Minutes of the Meeting of the Research Committee
NACADA Annual Conference – Minneapolis
Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Present:
Wendy Troxel, Chair (2012-2014), Illinois State University (2006-2016), Region 5
Ryan Tomasiwicz, Incoming Chair (2014-2016), University of Illinois (2012 -2016), Region 5
Janet Schulenberg, Immediate Past Chair (2010-2012), Penn State University (2006-2016), Region 2
Shannon Burton, Michigan State University (2011-2015), Region 5
Melissa Johnson, University of Florida (2013-2015), Region 4
Candice Patton, Friends University (2013-2015), Region 7
Jennifer Bloom, University of South Carolina (2008-2016), Region 3
Sarah Champlin-Scharff, Harvard University (2010-2016), Region 1
Heather Ammons, The University of Alabama (2014-2016), Region 4
Liz Morningstar, University of Colorado-Boulder (2014-2016), Region 10
Drew Puroway, University of St Thomas (2014-2016), Region 6
Wendell Schwab, Penn State University (2014-2016), Region 2
Leigh Cunningham, Ex Officio, NACADA Executive Office

Absent:
Susan Campbell, University of Southern Maine (2013-2015), Region 1
Robert Hurt, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona (2011-2015), Region 9
Leigh Shaffer, retired, West Chester University, NACADA Journal Co-editor (2012-2015), Region 7
Kathleen Smith, Florida State University (2005-2015), Region 4
Julie Traxler, Rutgers State University-New Brunswick (2011-2015), Region 2
Paulette Brower-Garrett, College of Staten Island / CUNY (2012-2016), Region 1
Yung-Hwa Anna Chow, Washington State University (2012-2016), Region 8
Gieselle Deng, Metropolitan Community College - Penn Valley (2012-2016), Region 7
Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski, University of Utah (2005-2014), Region 10
Cornelius Gilbert, University of Wisconsin (2008-2014), Region 5
Janice Williams, University of Texas at Austin (2012-2014), Region 7

Wendy welcomed everyone, had everyone introduce themselves, and explained why some could not be with us. She encouraged everyone to keep recruiting new folks for future.

Administrative Division report

Wendy shared that there was considerable discussion in the Administrative Division meeting yesterday about whether it is crucial that all members completely understand how the division works. Wendy feels what is important is that folks in the division be continuing to reach out to members and other groups to facilitate connections. Wendy asked what units committee members think it important we reach out to. Janet suggested all CIGs that work with student populations because they should be doing research on those populations. Shannon said Administrators Commission connection is important. Ryan suggested information outlets such as Webinar Advisory Board.

Wendy told about conference call with Charlie Nutt, Jeanette Wong, and others about the topic of writing ability across the membership. They think it is time to address writing ability for the many different types of publications NACADA has. This group can help support how people can craft their writing and presentation skills to move their research forward. Some possibilities are to have precons and/or sessions or "bootcamps" on various types of writing and the skills that are needed. Considerable conversation followed regarding the types of resources/support that would be needed.
Wendy shared a study conducted by Rich Robbins regarding the number of research grants awarded over the past five years and how many were published. Of 29 awarded, only 4 were published in the NACADA Journal (4 were published elsewhere). Janet suggested part of the problem may be that the Journal expects a more rigorous research design than is often approved for the grants because the committee is focused on getting members starting on research. Ryan described his experience with this process (his submission was rejected by the Journal), and he did not feel that the process helped him move it forward. Del noted that this may be partially a socialization issue, because folks who are more used to the process expect the “blasting” that almost inevitably comes with a first submission review, but members who are more practitioner based are not expecting this and are daunted when it occurs.

The committee feels that we need a new publication vehicle that would be between Academic Advising Today and the Journal. Leigh said that it would not be difficult to do the online vehicle – the difficulty would be finding the editing support.

