



Sharyn Slavin Miller
Director, Research Division
Report for the 2013 Conference Board of Directors Meeting
March, 2013

NASPA Board Action Items

None at this time

NASPA Mission

To be the principal source for leadership, scholarship, professional development, and advocacy for students.

Leadership

Research Division Report – summary of the year:

*To improve communication between the Faculty Fellows and the Research Division, the chair of the Faculty Fellows appointed Dr. Larry Roper to serve as the liaison between the two groups. The goal was to have Dr. Roper serve on the Research Division, participating in all conference calls and communication among members and the Chair. This appointment, however, was not really effective. Dr. Roper only participated in one conference call due to his busy schedule.

*The Director of the Research Division served on a webinar panel on how to apply for research grants in Region VI.

*The Director of the Research Division was in conversation with National Office Staff about creating an electronic “Toolkit” to be used by NASPA membership to understand better the regional grant writing process and to support research efforts. This goal, however, has not been accomplished. The National Office Staff have not finalized their approach to this goal.

*All of the regions, except Region II, have a regional research grant proposal process, awarding from \$1000 - \$2000 grants for regional members interested in seeking support for their research.

The following is the year’s summary of regional efforts in promoting research:

Region I: Regional Representative, Jean-Joyce Brady

In June 2012, the Region I Advisory Board approved funding for a small research grant program to support and encourage collaborative research partnerships between student affairs faculty and practitioners in the region. Criteria for grant applications included direct relevance to student affairs practice as well as to the NASPA 2011 Research and Scholarship Agenda. Information about the grant application process was emailed to all Region I members and posted on the region's website. This grant program was the result of collaborations among the Region I Research Division Chair, Faculty Liaison and KC Chair for Assessment, Research and Evaluation.

Two November 2012 Region I Conference programs were accepted and will occur as a result of the collaboration among the Region I Research Division Chair, Faculty Liaison and KC Chair for Assessment, Research and Evaluation. One program was a faculty panel constituted of Region I faculty presenting brief synopses of their research with implications for student affairs practice. The second conference program was designed to educate members about best practices for writing research grant proposals. The Region I Small Research Grant program was described and reviewed during this second conference session.

Region II: Regional Representative, Dan Ryan

No report submitted at this time.

Region III: Regional Representative, Alicia Caudill

Region III reported a \$2,000 research grant process. In addition, the Region III representative recommended that the following be included in the Research Toolkit: steps for creating a research project, quality resources for conducting research, tips on being a research practitioner, funding options both regionally and nationally, and contacts in NASPA who would be willing to answer questions regarding the research process.

Region IV- E: Regional Representative, Laura Ketchum-Ciftci

Region IV-E offered a research and assessment grant. For 2012, the grant was for \$1,000. The Region IV-E representative has submitted an educational session for the region on the Research and Scholarship Agenda to help get the word out about this document and to encourage more submissions in the future for these grants.

In addition, mailings were sent to the member graduate schools within the region so that faculty can be encouraged to apply for research funding, not just Student Affairs program administrators.

One major advantage of this grant is to build more knowledge within the region by having the award winner present their findings at a future Region IV-E conference.

Region IV- W: Regional Representative, Jerrid Freeman

The faculty liaison and regional research representative wrote a newsletter article for every publication about issues to assist on the writing journey and also to offer assistance to writers/researchers.

Region IV –W included articles on publishing research in their newsletter. In addition they had a presentation on publishing at the regional IV-West conference. The Regional Representative partnered with the Research KC Chair and also the faculty liaison for this presentation.

Region IV-W provided mentors for their regional members who were interested in the publishing process. The region reactivated the new professional and graduate case study competition this year. They had teams ready for their conference.

Region V: Regional Representative, Jessica White

In June 2011, the Region V Advisory Board members allocated \$2000 to support the development of a research grant. In response to this, a grant proposal, timeline, and review processes were developed, reviewed and supported by the regional Board during the summer/fall of 2011. In conjunction with the NASPA main office an online application form was developed. Through the “Scholar Practitioner Research Grant” NASPA Region V is seeking to support research that is: (a) systematic in its approach to discover relationships between variables or to explain a particular phenomenon, (b) grounded in theory, and (c) generalizable or has broad implications for practice so that it contributes to the body of student affairs scholarship.

This new grant was publicized at the NASPA Region V conference in San Diego in November 2011 with particular focus on the New Professional and Graduate Student Knowledge Community and student affairs faculty events, although information was distributed broadly as well. The first grants were reviewed and awarded in June 2012. Two regional research projects were funded for a total of \$1500.00. Recipients of the grant were featured and announced along with other regional award winners at the 2012 Western Regional Conference in Kona, Hawaii. This was made possible through partnerships with the regional conference planning committee.

