new lows."
2. PFR w/ Religion "How to publish scholarly research in specialized areas" (Callahan moderating)
3. TEACH w/ CCJA Writing for the new media: Same as the old? Some rules for the digital road" (Hanc moderating)
4. TEACH w/ Religion. "Teaching students to recognize the voices of the silenced" (Housel moderating)
5. TEACH w/ CCJA "Stretching the Shoestring: Journalism education on a budget." (Jenks moderating)
6. TEACH w/ CCJA "Teach-in: How to teach the First Journalism Writing class"
7. Research/scholar-to-scholar. Two papers, though more were possible. I don't believe we spent a chip on this.
8. GIFT mini-plen

2006 (San Francisco)

1. TEACH w/ CCJA. "Where does journalism belong? Finding a happy home in a liberal arts setting (Ron Hollander moderating)
2. PFR Sole sponsor. "You can't say that: Freedom of speech in under fire in the newsroom ... and the classroom."
3. TEACH w/CCJA. "Web-based classes: A new way to learn? A new way to burn? (Margo Wilson moderating)
4. PFR HOT TOPICS w/ Magazine. "A gathering of 2006 Pulitzer Prize winners: How they did it, what it all means."
5. RESEARCH Sole sponsored refereed paper session. No title.
6. GIFT mini-plen

2004 (Toronto)

1. PFR w/ CCJA. Journalism and the Liberal Arts: Can't We All Just Get Along? (Steffen moderating.)
2. PFR w/ disability. "Breaking out of the ivory tower: getting started with freelancing, professional and consulting work" (Zibluk moderating)
3. TEACH w/ Civic. "Is news reporting and writing 101 dead? Would new approaches inspire undecided students to consider print journalism?" (Lofflin moderating)
4. TEACH w/ CCJA. "Coping Skills for journalism educators (Neal moderating)
5. TEACH w/ magazine. "Who, what, where, when and why didn't I get an A; grading the journalistic writing assignment" (Hanc presiding)
6. GIFT miniplen
7. Offsite: Voices in the Wilderness REvisited: hOw are Small Progrmas Greeting the teaching challenges of the future? (Dalton, moderating)

2003 (Kansas City)

1. PFR w CCJA. "You can do it: Practical Advice for Turning a Heavy Teaching Load into One publication a Year" (Voss heading)
2. TEACH w/ Magazine. "Tell me a Story: Feature Teachers Reveal their secrets for long form journalism" (Hanc moderating)
3. TEACH w/ CCJA. "If you build it they will come: Effective strategies for developing quality journalism and mass communication education in small programs and community colleges." (Bailey moderating).
4. TEACH, w/ Civic. "Teaching students to get diverse voices in news stories: Using public journalism and other techniques (Simon moderating.)
5. Research, w/ VisCom. "Photojournalism into Art: The Image in Exhibits, Archives and History" (Voss moderating)
6. GIFT mini-plen

2002 (Miami Beach)

1. PFR w/ Grad Education "Balancing teaching and research: Academic life at a small to medium size college or university" (Simon moderating)
2. PFR w/ CCJA "Going Global: Practical Advice for Developing Journalism Study-Abroad Courses" (Steffen moderating)
3. TEACH w/ Viscom "The implications of teaching new media in old classrooms" (McKinney moderating)
4. TEACH w/ CCJA. "Using 'writing to learn' in the journalism classroom"
5. TEACH w/ Media/disability. "Help the student, protect the instructor: Putting together a syllabus" (Bennett moderating)
6. GIFT mini-plen.

List your expertise for panel help

To help with her efforts to work out co-sponsored panels, 2nd Vice Head Ann Colbert is compiling a list of members' areas of expertise that might be related to other divisions in AEJ. Send a message to Ann at colbert@ipfw.edu.

More pros and cons on the division status idea

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question of what about the standing committees (women, minorities) seemed to quash the idea. Being a division would also eliminate things like the fiasco at last year's winter meeting when first the interest group heads were told to plan to stay on to participate in the strategic planning session (not that that was my great wish in life, you understand!), and then when we showed up Sunday morning, we were literally barred from the session with many apologies, but excluded nonetheless.

Here's my thinking in a nutshell: What do we have to lose? We clearly do have a lot to gain. If we don't make it as a division, then we simply revert to being an interest group with no "prejudice." Meanwhile, we'll have learned a lot about the process and about AEJ, have increased our visibility and respect within AEJ and will have helped to set the groundwork for another try should we so decide.

