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Education and Training Committee February 2007

The Education and Training Committee focussed its energy in three areas in the last three months: the mentorship program, criteria for inclusion in the CPA Graduate Guide, and identifying student priorities regarding education and training issues.

1. Mentorship program

Linda McMullen and Pat O'Neill have formed a sub-committee of Education and Training and have been looking at ways to increase the visibility and uptake of the program. In the past, chairs of psychology departments were asked to notify new faculty members about the mentorship program. This year chairs were asked to pass along the names of new faculty to the sub-committee so that faculty could be contacted directly. Some chairs were reluctant to do this because they believed that releasing this information would contravene privacy regulations, while others did identify new faculty. This new strategy resulted in 8 faculty indicating that they would like to be paired with a mentor (in past years, there have usually been three, or fewer, requests for mentors).

2. CPA Graduate Guide

The Education and Training Committee was asked by Angelo Caputo for direction regarding whether to include non-university based graduate programs in the CPA Graduate Guide after he had received a request for inclusion in the Guide from a non-university based program. The Guide states that "CPA does not review or in any way evaluate those programmes listed in the Guide," but the E & T Committee concluded that listing non-university programs might still be interpreted as approval or endorsement and recommended that only university-based programs be listed. Since the Guide was not explicit about this, the Committee recommended that the Guide be changed to read: "The CPA endeavours to include a comprehensive list of university-based graduate programmes in psychology in Canada in its Graduate Guide."

3. Student Input

One of the goals of the Education and Training Committee has been to identify and respond to students' priorities for education and training. Two Education and Training columns in *Psynopsis* have addressed student concerns regarding work-family balance and timely completion of graduate studies. There has been greater communication between the Education and Training Committee and Section for Students in Psychology, primarily through the work of the student representative on Education and Training, Jackie Goodwin. In order to hear from students about their priorities, the Education and Training Committee has planned a conversation session, "What Do Students Want?," for the CPA convention in Ottawa.

Submitted by
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