

PLACEMENT SERVICE GUIDELINES

Amid the increasing complexity and pressures of the academic marketplace and in keeping with the practices of other professional societies, the APA and AIA have established a Joint Committee on Placement, charged with monitoring current hiring procedures and suggesting modifications and improvements when necessary. The Committee consists of seven members with staggered three-year terms. Five members are appointed by the APA President, and two by the AIA President. When possible, the Committee should contain at least one person who has had recent experience as a candidate with the Placement Service. At the time of appointing the Committee, the APA President also designates one of its members as chair. Rank, type of institution, gender, minority status, and geography are to be considered in order to make the Committee as representative as possible. The committee includes as a non-voting *ex officio* member the Chair of the APA Committee on the Status of Women and Minority Groups.

Users of the Placement Service are required to observe the following guidelines:

- 1) Institutions which intend to conduct interviews at the Annual Meeting **must** purchase the Comprehensive Service package.
- 2) If there are two individual departments or programs from the same college or university conducting job searches, **each department/program must register as a separate entity** (institution) if it plans to utilize the Placement Service for its job search.
- 3) Each institution may use the interviewing facilities at the Annual Meeting for up to two (2) job searches, **providing the same search committee is interviewing for both job openings**. Any department/program conducting more than two searches at the Annual Meeting must purchase an additional Comprehensive Service Package.

Institutions conducting two job searches and using two search committees must rent a private suite (at a discounted rate, with limited availability) through the Placement Service), and **both search committees must use the same suite to conduct all interviews**. Search committees will need to coordinate their calendars so that all interviews take place in the same suite. (Only **ONE** suite rental per institutional department/program.) In **unusual** circumstances the Placement Director can waive some of these requirements.

- 4) All openings available should be advertised in *POSITIONS* and through whatever other forms of publication a department deems suitable (e.g., letters to individual Classics departments). Advertisements should be intended to reach as large a pool of candidates as possible.

5) A deadline for the receipt of applications should be clearly stated if one is imposed. In selecting a deadline, institutions should take into account the date when the advertisement of the position will appear, and thus make sure that candidates have a reasonable amount of time to prepare and submit their applications. The Committee strongly suggests that absolute deadlines be set for no earlier than four weeks after the first appearance of the advertisement in a Placement Service e-mail to candidates, whenever this is feasible. If an advertisement appears on October 15 or before, the Committee recommends at least a six-week period between announcement and a deadline for submitting applications. For institutions that wish to have an open-ended search, (*i.e.*, those where applications will continue to be collected and reviewed until a suitable candidate is found) the commencing review date must be at least 15 days from the date that the ad is first published.

6) Job descriptions must be as specific and accurate as possible, indicating degree requirements, experience, etc.

7) It should be clearly stated whether the position advertised has been approved by the administration or is contingent on budgetary authorization. The length of time for which the advertised position is authorized should also be clearly stated. If possible, the listing of a temporary position that might be extended should contain the words “renewable” or “possibly renewable,” and the number of years for which it might be renewed. If the person who was originally hired for the position is not going to hold the position for the following year, or if the position at any time turns into a tenure-track position, the position should be re-advertised.

8) The institution should state its intention to comply with fair hiring procedures. (The Placement Service will not list discriminatory advertisements.) These procedures should be followed at every stage in the search. Institutions registered with the Placement Service are required to abide by the APA Statement on Professional Ethics, including the following: “In all matters relating to employment, the APA strongly endorses the 1976 AAUP Statement on Discrimination. Moreover, Classicists should be protected against discrimination based on race, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation, gender identity, and actual or perceived medical conditions, including being HIV positive, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic.” The Placement Service suggests that institutions indicate in their advertisements whether they offer domestic partnership benefits.

9) Institutions should avoid making demands on candidates for supporting materials that would be extremely onerous or expensive, unless it has determined such materials are necessary to its deliberations at the stage at which they are requested.

10) The APA disapproves firmly of “charade listings,” that is, listing as open a position for which the candidate has been selected in advance.

11) Senior scholars interested only in a particular position or whose candidacy is solicited by an institution should not be obliged to register with the Placement Service or have their interviews scheduled by the Placement Service. Senior scholars are defined as persons holding full-time, tenured positions. Such separate interviews cannot take place in meeting rooms managed by the Placement Service or during times that the institution has provided to the Placement Service for scheduling purposes.

12) Inquiries and applications should be acknowledged promptly and courteously (generally within two weeks of receipt). If possible, institutions are encouraged to inform candidates they plan to interview before the Annual Meeting. Institutions are also encouraged to inform candidates of the fact that they have not been chosen for an interview. Messages to that effect ought to be especially thoughtful and sensitive.

13) Interviews of the candidates, whether at the Annual Meeting or at the department, should be conducted in a courteous, friendly, and professional manner. The interviewee’s personal and professional integrity should be respected at all times. Interviews at the Annual Meeting should be conducted in a manner and setting that will put candidates at ease. Interviews should not be held in hotel bedrooms under any circumstances. The Placement Service provides comfortable, private, conference-style rooms, or, institutions can opt (if/when available) to rent a private suite for interviewing purposes at the Annual Meeting. (Special suite rates have been negotiated with hotels.)

14) Candidates should not be asked about their age, political views, sexual preference, marital status, children, or whether spouses are willing to relocate in the area of the interviewing institution. (These matters may, of course, be raised by the candidate.) Representatives of the institutions should not make inquiries about these matters outside the interviews. Questions about religious beliefs or affiliations are to be omitted except in the case of some institutions with religious affiliations, where such questions are lawful under the provisions of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act (Section 42, USC 2000e-2e; <http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/vii.html>). Institutions that fall under these provisions and plan to consider candidates’ religious affiliations, religious beliefs, and/or willingness to support, incorporate, or accommodate the tenets of the institution’s affiliation in teaching and/or research should include in their advertisements a statement of their religious affiliation and how that affiliation will affect their consideration of candidates.

15) At the time of an interview, the institutional representative should give the candidates some indication of when a final decision is likely to be made.

16) Candidates eliminated from the competition should be notified of this fact in a courteous manner as soon as possible. A common practice is for institutions to inform all candidates not designated as final candidates that such a “short-list” has been made up.

17) A junior candidate to whom an offer is made for a tenure-track position should be given a reasonable amount of time to consider the offer, especially when other institutions have not yet made their choices. No candidate should be constrained to make a swift decision that would preclude him or her from weighing other alternatives.

18) As soon as a decision is made, all final candidates (often defined as those who have made campus visits) should be informed. If a decision is postponed beyond the academic year in which interviews occur, all remaining candidates should be informed of this.

19) The institution should promptly inform the APA of the action taken on the position listed, informing the APA specifically of the candidate hired.

20) If a department hires a candidate with qualifications different from those stated in the job listing, it must be prepared to defend its action, in writing, with specific and substantial reasons.

21) Candidates are reminded that they also have obligations to the institutions and departments which have positions available. Candidates are expected to keep their files up to date, to remove themselves promptly from consideration if they have accepted a position elsewhere, and also to inform the Placement Service of this fact, and in general to conduct themselves in an honorable fashion.

22) Complaints with all substantiation available should be directed to the chair of the Committee on Placement or the Executive Director of the APA. The APA Board has directed the Executive Director to inform them fully of the nature of alleged violations of these principles.

JUNE 2011