In preparation for the next grant cycle, marketing materials were prepared with the Region V Social Media Coordinator, Matt Lewis. Publicity for the grant will take place after January 1, 2013 and will be featured in conjunction with the Region V blog/website.

In response to discussion at the June 2012 Board Meeting, the Regional Representative developed a process for and solicited nominations for outstanding graduate student research with the intent of featuring their work on the regional blog. In partnership with the Region V Faculty Liaison, Mary Skorheim, and the NASPA Faculty Fellow in the region, Larry Roper, nominations were solicited for high quality and compelling graduate student research. While the response was a bit disappointing, six nominations were received, all from the same institution (Oregon State University). These dissertations and theses will be featured after January 1, 2013 in conjunction with the marketing materials for the Scholar Practitioner Research Grant.

In partnership with Sherry Mallory, Programs Co-Chair for the 2012 Western Regional Conference, and other representatives from NASPA’s Research Division, we helped develop and promote a conference competency track in “Assessment, Evaluation, and Research” (AER). This competency area focused on the ability to use, design, conduct, and critique qualitative and quantitative AER analyses; to manage

organizations using AER processes and the results obtained from them; and to shape the political and ethical climate surrounding AER processes and uses on campus.

The conference proposal committee received a total of 28 proposals for 45-minute research sessions and 17 proposals for 75-minute research sessions. At the 2012 Western Regional Conference two research sessions were offered each during the 45-minute time slots (for a total of 4). One featured the work of a faculty member, one featured the work of a doctoral student, and two featured studies conducted by staff in the UH system on the needs and experiences of Native Hawaiian college students.

A total of five research sessions during the 75-minute time slots were offered; three featured the work of faculty, and two highlighted practitioner research.

Region VI: Regional Representative, Cedric Hackett

The Region VI Research Division hosted a Webinar on “Understanding the Region VI Research Application process on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 from 1-2pm PDT, which highlighted the National Research Agenda, the nuts and bolts of submitting a grant, and our decision making process. Also included was launching our new online submission process.

27 NASPA members participated in the webinar, in addition to the facilitators: Dr. Kandy Mink-Salas, Dr. Lori Ideta, Dr. Sharyn Slavin Miller (National Chair), and Dr. Cedric Hackett (Region VI Research Division Representative)

To view the Webinar, click on <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/341442378>.

The Region VI Research and Grant competition has been held over the last two years, with \$1,000 being awarded each year. This past year, the Review team received an email to access the proposals with an attached rubric to evaluate the proposals to check for adherence to the criteria. The Research Committee has developed a 2-phase format for evaluating proposals. Phase 1 was the objective review of proposals utilizing rating scales. Phase 2 was an open dialogue and deliberations were made on possible recipients.

Two proposals were selected to receive research support in the amount of \$1000 each. Dr. Helen Chen and her research team (student researchers) were selected for their proposal on *“The Partners in Academic Excellence Undergraduate Advising Program at Stanford University: Piloting Electronic Portfolios to Enhance Advising...”*

Dr. Samuel Museus and his research team (student researchers) were selected for their proposal on *“The Culturally Engaging Environments Scale: Environmental Influences on Southeast Asian American and Pacific Islander Success in Higher Education.”*

The Region VI Research Division held a roundtable discussion regarding the “research process” for the 2012 Western Regional Conference in Hawaii (Nov. 2012).

Scholarship

- See Regional Grant information in prior section

Professional Development

No Report at this time

Advocacy

No Report at this time

NASPA Strategic Plan

If your region, division, or other Board Member Responsibilities have specific responsibilities or activities that pertain to the NASPA Strategic Plan, please include the goal and objective and a bulleted description of the activity since the last Board meeting.

You may also reference the NASPA Mission report where the activity is described in detail above in your full Board report.

Goal 1

1. Build the capacity to create knowledge and use data to provide evidence that will support excellence in practice.

Objectives

- 1.1 Be the primary source of data on the experience of college and university students.
- 1.2 Demonstrate the impact of student affairs on student learning, persistence, and success through scholarship, assessment, evaluation, and research.
- 1.3 Tighten and align the connections among theory, research, and practice.
- 1.4 Enhance skills and provide tools to conduct student affairs program reviews in support of best practice and institutional effectiveness.

Goal 4

2. Strengthen NASPA by making it a more responsive, vital and sustainable organization.

Objectives

- 4.1 Diversify and strengthen the sources of NASPA's revenue.
- 4.2 Increase collaboration and partnerships with higher education and other organizations.
- 4.3 Review and redefine the roles and responsibilities of the NASPA President, Executive Director, Regional Vice Presidents, and Board structure and composition.
- 4.4 Increase opportunities for innovation through technology.
- 4.5 Strengthen NASPA's contributions to student affairs graduate preparation programs.

- 4.6 Ensure the participation and inclusion of NASPA's members in leadership and governance.
- 4.7 Examine resources and staffing to ensure alignment with strategic planning goals.