

Reflections from the EO Liaison to the NACADA Publications Advisory Board

As I move closer to full retirement in June, I realize that a lot has changed in the NACADA publications realm since I began working at the NACADA Executive Office (EO) in 2002. Until then management of each association publication was housed on the campus of its volunteer editor.

In 2002, an all-member survey was completed; its results and a review of NACADA publication venues showed that:

- NACADA members wanted a way to quickly answer questions about advising practice. The Clearinghouse, originated at Ohio State University, had closed in 1999.
- Monograph (book) production, which could take up to 4 years, was managed at BYU. Topic selection was not decided by member-expressed need; instead book topics were chosen based upon what authors wanted to write.
- *Academic Advising News*, the association's quarterly, was edited and produced at the University of Delaware.
 - UD notified NACADA that it would cease publishing the paper newsletter.
 - Region conference information made up the majority of what was published in the *News*
 - members thought the quarterly should focus on insights helpful to daily advising practice
 - they wanted region news more readily accessible.
- *NACADA Journal* production (initially housed at the University of Washington and then at the University of Illinois) was 2½ years behind the date on the issue's cover.
 - Book reviews (managed at UIUC) made up a majority of each *Journal* issue
 - The results of original research accounted for a small number of pages.

In 2002 I was hired to figure out how to address these issues and bring the association's publications into the new Millennium. This was a daunting task for an advisor who had written some (co-authored two journal articles and a monograph chapter) and edited/produced but two publications, our college's student and advisor handbooks.

An initial step (that made tackling these issues possible) was taken by the newly hired NACADA Associate Director, Charlie Nutt (I have three weeks seniority over Charlie... upon occasion, I remind him of that :-). Charlie moved management of the association's publication venues to the Executive Office (a controversial action in some corners). As an advisor and NACADA member for 14 years, I knew that that success would be possible only with systematic guidance from practicing advisors. One survey wasn't going to do it!

In 2004, then President Ruth Darling (now a PAB member!) appointed a Publications Advisory Board (PAB) to provide the much-needed practitioner perspective regarding what should be in print. As the Executive Office liaison to this advisory board, I walked into its first meeting carrying (in one arm) a copy of every publication in the NACADA warehouse. An in-depth overview of the publications took less than 15 minutes. Today's PAB new member orientation (aka 'Pub Crawl') takes 90 minutes and only skims the surface of the publications managed by the "content side" of the NACADA Executive Office.

My passion is expanding our literature base to meet advisor needs. I thank all who have written, edited, or reviewed NACADA publications; it has been a distinct pleasure working with each of you. Because of your efforts, the future is bright for NACADA publications. I look forward to the continued growth of the literature base that is the foundation for our field!

