

**2013-2014 ASA Council
First Meeting
Final Minutes**

Wednesday, August 14, 2013
Hilton New York Midtown, Beekman Room
New York, NY

Officers Present: Paula England (President-Elect), Jennifer Glass (Past Vice President), Annette Lareau (President), Cecilia Menjivar (Vice President-Elect), Brian Powell (Vice President), Cecilia Ridgeway (Past President), Mary Romero (Secretary)

Members-at-Large Present: Stephanie Bohon, David Brunnsma, Tina Fetner, Kelly Joyce, Karyn Lacy, Leslie McCall, Dina Okamoto, Monica Prasad, Jane Sell, Laurel Smith-Doerr, and Patricia E. White

Members-at-Large Absent: Amanda Lewis

Staff Present: Janet L. Astner, Sally T. Hillsman, Kareem D. Jenkins, Michael Murphy, Jean Shin, Brad Smith, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Margaret Weigers Vitullo

1. Introductions and Orienting Documents

President Annette Lareau convened the first meeting of the 2013-2014 ASA Council at 8:35am on Wednesday, August 14, 2013, and opened by thanking Meeting Services Director Kareem Jenkins for his work coordinating the Annual Meeting.

A. Approval of the Agenda

The President moved initial discussion of Item 10D, setting the date of the winter Council meeting, as the next item on the agenda and added discussion of the ASA Business Meeting's scheduled time during Annual Meeting as an item under New Business.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as revised. Carried (no opposed).

B. Conflict of Interest Statement

Incoming Council Members-at-Large were requested to sign the Conflict of Interest form and give it ASA Governance Director Mike Murphy.

2. Report of the Secretary

A. Summary Review of the 2013 Budget

Secretary Mary Romero recapped the budget report given during the previous day's meeting. The 2012 budget year ended in a small deficit due to a decline in membership and an increase in Annual Meeting expenses. The projection for 2013 is to end the year with a modest gain.

B. Membership Report

The mid-year membership count of just under 12,000 members represented a decrease of a little over 1% compared to a year ago. The membership count as of the end of the 2013 Annual Meeting had risen to 12,582. There will be continued outreach for renewals until the end of September, with sections providing their usual push to add members in order to qualify for more program sessions.

New member benefit offers in 2013 included individual access to the ACLS Humanities E-Book collection; member pricing for the TRAILS online teaching library (as well as free submission of teaching resources); expanded archival journal access as part of member subscriptions; and a package of legal, wellness, and financial services. The *ASA Directory of Members* was revamped as an online, fully searchable database available only to current members, and *Publishing Options: An Author's Guide to Journals* was provided as a free download to members.

Dues for 2014 will remain the same as in 2013. One change in the membership database for 2014 is that more options will be provided for gender categories. Currently, members have two options (*Female* and *Male*) or they may choose to opt out of answering. New options will include *Female*, *Male*, *Transgender-Female*, *Transgender-Male*, *Other* (with additional specification optional), and an opt-out. This set of options was developed in consultation with the ASA Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Persons in Sociology (GLBT) and announced to the ASA membership in March through Facebook, Twitter, and the member e-newsletter *ASA Member News and Notes*.

Some concerns were expressed that the new options rely too strongly on male and female. It was suggested that there be more discussion with the status committee and other interested parties to develop more non-gender-specific options. Membership Director Karen Edwards indicated that the database programming for membership renewal was already underway, and those renewing for 2014 would see the options outlined above.

There was some agreement that more response from members would be useful, and feedback could be gathered during the upcoming renewal season. The category options need not be viewed as final, though continual changes will affect the usefulness of the data for research analysis. The new Council Liaison to the GLBT Committee, Tina Fetner, volunteered to facilitate gathering more input for consideration.

C. Journal Subscription Report

The small decline in membership has been accompanied by a larger decrease in members purchasing additional journal subscriptions. The average number of journals per member has dropped, indicating that more members are choosing not to subscribe to two or more journals. It is still too soon to know if the re-coupling of member dues and an included journal in 2013 will affect member subscriptions. However, the SAGE partnership is structured in such a way that ASA is able to

experiment with journals as a member benefit while keeping institutional subscriptions, particularly consortia arrangements, strong. The partnership with SAGE continues to increase institutional exposure to ASA's nine journals.

D. Subscription Rates for 2014

There were no increases in member subscription rates for 2014. Institutional rates for 2014 were approved in May by the ASA Secretary on behalf of the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) and Council (a process previously confirmed as appropriate and acceptable by EOB and Council). ASA's publishing partners, SAGE and Wiley-Blackwell, require approval of annual rates prior to the summer EOB meeting in order to include ASA journals in their marketing materials to libraries for early renewal.

