Continuing the work of the last EDAC chair and committee, a high priority item for the current year is to complete the name change project under consideration. Earlier this year, the EDAC committee surveyed WASFAA membership on the issue of a name change to the EDAC Committee to determine if there might be interest in an updated name to reflect more inclusivity. Membership was offered the option to keep the current name or offer suggestions for a revised name. Results demonstrated enthusiasm for a name change.

The current EDAC membership met on May 19, 2020 to discuss the proposed name change. The committee wants to broaden the scope of the equity work it undertakes to affect change for more members and students. It is clear from current events, that racial equity will remain central to EDAC’s work as the need remains great. Future training events will reflect the committee’s broadened definition of diversity. In the end, the EDAC Committee agreed to recommend adopting a name change to their committee from the current name (Ethnic Diversity Action Committee) to the “IDEEA Committee” (Inclusion, Diversity, Ethnicity, Equity Action Committee), making a slight adjustment to a top result from the name change survey. The Committee took the extra step to include the word “ethnicity” to reaffirm its long-term commitment to racial justice as well as to broaden its scope to include other populations seeking social justice. At the July Executive Council meeting, the committee proposed the name change and necessary by-law revisions and an increase to the committee’s scholarship budget to provide scholarship opportunities to an expanded population.

You will be hearing from us soon in regards to the full proposal being sent to current members for a 30-day comment period, followed by an electronic vote.