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The POD Professional Relations and Membership Committee

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Associations

The POD Professional Relations and Membership Committee

D. JOSEPH CLARK

The Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD) was founded by a small group of pioneering faculty and professional developers who established a support network and became close friends. The subsequent evolution of POD was in the direction of a professional association, as evidenced by its current activities: (1) an annual conference, (2) the expansion of its membership, and (3) the sponsoring of activities which reach beyond the membership.

To assist POD in sensible growth and development, the Professional Relations and Membership Committee was formed and assigned three major functions: (1) to monitor the composition of the POD membership and make recommendations relative to POD's growth and development in accordance with the membership's composition, (2) to explore ways in which POD can interact with other professional organizations in a mutually beneficial manner, and (3) to explore ways in which POD can affect organizations which influence developments in higher education.

The composition of the committee reflects the geographical and professional distribution of the POD membership. It includes: Bert Biles, Diana Christopulos, Joe Clark, Mary Lynn Crow, Ron Crowell, Glenn Erickson, Robert Falk, Robert Jackson, Sally Kochendofer, Carol Mann, Al Mizell, Ray Multerer, Joan North, Dabney Park, Carol Paul, Steve Phillips, Daniel Wheeler, Delivee Wright, and Robert Young.

A recommendation of the Professional Relations Committee to expand the membership of POD in a definite yet gentle manner was

adopted by the POD Executive and CORE Committees at their Spring meeting. This recommendation was affirmed by the membership through the Delphi Instrument conducted last fall by Lance Buhl and Steve Scholl.

The committee has also pointed out the under-representation of ethnic minorities in POD and recommended that every effort be made to provide a program which will attract a broader spectrum of people into the organization.

Much of the committee's energy has been devoted to contacts with professional organizations with interests similar to POD's. These contacts are initiated at the executive level by the chairman of the committee; the POD representative then proceeds with follow-up contacts with a representative of the sister organization. Suggested areas for cooperation include invitations to attend and make formal presentations at annual conferences, exchanges of information regarding workshops and seminars which may be of interest to members of both organizations, invitations to contribute articles to the official journals, and work on research projects of mutual concern.

The list at the end of the article shows those organizations which have been identified as having interests similar to POD's, along with the contact person in the organization and our representative.

The initial responses have been very warm and enthusiastic. Joint activities are taking shape with three of the organizations, AERA, AECT, and AAHE. A group of POD members will be included on the annual program of the AERA conference in San Francisco April 8–12. Claude Mathis will chair the session, with Bob Diamond, Bob Young, and Jack Lindquist as participants, and Wayne Kirschling and Luann Wilkerson as discussants. The session is entitled "Identifying a Research Base for Instructional Improvement in Higher Education." Al Mizell is working with AECT and other POD members to help shape the criteria for credentialling of instructional-faculty developers, an issue which is likely to affect the activities of many POD members. As a result of Joan North's interaction with Russ Edgerton, the Executive Director of AAHE, POD has joined the AAHE Register of Associated Organizations. POD will also have a cash bar reception on Wednesday, April 18 as a part of the AAHE annual conference in Washington,

D.C. April 16–19. AAHE is also desirous of our input in planning future AAHE conferences.

The Professional Relations and Membership Committee would like to identify additional organizations with interests in common with POD. Please call to our attention any such organizations of which you may be aware. If you wish to be the POD "ambassador" to that organization, we would appreciate your volunteering for the assignment.

Organization	Contact Person	POD Representative
American Assoc. of Higher Education	Russell Edgerton	Joan North
American Educational Research Assoc.	William Russell	Robert Young
American Personnel & Guidance Assoc.	Charles Lewis	Sally Kochendofer
American Political Science Assoc.		Ray Multerer
American Society for Training and Devel.	Kevin O'Sullivan	Steve Phillips
Assoc. of Educational Communications and Technology (Div. of Instructional Devel.)		Al Mizell
Assoc. of Governing Boards	Robert Gale	Joe Clark
Council for Advancement of Experiential Learning	Larraine Matusak	Diana Christopolos
Council for Advancement of Small Colleges	Gary Quehl	Steve Phillips
Nat'l Center for Higher Education Management Systems	Wayne Kirshling	Bert Biles
Nat'l Assoc. for Research in Science Teaching		Delivee Wright
Nat'l Council for Staff, Program and Organizational Development	Roland Terell	Mary Lynn Crow
Omaha Teacher Corps Project		Daniel Wheeler
State Higher Education Executive Officers		Carol Paul