3. Committee, Advisory Panel, & Task Force Appointments

A. Nominations from the President, Secretary, Executive Officer

The liaison appointments for new Council members were outlined, and the President and Executive Officer were available during the morning break to answer questions and resolve concerns.

The Secretary presented a list of nominees to serve on the EOB Committee.

MOTION: To approve the list of nominees for appointment to EOB. Carried (no opposed, no abstentions).

The Executive Officer distributed a handout with information on the ASA program advisory committees, including the status of each and identification of which members were rotating off, and nominations for new members.

MOTION: To approve nominations for the advisory committees. Carried.

B. Nominations from the Committee on Committees (COC)

The Committee on Committees (COC) is an ASA Bylaws committee composed of members elected by the ASA membership and charged with the responsibility of generating nominee lists for appointment to various ASA committees. COC meets for a full day during the Annual Meeting to review and rank-order its recommendations for Council. Council's diversity policy is given high priority, and the final ranking takes the characteristics of outgoing committee members into account.

A question was raised regarding priorities when there is an overlap of names on the nominations lists generated by the Committee on Nominations (CON) and the COC. Governance & Information Systems Director Michael Murphy responded that the CON lists are handled first.

It was noted that few southern institutions of higher education were represented on the COC lists of nominees; anyone with suggestions was invited to submit them to the Governance Director Murphy. Clarifications were asked about the eligibility of untenured faculty and those at small liberal arts colleges. Murphy indicated that COC considers everyone who is an ASA member, regardless of status.

MOTION: To approve the COC lists. Carried (no opposed, no abstentions).

4. Annual Meetings

A. President's Update on the 2014 Program

Noting that program planning commences more than a year ahead of time, President Lareau reported that nearly all the invited sessions were finalized. Three plenary sessions are on the roster, and featured speakers include Malcolm Gladwell and Cheryl Sandberg. There will be 22 Author Meets Critics sessions, which represents an increase in that type of session.

Some concerns were raised about how submissions to the open sessions are handled. Submitters may designate 1st and 2nd choice priorities, but there are reports that sometimes a high quality paper does not fit well with other papers for a session topic and ends up not getting onto program. It appears there needs to be a place to put high quality "homeless" papers.

Meeting Services Director Kareem Jenkins reported that, on average, there are 3,500 submissions every year. Consideration of some submissions can become problematic when an organizer does not work in a timely fashion. Regular Session organizers do have the option to request additional timeslots by an established deadline to incorporate all their excellent papers, whereas Sections have limits on the number of sessions. The roundtable component is used to house many submissions that are of good quality but do not by subject fit into other sessions. In cases where Regular Session topics and Section topics overlap, it is not unusual for organizers to collaborate on placing as many submissions as possible.

The functionalities of the online submission system do permit organizers to see the titles and abstracts of second priority papers, according to Jenkins, so they can contact the first priority organizers if there are papers they are interested in using. There are still issues with the timing of decision-making however. Some organizers deal with their first priority submissions and consider their work done, then end up finding more papers in their queues as other organizers release or forward papers. We will develop a means of closing a queue when the organizer has finished reviewing submissions so this will not happen.

Jenkins noted that while the rotation policy for Regular Session organizers ensures that no one gatekeeper has a stranglehold on a session topic year after year, it also means that there is a big learning curve among organizers every year. This affects section sessions too, since Section officers rotate almost every year. Therefore, training session organizers has always been an important issue for ASA. Meeting Services has produced instructional videos and other online help information available for organizers, though some never use those resources. Jenkins noted that the structure of the ASA program over the years is unique to the ASA and, compared to other meeting programs, it is far more complex. That means that, to accommodate the program structure, the ASA submission system also has to be extremely complex; there really is no "simple" approach. The electronic system ASA put in place a decade ago to replace the paper system was carefully adapted to this program structure and Meeting Services has sought input annually from organizers and submitters, changing and adapting the electronic system to respond to concerns.

Council members suggested some additional areas for improvement or change including allowing more than one individual to access a submission queue, retaining historical information on organizer performance, permitting a second priority organizer to see the full paper (not just the abstract), and

adding a third choice option. Jenkins indicated that these would have high priority in the next round of system changes.

B. President-Elect's Report on the 2015 Program Committee

President-Elect Paula England reported that the theme for 2015 will be *Sexualities and the Social World*. Issues about norms and consequences will be looked at, and the program will include discussions about medicalization, sexual orientation, pleasure, etc. England and the 2015 Program Committee hope that this focus will signal that work on sexualities is an acceptable area of research for tenure considerations, because there have been some issues about this in the past in our discipline. Council members were invited to send suggestions and feedback to the President-Elect, who is working on a full theme statement for publication in the next issue of *Footnotes*.

