

Joint Committee for the Revision of the
Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing
Progress Report
January – June, 2009

The Joint Committee held its initial meeting January 9-11, 2009 and its second meeting April 7-9, 2009. Both meetings were held at APA headquarters in Washington, D.C. At the initial meeting, co-chairs Dr. Laurie Wise and Dr. Barbara Plake thanked Committee members for agreeing to serve and for completing reviews of particular chapters prior to the meeting. Each committee member reviewed one of the 15 chapters from the 1999 version, and presented comments from stakeholders, ideas on the extent of revisions that might be needed, how the chapter might be edited and possibly restructured, and what linkages might be established with other chapters. In addition, the Management Committee had previously identified key topics that will need to be addressed in the revision, and the Joint Committee built “theme teams” around these issues: access, accountability, technology, and workplace testing. The theme teams had breakout group meetings and reported back to the full Committee on how their assignments would take shape. The Committee discussed future meeting dates, and determined that three meetings per year would be held in Washington, D.C. and one meeting per year might be held at a different location, provided the venue was not cost-prohibitive.

At the April meeting, the Joint Committee talked more extensively about how the restructured Standards might emerge. The Committee reiterated that their task was not a major overhaul of the document, but more one of reordering and better linking standards between chapters, while addressing changes that have emerged in the field since 1999. As a model, the Committee considered draft revisions of several chapters that contained overarching themes and a ‘clustering’ proposal with individual standards reorganized topically within each chapter.

A member of the Management Committee attended part of the April meeting to discuss budget issues, publication options, and public communication with the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee expressed their desire to convene expert panels that might forecast trends on particular topics, especially emerging technology issues such as automated scoring and innovative item formats, or fairness issues tied to shifting demographics, that might impact the longevity of the revised standards.

The Joint Committee also discussed publication options (electronic versus print) with the Management Committee. The Management Committee is continuing to examine this issue, but is likely to pursue both print and e-publication options. After speaking with different publishers, the Management Committee is asking the Joint Committee to prepare a print publication because publishers have assured them that such a document can later be formatted for e-publication options. In addition, since a print product will be required there should be no wasted effort.

The co-chairs drafted a 3-year schedule delineating Joint Committee assignments and deadlines along with corresponding Management Committee activities. The current draft

schedule, subject to change, would have revised chapters available for outside review in the first half of 2011. Remaining meetings for 2009 include July 24-26 at the CRESST Center, UCLA and November 6-8 at APA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Dates for four 2010 meetings have already been confirmed.