

**Critical Educators for Social Justice
Annual Business Meeting
April 23, 2003
Chicago, IL**

The meeting began at approximately 6:45 pm. All were welcomed. SIG officers were introduced. About 38 members/perspective members were present at this meeting.

This report will follow the agenda formulated by officers.

1. **Agenda.** The agenda was distributed to all present. Co-Chair, Peggy Laughlin went over the agenda briefly.
2. **Mission Statement.** The mission statement in written form was distributed to all present.
3. **Treasurer/Membership Report.** Former Treasurer/Secretary Karen Cadiero-Kaplan gave a brief history of the SIG. Subsequently, each officer described the responsibilities/duties of their particular role as part of their report. Current treasurer Audrey Dentith indicated the SIG balance of 2,578.16 and membership count as 150 people. Questions from members included membership renewal and list serve membership. Karen will continue to maintain the list serve. New members should email Audrey or Karen and they will be added to the listserve. Membership application is through AERA and not through solicitation of officers. Some confusion on this process was evident based on previous directions. For continuity, it was stressed that perspective members should enroll via their AERA membership renewal form.
4. **Program Chairs Report.** Nola Butler-Byrd and Suzanne Soo Hoo, Program Chairs described their role as reviewers of proposals for annual meeting. They reported on the SIG proposals from the previous year for this annual 2003 conference. Eleven proposals were received. Four were accepted. These appear in the AERA program. These officers reported that one proposal for each 40 members are allotted. Additional number of proposals would be welcome for next year's AERA proposal call. Program Chairs also discussed the need of Program Chairs to examine the language of the proposal call put forth each year. Efforts to incorporate new language into the proposal call that better captures the mission and activities of the SIG is important. A number of suggestions were made to this effect. These might solicit more proposals and proposals more germane to the purpose and input of important issues identified by members of the SIG and related to social justice education. Nola also indicated that she would be stepping down as Program Co-Chair and nominations for this office would be solicited. It was stressed at this time that new officers would be most welcome. Each office would be held for a period of two years in a chair/co-chair format to help with transition and continuity. Members were especially encouraged to consider becoming involved as SIG officers since this would ultimately broaden the involvement and input of members within the scope of the SIG. Another issue that surfaced at this time concerned the time conflicts of SIG meetings that prevents AERA/SIG members from attending all SIG business meetings of interest since these are often held simultaneously. Similar SIG

- meetings held simultaneously were of most concern, particularly those such as Critical Examination of Race, Class and Gender or Arts in Education SIG in which purpose/missions intersect and membership is desired in both/all SIGs. Officers will look into this and perhaps make suggestions to general management of AERA for future meetings.
5. **Report on Standards for Justice Sessions.** Marta Baltodano and Julie Andrzejewski reported on the success of the mini-course session held on Monday, April 21, 2003. This session was video recorded. The mini-course was concerned with the integration of standards for social and environmental justice with social justice teaching. It is an outgrowth of earlier work by the Alaskan Native Network and informed also by the Native Hawaiian Standards. Julie was the mini-course facilitator. She stressed the inclusion of global, economic justice into the process of adopting standards. Standards must be challenged since risk to practice of a “one size fits all” remains evident (and likely in many instances). A collaborative effort with real opportunity for educators and others to work together to raise doubts and concerns. Some discussion ensued regarding the implementation and writing of standards and the need for educators to implement curriculum they think sound and just as a fundamental right. Some discussion regarding an “economic bill of teachers’ rights” was initiated by Marta. It was agreed generally by SIG members that this topic should be a priority to the SIG.
 6. **Chairs Report.** Co-Chair Sally Thomas introduced the next item for discussion by introducing the bylaws draft that was developed earlier that day by the officers. Much discussion ensued over these laws when several members indicated discomfort with the language used in the by-laws. These members argued that the language was hierarchical and traditional and should be subverted in keeping with the mission of the SIG, itself. Members suggested that the terms, “officer”, “chair” be replaced with other more democratic language. Sally facilitated this discussion and stressed that the by-laws were necessary for SIG membership in AERA but that these were works-in-progress, capable of revision at any future time. One member also indicated that the statement in the AERA handbook/contract that requires SIGs to abide by the governing body of AERA should be abolished or purged from the document or contract that represents this CESJ-SIG. Sally indicated the importance of a timely response to this matter since some delay might jeopardize the SIG’s good standing with AERA. Also mentioned by other members was the time and effort required to change the language of the SIG by-laws. Some additional suggestions were made related to the establishment of these by-laws, for example, that a sunset clause could be added which might permit the expiration of some aspects of the by-laws. This lengthy discussion prevented the adoption of the by-laws as written. This item will be revisited in subsequent meetings of officers.
 7. **Officers and Voting.** Co-Chairs, Sally Thomas and Peggy Laughlin opened discussion related to officers and the desire of the current SIG officers to involve more people more widely into the business of the SIG. Officers this year will remain for one more year (with the exception of Nola’s position), nominating committee will be organized next year to solicit nominations for incoming

officers. Volunteers for the nominating committee are as follows:

_____.

7b. Other committee work. Using last year's list to inform the current membership, Sally and Peggy sought volunteers for each group. New committees suggested include: 1) Resisting Standards in Teachers' Work; 2) Organization of SIG meeting, etc. and 3) Bylaws Development. Posted papers for SIG work included: Newsletter Editor, Historian, Web Page Developer, Program Committee Social Action Facilitator (which will work with the committee to the focus group coordinators to bring the agenda of social action to the next AERA meeting and work on how to institutionalize the kind of work that evolves from it). Other concerns and topics that were raised in this meeting included: 1) need for more collaborative work and cross—dialogue across SIGs, particularly those with similar mission and intent; 2) need to discuss and plan for program activities for next year's AERA meeting; 3) Time for discussion of important issues separate from the business meeting held each year; 4) additional meetings through the year, 5) need to have a discussion board on the listserv that might bring some issues into the light on an on-going basis. One member indicated the need to better interrogate whiteness through the work and discussion of the SIG.