The following members were proposed for appointment to the 2015 Program Committee: Elizabeth Armstrong (University of Michigan), Vincent Roscigno (Ohio State), David Grusky (Stanford), Rosalind King (NICHD), Celeste Watkins-Hayes (Northwestern), and Verta Taylor (UCSB), along with two carryovers from the 2014 Program Committee—Brian Powell (Indiana), and Eliot Weininger (SUNY Brockport).

MOTION: To approve the proposed roster of members for the 2015 Program Committee. Carried (no opposed).

C. Registration and Other Fees for 2014

Secretary Romero indicated that registration rates for 2013 had been increased slightly for three primary reasons: first, to account for estimated higher meeting costs associated with the New York meeting site; second, to offset the costs of electronic technology (and associated New York union labor rates); and third, to support provision of a vendor-created Annual Meeting app.

For 2014, EOB recommended that Council maintain the same registration rates, given that San Francisco is another high cost location. EOB also recommended no increases in fees for services and events (e.g., Courses, Seminars, Employment Service). There was immediate support in Council for both recommendations.

MOTION: To approve the EOB recommendations on registration rates and fees for services and events for the 2014 Annual Meeting. Carried (no opposed).

Council took a short break at 10:08 – 10:25 a.m.

D. Criteria for Annual Meeting Site Selection

The Secretary requested that Council members read the background memo about Annual Meeting site selection and the updated information on the viability of several locations. There was a suggestion to add citizenship status to the criteria dealing with legal protection from discrimination. That criterion currently reads “sites where members are afforded legal protection from

discrimination on the basis of age, gender, marital status, national origin, physical ability, race, religion, or sexual orientation.”

E. Selection of 2020 Annual Meeting Site

Selection of the 2020 site was brought to Council at this time because ASA is scheduled to go to an eastern site for 2020, New York City has been a successful site for ASA in the recent past, and the meeting hotels are offering additional benefits and contract concessions if ASA books its 2020 meeting site now. Due to the high cost involved, the only times ASA has met in New York City have been when special deals were offered. Some of the special provisions currently on the table include room rates based on 2013 levels with an inflation factor of no more than 4%, adjustments to audio-visual support costs, and free internet access in meeting rooms.

Some concern was raised about returning to the same meeting sites, which limits opportunities for attendance by and involvement of members in small schools. In response to an inquiry about the possibility of leveraging the proposal to get deals from other East Coast sites, such as Boston, Meeting Services Director Jenkins indicated that there was no proposal in hand from Boston and the New York proposal carried a limited timeframe. There was some disagreement about Boston being a desirable site, particularly to those on the West Coast. It was pointed out that the close proximity of Boston and New York makes travel between the two fairly inexpensive, and it is easier to get prominent speakers to come to New York as well as attract media attention.

Even though New York City is an expensive site, it draws high and often record-breaking meeting attendance. Council leaned in the direction of authorizing the Executive Office to proceed with contract negotiations that, if successful, would result in New York City hosting the 2020 Annual Meeting. It was noted that there were some accessibility issues with the facilities used this year, and the importance of addressing those issues during final negotiations for 2020 was stressed.

MOTION: Council designates New York City as the meeting site for 2020, pending successful conclusion of contract negotiations. Carried (no opposed).

Discussion concluded with Council members asking Meeting Services staff to look into several issues that arose with the housing bureau this summer. One complaint was the lack of flexibility to make reservation changes online.

F. Proposal for Changes in Annual Meeting Participation Rules

The program participation policies set by Council restrict individuals to participating on no more than two sessions. The roles that count as a “participation” include presider/moderator, discussant, author/co-author, panelist, and so on. There is, however, a “professional service” exemption for workshop leaders and for representatives listed on informational poster sessions. President Lareau asked Council to consider re-classifying the role of session presider as a service role, not as a participation role. She thought this would make it easier to use eminent scholars as draws for regular paper sessions, since it is often the case that a scholar hits the two session limit by authoring his/her own paper and being listed as co-author with a graduate student on another paper.

Other Council members noted that one reason for the current policy is to open as many opportunities as possible for members to participate on the program. The presiding role can be a good way to involve newer scholars and different types of people. Presiding roles exist on nearly all

sessions, and it is conceivable that upwards of 20% of those slots would be unavailable for new participants if presiding does not count as a participation role. It was noted that the presider role can be an opportunity for assistant professors to raise their visibility in the profession.

While the proposed change could be viewed as allowing elites to participate more and discouraging broader participation, it was noted that if a prominent sociologist is serving as a presider, the presenters in that session have that person's ear for the duration of that session.

