



AERA 2020 Annual Meeting Briefing and  
Listening Session with Executive Director Felice  
Levine and President Vanessa Siddle Walker

March 13, 2020

**Felive J. Levine:** Yeah. Let me just say, for those who were with us when I made an announcement seven minutes ago that we had a technical delay, this will give you a feel of what can happen in moments in the virtual research conference that we will be putting on starting April 17th. But notice that we're able to spin on a dime with you and, hopefully, you're all with us and that we can open our third listening and briefing session with attendees and members and others who have signed on. And we traditionally have started these sessions with a welcome and a briefing and an overview by our dear president, Vanessa Siddle Walker. There you go.

**Vanessa Siddle Walker:** Well, we'll make the briefing really brief today because I don't want to get in the way of making sure that you all have the opportunity to ask the questions that you have. I want to thank you, in the midst of this really rather extraordinary week in the life of our country and our world, for taking the time out here. I know many of you have wanted (inaudible) such as we have here at Emory, but I know it's all of -- with now trying to figure out how to make a class go virtual, and that's not how you plan the syllabus.

And I'm painfully aware of the fact that there's so many other things that you could be involved in doing right now. And the fact that there's so many of you participating in this call, I just have nothing but gratitude.

I also want to say that the other two Zoom calls went off without a hitch. So it is the distinct possibility that in a month's time, we'll be able -- and by we, I mean Felice and her staff -- we'll be able to pull it all off in a way that it's not only timely but hopefully productive for our profession. So thanks for your interest. Thank you so very much.

One thing I'd like to say is that what Felice and staff have been doing is compiling the questions that you ask and creating a variety of responses to them that they will get to us both in training sessions as well as in factsheets over time. So the goal today is not so much to try to have every question answered but to make sure that we're thinking about all the questions that need to be thought about in this space. So this is a collaborative moment as well as a Q&A

moment. So your questions will be asked. And as far as the office is with the development with that, then many of those questions, I think you'll find will be answered. But in some cases, you may ask something we haven't thought about yet. And so that will just get filtered into the thinking as we move forward.

So before we go, one other piece. Should you ask a question in the Q&A and Nathan is unable to feed it to Felice during the session, please know that it won't get lost, that all the questions will be filtered and addressed -- not filtered, collapsed, and then fed to the staff so that people can think about how to get answers to you. So if you don't get a question answered today, you should get an answer over time.

Before I turn it over to her, I just -- as I have said every time, but I say it today because my respect does not diminish as we go through this space. It's actually heightening -- Felice has taken on with zeal a problem. And she's trying to, as council said so eloquently, turn a challenge into a possibility. And that's what the theme was supposed to be about anyway, what does it look like, right, if we collaborate. So suddenly we're in this new space thinking about how to invite, not just our colleagues but our stakeholders around the world, into these conversations. It's brand-new territory.

Now, she's taken it on with grace, with style, with commitment, with passion, with vision, without a lot of sleep, but with all of those other things I think that are very much in our best interest. So I want to thank you again publicly for that, Felice. So what I'm going to ask -

**Levine:** And I will --

**Walker:** No, you can't talk yet. So what I'm going to ask --

**Levine:** Okay.

**Walker:** -- is that you do the briefing on exactly where we are since the last Zoom session because you can do that better than I. And then we'll move to Nathan with the Q&As. Does that make sense? Is that a reasonable way to proceed?

**Levine:** Perfect. That's what we have in mind and that has been very successful.

And as Vanessa underscored, each one of the open discussion sessions has really been an opportunity for us to learn as we really envision this virtual opportunity and possibility -- and it does link so beautifully to the theme of the power and possibilities for the public good, but for the public good also of a research community that has so much to add and to contribute in these difficult times. We're an educative field, and we know a lot about education and learning. And for us, this annual -- that's okay, bring me the coffee. Nobody minds if I have some coffee, I'm sure, right? Thank you. You can see that real life goes on. And I could say it's decaf, but you can sense it really isn't decaf.

So what we want to do here, and the theme that I want to talk about, about this cocreation, is that for our virtual meeting to work -- and it will work -- it's working and it will work in a very difficult and pernicious now understood to be a pandemic, which is how we understood that from both briefings across the scientific community, from CEOs who have domain expertise in this area, really saying and encouraging us to take seriously the spread, the virtue of flattening that curve and staying in place. So while we're flattening the curve, we're all experiencing the difficulties and the challenges and the opportunities of doing work very differently.

