

The regular monthly meeting of the LAPA General Assembly was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 12:06 PM in Siderooms A & B of the Otowi Cafeteria. LAPA Vice-President Michael Demkowicz was the presiding officer. The agenda was approved without changes, and the minutes from the previous meeting (1/10/07), which had been posted on the LAPA webpage, were approved without correction.

An officer's report was given by Michael Demkowicz announcing the creation of the LAPA online message board, with Zack Baker providing additional details. The chair of the Special Committee to rank NPA Meeting travel award applicants (Joseph Hickey) reported on the committee's selections. Committee reports were given by Melissa Lucero (chair, Policy Committee), Chandra Savage Marsden in Nenad Velisavljevic's (chair, Social Committee) absence, Nate Mara (chair, Conversion Committee), and Joseph Hickey (chair, Career Committee).

Regarding the bylaw amendment proposed at the 12/13/06 GA meeting which would change the definition of the Executive Committee, the Policy Committee recommended rejecting the amendment, as it was deemed unnecessary. The recommendation was accepted by a vote of 14-0. In addition, the committee recommended letting custom dictate how to add amendments to the bylaws if the issue should arise again. This recommendation was also approved by a vote of 14-0.

The issue of extending postdoc tenure and LAPA's possible role in advocating for such a change was discussed. In the course of the discussion, other related issues arose, and the need for further conversation was expressed. A motion was approved by a vote of 15-0 to create an "Employment Concerns" committee which will arrange a special meeting for postdocs to talk about the various issues brought up in the discussion. The committee would also explore other ways (possibly email or web-based) to create an open forum for employment concerns. Alicia Garcia-Lopez was appointed chair of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.