The existing limitations can also make it difficult for organizers to find presiders for their sessions, particularly organizers of Regular Sessions that receive a large number of submissions and qualify for additional session slots. Those in smaller networks may also encounter challenges in finding people to serve as presiders. Sometimes participants opt to drop their names off co-authored papers in order to participate in other sessions, and changing authorship of a paper is not a desirable outcome.

A question arose about whether any role other than author/co-author should be defined as a participation role, since many universities do not provide funding unless faculty members are presenting papers. It was clarified that there are significant differences between Research One institutions and smaller schools in this regard.

As discussion continued, a consensus slowly emerged that the underlying goal of program policies should be to broaden participation and be inclusive to scholars of all ages. For example, asking retired and/or emeritus members to preside on sessions would offer them opportunities to stay connected to the association and involved in the meeting.

MOTION: To designate presiding on a program session as a service role, not a "participant" role. Declined (4 – yes , 12 – no, 0 – abstentions).

5. Publications

A. Report of the Committee on Publications

The Secretary reported that Erin Kelly was designated as incoming chair for the Committee on Publications. A number of important matters are in the pipeline for the committee this fall. Calls will be posted inviting members to apply for the editorships of *Contemporary Sociology*, *Contexts*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *Teaching Sociology*. Work is underway to prepare suggestions to be considered in the upcoming review Code of Ethics. Issues that are of concern with the current Code include the description of rules about dual submission, self-publishing, and plagiarism. The committee is also considering proposing a blog, and further discussion will occur at the winter meeting.

An issue arose at the Publications Committee about publishing tables/figures in color in *Sociological Methodology* because some figures cannot be appropriately rendered in grayscale. The recommendation from the Committee on Publications was to permit the SM editor to offer color as an option if the author will pay the fee(s). Council expressed interest in approving color figures in print for ASA journals more generally—in very limited and specific situations.

Editors are responsible, whenever possible, for instructing authors to provide figures in black/white (or grayscale). If, in a rare circumstance, a figure is required that cannot be reproduced in black and

white or grayscale, and for which a color version available online is not adequate, an editor may offer an author the option of paying the additional cost to print a figure in color in the journal. The approximate cost of doing so is \$800-\$900 *per figure*.

MOTION: To permit all journal editors to offer authors the option of paying to print figures in color when black and white or grayscale is inappropriate. Carried (no opposed).

The Secretary relayed a recommendation from the Committee on Publications to limit the term of the ASR editorship to a maximum of four years, along with information that nearly half of the committee members did not support the recommendation. The terms of all journal editorships are initially three years, with the option to extend up to three years if mutually agreed by the editor and the Committee on Publications. Concerns were raised in the previous Council meeting regarding having any one set of gatekeepers for the flagship journal for six years.

It was noted that ASR editors have typically opted to extend for no more than one or two years, and it has been thirty years since an ASR editor was willing to serve more than four years. There was also some concern in principle about having different rules for different editorships. Other viewpoints suggested that there is a higher likelihood of longer terms now that teams of editors are becoming the norm. The process by which an editorship is extended received some attention, including the effect on an editorship if some team members do not wish to extend the term.

President-Elect England referenced her past service as ASR editor and commented that the journal is now getting twice as many manuscripts as it did when she was editor. The higher volume of submissions to many journals makes a team of editors very useful. On the other hand, teams can also mean more opportunity for conflict.

There was some objection to viewing ASR as the only ASA journal viewed by sociologists as having a gatekeeper function. Other journals such as *Sociology of Education* (SOE) serve that same function for researchers who work in that areas. Additional factors involved in considering the length of editorships include the decreasing institutional support for editorial offices and the increasing difficulty in identifying new editors. These factors affect all journals, not just ASR.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation to set four years as the maximum term of editorship for ASR. Declined (7 yes, 8 no, 1 abstention).

There was some agreement that editorial term and recruitment issues need more discussion. A suggestion was offered that Council request the Committee on Publications to prepare a fuller discussion of these matters in a written report. An amendment to the proposed motion was accepted, which stipulated a requirement for the extension of an editorship to be approved by Council if it involved a reduction in the editorial team.

MOTION: Council asks the Committee on Publications to prepare a report on the length of editorships, addressing in particular whether all ASA journals should have the same term limits, what information the Committee considers when determining whether to offer extensions, and whether a shorter flat term for all ASA journal editorships would increase or decrease the number of editor transitions. Council further stipulates that any change in an editorial structure during an editorial term must be approved by Council. Carried (no opposed).

