

Approved – March 10, 2018

AUGUST 15-16, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

American Sociological Association
August 15-16, 2017
Montreal

Participants August 15: Michèle Lamont (President), Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (President-Elect), Ruth Milkman (Past President), Kathleen Gerson (Vice President), Christopher Uggen (Vice President-Elect), Barbara Jane Risman (Past Vice President), David Takeuchi (Secretary), Nina Bandelj, Mabel Berezin, Daniel Chambliss, Cynthia Feliciano, Tanya Maria Golash-Boza, Margaret Hunter, Peter Kivisto, Monica McDermott, Mignon R. Moore, Wendy Ng, Andrew J. Perrin, Nancy Kidd (Executive Officer), Les Briggs, Karen Gray Edwards, Michael Murphy, Michelle Randall, Carmen Russell, Jean Shin, Margaret Weigers Vitullo. **Guests:** Kimberly Ann Goyette, Grace Kao, Erin Kelly, Mary Romero, Zulema Valdez, Rhys H. Williams.

President Lamont called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. on August 15.

1. Agenda

President Lamont proposed adding an item about SocArxiv to the written agenda and removing an item about slot allotment.

A motion was made by Bonilla-Silva to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Bandelj. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Announcements, Updates, and Reports

Council made introductions. Lamont indicated that written reports were provided on Executive Office activity, membership, department affiliates, sections, journal subscription fees, the election, an initiative to establish an AP test in sociology, the Task Force on Membership, and the Task Force on Contingent Faculty. Some additional detail was provided by Lamont on the Annual Meeting, Kidd on Executive Office activity, Vitullo on the AP initiative, Perrin on the Task Force on Membership, and Milkman on Task Force on Contingent Faculty. Discussion ensued.

3. Consent Agenda

President Lamont presented the consent agenda which included approval of March 4-5, 2017 Council meeting minutes; April 21, 2017 Council report of ballot vote; May 29, 2017 Council report of ballot vote; an approach to managing ASA's long-term investments; revised whistleblower, records retention, and compensation policies (with EOB as the "approval body" for the compensation policy); composition of the Task Force on First Generation and Working Class Persons in Sociology, and a revised Annual Meeting social media policy. There were a few

questions of clarification on the long-term investment approach as well as some recommendations to the Executive Office for implementation. There was some discussion about the social media policy, and the group decided that the issue should be tabled until the next meeting when we can address some more expansive issues.

A motion was made by Risman to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of removing the social media policy. Seconded by Milkman. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Engagement Strategy and Infrastructure Development, Final Report of the Task Force on Engaged Sociology

Kidd provided a brief overview of the good work the Task Force on Engaged Sociology did over the recent period of time and the good collaboration that has developed between the Task Force and the Executive Office staff focusing on these issues. Kidd also introduced the video work the Executive Office has just begun doing, and the group had a productive discussion about how best to ensure good editorial judgment about which videos to make and the content of each video as well as issues of attribution. There was agreement to appoint an ad hoc subcommittee of Council to draft a policy which Council will then consider between meeting. Kidd was asked to prepare a draft charge for that subcommittee for Council consideration the next day.

A motion was made by Uggen to express appreciation to the Task Force on Engaged Sociology for their excellent work. Seconded by Chambliss. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Federal Statistics Working Group

A proposal was presented by Lamont to appoint a Federal Statistics Working Group to proactively and reactively address issues related to the continued collection and use of federal statistics. The group may identify relevant issues independently, and issues may be brought to the working group for consideration by the Council and/or the Executive Office. Initial appointments are for two years, and the Council will consider the future of the committee at that time. Proposed co-chairs are John Laub and C. Matthew Snipp. Members include Camille Zubrinsky Charles, Robert Crosnoe, Kyle Crowder, Kenneth Gould, Michael Hout, Hedy Lee, Fernando Rivera, David Takeuchi, and Laurel Westbrook. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Gerson to approve the Federal Statistics Working Group. Seconded by Bonilla-Silva. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Free Speech, Academic Freedom, and Targeted Attacks Against Professors

Lamont introduced the topic. There have been several recent incidents in which sociologists and faculty from other disciplines have been threatened with violence through campaigns of incitement in response to social media posts. We expect this will continue, and Council is asked to think about ways in which we can be responsive, not only through immediate reactionary efforts but also longer-term approaches that reflect a principled stand within the larger context of free speech, academic freedom, and targeted attacks against professors.