Names were solicited and written on poster paper and are as follows:

The sign up list for issues of interest to AERA Sig CESJ

1. By laws

Nancy Patterson ncpatte@bgret.bgsu.edu [she's asked that I fax her the beginning revisions at 419-372-8265 –which I will....]

Jan Palmer

Sally Thomas

2. Resisting Teacher Ed Standards being imposed...need alternative standards for critical educators

Karen Gourd

Virginia Lea

3. Resisting No Child Left Behind

Karen Gourd

Sally Thomas

4. Gendered ??? of AERJ Journals

5. Issue of time/space to meet at AERA

6. Historian

Sharon Kelly (possibility of having “story” be required entry into sig?)

With founders....Marta, Karen etc.

7. Program Activities

Virginia Lea

Sharon Miller Keller skeller@bgnet.bgsu.edu

Irene Villanueva ivillanueva@ucsd.edu

Jan Kilmer (process – pedagogy of sessions)

Miriam Torres mytorres@nmsu.edu

Mary Stone Hanley hanleym@email.unc.edu

8. A time or session for discussion of what is social justice

Sharon Miller Keller

Karen Cadeiro

Marta Baltodano

Julie Andrzejewsky

9. White privilege

Conference May 28-April 15

Sharon Miller Keller

Virginia Lea

10. Global urgency – need for action

11. How to use our financial resources

Audrey

David McCurry will do our web page

12. Critical issues in technology

David McCurry of Monmouth University dmccurry@monmouth.edu will do our web page

Create on our list serve a space for our stories and what we are currently doing with regard to the issues of the sig

13. Membership

Audrey

14. Develop list serve for more dialogue

Miriam Torres mytorres@nmsu.edu

15. Continue work on standards for social justice – cross sig research

Marta Baltodano

Julie

16. Communication across other like-minded sigs

Sally Thomas

Members were encouraged to join the reception of Journal of Latinos in Ed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

POST MEETING NOTES 4/23/03

CESJ/AERA Discussion After the Business meeting: Summary of notes as recorded by _____.

I () took notes during a debrief session among the “officers” of the Social Justice SIG. This included Peggy Laughlin, Karen Cadeiro-Kaplan, Sally Thomas, Audrey Dentith and Suzanne Soohoo. Great energy and great new ideas emerged.

Reflection: the meeting had good organization and was well attended. When the By Laws were passed around for approval, the agenda got sort of quagmired in a debate around the language and terminology that reinforced the language and structures of a patriarchal institution that we were actually trying to change. The tone and contributions, however, were positive and people were excited about being involved on several levels of participation, beginning with reconstructing the wording of the By Laws. We also had several volunteers to work on the program committee and other needed tasks we had identified. Sally Thomas has the poster papers and comments that were handed in by everyone and she will be sending us a report with the names of people who will begin to work with us.

We talked about what the program would look like next year – how to organize the sessions, what themes would be considered. What the criteria might be. And we also played around with the language that would describe our roles and identity as a SIG.

Ideas for next year –

1. Begin with the history of and a study of the coalitions and grass roots movements around Social Justice, primarily how CESJ got started, then also maybe including others, such as the teacher educators of the CCTE that are resisting standards at the credential level, CCCE, California Resisters, other educators.
2. What is Social justice? - what does this mean and how do we bring in the different perspectives – need to come to some common understanding of how we are going to use this term. Theoretical orientation and contributions to the development of this agenda
3. Resisting standards, white supremacy and white privilege – relating to the growing repressive mandates that have systematically silenced and marginalized the intellectual work of underrepresented groups, the work of researchers who do not fit into the govt. definition of “scientific”, and the work of teachers at all levels who are fearful of censorship and losing their jobs if they questions these mandates
4. Themes the might emerge through collaboration with other SIGS - ???
5. Sessions that bring in local teachers and community members
6. Continuing the work of the creation of “standards” for social and environmental justice – Marta and Julie

7. Bring in “famous people” to serve as discussants – session with C. Sleeter was well attended. Suggestion of bringing in Alma Flor Ada as discussant, also Michael Moore as a speaker – who else??

OK – the best part – here are the terms we came up with to name our roles:

Elders – founding coalition starters, people who have served in a primary role and major contributors over the history of the SIG. They mentor the new people who have big jobs to do with this SIG. Past chair, Secretary/treasurer, program chair

Fabric weavers – they keep the continuity going over time and develop networks across groups with common interests: Historians to tell the story over time, SIG liaison workers to network with other SIGS – they serve to weave a fabric of solidarity and communication with breadth and depth

Firestarters – people who initiate and inspire the work and the agenda for programs and projects of this SIG. They will develop the themes for the sessions, invite presenters, and spark the organization to act.

Action Figures – people who focus on action, such as bringing in local teachers and community

Hunters – the nominating committee and others who seek out and bring in new experts

Healers – facilitators and Peacebuilders – like the “chairs” ?

Tricksters – people who bring in fun, irony and help us play

Language of the Village – the stream that unites us to a common vision, e.g. “social justice’ and other program elements, themes and theoretical grounding that will continue to evolve