

Meeting of the Doctoral Education Committee
Thursday, November 21, 2013
Minutes – NCA, Washington, D.C.

I. Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by John Meyer, U. of Southern Mississippi.

III. Nominees for Membership on the DEC:

We had a wealth of interest in serving on the DEC this year. The following people self-nominated or had others nominate them for consideration. These people were encouraged by the committee on committees and the DEC through email invitations and *Spectra* announcements.

Keith Berry, University of South Florida

Jeffrey Child, Kent State

Janis Edwards, University of Alabama

Adrienne Kunkel, University of Kansas

Christian Lundberg, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Erin Ruppell, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Jordan Soliz, University of Nebraska

Mary E. Stuckey, Georgia State

All of the nomination materials were circulated amongst the DEC. After discussion by the DEC, we sent the following four names to the NCA nominating committee. Criteria included being nominated and not elected in the past as well as representing a diversity in terms of sub-discipline, type of institution, geography and demographic. Furthermore, we considered experience/tenure of teaching in a doctoral program.

Keith Berry, University of South Florida

Jeffrey Child, Kent State University

Adrienne Kunkel, University of Kansas

Jordan Soliz, University of Nebraska

These names, as well as names developed by the committee on committees were then considered. The four people elected by the committee of committees were:

Keith Berry, University of South Florida

Jeffrey Child, Kent State University

Adrienne Kunkel, University of Kansas

Mary Stuckey, Georgia State University

It was discussed that we should re-nominate Jordan Soliz next year and mention in his nomination materials that this is his second nomination. Furthermore, we should consider the same with those who showed interest this year and whose names were not sent along by the DEC. Other people who were recommended for potential future service included Heather Carver, University of Missouri (theatre); Robin Nabi, UC Santa Barbara.

IV. Miller Dissertation Award

Tim Kuhn provided an extended report on the Miller Award. The other people who served with him on the committee included:

Tammy Afifi, University of Iowa
Deb Cai, Temple University
Greg Dickinson, Colorado State University
Debbie Dougherty, University of Missouri
Christina Foust, University of Denver
John Meyer, University of Southern Mississippi

Up to three Miller dissertation awards can be awarded each year. However, it is most common to award two, and one can also be awarded. This year, we chose to blind the nominations (so the award committee was not aware of the institution or advisors related to the dissertation entries). Although this perhaps was more difficult for some of the applicants, the result is that reputation did not play into the decisions.

We had three winners this year:

Kendra Knight, Christopher Newport University

For her dissertation completed at Arizona State University entitled “The Influence of Response Threshold and Perceptions of Domestic Labor Conflict on Labor Allocation and Conflict Patterns in Marital Dyads,” directed by Dr. Jess Alberts.

Timothy Barney, University of Richmond

For his dissertation completed at the University of Maryland entitled “(Re)Placing America: Cold War Mapping and the Mediation of International Space,” directed by Dr. Trevor Parry-Giles.

Amy Way, Villanova University

For her dissertation completed at Arizona State University entitled “Apprentices and Worker Bees: Discursive Constructions of Youth’s Work Identity,” directed by Dr. Angela Trethewey.

Nominations come in at the beginning April. The goal is to turn them around before summer vacations begin.

As voted on last year, each member of the DEC agrees to serve on the committee at least one time in their tenure, unless they are chair or vice-chair of the DEC.

We need at least 5 members on the committee; this year there were 6 members + chair. In addition to DEC members, good Miller committee members can be recruited from past winners / advisors of the award.

The following people declined to serve, but said they'd be willing to be on the committee in later years:

1. Patrice Buzzanell
2. Lester Olson
3. Ted Striphas
4. Paul Turpin
5. Kevin Barge
6. Craig Scott
7. Leah Ceccarelli
8. Dan Brouwer
9. Randy Lake
10. Rob Asen

This year, there were 20 nominees. The dissertations were split into a social scientific group and a critical/cultural/qualitative/rhetorical group. Each group had 10 dissertations to read. This is a larger number than usual (in 2012, only 12 were submitted).

It was discussed that in the future, we could ideally use THREE different award subcommittees: 1) quantitative social science; 2) qualitative social science; 3) critical, cultural, rhetorical.

V. Doctoral Resource Guide

Trevor Parry-Giles provided a report on this guide, which is a new project on NCA website. 76 programs are included and the main question that emerged was where to draw the boundaries for inclusion.

This list does not include journalism and mass communications only programs. In some instances, there are mixed programs.

This is an informational rather than evaluative list. Among other things, it lists awards and provides links and a digest of past evaluation studies.

Trevor used his determination to figure out which programs to include; if someone called and complained and it made sense, then they were added to the list.

NCA does not plan on conducting an evaluation study in the near future.

VI. Report on planning for 2014 Doctoral Honors Seminar

We had no applications to host the seminar in 2014. As such, Trevor Parry-Giles has offered to coordinate hosting it at University of Maryland in 2014. Universities showing interest in hosting it for 2015 include University of Missouri, Pennsylvania State and Kent State.

VII. Report on University of Maine's 2013 Doctoral Honor's Conference

Nathan Stormer of University of Maine reported on hosting the 2013 Doctoral Honors Seminar. It was held at the beautiful Schoodic Education and Research Center, where participants were able to work inside and out. They had 70 applications, selected 29 students to attend, representing 22 universities, and included eight faculty leaders.

Highlights included separate sessions and collaborative networking across groups. Nathan reported that the conference was one of the highpoints of his career, saying it was “amazing, inspirational, and sublime.”

As a reminder, NCA provides \$20,000 for the conference and the host university covers the rest. Usually the \$20K covers about 2/3 or ½ of the cost. Costs include travel vouchers and housing for the participants.

Nathan is happy to share what they did, mentioning that the logistical parts with travel were most difficult to manage.

VII. New Business

A. Election of Incoming Vice-Chair

Nathan Stormer, University of Maine, was nominated and elected by acclamation

B. Election of Incoming Miller Dissertation Award Chair

John Meyer, University of Mississippi, was nominated and elected by acclamation.

The following DEC members have agreed to serve on the 2014 Miller Award committee:
Kevin Barge, Tammy Afifi, and Patrice Buzzanell.

C. We discussed changing the format of the doctoral chairs breakfast, as it has very low attendance. Our brainstorm included the following ideas.

We need to clarify that this is a meeting for doctoral directors and anyone else interested in the state of doctoral education (not just chairs of doctoral granting departments).

The DEC should reach out to doctoral directors and open up the event to anyone interested.

We need to reconsider the timing: 7 a.m. is too early; better to have a snack break or afternoon session; another option is to do it right after the DEC meeting or after the Doctoral Open House.

Ideas for themes: Panel with snack break, named something like, “contentious issues with doctoral programs”; including a list of potential topics for discussion; how do you fit communication education into the new University atmosphere (it’s a different story than supporting the com 100 course; e.g., part of value of doctoral programs is that it helps the university uphold its R1 status); how do different budget models impact doctoral education?; how do we do high quality at low cost?; how do we approach and influence the growing role of online education?

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. Note: some of the information compiled above was supplemented with information provided at the Doctoral Chair’s Breakfast, 11/23.

Submitted by Sarah J. Tracy, Vice-Chair, 2013; Chair, 2014