Cathy Johnson, SPIG head long ago: Perhaps it's better to be at the top of the heap as an interest group than at the bottom as a division. Clearly, SPIG could not be a model division for at least a few years, given the competition in that area. I'm not trying to focus on any competition, but I do think SPIG currently serves as a model among interest groups.

Jim Sernoe, also SPIG head long ago: While I understand the frustrations of the chip auction, having represented the SPIG at four of them, I'm not sure division status is the answer, particularly on the topic of research. Having also served as research chair more than once, I can say that getting quality research is a difficult task. Someone asked how many papers other divisions receive. Those stats are published every year and it is dozens,

What do we have to lose? We clearly do have a lot to gain.

-- Ron Hollander

sometimes into the hundreds.

Margo Wilson, another past head: I agree that SPIG should focus on doing best what it does well -- serving as a haven for those in small programs. We've been complimented by AEJ for serving our membership and offering innovative programming. We also have the option of offering preconference programming if we so choose. Teaming with other interest groups and divisions often allows us to offer panels we might not have thought of on our own. That's not necessarily a bad thing. As others have mentioned, AEJ's research expectations for us most likely would seriously increase if we were a division. The officers also would have to

devote a fair bit more time to their SPIG duties.

Probably a good tactic for those who'd like to seek division status is to find out exactly from AEJMC what needs to be done to maintain good standing as a division (How many papers for research competitions? How many competitions? Juried journal needed, etc.?) We would need this info before we could decide if we wanted to pursue division status.

My feeling is that we've got a good group. Let's just work to improve it. Why not survey our members, as has been proposed, and find out what kinds of programs and services from SPIG they'd like? Why not work on increasing the number

of submissions to the research contests that we do sponsor? Last year, I believe, we attracted two papers to the scholarly research competition and three to the creative competition. We need to bump up these numbers before we can become a division, I think.

Our research chairs work hard. But their efforts don't usually yield a massive number of submissions. Part of the problem is that many of our members are so busy teaching that research competition deadlines come and go. Anyway, I feel we should work to improve on the good group that we have. Perhaps those interested in pursuing division status could seek more specifics from AEJ.



SPIG honors in Chicago

(Photo at left) **Jody Mattern** Minnesota State University Moorhead accepts the award for the Great Ideas for Teachers competition from **Beverly Bailey**, president of CCJA, and **John Jenks**, incoming head of SPIG.

(Photo at right) Dr. **Susan Lewis** of Abilene Christian University, left, accepts the Teacher of the Year award from **Ann Colbert** out-going SPIG teaching co-chair during the awards luncheon at Buca di Beppo restaurant.



Small Programs Interest Group Business Meeting Aug. 8, 2008

Small Programs Interest Group AEJMC Convention Business Meeting 8/8/08 Chicago Marriott

Minutes taken by Susan Lewis

Call to order by Ron Hollander, outgoing head

Annual report and renewal

This year SPIG did the following:

- Renewed the Teacher of the Year competition
- Created the Scholarship of Application competition
- Created the Best Practices competition (no entries)
- Bought a full-page ad in book this year
- Offered more teaching panels than any other division: 6 teaching, 3 PF&R
- Hosted an off-site luncheon for the first time. Joined by CCJA – Community College Journalism Association.

The listserv was active this year.

John Jenks, co-vice head, submitted renewal; this year is the year to meet with AEJMC for review of SPIG.

Membership Report

97 members. A more detailed report of membership is forthcoming.

Financial Report

This year, SPIG did several new things, and spent more money than in the past. Ron Hollander suggested that the shortfall may be overcome by raising dues \$2.50.

Some other *suggestions* to spend more conservatively:

- Officers can now spend \$500 for travel; suggested \$350
 - Winners get \$50, rather than \$100
 - Half-page program ad rather than full
- These ideas were acknowledged and discussed but not voted on.

After discussion of the raising of dues,

Dave Weinstock suggested surveying the membership regarding membership dues. Vivian previously suggested surveying the membership on several issues.

Vote on Raising Dues

Motion to raise dues from \$7.50 to \$10 was sent by Ron Hollander to the listserv prior to the meeting. Ann Colbert seconded. Passed unanimously.

The survey will explore the upper ceiling of the membership dues.

Vote on establishing Executive Board consisting of head, 2 vice-heads

A vote was taken to create an Executive Board to expedite decisions of the officers. Carol Dykers moved; David Weinstock seconded. Passed unanimously.