Recommendations from the Committee on Publications for page increases for two journals were presented by the Secretary. During the last transitions for SOE and *Social Psychology Quarterly* (SPQ), the committee supported and Council approved a temporary increase in journal page allocations for two years. The SPQ page allocation now needs to be extended for one more year to cover the last year of the current editor.

MOTION: To approve a one-time increase in the 2014 page allocation for SPQ.
Carried (no opposed).

The SOE page allocation increase was needed to help deal with a backlog of accepted manuscripts.

MOTION: To approve a one-time increase in the 2014 page allocation for SOE:
Carried (no opposed).

The increasing workload of the Committee on Publications has led to a request to add more voting members to the committee. Since the committee structure is specified in the ASA Bylaws, any change must be voted on by the ASA membership. Of the eight voting members on the committee, two are ASA officers who have many other responsibilities. The bulk of the committee's work relies on just six members. Between the increasing number of section journals whose oversight is the responsibility of the committee, and the importance of various publications issues, including those referred to the committee by Council, more committee members are needed to handle the workload.

Council requests the Executive Office to develop a model to increase the number of voting members on the Committee on Publications to compensate for the significant increase in the number of ASA journals requiring oversight.
Carried (no opposed).

Council took a lunch break at 12:15 – 1:10pm, which included meeting International Sociological Association (ISA) Executive Secretary Izabela Barlinska who has been visiting and participating in the 2013 Annual Meeting at the invitation of the Association.

B. Disposition of Editorial Office Files (1990-2010)

A brief recap was given on the status of dealing with 580 boxes of editorial office materials that have been designated ineligible for retention in the ASA archives at Penn State. At its January 2013 meeting, Council gave permission for Professor Alan Sica to conduct a sample survey of authors and reviewers whose materials are in these files to see how many of them would provide their permission for ASA to retain their documents and made them available to scholarly researchers for studies of the manuscripts and reviews. Sica strongly supports retaining the material even though ASA has no legal rights to the unaccepted manuscripts (authors hold the copyright) and ASA has an obligation of confidentiality regarding the peer reviews under both the ASA Code of Ethics and the written policies and procedures of the ASA Editorial Offices.

Concerns about the cost of retaining the old editorial office paper files were again raised. This issue had never come up before at ASA because prior to 1990 all editorial office records were destroyed by

the Editor at the end of his/her term. The policy about the Editorial Office records starting about 1990 changed when storage space became available at the newly recreated ASA Archive at the Penn State Library.

Partly because of the cost and partly because of Council members' mixed views about the research utility of these 1990-2009 records as well as the legal and ethical issues, the action taken by Council at its Winter 2013 meeting was to retain them for one year and make no commitment to retaining them further, a position in accord with the EOB recommendation to destroy the records. Council's expectation was that any ASA members who want ASA to retain the materials beyond Council's next meeting would present a plan to Council at its Winter 2014 meeting that includes appropriate funding for longer retention and an approach to resolving the ethical and legal issues if the files were not destroyed.

C. Archiving of Future ASA Journal Submissions and Reviews

The Secretary reported that the Committee on Publications is planning to send a questionnaire to ASA members regarding archiving *future* journal materials (2010 on) that are created and maintained digitally, hence eliminating the costs of physical storage into the future. A survey is intended to inform the Publications Committee and Council decisions about policies to obtain permission from submitting authors and reviewers to retain their manuscripts and reviews. This would solve both the ethical and legal questions for the future that are raised by considering retention and research use of the 1990-2009 old editorial files, namely that neither authors nor reviewers were asked to give permission at the time of submission for the materials to be retained or used for research purposes.

Council members provided some feedback about the draft of the questionnaire. The difference between formal reviews and confidential comments to an editor was pointed out, and it was suggested that there be separate questions about those elements. There should also be clarification regarding exactly what information would be made available to future researchers, for example, whether a reviewer's name would be revealed. Respondents should also be asked whether they would opt in or out of giving permission. Reordering the sequence of some questions was also advised.

In the interest of time, it was suggested that the Committee on Publications collaborate with appropriate ASA staff in preparing the questionnaire for electronic delivery.

MOTION: To deputize the ASA Publications Director and ASA Research Director to work with the Committee on Publications to revise the questionnaire and conduct the survey. Carried (no opposed).
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D. Proposed ASA Bylaws Change on President's Membership on the Committee on Publications

Under the *ASA Bylaws*, each President serves as a voting member of the Committee on Publications for the presidential year of her/his three-year term on EOB and Council. Various presidents in recent years have suggested that the *ASA Bylaws* be changed to have the President not serve on the committee during his/her presidential year.