We want to be about the work of creating a space in this difficult time for inventing and cocreating a virtual online meeting that provides for all participants who wish to participate in this virtual space an authentic opportunity to share their work, to chat, to engage in Q&A, and, for a large segment of the meeting, the sessions -- not the paper sessions, but the symposia sessions, the lectures, the debates, the open submission sessions that were accepted in the program, as well as the invited program -- both a real live opportunity to participate in Zoom events and also what we're calling the demand, the view on the demand opportunity. Each of those sessions will be recorded on a platform that we're turning around in a way that has never been done by this provider before. But they are technologically inventive. They are excited about the opportunity. They have a platform that has worked tremendously for place-based, the web-

based product, or place-based viewing of papers.

And we're attached at the hip with our other providers that have delivered the annual meeting before, the all-academic system, and our management database, the NOAH system. But I want to not go into more detail than you would want at this point about the virtual convening center without just stopping a moment and talking about what we know and what hopefully by now you know, through a first set of factsheets in our communication, will happen. But for those participating in this, I want to briefly say that anyone who made their lodging reservations through the AERA Housing Bureau, if you didn't see our transmittals to all of you, all of your reservations have been cancelled. You never advanced any funds, so we have no funds to return -- and that you don't need to contact the Housing Bureau. It's already all been done for all of those reservations.

On the registration side, we announced that all registration fees, including those relating to courses or other activities you might have opted in for, will be returned. With our registration company, we are developing a platform to do that because there are, for example, nine professional development courses that will still be offered. And persons who took them can opt out of taking those courses and have a refund. But we are going to be offering those courses online, both live as well as a post-production product. And there are other kinds of choices that different individual registrants selected.

So building that interface didn't exist before, any more than cancelling the place-based meeting ever existed before. And we are hoping by Monday or Tuesday, that gets out. We've had a lot of emails -- and it's been quite gratifying -- a lot of emails and calls and social media buzz, about how do we donate registration fees. We are not expecting or asking or assuming that anyone who is not positioned to do so will feel under any social pressure or obligation to do so. But that will be a checkoff on this registration, whether you wish to contribute your fee, whether you wish to contribute part of your fee, and as a donation. And that will be a donation to the Association.

The first checkoff is “Please refund my fee,” and the second is “I wish to donate my registration fee.” And the third would be, “I wish to donate x.” If you should donate, you will receive an acknowledgment of that donation. But this is not a way, on AERA's part, to retain registration fees, especially among those who are not in a position, which most are not in a position, to make contributions potentially of the size of your fees.

We are hoping, and we have on our microsite, information as up to date as COB, close of business, yesterday -- information on airline policies. When we first announced the cancellation of the meeting, we said that, in most instances domestically, it would be -- meaning within the United States -- there might be a cancellation fee of \$200 as the kind of modal cancellation fee that we're all used to. Some airlines also requires you rebook but rebook for the same destination. And so that might be an added burden.

The up-to-date information is quite a bit more liberalization of those policies. I can't predict that everyone will not have some encumbrance. But particularly, since the CDC announcement and really the World Health Organization that this is a pandemic, thankfully, the airlines are getting on board. And we hope so, so that we hope that you remain, in terms of your own out-of-pocket, as whole as possible.

And we are, as we speak, compiling and preparing fact sheets that will make much more easily accessible -- this phone call will be a good start -- but much more readable. And we're also working on, as you can see, diagrams of trees and branching. But a lot of that comes from how we're redesigning the platform for the virtual meeting.

So let me, at this moment, ask Nathan. How are we doing on the questions that are being posted? Because without my anticipating what all of the questions might be about virtual participation, it might best come organically from the group because we want this to be a shared activity and a shared space.

The only thing I'd want to underscore is there is no registration for attending the virtual meeting -- no registration fee, and there is no registration fee for presenting. So AERA is

underwriting the loss -- and there is a loss and a very important revenue stream and potentially penalties. So we hope our exposure, and we believe our exposure, should be minimal. But we have lots of contracts with lots of parts of the city of San Francisco.

Of course, delivering a new product and creating it to be available on April 17th also has cost. But it is this association's commitment that this year, wherever you are, whoever you are, whether you've ever come to an annual meeting before -- so we hope this winds the expanse of participants worldwide, northern and southern hemisphere for those who have never been able to travel or may never have or maybe in career blinds where researchers isn't their primary thing -- what could lend better to the program than to be able to have teachers, school administrators, leaders, and other policy persons, come to this virtual event.

And we will have a registration page, so we have some sense of who is coming because we want to know who will engage with this virtual motif. But it is not dated; it's an open-access annual meeting.