Vote on newly elected Head taking over following election

Theoretically, new officers take over Oct. 1 after a vote in August, because of any lingering financial expenses that may not have come through by August. Motion to change the effective dates on officer elections to immediately following the moved by David Weinstock, seconded by Dick Hendrickson.

Kim said that the AEJMC bylaws are contrary to this motion. Ann Colbert mentioned that she didn't want to bring undue attention to SPIG for something contrary to AEJMC. Dave Weinstock suggested making it a convention of the Executive Committee, so that we don't vote on it. It would just be a tradition and each year the Executive Committee would decide whether this is the practice – a de facto passing of the gavel following the election.

The motion was withdrawn by Dave and Dick. No vote was taken.

Discussion : Increasing membership

A discussion of how to increase SPIG membership brought the following

suggestions:

- Dave: Consistent ad in AEJMC newsletter could build the SPIG brand
- Kim: Write articles for AEJMC newsletter?
- Kim: New members breakfast; SPIG rep used to go to the breakfast.
- Dave: Add SPIG info to AEJMC new member packet
- EJ: new members table at the convention
- Ann: consider having business meeting at times other than at the same time as other meetings. Discussion ensued. Consider a time earlier in the week for the business meeting, depending on how much it would “cost” in terms of chips.
- Ann: Use the directory to create a list of small programs and people. Kim: Has done this in the past using mail. Could be used with email. Doesn't remember a very good response, but it could work with new people. SPIG is known for its nuts and bolts panels.
- John Hanc: invited a media professional for two years in row to the convention and to SPIG meeting. He said we know who we want; we know who we are – what about inviting professionals to be a part of the group. How can we identify the people here looking for jobs – not necessarily new Ph.D.s but professionals coming from the field.
- Hand out flyers and pitch SPIG at all the panels we sponsor.

Discussion Making “Best Practices” competition more enticing

No entries for this competition this year. Dave, who helped plan the competition, thinks the it was too broad; not sure that the departments knew what the judging criteria were. Suggested – Best practices in converged programs or best practices in co-curricular activities.

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Vivian suggested a showcase of papers/practices. Maybe its not a contest, rather a call for papers. John Hanc said to initially focus on a hot topic best practice – like convergence. Ron suggested that each year a group gets a shot at presenting its materials; designated each year. Dick Hendrickson suggested a curriculum Round Table.

Discussion of curriculum Round Table continued. Consider a partnership with some larger programs, but we may just include SPIG membership in the panel. This idea was the most popular among the group. Kim talked about the value of co-sponsoring programs.

Discussion; Should we continue three competitions? Maybe not 3 every year?

Dave suggested that best practices may be better served by round table than by competition. Ron suggested making Scholarship of Application winner and 2nd and 3rd place people as a panel. General agreement.

John Hanc suggested having Teachers of the Year at a pre-convention panel/workshops. General agreement. Maybe revise the awards ceremony to give more time to the winners to talk about their entries/expertise.

Discussion : Role of former heads

Lots of discussion of the former head becoming membership director when he/she steps down.

Discussion: formalize syllabi exchange

Susan Lewis will work on a new way to exchange documents in SPIG using a password protected Xyθος files system at her university.

New Business

Survey of members: Vivian asking for help with survey of members. Will ask via listserv.

Newsletter: print and electronic or

electronic only? Discussion of making electronic only, except for a limited number to bring to the convention.

Elect 2008-2009 officers

Proposed slate of officers:

Head – John Jenks
Sr. Co-Vice Head – Vivian Martin
Co-Vice Head – Ann Colbert

Research Chairs

Carol Dykers
Teresa Housel

PF&R (professional freedom and responsibility)

Dave Weinstock
Mike Longinow

Teaching Chairs

Cheryl Bacon
Open

Newsletter -- Dick Hendrickson
WebMaster -- Susan Lewis
Secretary -- Susan Lewis
Membership -- Ron Hollander
Hot Topics -- Kim Landon
Liason to Commission Minorities -- Open
Liason to Commission on the Status of Women -- Kim Landon

Ron Hollander moved; Dave Weinstock seconded. Passed unanimously.

New business

Kim – Social after the business meeting?
Or will the awards luncheon take its place
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attendance

Ron Hollander, John Jenks. Vivian Martin, Ann Colbert, Dick Hendrickson David Weinstock, Susan Lewis, Kim Landon, EJ Conzola, Carol Dykers John Hanc.



GIFT EXPLAINED: Paola Banchero of the University of Alaska discusses her idea with Barbara Selvin of the State University of New York Stony Brook during the Great Ideas for Teachers session at the Chicago AEJMC convention.