A motion was made by Perrin to approve the statement “Communicating Across Difference: Free and Responsible Speech.” Seconded by Ng. Motion carried with 16 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

A motion was made by Perrin to undertake additional activity on this topic such as developing a resource page on the website, appointing a small committee to help with these issues as they arise, and developing some programming for department chairs. Seconded by Milkman. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Code of Professional Ethics Revision

The committee charged with updating the ASA Code of Ethics and corresponding policies and procedures completed its work, and Kidd introduced the proposal. Council was asked to consider the revision. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Risman to thank the COPE revision committee for their good work. Seconded by Chambliss. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Moore to approve the revised Code of Ethics for consideration by the membership in the next election, with the caveat that “socioeconomic status” should be changed to “socioeconomic status and origins” throughout the document. Seconded by Ng. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Takeuchi to approve revised new policies and procedures. Seconded by Gerson. Motion carried unanimously.

8. SocArXiv

Risman shared with the Council a proposal that has been circulating about section award papers and SocArXiv. Discussion ensued.

9. Executive Session on Committee and External Representation Appointments

Council moved into executive session to discuss nominees for several leadership positions. At the conclusion of the discussion, Council ended executive session.

10. Annual Meeting Registration Fee Increase Policy

A policy proposal from EOB was presented to Council to begin having an automatic annual inflationary increase to Annual Meeting registration fees to smooth increases over time. This would provide a more consistent approach to fee increases than current practice. Discussion ensued. Council agreed to continue the conversation the next day.

President Lamont adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Participants August 16: Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (President), Mary Romero (President-Elect), Michèle Lamont (Past President), Christopher Uggen (Vice President), Grace Kao (Vice President-Elect), Kathleen Gerson (Past Vice President), David Takeuchi (Secretary), Nina Bandelj, Mabel

Berezin, Daniel Chambliss, Cynthia Feliciano, Kimberly Ann Goyette, Erin Kelly, Monica McDermott, Mignon R. Moore, Wendy Ng, Andrew J. Perrin, Zulema Valdez, Rhys H. Williams, Nancy Kidd (Executive Officer), Les Briggs, Karen Gray Edwards, Michael Murphy, Michelle Randall, Carmen Russell, Jean Shin, Margaret Weigers Vitullo.

President Bonilla-Silva called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. on August 16.

11. Executive Session on Committee on Committees Report

Council moved into executive session to discuss the report from the Committee on Committees. At the conclusion of the discussion, Council ended executive session.

12. Public Engagement (continued)

Based on the discussion from the previous day, Kidd brought a draft charge for an ad hoc video subcommittee of Council to the table for discussion. Discussion ensued. Michèle Lamont, Christopher Uggen, and Rhys Williams volunteered to serve.

A motion was made by Romero to accept the charge and membership of the ad hoc video subcommittee of Council as presented. Seconded by Takeuchi. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Annual Meeting Registration Fee Increase Policy (continued)

Discussion on this issue continued from the previous day.

A motion was made by Perrin to approve the proposal as presented with the caveat that we will present an explanation to the membership in Footnotes or another outlet. Seconded by Chambliss. Motion fails with 5 for, 7 against, and 3 abstentions.

14. 2018 Annual Meeting Fees

EOB's recommendation for 2018 Annual Meeting fees was presented to the Council for consideration. The proposal included inflationary increases to all pre-registration rates and then maintained the difference between pre-registration and onsite fees. In addition, the proposal included differentiating between secondary school teacher members and non-members and adding community college faculty to the list of discounted categories. Council also reviewed comparisons to fees of sister societies. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Romero to approve no increases in non-registration fees for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Seconded by Uggen. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Williams to approve the registration fees as presented. Seconded by Perrin. Motion carried with 9 for, 3 against, and 4 abstentions.

15. 2018 Membership Dues

EOB's recommendation for membership dues was presented to Council for consideration. The proposal included a cost of living increase for all regular categories of membership. The proposal also no increases for associates and international associates since those categories have been raised by more than the cost of living over the last few years. High school teachers, international associates, students, and retired members were proposed to align, with unemployed being slightly less than those other reduced categories. Council also reviewed the history of dues increases by member category since 2011. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Romero to approve the membership dues as presented with the exception of amending student and retired dues to \$51. Seconded by Takeuchi. Motion carried with 14 for, 3 against.

16. High school teacher membership category fees and benefits

In the last election, ASA members voted to introduce a new membership category for high school teachers of sociology. Council discussed EOB's recommendations on cost and benefits for this new membership category. The bylaws revision stipulated that high school teacher membership comes with the same restrictions as associate membership—namely, high school teachers will not be eligible to vote or to hold elected office in the Association. EOB proposed that high school teachers have all of the other benefits of regular membership, but with *Footnotes* distributed only electronically. EOB proposed that high school teacher dues be priced at \$55 to align other discounted categories of membership. EOB also proposed a discount for one year for first-time ASA members priced at \$30.

A motion was made by Bandelj to approve the fees and benefits for high school teacher members as presented. Seconded by Ng. Motion carried unanimously.

Council took a break at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

17. Investment Review

Council was provided with the last quarterly report from our investment adviser, and Director of Finance Briggs presented an overview of the results. Discussion ensued.