**Walker:** Felice, before Nathan asks the first question, could I just underscore the last statement that you made?

**Levine:** Absolutely.

**Walker:** I'm so happy that you made that statement. And I know you all don't need me to say it again because you heard it. But I do want to underscore it because this is an opportunity, beyond anything we could have imagined, to actually engage people to whom we typically would not be in conversation at the annual meeting. And even though I have so much gratitude for the program chair, it's not just the AERA program chairs, but across the divisions, really invited in a number of educational stakeholders this year. It was really exciting to see the number of people who were going to be involved in San Francisco.

But what we have now is an opportunity to expand that even beyond those people who could have come to San Francisco. And as I said to someone not long ago, I have a dear friend who just got elected to the school board. I was going to hook her into AERA this year, so

she'll know how to think about helping to direct that school system. And I just want to send out, as an appeal almost, that we all begin to think about our own personal networks, parents, and school leaders and others who would not normally be with us and begin to encourage them to tap in, particularly with those topics that are of importance to them. So thank you.

Nathan, I'm sorry to get in your way. I know there are a number of questions you have, so I'll be quiet.

**Nathan Bell:** So we have quite a few questions about what will be presented live and how posters and roundtables and papers will be presented. So maybe you could talk about the different formats that we we'll be using.

**Levine:** Yes. So many of you are looking at a split screen with Vanessa on the one hand and Felice on the other hand. So one will essentially enter a space, a place, a virtual place that we'll have "Welcome to the 2020 AERA annual meeting." And where I am sitting, there will be essentially a "Enter the paper gallery."

And the paper gallery will have all papers, some 7,000 or more, of those paper authors who wish to participate. These were all accepted papers through the open submission. Now, papers through the open submission land in three places, based on session types available and primarily driven by author preference. And we call it three different formats. One is a paper session, one is a roundtable, and the third is a poster session. All of those presentations will be in a paper gallery. That paper gallery will have all of the search tools that you see in all-academic or on the app.

You can search by the division. You can search by times of day. You can search by the section and the division. You can search by SIG name. You could search by offices. You can search by committee. The typical way -- or you can plan your calendar -- the typical way that you have navigated the all-academic app -- for many who have used the print program. I send far fewer every year about using the print program given the electronic tools.

Those paper presentations will be asynchronous. They will link to the schedule at



the real time, meaning the app or all-academic, and a schedule built into this web-based platform. But in advance, the paper presenter -- and there will only be one paper presenter designated. If there were more than one presenter, you will ask the presenters to choose one. And that presenter will do a narration of about six minutes and will have many templates to upload visualization.

Some might choose, in however you do it at a roundtable or a paper session -- some might choose to only have two or three. We have about 12 varieties. And that's probably the most evolved part of this platform. That's really exciting because, where several scientific societies that have used this place-base for just monitors for poster sessions, we have a range of templates that you'll be able to use and manage for how you wish to present, just so we've got paper presenters online here.

And that will include if you have clips of classroom interaction that you would otherwise show, if you have animation. If indeed you want to yourself be one of those frames, you can add your own words, or, if you only want there to be one frame, you could just present it with a visualization. The narration, however, in terms of what the capacity of this platform is at this time, will be a voice narration. There will be an option, which we hope for you to either do one of two things. You can either have a threaded discussion, a chat, or you can go into the Q&A mode. Or you can opt for both.

If you're in a chat mode, you can pick a time to do so. And that chat is a time that you would designate. You can pick more than one chat time, if you'd like. Because of the fact that we'll all be in different time zones and not Pacific Savings Time Zone, that designated time in the schedule might not be your preferred time. And so you can -- since it will be an asynchronous product, you can pick your time. But all of this will be uploaded in advance. There will be a set of deadlines for you to prepare to your voice and to prepare your presentation or core presentation that I suppose has a sly feel.

But we will have training for that. We'll have tutorials for that. There will be places for questions and answers. But we want everyone who's participating and giving a paper to

have that done. And I'm going to say it will be -- I don't know the precise deadline -- but it will definitely be at least a week to 10 days before the start of the meeting because that has to triangulate with everything. But you'll have a lot of time. We hope to open those templates by Tuesday or Wednesday of this week, which is the 18th of March. And you will have several weeks to work on doing your voice narration and doing how you want to visually make available your presentation.

On the other side, where Vanessa is now sitting to my left and perhaps your right, is the session theatre. In the session theatre, it's an opportunity for all of those sessions -- which often one uses the word symposia, but sometimes, they take a different modality, might be a great debate. In some cases, some might be conversation, whatever the modality that was accepted through the open submission or the invited sessions, like the presidential sessions. Those we are asking the chairs and organizers -- and they'll have a deadline to let us know -- to participate in Zoom sessions that will be scheduled at the Pacific Time in which they were anticipated.

