Committee met January 16, 2014 in Williamsburg, VA.

The meeting began with introductions. The new editor is Dr. Mari Cortez, Professor of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Glenda Bean provided an overview of committee charge. Susan Barnes, Board Liaison, thanked the Editorial Committee (EC) on behalf of the Board for their work for SECA. She also shared that the Board is interested in bilingual publications and e-publications. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Joanna Grymes chaired the meeting and took the minutes.

Mari and the committee reviewed the SECA Policy Manual for committee roles and responsibilities. The EC suggest that the description be expanded to include supporting the junior editor in the manuscript review process, working on publications other than Dimensions, and making best use of new digital technologies and media to create other types of professional development materials.

EC members drafted a mission statement to guide their work:

The Editorial Committee’s mission is supporting the work of SECA by creating and guiding the development of publications, professional development materials, and other relevant resources that provide practical perspectives for diverse early childhood educators.

The mission statement was not officially adopted by the committee.

One goal of the EC is to increase the quality of the articles in Dimensions while keeping them very practitioner oriented. Some steps in that direction that are being proposed include:

1. Working toward transitioning the Spanish language materials into a Spanish language journal that would not be a translation of Dimensions
2. Expanding Dimensions (Research into Practice) or Dimensions Extra or create another venue that would be an option for non-referred articles with the practical application; the 3C’s submitting ideas or presentations could be a place to start
3. Requiring that all manuscripts are peer reviewed, discontinuing the separate section for non-peer reviewed materials
4. Adding material such as a “From our Conference” series of articles that would make content from the conference more accessible to all members
5. Considering developing an annual award for the best Dimensions article
6. Implementing a new Dimensions reviewer process. Starting January 2015, reviewers must complete an Application for Reviewer Status (an application was approved by the EC in May, 2014). If approved, the reviewer could be appointed to a 3 year term and could reapply for renewal.
Other Recommendations to the Board:

1. Administer a Needs Assessment. Send out a short survey to our membership asking about their preferences for publications and resources they would like available from SECA. Take care to have a representative sample of respondents. A draft of survey questions can be found in the meeting minutes.

2. Address the Position Statements available on the SECA web page. They are outdated. Position statements should not be given away, sold, or otherwise distributed. If they remain on the website, the PDFs should be identified as “Archived” and links also be made available to the position statements under “Publications.” If the Board wishes, the EC would be willing to work with experts to review and update the position statements. The EC would like the Board to prioritize the order with which the position statements should be addressed if this is the Board’s pleasure.

3. Have the EC evaluate the current SECA brochures for professional content.

4. Provide links to the state publications on the SECA web page.

5. Have SECA conference planners schedule, with consultation with Editor and Committee Chair, two sessions at the conference: one for reviewers, one for authors. These should be automatic sessions and should not require submission of a conference proposal.

6. Giles manuscript does not provide an innovative approach and should not be accepted for publication.

Submitted by Susan Barnes
Editorial Committee Board Liaison
May 25, 2014