18. Report of the Independent Auditor and 2016 Year-end Budget Report

ASA hires an outside accounting firm to perform an audit of our financial statements at the end of each fiscal year. Council was provided with the report of the independent auditor as well as a detailed year-end budget versus actual revenue and expense report. Secretary Takeuchi reported that we had a clean audit. We ended the year with a net deficit of \$168,567. Given that the budget situation only began getting careful scrutiny in October, this is a relatively good outcome as we were able to bring the deficit to a level low enough to allow us to meet our bank covenant obligations. Secretary Takeuchi also reported that a request for proposals has been issued for a new auditor, as is normal practice every few years.

A motion was made by Romero to accept the report of the independent auditor. Seconded by Uggem. Motion carried unanimously.

19. Year-to-date 2017 Budget Report

Kidd provided an overview of revenue and expense for 2017 to date. So far, we are on track to have a balanced budget for the year. Council was asked to approve an additional expenditure for the 2017 budget to review our publishing contract in anticipation of the next contract negotiation.

A motion was made by Kelly to approve hiring an outside consultant to review our publishing contract and provide advice regarding whether we should issue an RFP for publishing services. Seconded by Bandelj. Motion carried with 17 for, 1 against.

20. Executive Session on Priorities for the Coming Year

Council moved into executive session to discuss priorities for the coming year. At the conclusion of the discussion, Council ended executive session.

Council took a break at 12:00 p.m. to get lunch and reconvened at 12:10 p.m.

21. Fundraising Strategy

Council discussed the how best to approach implementation of two fundraising initiatives, one for MFP and one for an Annual Meeting travel fund. Because these are both focused on making ASA and the discipline more inclusive, a combined campaign will be launched. An open question is how the travel fund will work with respect to eligibility, priority, amount, and so on. Council decided to appoint a subcommittee to develop a proposal. Moore will chair the committee and work with Chambliss and Gerson. The committee will report back to Council at the next meeting.

22. Executive Session on Confidentiality

Council moved into executive session to discuss confidentiality. At the conclusion of the discussion, Council ended executive session.

23. Status Committees

Council recently renewed the Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer People in Sociology for a term to extend through 2020. Council was asked to consider renewal for the other three status committees such that terms would be aligned across all committees. Part of the reason for the 2020 renewal date is also to give the committees the time they need to benefit from the recent policy change regarding committee composition while still ensuring that we are monitoring whether committees are active and productive. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Kelly to renew the Committee on the Status of People with Disabilities in Sociology, the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology, and the Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology through 2020. Seconded by Takeuchi. Motion carried unanimously.

While nominations for status committee members will still typically come to the Council in August for consideration under the new process for developing slates, this year the schedule had to be amended since the appointment process was not approved until the conclusion of the membership vote in June. Instead of waiting until the next Council meeting to approve new committee members, Council was asked to consider a one-time alternative process. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Moore to authorize the President to approve the slate of candidates for the status committees as soon as it is ready. Seconded by Bandelj. Motion carried unanimously.

Council received a five-year report from the Committee on the Status of People with Disabilities which included five specific recommendations for consideration. Margaret Vitullo, liaison to the committee, introduced each of the recommendations, and Council discussed each one in turn.

A motion was made by Lamont to endorse an articulated framework for future status committee work and ASA activity. Seconded by Kelly. Motion carried with 17 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

A motion was made by Perrin to mandate distribution of an accessibility checklist to section leaders to help them search for offsite reception locations. Seconded by Romero. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Takeuchi to encourage the committee to develop a proposal for a mentorship program. Seconded by Goyette. Motion carried unanimously.

Council was asked to include the regular paper session Disability in Social Life in the ASA program every year. It is typically offered every other year. Council determined that this is a decision that should be made by the Program Committee, not by Council.

A motion was made by Chambliss to ask the Program Committee to consider this each year. Seconded by Romero. Motion carried with 17 for and 1 against.

A motion was made by Takeuchi to encourage the committee to continue to update the compilation of committee recommendations and work with ASA staff to track organizational progress toward implementation. Seconded by McDermott. Motion carried unanimously.

24. Extension of Moratorium on New Sections

In August 2016, Council placed a one-year moratorium on establishing new sections. At that time, Council also approved a Committee on Sections-recommended policy stipulating when sections should be considered for probation. In March 2017, Council revised the probation policy modestly and approved a Committee on Sections-recommended probationary process. Given that the operational details of that process are not yet developed and Committee on Sections is in the process of working on section-in-formation guidelines to bring to Council in the coming year, Committee on Sections recommended that Council extend the moratorium for an additional year until this work has been finalized. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Ng to extend the moratorium on sections-in-information for an additional year. Seconded by McDermott. Motion carried unanimously.

President Bonilla-Silva adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.