And that will be roughly 40 or so concurrent sessions being Zoomed simultaneously, except for the few plenary, like the opening plenary, the Presidential Address. And I think we anticipate also doing something with the award ceremony. Those are the only non-compete. Everything else will be in real-time Zoomed, for those sessions that wish to participate in this virtual meeting, real-time Zoomed at the Pacific Savings Time that it was scheduled.

They will be recorded. And that's when -- like I've been watching Mrs. Maisel, and some of you probably have been watching other things. You can watch it on demand. And so we realize that that will be something of a stress for those who are involved in different time zones. But we had to pick one for really having the authentic live part of the meeting. And recognizing that for an hour-and-a-half typically, or two hours for some symposia, it may take -- it may be a stretch to do it in Pacific Time. But we hope that we have lots of buy-in because that will indeed make the virtual meeting -- the extent that the virtual meeting has buy-in and

participation from all, that part of the Zoom in real-time, even though it will be available on demand, we do need, I supposed the performers to participate.

And if I could talk with you for just a second, earlier in the internet capacity, well before the video, a colleague of mine, who actually was a sociologist working in communications and I suppose had an intellectual bent, she created something online that was called the Shakespeare Players. And so everyone was on a different time zone, but they put on Shakespearian plays. And of course, they were not actually video, they were -- I suppose in the beginning, they were online chats, and then there was some audio. And so it can be done. I actually was never a player, although I fantasized of course, not being Lady MacBeth but some other warm and fuzzy character. But I did dial in. And it really was very kind of a dynamic experience. And now, it's almost an everyday.

So we do hope that those who are engaged in sessions will buy in and do those in real-time, and the viewers can come in anytime for either portal. And hopefully, that -- every time I present it, I try to be a little bit more explicit about what's asynchronous but really accessible. This website will not go away, unlike a placed-based meeting, where you only have the online paper repository and the metadata and the program and some 15 to 30 sessions that we record. This will be forever after, this special virtual 2020 meeting.

And Robert Smith, our meetings director, who was working on aspects of that has just walked in. And if we get some really technical questions, I'm going to throw them to him. Nathan?

**Bell:** Felice, we have a question about whether presenters can put this presentation on their CV.

**Levine:** Yes. These are authentic presentations. We are really going to encourage, and AERA has encouraged, uploading and making your paper available. The presentation, if you are in the gallery walk and participate, that's going to be as authentic as you're going to Toronto, New York, or San Antonio. So you've opted in to being on our satellite

virtual meeting. And that's as authentic -- if you find any pushback from anyone who are in a supervisory or a review position, relative to your status -- one of the reasons why we work so hard to be sure that everyone who had an accepted session as an authentic opportunity to present, is that our number one commitment was that this not have an adverse impact on your trajectory and programs of work and on the acknowledgment that you will receive from it.

We're going to change the deadline from March 20th to upload your papers. For those who did not yet check off, we will make it available on the online paper repository. I'm telling you from my heart, as somebody who's worked in this area since 1985, your paper will be time- and date-stamped. It will have a DOI that is searchable and discoverable, and you will have an additional asset and contribution that cannot be scooped. That is often the fear about early sharing.

When some of us started our careers taking 25 papers and selling them for -- I'm going to up the ante. I used to be honest and say, my papers were sold for 25 cents, but they've had more value than that. They were probably sold for a dollar. But that was the expectation, you went to and present your work at a meeting, and you made your paper available. And if you couldn't carry 25 copies to the paper room that somebody wrote to you, you would send that to them.

The online paper repository, we don't require you to put your paper there. But in a world of early versioning, knowledge communication, this is the best way to have other scholars in many places with authentication, read what you have to say and cite it as a manner of good ethical practice. The other element of the online paper repository that I want to emphasize, which does remain voluntary -- although we had about 3,000 papers a year in it, but we're hoping to up that number for the good of every scholar and every student and everyone presenting with the presentation.

The other virtue of that is, when that work is published, the online paper repository can have your final publication because knowledge is a cyclical process. That final

publication can be listed on the paper repository, and that will be discoverable with its own DOI number. So I wanted to mention that piece of it, but to say, if you chose not to do so but you present in the virtual mode, that will be an authentic citable presentation, if you're in a symposia or if you're in the paper gallery, just as it would be if you participated at the annual meeting. The only things that will be removed from the program, just as if you could not or opt out of going to an annual meeting, is that the virtual online meeting is only for those who participate.

**Walker:** Nathan, we can move on to more questions.

**Bell:** So we have a question about how --

**Levine:** And we'll restore the time. For those who can stick with us, where we'll restore the lost 15 minutes. Go ahead.

