

In an effort to better inform the APA membership, the Chapter President Council (CPC) has developed a series of questions for national candidates for the American Planning Association (APA). Mike Southard and Sumner Sharpe compiled this survey for distribution by the CPC Executive Committee. The CPC encourages chapters to endorse candidates who represent their views and positions.

***Q1A) What role do you believe continuing education plays in the advancement of a professional planner's career?***

**JC:** I believe continuing education is critical in advancing a professional planner's career. It ensures that planners have knowledge of new techniques and tools which can improve their performance. However, I also believe that continuing education classes must be convenient, relevant and impart new and valuable skills. I also believe that the classes have to be rigorous enough that planners gain a sense of accomplishment from attending the class.

**MW:** I do not believe in taking positions on issues until I have heard from as many viewpoints as possible. ("There's always another side to the story," goes the old line.); therefore my answer on some of the questions will be that I would not take a position until after a vigorous discussion.

Planning is the only field which focuses primarily on the future. The unknown future is always changing. A planner must always reorient himself/herself to that new future. They must continually reeducate themselves.

***Q1B) Do you favor mandatory continuing education for certified planners?***

**JC:** Yes, I favor mandatory continuing education for planners but would reserve final judgment until the current pilot programs are completed and evaluated.

**MW:** Planners who wish to have others (in this case, APA) state that those planners are "certified" to handle today's and tomorrow's problems must be willing to prove that they have reoriented themselves to those problems. How they demonstrate that they are staying on top of their game is a separate question.

***Q 1C) What role should APA (nationally) and the chapter (locally) have in educating planners?***

**JC:** I think the national APA should suggest topics for classes based on their knowledge of national trends, laws and regulations as well as offering a potential list of instructors and teaching resource/guides. The local chapters should have the responsibility to select instructors, teaching methods and the actual content to reflect local circumstances. It is critical that both the national APA and local chapters also expand the definition of education to include conferences, mentoring programs and other types of learning as well as effectively using long distance learning, videoconferences and other appropriate uses

of technology. This would ensure that continuing education is convenient for planners in both urban and rural jurisdictions.

**MW:** A core role of APA – national and local – is leadership in educating planners: both in identifying the key “new” issues and in providing training materials.

**Q2A) Of the six major goals (in the APA 220/2003 ODP), please prioritize them in the order of highest to least importance.**

**JC:** 1. Pursue social, economic and racial equity in America’s communities; 2. Create a culture of continuing education and provide more education opportunities for practicing planners; 3. Aggressively advocate and implement policies and legislative agendas that support and sustain good planning at the local state and national levels; 4. Foster organization changes and maintain financial sustainability; 5. Develop new membership and marketing strategies; and 6. Develop and promote a brand definition that reflects the visual, emotional and cultural identity of APA.

**MW:** The goals are, in some instances, mutually exclusive and therefore should not be prioritized. It would be ethically dubious, for instance, to rank racial equity above or below advocating a specific legislative agenda.

**Q2B) Are there any other elements or goals that you would include in the ODP and why?**

**JC:** I believe APA needs to include an element which stresses membership services and outreach including improved communication between the chapters and the national APA office.

**MW:** I have no additions to the ODP, and would not have additions without a participatory discussion of the full board.

**Q2C) How can Chapters be utilized to better implement the ODP?**

**JC:** The chapters need to be asked how they want to utilize the ODP. They will only implement a plan which they have helped to create and which they believe adds value to their efforts. The national APA office also needs to actively solicit input on the ODP from the chapters.

**MW:** The Chapters should be allowed to decide how to "better implement" the ODP. The specifics of this should not come from the national office.

***Q3A) Should the voting for AICP President be only be AICP members instead of all APA members?***

**JC:** Yes. There could be members of APA who are not members of AICP and allowing them to vote for the AICP President is not appropriate.

**MW:** Regarding all the sub-questions of Question 3, I do not think it would be appropriate for me to give my opinions without first benefiting from a solid team discussion of the pros and cons. These are internal issues; the fate of American communities does not rest on their outcome. And...they are important. (Some, interestingly, have been on the table for discussion since I was active in AIP in the early 1970s.) I look forward to that solid discussion.

***Q3B) Should the APA President serve as a voting member of the AICP Commission?***

**JC:** The APA president should be an ex-officio, non-voting member who helps to improve the communication between the organizations.

***Q3C) Should the CPC, DC, SRC, AICP, and/or College of Fellows (COF) be voting members on the APA Board?***

**JC:** APA is the umbrella organization and representatives from each of the divisions/affiliates should be ex-officio but non-voting members.

***Q3D) The AICP Commission has an even number of voting members. Should the AICP President vote only when breaking a tie vote?***

**JC:** No, the President is an elected member and should be allowed to vote. I believe the AICP should change the their by-laws to have an odd number of voting members.

***Q4A) Should the FAICP selection committee provide the Chapter presidents with evaluation information pertaining to non-elected candidates?***

**JC:** Yes, chapter presidents need to know how their local candidates are evaluated but the information provided regarding non-selected candidates should be generalized to avoid potential embarrassment for evaluators or nominees.

**MW:** See my response to Question 3. In this case, in some ways, I believe my position is even more important; for example, it would simply not be responsible to establish personal positions regarding the weight of the endorsement from the Chapter Presidents without first taking input from the CPC (and individual past or present members. The fun - the attraction - of this position is in the sifting and winnowing of the issues in order to reach the best solution. I look forward to that dialectic process.

***Q4B) Should the COF classes be limited to a specific number or should all worthy nominees be honored?***

**JC:** The COF should be limited to a specific number of members admitted each year.

***Q4C) Should a Chapter's endorsement be given more consideration than an individual endorsement?***

**JC:** The evaluation should be based on "achieving excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research public/community service and leadership". Endorsements should be part of the nomination process but not a part of the evaluation process.