The central reason for this change is that the Committee on Publications meets for a full-day during the four-day August Annual Meeting; it is usually on the day when the ASA Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address are scheduled. This means that the President must take one full day out of his/her four-day Annual Meeting schedule to attend the Committee meeting. It is the sense of recent

ASA Presidents that this is an unreasonable burden leading to the practice of Presidents attending only part of the Committee's meeting before leaving to attend other evident and to prepare to give the Presidential Address late that afternoon.

MOTION: To change the ASA Bylaws to designate the immediate Past ASA President to serve on the Committee on Publications. Carried (no opposed).

6. Committee on Sections

A. Report on Sections

The Council Liaison to the Committee on Sections (COS), Laurel Smith-Doerr, reported that COS needed assistance in dealing with sections that are delinquent about turning in their annual reports. The report is required, but there are currently no consequences if it is not submitted. Council was requested to set a policy to withhold section funding until the annual report was turned in.

The timing of report submission and budget allocation was outlined by Governance Program Coordinator Justin Lini. The turnover of Section officers occurs at the Annual Meeting each August, and the annual report is the responsibility of the outgoing Chair. The November 1st deadline for the annual report allows ASA staff a two month period to work with sections to get their reports submitted. The budget allocation for each Section is given in January.

It was clarified that a section would receive its full allocation when the report was turned in (i.e., there would not be a pro rata allocation based on how delinquent the Section was).

MOTION: That funds for the upcoming year be held until a section turns in a completed annual report. Carried (no opposed).

7. Updates from Status Committees

The agenda book contained short updates from three status committees: Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons in Sociology; Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology; and Status of Women in Sociology. The Executive Officer indicated that there was no cause for concern that the Committee on the Status of Racial & Ethnic Minorities in Sociology did not provide an update. Fuller reports from all status committees would be available at the winter Council meeting.

8. Updates on Task Forces

A. Task Force on Community College Faculty

There was no discussion of the task force's update.

B. Task Force on the Post-doctorate in Sociology

There was no discussion of the task force's update.

C. Task Force on Using Social Media to Increase the Visibility of Sociological Research

Lareau reported that the social media task force had its first meeting in New York during the Annual Meeting. There are currently 16 members on the task force, and the average age of task force members is in the 30s. One outcome of the discussion was the formation of four subcommittees to work on skill development, professional recognition, blogs, and connecting members.

The Council Subcommittee on Social Media Policy will receive the report from task force's blog subcommittee and will be looking at whether there are policy issues that the organization should be addressing. One issue will be to discuss what information does or does not go out from Council meetings via social media.

Wide differences of opinion emerged regarding whether Council members should sharing information about Council discussions via social media and, if so, when. One viewpoint was that using social media to share opinions is similar to having conversations in hallways and sending email messages to colleagues. Council meetings are considered to be open to members, except for those times when Council convenes in executive session.

The official records of Council discussions and actions are the formal minutes of each meeting. The ASA Secretary is responsible for the minutes, which are then reviewed and approved by the entire Council. Blogging about what is happening in a Council meeting was viewed by some as inappropriate because, until the minutes are approved, there is no consensus about what occurred. One person's blog is an unsubstantiated record of what happened. Members of Council may think they are saying things as an individual, but it can and most likely will be interpreted as speaking for Council.

An attempt was made to clarify what blogs are and allay concern. Most blogs operate with disclaimers on their sites, and it was asserted that there is a self-correcting character to what happens online. That assertion was not met with all Council members' agreement however. As much as one might like it to be the case that blogs are self-correcting, some felt this was far from reality. Some Council members who hold university or public section positions of authority were also concerned that identifying their particular views or contributions publicly could cause them difficulty. Minutes typically do not do that.

Also at issue was the timing of communicating Council actions and the appropriate conduits for doing so. For example, it would be inappropriate for Council action on a potentially sensitive publications issue to be made widely public before the ASA Secretary got in touch with the committee chair as directed by Council. The desire to be transparent has to be balanced with the need to follow appropriate communication routes.

It was clearly important to identify what organizational protocols are or should be in place. Different perceptions exist about implicit norms, and one outcome could be a disinclination for Council members to speak freely since there is no guarantee of confidentiality. Some Council members affirmed they would contribute much less to discussions if it was likely that what they said would appear on the web. This lower level of participation would adversely affect Council's ability to make fully-informed decisions for the organization.

The mechanics of handling a Council meeting would also become difficult if it were necessary to move into executive session every time a sensitive area arises. One option would be to designate Council meetings as closed so that members can speak freely. There was little support for this given ASA's open governance policy. Another proposed route was for Council to agree to work under a

agreement that no one would blog during the meeting at least temporarily until the Council Subcommittee on Social Media Policy could discuss the various points view, what other association's do, and develop recommendations for Council to consider at its next meeting.

