

WCPA Board Restructure Working Document

Summer 2008

Background and Purpose

The 2007-2008 WCPA executive board engaged in an active discussion regarding several critical issues facing our organization. These issues included:

- Executive board recruitment
- Meeting attendance of executive board members
- Building and sustaining an active membership body
- Providing opportunities for members to become more engaged in the organization at varying levels of commitment

Since the passage of our Membership Initiative only a few short months ago, our membership in WCPA has more than doubled. Now that our organization is growing in number we must offer opportunities for our new members (and veteran members) to become connected to WCPA and explore multiple avenues of involvement in our organization.

As we propose our restructure, remembering our organizations purpose and mission is of critical importance. WCPA offers high quality professional development opportunities to our members at a low cost. We also bring professionals together from all corners of campus to share resources and discuss issues that extend beyond any one functional area.

Outcomes

By restructuring our WCPA executive board in this way, we will accomplish the following outcomes:

- Reduce the executive board membership to a more manageable number
- Provide multiple opportunities for every WCPA member to become more engaged in WCPA and make a meaningful contribution to the organization
- Build a solid pool of engaged members who will contribute to WCPA and take leadership positions in WCPA

Executive Board

We propose reducing the number of executive board members from seventeen members to nine. The executive board will be comprised of:

- President
- President-Elect
- Past President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Conference Chair
- Conference Chair Elect
- Technology Administrator
- Membership and Marketing Administrator

All position responsibilities will remain as outlined in the WCPA constitution. The only slight change is the Membership Administrator will receive the additional responsibility of marketing initiatives for our organization including the quarterly newsletter.

Executive Board Expectations

All executive board members will be elected by the membership of WCPA and will be accountable to all members of WCPA and the executive board. All executive board members will continue to fulfill the duties outlined in the WCPA constitution. Failure to fulfill the expectations outlined in the WCPA constitution will result in a request of resignation to the President. Currently, the WCPA constitution does not outline a removal process of executive board members.

Commissions

In an effort to provide additional opportunities for WCPA members to become more involved in our organization, we recommend the establishment of seven commissions. These commissions shall be open to all members of WCPA and will provide an opportunity to discuss broad issues facing all areas of student affairs. Members will be able to participate in as many commissions as they choose. The commissions will be lead by a Commission Leader who will be elected by the commission membership or appointed by the President of WCPA if a commission membership is too low to hold an election.

The WCPA membership will choose the inaugural seven commissions from the list of topical areas below:

- Safety and Crisis Management
- Legal Issues
- Diversity and Social Justice
- Sustainability
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Learning Initiatives
- Professional Development
- Financial Resource Management
- Assessment
- Leadership and Involvement
- Technology
- Graduate Students
- Others (submitted by membership)

Commissions will meet via teleconference as necessary and meet at the annual conference to receive updates on WCPA business and to discuss contributions each commission can make to WCPA. Commissions will be relied upon heavily to recruit program presenters at the annual conference and PDI. Commissions will also be relied upon heavily to nominate individuals for WCPA awards. Each commission will be encouraged to research topics, share resources through email list serves, and recruit members to become involved in the commission's work.

Commission Leader Expectations

Commission Leaders will be expected to maintain regular contact with the WCPA President and provide updates on the goals, projects, and progress toward the accomplishment of shared goals. The Commission Leader will initiate and chair commission meetings and maintain the commission list serve to ensure the sharing of ideas and resources is taking place. Commission Leaders will not be required to attend regular WCPA executive board meetings, but will be required to attend the summer retreat meeting.

Commission Member Expectations

Commissions are open to every WCPA member who desires to become involved. Commission members are expected to participate in commission teleconference and follow through on research projects, program recruitment or development, and award submission recruitment or development. Commission members will also promote WCPA and encourage colleagues to join WCPA and become involved in the organization in some way.

Conclusion

By adopting this new structure, we will create a variety of opportunities for members of WCPA to become involved and invested in the organization. We feel this structure will provide opportunities for members to connect with other professionals from a variety of functional areas to discuss topics facing our profession across functional area. The strength of WCPA is our ability to encompass a wide variety of experiences for members and provide opportunities to expand professional networks beyond functional area. We feel this proposed structure honors that strength.

We also believe this structure will ensure the longevity of our organization by building future leaders of WCPA through involvement in commissions, commission leadership position, and various executive board positions. With our increasing membership, the time to engage and involve our members is now!