Proposed Division 45 Name-Change Process

*DRAFT*

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I. Background. *The Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues* has been APA Division 45’s name since its inception in 1986. Some prominent division founders, leaders and members have suggested the use of the term “Minority” in the name is becoming increasingly irrelevant and inappropriate. This issue is not a new one. Some members have never been satisfied with the name, although no previous efforts to quantify what “some” is have been undertaken. With that said, it has become increasingly clear that a sufficient threshold of members has wanted the division leadership(s) to address the issue. I believe it also fair to state that many of us are ambivalent, recognizing credence in either argument for changing *and* retaining the name. The issue has become contentious and controversial enough that I felt it required action. A name-change would require a By-Laws change, which requires a 2/3, Qualified (i.e of those voting) Supermajority (66%) vote of Division 45 members.

Please let me be clear that although I have chosen as part of my presidential initiative to engage this process I am a member of the Ambivalent Tribe – I have neither an agenda or preference – I can live with either outcome. In the interests of transparency and objectivity, all balloting will be conducted by APA Division Services. Additionally, this entire process will cost the Division nothing since I’m using unspent funds from my Presidential Initiatives. We all know that as division members and leaders we’ve talked, argued, tentatively approached, or even ignored grappling with this issue for years. I simply refuse to pass this task along to another president and Executive Committee (EC). I would appreciate any feedback or suggestions.

II. Process and Timeline

1. Doug will submit this draft proposal to the EC for feedback/comment on December 10, 2012. I will take any comments or suggestions until December 17th.

2. Doug will make any revisions and submit the proposal to the membership via email, Facebook, and posting on the webpage on December 17th, recruiting any final comments or revisions from the membership for a five-week period (until January 20th) . Members will be presented with the four top names derived from Dr. Trimble’s canvassing of the Committee of Past-Presidents, and also be allowed to submit other potential names to Doug. If any additional potential name is proposed by 1/3 of those responding, it shall be included in the ballot.

3. Doug will announce/remind the members attending the NMCS that ballots will be electronically and paper transmitted on January 21, 2013, and voting will remain open for one month, closing on Friday, February 22.

4. Ballots calling for a name-change, which would require a By-Laws change, will go out via Division Services, on January 21. The ballot will require a 66%, Super-Majority, of those voting for a name change. The ballots will include background information, and present an opportunity to indicate:

a. GENERAL Name Change – YES or NO

b. Of those voting YES, rank-ordering of the four options (or possibly more if any emerge from Step 2 above. Members will also have the final opportunity to Write-in a new name and rank it if they voted YES. The outcome will be determined as follows:

(1) IF, of those voting YES to a name-change, 2/3 Qualified Supermajority is NOT ACHIEVED, the process is complete and we retain status quo.

(2) IF a Qualified Supermajority of those voting YES for a change IS achieved, those voting YES will be asked to rank-order the choices (including their write-in if they provided one). If any of the choices achieves a Qualified Simple majority (>50%) it will be selected as the new name.

(a) IF no choice receives a simple majority, the TOP TWO ranked choices will again go out to the membership via Division Services for a final vote. No other choices will be allowed or included other than these two.

5. Division Services will tally the final vote and report to Luis and Doug.

6. Luis will announce result

7. We will undertake the process of changing the name on all documents, webpages, etc. and consider changing the name of our journal as well.