Agreement was reached to work under the proposed temporary confidentiality agreement. Lareau then invited Council members Tina Fetner and Patricia White to serve on the social media policy committee that she would chair; the Executive Officer would serve *ex officio*.

Council took its afternoon break at 2:25pm – 2:46 pm.

9. Report of the Executive Officer

A. Executive Office Staffing

No changes in staffing were reported.

B. ASA Status as an "Old Law Corporation"

The Executive Officer provided a brief history of ASA's status as a non-profit organization. The American Sociological Association (ASA) is a 501.c.3 nonprofit organization that was incorporated in the District of Columbia on January 30, 1943, and is subject to DC nonprofit corporation laws. When a revised DC nonprofit corporation law went into effect in 1962, ASA did not elect to be covered by that law. Thus ASA remained, and is currently recognized by the District of Columbia as, an "Old Act Corporation".

DC revised a new non-profit corporation law in 2010 because ABA put out a new model/template for nonprofit corporations. It has taken the legal community in DC two years to figure out the interpretation of this new law. Old Act Corporations now have to make a decision about whether they want to be covered by the new 2010 act.

ASA's counsel, Michael Trister, who is an expert on non-profit law, supplied some advice and recommendations to EOB in July. One major factor in his recommendations was that the new law assumes that non-profit organizations will be hierarchical rather than flat. Hierarchical means, among other things, that all committees that make decision must only have members who are on the elected board of directors. ASA is clearly not a hierarchical organization and would have to change its organizational structure to fit under the new law. That fact, in addition to other matters, lead EOB to present Council with the following four recommendations that Mr. Trister was comfortable with as ASA's attorney. The recommendations are that Council should

1. Pass a resolution informing the District of Columbia that ASA is electing to remain an "old law corporation.
2. Appoint Michael A. Trister as the ASA "registered agent" under the 2010 law to receive any official communications or legal process from the DC Corporation Council to ASA.
3. Authorize the ASA Executive Office to file by April 2014 the first of the biennial reports on the corporation as required by law.

4. Create a subcommittee of Council, including the Executive Officer and Director of Governance as *ex officio* members, to work in consultation with Mr. Trister to develop a list of changes to the ASA Constitution and Bylaws that would improve ASA governance by incorporating provisions and language from the 2012 DCNCA. This strategy would give ASA the ability to implement some of the governance benefits contained in the new law and to do so over a period of time that is as long as the association needs to make informed decisions and get membership approval. Over the longer run this strategy would also provide ASA with updated governance documents that are in compliance with the new law should Council decide at a future date that formally bringing ASA under the 2010 law is in the association's best interests.

President Lareau summarized the above recommendations and added her endorsement for ASA to stay an Old Act Corporation so that its governance structure can be retained. Before moving to a vote, Council members expressed appreciation to the Executive Officer for the in-depth memorandum about the issues.

MOTION: Council accepts the four recommendations from EOB and directs the Executive Office to proceed accordingly. Carried (no opposed).

Council members were invited to serve on the subcommittee to review the Bylaws and draft appropriate changes per recommendation 4 above. One important area to consider will deal with indemnification of volunteer leaders and staff. Stephanie Bohon and Cecilia Ridgeway volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

C. Public Affairs and Public Information (PAPI)

PAPI Director Brad Smith indicated that 30 reporters were onsite at the 2013 Annual Meeting, and presentations given at the meeting continue to receive media coverage.

On the science funding front, there is no positive news about the reauthorization of NSF. The House questioning of the SBE program will be discussed in the Senate, and it would be helpful to get someone of high prestige to testify on the importance of SBE. Council members generated several suggestions, and Smith invited everyone to send additional ideas to bsmith@asanet.org. He also encouraged Council members to talk about NSF funding support in their departments and at faculty meetings. The community at large does not understand that sociology is a science, and this needs to be articulated to the public at all levels.

D. Technology Update

No Council action was needed. Lareau encouraged Council members to provide input on refreshing the ASA website when the appropriate time arrives.

E. External Grants

No discussion.

F. NSF Travel Grant Proposal for ISA in 2014

President Lareau will be going to the ISA World Congress as an ASA representative.

G. ASA High School Sociology Planning Program Update

Some background on ASA's high school sociology efforts was provided by Academic & Professional Affairs Program Director Margaret Weigers Vitullo. The National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) provided an opportunity for ASA to present a session at the NCSS annual meeting last year, and ASA is returning to this year's meeting in St. Louis in November to offer a symposium of four sessions on "Sociology and the 21st Century Student."

