The APA Council of Representatives met in conjunction with the APA annual conference on August 9 and 13, 2006. As in its previous two meetings, the dominant topic was the role of psychologists in interrogations. In an effort to quell the controversy, representatives of Division 48 (Peace Psychology), Division 19 (Society for Military Psychology), and the APA Ethics Office worked together to revise the 1986 APA resolution against torture and submitted this as a new resolution for vote. Despite this collaborative effort, a vocal contingent of members had lobbied hard prior to the council meeting for what they felt would be a stronger resolution. In response, APA President Gerald Koocher took the unprecedented step of inviting outside speakers to elaborate on both sides of the matter at the council meeting. Lt. General Kevin C. Kiley, surgeon general of the U.S. Army, spoke about the work of psychologists in consulting to interrogation teams at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Dr. Steven Reisner, a senior faculty member at Columbia University’s International Trauma Studies Program, spoke to express his belief that psychologists should not be present in any capacity at Guantanamo or places like it. Reisner’s theme had come up in earlier lobbying efforts and is of particular concern for I-O psychologists; that is, the suggestion that psychologists could potentially be prevented from working for particular organizations because this would result in situations in which well-trained, ethical psychologists cannot behave properly. That is a slippery slope for those of us who routinely work in organizations.

In the end, the Division 48 resolution easily passed. Moreover, the representative from Division 31 (State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs) proposed a new business item to request that the APA president write a letter on behalf of the council to all military psychologists and those working in the National Guard and Veterans Administration commending them for their many significant contributions and sacrifices. This item was also easily passed.

The council took two actions concerning the accreditation of programs in professional psychology. The first item included changing the name of the Committee on Accreditation to the Commission on Accreditation and adding to the membership of that body. The second action, which is of more concern to SIOP, deleted a clause in the Guidelines and Principles for Accreditation allowing for doctoral accreditation in “emerging substantive areas” and set forward a mechanism that allows for “developed practice areas” to be added to the scope of accreditation for doctoral programs. SIOP had previously voiced concern about this language for fear that it could be interpreted to
include I-O psychology. One of SIOP’s representatives (Bob Dipboye) rose to speak of this concern and was essentially told that this was not the intended interpretation so we should not be worried. Nonetheless, it is our feeling that we need to continue to monitor this situation in the future.

Council approved formation of a continuing committee on socioeconomic status that will report through the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI). SES status is an important component of workplace psychology. Although there has not yet been a call for nominations, we encourage any I-O psychologists who might be interested in being nominated for this committee or serving as an observer or liaison to inform one of your council representatives.

Finally, council passed the 2007 budget that included reauthorization of the association’s public education campaign, modified the 8-year dues ramp-up schedule for early career members, and increased the members’ journal credit to $55. Dues for 2007 will be $270 for full members (dues increases are based on the consumer price index) and $50 for APAGS members.

**Making Our Voice Heard**

APA Council includes about 170 voting members, representing 53 divisions, plus state, provincial, territorial, and student associations. SIOP currently has five council representatives, which does not sound like a lot, but the fact is that we are by far the largest division comprising nonhealth provider members. Moreover, we are tied with Division 39 (Psychoanalysis) as the second largest division and surpassed only by Division 42 (Independent Practice), which has seven representatives. If we have energy, ideas, and a consensus-building orientation, we can make a real difference in APA policy. If you have ideas for what it is you would like to see APA do, please let us know. Meantime, through your council representatives’ participation in council caucus activities and other meetings of common interests that are often organized in conjunction with council sessions, we will endeavor to build the foundation for coalitions with other psychologists with whom we share common interests and concerns.