**Bell:** So we have a question, Felice, about how accessibility issues will be handled.

**Levine:** Ah. Well, we're going to handle them in two ways. For those sessions where special services have been requested, for example, signing, for those that are Zoom, there will be a signer, and some --

**Robert Smith:** If it's been requested.

**Levine:** If it's been requested, right. And that usually comes in, in the comment box already. So of course, we will do so for the Presidential Address. We will do so for those cross-cutting sessions where we have done so. We are exploring closed captions as a post product. We don't have an estimate of what that would cost or a vendor yet in hand who can do that. But we are exploring that possibility for the Zoom sessions.

We will provide special training for everyone to speak in a voice where they recognize that listeners have differential capacity. We will also provide tools for how those coming to the virtual site can -- special instructions, reminders about how volume can be modulated at your desk or, also, how you can take a presentation and enlarge it with your own tools. But our post product, this developer, which was one of the reasons this developer was far in

advance of other products -- but one of the things that we ask all of our developers about in selecting the group that we are going to be working with is they themselves were developing a product that they hoped would be available, just on their own terms, by the end of May, I think they said, but whether it's the end of May or the end of June or the end of July that those that were visually challenged would be able to go into a modality that would be tailored for those who need to read with greater acuity. And that product will be backloaded onto our virtual space.

So as a perpetual virtual site of the 2020 annual meeting, I would say by summer, we're even going to have amplification of the visualization capacities for those with sighted vision. So those are the things that are available, and those are the things that we're working on as post-meeting products.

**Bell:** So Felice, there have been several questions about asking for clarity about the roles of chairs and discussants.

**Levine:** Mm-hmm. Which primarily relates to the paper sessions because the paper sessions are migrating to the paper gallery. Symposia that have chairs, the chairs are going to be running them. And if there are discussants or commentators, they'll be part of the Zoom experience.

So the roundtables have chairs. We actually were talking about this morning whether there was any way we will be able to display the session that a paper is a part of, in terms of the paper sessions or the roundtable. But there isn't a format for even asynchronous group interaction in the 36 days we have available and that this platform was for single-paper presentations placed-based.

So what we are going to be asking is that each paper presenter, from a paper session where there was a discussant -- and that's an option. Many paper sessions do not have a discussant -- and if we can figure out a way of helping to facilitate the duo. But we know who those are from already all-academic -- that every paper presenter communicate with their discussant or discussants and ask and decide together whether the discussant wants to post some

comments in advance, whether they are willing to participate as a discussant opening the chat, whether they wish to field and be part of the Q&A. And we're going to leave that option.

We'll need to know the decision. I suppose we probably don't even need to know the decision. But it would be nice to be able to feature it to be able to say, "with comments from the discussant" and that we'll be able to have that as part of the paper gallery. That's about as close as we could do. We really struggled with whether we could net or knit these papers together and have real-time across a bunch of papers and the technology, let alone the affordability. But the timing is not there. The technology is not there yet and even affordability to one side.

And this is a -- if I weren't part of it, which I am -- so I say this recognizing it could sound like the self-praise that I don't think any of us should indulge in and especially me and especially forecasting anything -- but this is kind of a heroic -- and it's kind of a joy to invent what is really feasible. But we don't want to overpromise. And therefore, even though -- actually it was a SIG leader from our SIG leadership call last evening sent me that email. And I said, "Oh, that's really exciting. Let's see." I said, "I don't really think it's going to be feasible, let's see if it is." And I said, "If we could do it for paper sessions, we could do it for roundtables."

But when we talked to our developer, they said, "Well, that's a little pie in the sky for 35 days out. We don't have anything like that." So I'm here to report that we actually took that question really seriously. I'd love to deliver it. We'd love to be able to do that. But we're doing something that no -- not even a small conference has yet done. And what a tribute to the education and research community for us really to do this together. If you're not doing it with us, this thing is going to kind of move. And so we're even attentive to the fact, we recognize that there's going to be more doing this from your homes and your offices. That's one of the reasons why we think that still is the most reliable kind of product to do this AERA meeting.

Three weeks ago, well before the mayor of San Francisco spoke and well before we started discussing this -- Vanessa was in this loop, Robert and I were coming out of a council meeting kind of like, "What kinds of things can we do? Would we have the annual meeting at a

different set of dates? Well, what would those look like with the way that the transmissions of pandemics flow?"

