

**SUMMARY NOTES FROM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
NOV 3, 2019**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How or where (or does) the group you represent in the Council find a home in the REA mission and commitments?
2. What do you want to tell REA? What have you heard in these past few days that REA should attend to?
3. What are some dreams you have for REA?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Does REA meeting have impact? Does conference change what we do? Need to address “so what?” for meeting theme.
- That there are large # of RE scholars in administration isn’t addressed in REA except how our field shows up in curriculum, faculty positions. Administrators in REA have important perspective on the field in the academy.
- Advancement Committee is starting their work by clarifying REA identity. Need to be able to say who we are.
- Advancement will work on increasing participation of practitioners, along with other marginalized groups.
- We need to grow membership in order to maintain *current* size.
- Attendance is dependent on theme and meeting location.
- Students can be isolated in their programs like many scholars are isolated in their institutions. Need more intentional mentoring, networking. Students need help in meeting scholars, how to present, navigation REA meeting.
- Like *Horizons* model of active mentoring, give students some designated space to consult with scholars.
- We need to attend to who is controlling our narrative, gatekeeping, making decisions.
- Older scholars should hold others accountable for racial sensitivity; be aware that younger scholars don’t have power and freedom to confront. Young scholars are very sensitive about the influence older REA scholars have on their careers.
- As educators, REA needs to embrace education in race awareness.
- Some newer scholars are excited about possibility of designing program (and influencing the field) without having to take the responsibility of “running meetings” and other presidential tasks.

- Publications committee appreciates that non-RE people attend, present, and publish in journal as way to enrich conversation and provide outsiders with platform for where their work intersects ours.
- Discuss pros and cons of double-blind review of proposals; negative is the unintentional omission of senior scholars from presenting, and small nature of REA makes it hard to be truly “blind.”
- Good to have REA talk about what is academic, to describe what we mean by it.
- Meetings are currently more about content of what we teach rather than cutting edge pedagogy. Need more of the latter.
- Implicit design of conference is for Christian and academic: scheduled on weekends. Should be M-W for non-Christian and practitioners. (Summer 2022 will test this.)
- ALLLM still uncertain of fit with REA. Can they learn here?
- Practitioners may not see the relevance of discussions beyond their denominational group, but some of those groups don’t have regular national meetings.
- Emphasis on helping young scholars is limiting; need to include young practitioners (e.g., help them reflect on practice) and international student needs.

IDEAS

- Plenary design needs creativity. Too many plenaries. Try panel done like fishbowl. Some experiential learning. Use technology, e.g. tweeting questions. Locate outside hotel—community walk, art garden, local nonprofit.
- More open space in program for conversations, networking, rest.
- Re institute workshops and colloquiums because that appeals to our marginalized groups.
- Add featuring of new contributions to field from practitioners
- Keep seniors coming by valuing them: e.g., free registration, lifetime membership
- Find way to support RE scholars in administration who have voice for the field and have perspective on higher ed that can help us.
- Create LGBTQA+ work group; Barbara Davis willing to convene.
- Create web page of resources for students.
- Link senior US scholars with international students for conversation on their research/paper.
- Consider grouping papers into sessions by type of research: dissertation, theoretical, empirical.
- Better publicity to recruit diversity of moderators because moderating is invested with power and authority. Need training, including training in race awareness. Do online. Clarify moderator’s role. Standardize expectations. Improve time-keeping.
- At conference, have someone track who’s speaking, asking questions. Report at conference.
- Access to Asian food around meeting; Asian food choices at meeting

BOARD ACTIONS (March 2020)

Not limited to but including:

- For REA 2020, reduce number of plenaries, increase number of breakout sessions, plan more unstructured time, include pedagogical variety.
- Initiate mentoring program that matches experienced scholars with students for face-to-face meetings at REA 2020, with option to continue.
- LGBTQA+ work group to begin meeting at REA 2020
- Web training videos for session moderators.
- Select menus that include Asian and other ethnic foods.

Additional actions are still under discussion or being implemented.