

RA Report to the Teacher Education Division Board
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As initially discussed at the TED Board meeting in Savannah much confusion and lack of focus currently exists related to the RA structure and contribution. Here are the activities we have been engaged in this year related to the role of the RA.

1. Once we were finally granted access to the listserve we have been actively participating as appropriate.
2. Shirley has served on the RA workgroup. This group, however, was convened in July. It met in mid-December and February, via conference call. Its primary work has been setting the agenda for the April RA meeting.
3. In December a phone conference was held with Bruce Ramirez related to this lack of clarity and suggestions were made. Here is a summary of our conference call.
 - a. During our conversation he affirmed our concerns about the lack of a clear role for RA's but focused on the need for the RA's to define this role.
 - b. Shirley and I shared our willingness to move forward with the roles and a great deal of discussion occurred around the IDC and RA's. I asked for clarity in how the two groups were different and although an explanation was given many similarities do exist within the two groups.
 - c. We then talked about how we had both been left out of the loop and how little discussion had been generated on the list serve. Shirley shared that she was to be part of a group to look at the role, but the communication about this group had been slow.
 - d. We then discussed having some type of synchronous and asynchronous types of discussion. We also discussed how the current list serve really does not meet the RA's needs (due to having to let someone know if you are on vacation or that you cannot post directly to another person.
 - e. We then discussed "hot topics" and how the RA's might respond to issues such as "highly qualified". Bruce encouraged us to consider having this type of dialogue within both the RA's and across the IDC.
 - f. We closed the meeting by Bruce agreeing to check into the functionality of the list serve. Shirley will continue to talk about these issues with the subcommittee of RA's focused on further role definition. Lisa will bring up the issues at the TED chats and possibly invite Bruce to visit one of our chat sessions.
4. We also have been requested to attend an RA meeting to discuss 7 topics at CEC. The issue is that each RA has to pick a topic and only provide input on the topic. Shirley and I continue to stress that TED really needs to have a voice across all these topics instead of being limited. The 7 topics to be discussed are
 - 1 – High stakes testing and high school graduation
 - 2 – Highly qualified personnel (Shirley will facilitate this discussion)
 - 3 – Scientifically based instruction
 - 4 – Research methods and links to practice

- 5 – Unit strategies for enhancing services to members
- 6 – School choice and vouchers
- 7 – Disproportionate representation in special education

We can forward a summary of the outcomes of the discussions once we receive them following CEC.

Respectfully Submitted
Lisa Dieker and Shirley Ritter