And this is the -- actually, it's the best we can do -- but we actually think this is a kind of a wonderful way of gathering together to offer the meeting, in large part in real time, but asynchronously for actually the whole program. There will be -- if I can just say, we are working with the SIGs and the divisions -- well, on 17th to the 21st, there will be the substantive program. Of course, it's available thereafter, but it will open on the 17th. Starting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> -- 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th?

**Smith:** 26th.

**Levine:** -- we're going to go through a Saturday? Maybe.

**Smith:** Nine courses.

**Levine:** Nine courses, right. We're offering nine courses. And we'll be, of course, letting registrants know. And we hope that others choose to take these courses who we've done some light web-streaming with call-ins. There will be an opportunity for -- it's like taking, I suppose -- each of them will be four hours max, and there will be nine of them.

That following Monday, Monday through Friday, there's going to be a grid where every SIG and every division can choose to have their business meeting. And that will not be in Pacific Time. That will be a time designated by SGI leadership.

The reason why we've done that is that the distribution of where around the world SIG members are might drive the best time or where the SIG leaders are to do the business meeting. But for SIGs that have given awards at their business meetings or have had brief conversations on a particular salient issue with addition to the business of the SIG, all of those things will happen week three, which is the --

**Smith:** The 27th to May 1st.

**Levine:** -- 27th to May 1st. There are several issues that after talking with the SIG leadership -- and we have another SIG leadership call, and we had a call only of the VPs, all



of whom are members of council and are half of council -- but we were talking with the VPs about division programming and many of these issues of how things will operate for the divisions. So we talked about a number of issues that we're going to return to a council meeting. And I haven't had a chance even to discuss that with Vanessa. That really has to be done collectively. We can have, for example, some SIGs reimbursing expenses for penalties for travel and some divisions doing that.

That has to be an association-wide decision of how that will operate, so that one member of one SIG doesn't say, "Hey, I got \$125, but my SIG's not giving me a penny." So we're going to bring that topic to council and have some discussion about it and try to have. There are just a handful of things like that. Most of the decisions really are about everybody's participation. Vanessa?

**Walker:** If I can interject, yeah, just for a moment. So, so many of you have stayed online. And I think that's remarkable. Thank you. What Felice has offered is to extend this session by 15 minutes so that we don't force you to sacrifice your Q&A time because of the technological glitch at the beginning. So I'm going to move forward with that and let us have the extra 15 minutes. I understand that, if there are those of you have meetings and other kinds of matters and need to leave, I understand that. But I wanted to make sure I said thank you to you before you left. For those who can stay on, Nathan, if you will continue with the questions, and then we'll get some more of these answered.

**Bell:** So we have a question from someone who is accepted with a symposium and wanted to know do they have to present through Zoom, or can symposia sessions be presented asynchronously?

**Levine:** Yes, you will have to present -- this is an integrated AERA and an integrated annual meeting. And we needed to provide one service provider. So there will not be AERA annual meeting sessions operating through other platforms asynchronously or synchronously, just as there isn't a parallel meeting with the place-based meeting or a parallel

session.

One of the question marks that we're going to discuss is what to do about some of the pre-annual meeting sessions, largely mentoring sessions. And the SIGs are giving feedback. We had some discussion with the SIG leadership. The division has had some discussion.

And there are two kinds of options. There may be the option where AERA will decide to create a time and space to do all of that preprogramming together. If it's something like a mentoring -- and if the Association doesn't offer it, any unit, many SIGs and many divisions, have special programming that they do as part of their own creativity. And even then, we might offer a platform, but the delivery of it would be run by the unit. But symposia that were part of the AERA annual meeting, to be a part of the annual meeting means to be a part of the structure and the framework and web portal.

So I suppose in the satellite or planet analogy, if we are the sun -- so here comes the sun; we're not Mercury -- and so we're all going to be on the sun together, and hopefully -- I won't press that further -- but hopefully, we can bring some light in this period of often no knowledge, being privileged over knowledge.

**Bell:** Felice --

**Walker:** Thank you.

**Bell:** -- can you repeat the dates for the nine professional development courses and the business meetings?

**Levine:** Yes.

**Smith:** April 22nd to the 26th are the professional development courses. April 27th through May 1st are the division and SIG business meetings.

**Levine:** That will be set by the units. Some asked if they must hold their meeting. We're offering this as an option. So every unit can decide whether to do it. If they do it, they'll do it at that time.

Of course, any unit could decide to have their own communication strategy with

their members, but we're kind of encouraging it. We think it will be particularly terrific. I assume that those that use those as either teachable moments or celebratory moments for awardees or talks for awardees will take that opportunity because it will not only be in real-time, but it will also be recorded and available as an integral part of the annual meeting.