Sub-Committee Reports

- **Conference Speaker** (Ryan Tomasiewicz) – Ryan shared that he has located a speaker for 2015 (Gary D. Sandefur, Provost and Senior Vice President, Oklahoma State University). The subcommittee now needs to work on developing a pool of potential future speakers, because we have no other ideas in pocket at the moment. We should have a new pool by January to begin discussing next year.
  - Reminder: 2015 speaker recommendation needs to go to Rhonda by Nov 1

- **Common Reading** (Sarah Champlain-Scharff) – Sarah reported that it was very difficult to get anyone engaged in planning/preparation for this this year. Sarah and Janet are wondering if this has accomplished its purpose and if it time to let it go. Response was mixed from the group, but consensus seems to be that it should continue. Sarah is ready to move on to something else, so Wendy said we will need to have someone new chair the subcommittee. Wendy suggested that we might want to add a section to the web with a repository of past common readings and work more ahead on preparing for the future. Candice suggested that committee members might be encouraged to have “trial runs” of the common reading on their campus. Jenny said she did not see any publicity about the common reading pre-conference this time so did not even think about it. Additional conference planning support may be needed for next year.
  - This year’s article: “A Center for Academic Achievement: How Innovative Collaborations Between Faculty and Learning Center Administrators Built Model, Credit-Bearing, First-Year Courses with Embedded Support for At-Risk Students.” (Bukowiecki, et al., 2008) – for Thursday, October 9 from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. (Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 200 AB)

- **Research Agenda and Research Listserv** (Wendy Troxel) – Wendy said she is not ready to give up on this idea, even though it has not taken off yet. Incoming member Liz Morningstar and continuing member Melissa Johnson are interested in being involved with this. Liz is also interested in using Facebook as a vehicle.
  - Operated with intermittent activity; recommend an active sub-committee to post a “research-related question of the month” to generate interest (collaborate with the doctoral student group, perhaps)

- **Research Workshop(s)** – Wendy reported that these went very well – Region 1 had over 50 participants! Pre-conference workshops or concurrent sessions were held at Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9.
- **Research Symposia** (Wendy Troxel, Susan Campbell, and Kathleen Smith) – Wendy reported that it was a fabulous year for the symposiums, both at Region 1 and the two sessions in Maastricht. Participants were very excited and engaged. Oscar did a terrific job of generating energy around research. Shannon suggested we do a follow-up session for people who have already attended, possibly at each region as well as annual next year.
  - Research Symposium at Region 1 (Newport, RI) – March 21-22, 2014 - 12 participants
  - International Research Seminar (Maastricht, Netherlands) – June 12-13 and June 16-17, 2014 – 30 participants
  - Research Symposium at Annual Conference Pilot (Minneapolis, MN) – October 8, 2014 during pre-conference workshop time, with individual meetings to follow throughout conference - 13 participants – Wendy is thinking of this as a hybrid between previous precons and the full symposium. It is very much a pilot, but exciting!
  - 2015 symposium will be at Region 5, April 10-11, at the hotel. Shannon Burton will assist Wendy with this one. More info to come.

- **Student Research Awards** (Wendy Troxel) - In 2014 there were three applicants; two were awarded (both master’s level) – usually these are dissertations, so it was interesting to have masters theses this year.

- **Research Grants** (Wendy Troxel)
  - November 2013: 4 submitted; 3 accepted; $5782 awarded
  - March 2014: 3 submitted; 1 accepted; $3,400 awarded
  - Note: Subcommittee was pleased with the quality of the applications, but we should continue to provide assistance to potential applicants. Propose we should add a “what does a good proposal look like?” document to the NACADA grant guidelines website
  - Reminder: first round reviews begin Oct 1 and close Nov 1
  - Round 2 – February 15 – March 15

- **Sponsored Surveys** (Ryan Tomasiewicz) – Ryan shared some of the challenges of being on this subcommittee. Many that come in are not research designs that make sense for our members. More educating needs to be done. Liz suggested that perhaps a consultation with a research committee member prior to submission would help.
  - In 2014 there were three requests for surveys to be disseminated; one was approved

**Subcommittee Assignments / New Subcommittee Chairs** – Wendy passed list around for sign-up

**Other Business – The future of research in NACADA**

Charlie stopped by to tell everyone that last night the Board passed an initiative to go forward to support the goal for long-term sustainable research – an exploratory group (of no more than 10 people) that will look at the feasibility of opening a center for research in the field of academic advising at K-State. This is strongly supported by Dean Mercer and Charlie is very exciting about it; the Gates Foundation has also shown some potential interest in funding. The exploratory team will include NACADA members and CoE members. The K-State Provost has given $25,000 in funding for this exploration, and the team should make a report by this time next year. Charlie will make sure that all reports that come out of this team will be shared with the Research Committee Chair.

**Welcome, Chair Ryan!** – Wendy passed the torch to Ryan, and Ryan said how excited he is to move into the role. He would like to do check-ins with all the subcommittees in December.