

March 17, 2005

To all Members of the Pacific Division APA:

As a response to the recent decision by the Executive Committee of the Pacific Division to continue to hold the 2005 Meeting at the San Francisco Westin St. Francis, some members of the University of San Francisco (USF) Philosophy Department have decided to offer space on our campus for program participants who are uncomfortable contravening the boycott that has been declared by members of UNITE HERE Local 2, currently embroiled in an ongoing dispute with the Westin management.

USF is a private Jesuit University with a Social Justice Mission and a unionized faculty, and we are ourselves unwilling to attend sessions at the Westin. We believe that justice, and a fair contract, will be served through our respect for and honoring of the demands of the Local 2 employees. Throughout the Bay Area, we are not alone in this; the Westin is even boycotted by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. Upon learning of the controversial labor situation at the Westin, many Pacific Division Main and Group Program participants began to contact us, wondering if we would be willing to host their sessions.

USF has provided space for 33 sessions, based simply on the order of requests and whether we could accommodate the various time constraints of participants. As word began to spread, we also sought to encourage the Pacific Division Executive Committee to broadcast this announcement in fairness to all participants, many of whom, we worried, did not know about the labor situation at the Westin.

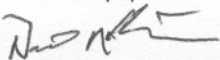
What has come to be known as the "Alternative APA", though, is not meant to represent a "choice" of venues being offered by the APA. Our program is in no way sponsored by the Executive Committee of the Pacific Division, nor have they contributed in any way to its development. Neither is the National Office a formal sponsor of this event, though we very much appreciate its willingness to place our Program on the official APA web site and to deliver the "Alternative APA at USF Program" to the official meeting, thus voluntarily assuming some of the materials and labor costs of our Program.

We believe that the Executive Committee of the Pacific Division, in failing to take seriously the request of the UNITE HERE Local 2 workers to move the 2005 Meeting, in neglecting to canvass the full membership well in advance of the Meeting, and in failing to notify participants of the labor dispute until just days before the Meeting (and even then, incompletely), has not met the high standards expected of the leaders of a professional academic organization. The "Alternative APA" is a protest against these failures and the actions of the Executive Committee. It is not intended in any way to provide legitimation of the official 2005 Meeting.

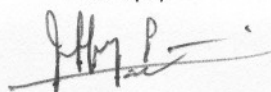
The opinions expressed in this letter are the responsibility of the undersigned alone, though we venture to say that they are nonetheless shared by a significant proportion of the APA membership.

Sincerely,

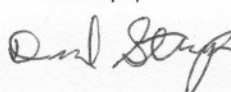
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