

MAP

MINORITIES AND PHILOSOPHY

15 Nov. 2015

Dear MSF Board:

We're delighted to report that we have nearly 60 chapters spanning the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Most of our chapters are led by graduate students, though a handful are led by either undergraduates or faculty members. Attached are (a) our end-of-year report on the 2014-2015 academic year, and (b) a list of chapter events and activities from the past two years. We also provide some Board-specific updates here.

Overall, we've seen impressive growth in community among MAP chapters. As MAP has matured, chapters have shown extraordinary creativity in their activities and use of resources, and increasingly foster inter-chapter collaboration among members of the MAP network. One sign of this latter trend is that members have created a visible online community: chapters regularly post events, queries, and ideas to MAP's Facebook, and several chapters have their own lively Facebook sites or webpages.

As you'll see in our end-of-year report, we were encouraged to see issues from our first year improve over the course of our second. Further, as we expected at the start of this enterprise, the resources of a network and community have been invaluable in fostering communicating opportunities (for instance calls for papers or job advertisements) to members of underrepresented groups in philosophy.

Given MAP's growth, several organizations have contacted us to collaborate. For example, we were invited to give a session at next year's Eastern meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA). We've also collaborated with several programs directed at undergraduates (e.g., Philosophy in an Inclusive Key) and the APA's Task Force on Inclusion and Diversity.

We've recently hired a Program Associate to help with administrative work, which has grown in pace with the growth of MAP. Our primary motive behind the hire was to ensure continuity between leadership turnovers. Given the short timespan of graduate school, MAP leadership will cycle relatively quickly—while the administrative skills behind successfully leading a large organization have a steep learning curve and demand significant time to learn. As we started thinking of new leadership, we thought this was an important step in ensuring the success of future Boards. We've adjusted honoraria to Organizers to make up for the amount going to our Associate.

Chapter activities have used the bulk of the budget that MSF pledged for the 2015 calendar year. Funding requests are evaluated at the start of each semester; amounts granted are adjusted according to considerations like our own budget constraints, or in keeping with what we take to be disciplinary norms on discretionary spending on items such as honoraria. We are happy to have been able to fund many exciting projects this coming term, such as the UAlbany Roundtable on Minority Success. The event comes from a highly active chapter of both undergraduates and graduates at a “minority-majority” school and is directed at students (undergraduate and graduate) from six area schools.

With two years behind us, we can safely say that our chapters have surpassed our starting expectations. The attached documents are only a snapshot of what we’ve found so impressive; the interactions of an animated community are not as easily documented. Nevertheless, we hope you’ll review them with a sense of accomplishment. We are deeply grateful for the MSF’s ongoing generosity, without which these efforts would not be possible.

All best,

Liam Bright, Maegan Fairchild, & Yena Lee