And so we hope that that happens. And actually, we hope that SIG members and division members use this opportunity. Depending upon the size of the unit, they can either be chat or a threaded discussion. I suppose it won't be video because even the smaller students probably would be little pixels of images. But that's the third week.

We're going to make that available. So there's going to be kind of a sign on. So that's probably not going to be announced for another three weeks or so. But the courses that we're doing and the times of the courses, we're working with the directors and the instructors of those courses that are a go. And we should be able to post that on Monday. And we'll, actually by -- if no later than Monday, we will have a fact sheet that's a very good briefing about what I just said. But I know -- I've said it lots of times now, I'm in the middle of thinking it through, just like when you're writing a paper.

But I also know when you're writing your paper, and you're in the midst of presenting the data or listening to the transcriptions of children and parents or whatever I'm listening to and then I try to synthesize it, in the middle of my doing it, I'm sure some of it seems cryptic, oblique, or huh? What did I have to say? So we're going to have fact sheets, and we're going to have a diagram. And we're going to open the paper gallery first. And we hope to be able to do that with tutorials no later than Wednesday and potentially before.

**Bell:** So we have a question about --

**Levine:** I'm kind of excited. I'm excited. Don't worry about us here. Those of us who are doing it, we do worry, and we're taking lots of precautions about staff working at home. But there's a situation room that will have those of us that have to be together, to invent this.

And we're going to do it in a smart and safe way. And so next to the coffee is the

Purell here. But our goal is to make sure that anyone connected with the annual meeting and anyone who even never thought about it but hears about it, has a special opportunity, really in this period where stress is the rule of the day. We want the meeting to be a special safe haven that is informative, that allows persons to share the content of their knowledge and their ideas, and that is supported for doing so. Nathan?

**Bell:** Yes. So we have a question about can someone opt out of presenting in the online platform, and, if they do so, would they still get credit for having a paper accepted for the meeting?

**Levine:** They will be in the situation of someone not going to a place-based meeting. They will not be presenters at the meeting. They certainly could indicate that they have paper presented -- or they have paper accepted. But you need to be very clear in that citation that it was not part of the annual meeting. Just as for a variety of reasons, we already had, after acceptances, people wrote in and said -- as early as November 10th, we know that submitting is a commitment to come. And in this case, in every case, not everyone can follow through in their commitment, and they notify us.

In this case, the commitment is to come to the meeting, which for 2020, is a virtual meeting. So we cannot authenticate your participation in the meeting unless you come. But we want as close to that 7,000. And the 700 symposia sessions -- maximum feasible participation is our aspiration and goal.

And if anyone is hesitant or worried, we actually said -- division and SIG leaders said, "How can you help?" And I said, "You know your members best. So some people will feel fragile." This is kind of actually my motif, speaking in front of large groups and looking at all those faces, I find intimidating. But it's not everyone's motif.

I'm a small groups person. I study small groups. I love small groups. I'm kind of a collaborator, very few so lofted pieces in my life. And I just -- that's me. But there's other me(s). And so, I have to do the other me(s) more than I'd like. Indeed Vanessa sought my participation

in the opening plenary, knowing that I'm kind of a small-groupster. And so I knew there was going to be a thousand people in the room. Well, now, there may be a thousand people in the room, but I won't know how many are really there. And I'll be much more comfortable.

You're exceptional teachers. You're exceptional mentors. You need that face-to-face interaction to be self-reinforcing and you've had a lot of experience, and the virtual life that we actually lead every day here, well before the annual meeting, for us, it's every day, and for you it may be exceptional. So I'm hoping everybody, as many as possible, take that leap of faith. But that's the meeting. Deciding not to participate is like not coming to the sun.

**Walker:** Nathan, I think we have time for one more question.

**Bell:** So we've had several questions -- and I'm going to combine quite a few here. Really asking for how will people find out about how to prepare their presentation or upload their presentation? Or how do they find out how to access a Zoom link? Can you talk a little bit about how we're going to get this information out to everyone in detail?

**Levine:** Yeah. In really, early next week, there will be tutorials. There will be information. There will be a registration site for paper presenters first. We're starting with the papers first because the paper presenters actually have something they're going to prepare. They're going to prepare a voice narrative, which you can -- you'll be able to do as many times as you want before you upload it. But it will be an upload process. You'll be uploading your slides.

You'll be registering. We're already linking everything from all academic so that there's going to be -- for every paper, we're going to have a place for you to land. There will be instructions and tutorials about how to do so. And I think there will be at least an online Q&A and some other training.

I think for those of you who used all academic, it will be -- or any other uploaded proposal for some private foundation, or public foundation, funding. Or an application to graduate school and have used an online portal. It will probably be simpler than that. There's going to be just a handful of uploads: your narration, your biographical information, and if you do social

media, what that is, and your slides.

And you'll be able to pick the template. You'll be able to download the template, pick the ones you want to use. You'll upload the final additions. And you'll have a reasonable amount of time to do that. So next week -- and we'll be extending that March 20th deadline probably at least a week.

**Walker:** Felice, we are losing your voice here. Not sure what's going on. Can you hear me? Wave if you can hear me. Okay. I think we've lost Felice. But that works because we are about into the 15 minutes anyway. Nathan, can you hear me?

**Bell:** I can hear you.

**Walker:** Okay. So you all, of the over 300 of you who are still on the line, are in the unique position of having kind of the experimental version of Zoom here. I hope we won't have all these glitches. I don't think we will. As I said, the last two went off without a hitch. So you get to be a part of something new and different.

I want to thank you again. I want to welcome you to the AERA Headquarter. You had an opportunity to see a couple of floors. Thank you again for the questions that you asked. And be assured that the questions that were not answered will be fed into the office. And Felice and staff will look over them and make sure that we have all that we need.

But do we encourage people to hang up, or how does this work from here? Can you hear me? I don't think he can. So this might be a good time -- everybody have a great day or evening or night, wherever you are in the world. What's amazed me about these sessions is that people really do log in from around the world. And that has been extraordinary to see our members part of these conversations together.

So I see you are gradually hanging up. I'm watching the numbers go down. At some point, Bidyut will officially probably cut us off. But for now, thank you. Thanks so much. Take care. Have a great day, evening, night. Bye.

**Levine:** So can you make the screen accessible? I can only imagine --

**Walker:** Felice? Because --

**Levine:** Yeah?

**Walker:** Felice?

**Levine:** Yes? Can you hear me?

**Walker:** I can now. But because you were cut off and we were right at -- there was a bout four to five minutes there where we couldn't hear you. We could see you mostly, but we couldn't hear you. And so right around 1:15, I went ahead and said goodbye to everybody. There are 118, 17 now, people left on. So I don't know how you want to handle that.

**Levine:** Well, let's say for the stalwarts, we clearly have some glitch within the AERA communications going out, which is not a Zoom issue and not a technology issue. So for those of us who are comfortable with technology -- if you're uncomfortable, don't lose heart. But Nathan, are there -- I'm going to say, are there two or three other things that you're seeing that I could speak to? We don't want our collaboration with the 114 stalwarts to make you feel that this dinner party is never going to end. But we do want to close on a -- I think we want to close on a content note.

**Walker:** Nathan, let's do one more, so that we're respectful of people's time.

**Bell:** Sure. So there have been a couple questions about can anyone participate in the virtual conference, whether or not they actually had registered for the annual meeting?

**Levine:** Yes. Open access is open access. You all come. And we want everyone to be part of the -- that's my New York accent, you see. We want everyone to be -- we really want to enlarge the meeting. And that's why we need to have why this is a community event, why we're collaborating with now 107 people on the phone, but over the course of these open sessions, we've had 1,500 or more. We've had 170 or 80 leaders from the SIGs, another 170 or 80 leaders.

We're going to have a call with deans from schools and colleges of education and the major research institutions next week. This is a collective project. And we not only want to create it as a collective product, but it is an open-access collective product.

So Vanessa said earlier, let your friends and families know. My mom's going to be 106 on March 17th. And she's going to be in front of a monitor, at least for the opening plenary because this way she could see her daughter live from AERA. And so we know in every research field, people in your friends and family say, "So what is it that you do?" So now, they'll be able to see what you do, no matter where they are. And so let's make this a big-tent event. Anyone could register. Anyone can register, meaning it's a free registration.

We of course want to know kind of how large a group enjoys this when we didn't do this a year out or six months out. But we did roughly 45 days out, I suppose. So thank you really.

This is -- I hope a big takeaway from both Vanessa and I and Nathan, who's been narrating, and Robert chipping in and my dear friend and our IT, as my grandmother would say in Yiddish, maven, which means expert, who is my guppy. But he's just as cool moving from location to location and dialing and -- that you know that not only is our field rich with cognitive and substantive contributions, but we are enabled by the heart that each of you are feeling, really, still 100 people still sticking here, and by the generosity of spirit and the collaboration that we can bring together starting April 17th.

So thank you. And there will be more of this. And we hope that this has been at least of value to you, whether you started with close to 500, I think we will find 93 or 83. And most people were here throughout. And those who are still here, join with us. Thank you.

**Walker:** Thank you.

**END OF MEETING**