In addition to planning the symposium, much of the activity of the High School Planning Program since January has centered on ASA's inclusion in *The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards: State Guidance for Enhancing the Rigor of K-12 Civics, Economics, Geography, and History*. The purpose of the document, known as the *C3 Framework*, is to show how social studies is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. While the Common Core Standards for school curriculum have been adopted by forty-five states and the District of Columbia, as well as four territories and the Department of Defense Education Program, they do not address the role of social studies in rigorous education at K-12 levels.

At the May 15 meeting in Baltimore, the draft sociology companion document was extremely well received by both the C3 leadership team and the audience of state education department representatives. As it turns out, it also became the model that the American Psychological Association used to draft their companion document later in June.

It was noted that the draft sociology companion document is not an official ASA document that would require a Council endorsement. There was a very short window of opportunity for ASA staff and members to have sociology recognized as an important part of the high school curriculum. This document will do that without ASA having to officially endorse the C3 Framework or this particular document. Some Council members pointed out that the materials were a great resource document for any department having to write up curriculum goals aimed at trying to target freshmen.

10. New Business

A. ASA Business Meeting Resolutions

No resolutions were proposed at the recent ASA Business Meeting. Some of the discussion topics or suggestions presented at the open microphone included the desire of some Sections to have open submissions instead of defined session topics. The issue of transferring papers from one organizer to another was also mentioned.

It was clarified that Sections are self-governing in this regard and determine for themselves whether their sessions will be open for submissions and whether topics will be predefined.

B. Political Attack on Russian Survey Firms

A request was received from ASA Past President Michael Burawoy and five other sociologists that ASA take public stance against recent actions by the Russian government to pressure the top sociological research institute in the country, the Levada Analytic Center, as well as other independent sociological research outfits, to declare themselves to be "foreign agents." Stating that the entire profession suffers when governments take action to limit and hinder scientific freedom and research activity, Burawoy and colleagues supplied a draft statement for consideration.

Council members agreed that this matter was in the core area of the rights of social researchers to do social research and designated the Executive Officer to handle the communication.

MOTION: To empower the Executive Officer to draft a letter in consultation with the President and President-Elect, and to send the letter. Carried (none opposed).

C. Harvard Dissertation Accused as “Scientific Racism”

Four ASA sections requested that Council consider writing an ASA statement with regard to the work of Jason Richwine. A three-page “open letter” was offered for consideration.

Council acknowledged receipt of the request and expressed appreciation that sections with expertise in the area were involved. While Council members greatly sympathized with the outrage, caution was expressed about stepping in to criticize scholars engaged in review of scholarship. It was deemed inadvisable to get into the business of censoring bad dissertations. The best answer to bad science is good science.

D. Date for Winter 2014 Council Meeting

Council normally meets in February, two or more weeks after the meeting of the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB). EOB was scheduled to meet on January 25, 2014, so meeting dates of February 8-9 were proposed for Council. There were date conflict, a holiday weekend, and other problems with ensuring a full complement of Council members and officers. March 1-2, 2014, were then proposed. Two Council members (Brunsma and Kelly) indicated they would not be able to attend but there seemed no better alternative, so Council confirmed the early March meeting dates.

E. Other New Business

(1) ASA Business Meeting. Lareau initiated discussion about rescheduling the ASA Business Meeting, usually held as an early-bird breakfast event at 7:00am on the last day of the Annual Meeting. Participation of members is minimal at that time of day, and the question was raised regarding how important it is to get more people to attend.

The timing of the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting has been problematic for years. The Business Meeting serves as the transition point between incoming and outgoing officers and those terms commence at the end of the Annual Meeting as specified in the ASA Bylaws. The Business Meeting is treated as a plenary activity, which means that no other sessions or activities may be held at the same time. As a corporation, we are required to have this meeting for membership attendance. Moving it into the regular program day will have a huge impact on Section programs and it will reduce the overall number of sessions that can be accommodated on the four-day program.

Experience indicates that when there is conflict about a resolution being proposed, or if members are interested in the topic being discussed, they will attend the ASA Business Meeting. However, within ASA many members are tied more closely so section governance through section business meetings, than to the ASA Business Meeting, and Sections often couple their business meetings with short sessions in order to improve attendance. Promoting the ASA Business Meeting via Twitter was suggested, as was renaming the event with a more catchy title (perhaps “Talk Back to Council”). Another pitch was to provide a fuller, more nourishing breakfast to attract attendees.

It was suggested that the first step might be to clarify what must be accomplished along with what is desired at a business meeting. The meeting must be held during the convention as specified by the ASA Constitution. The format can be altered as desired, as long as members have the opportunity to present resolutions as specified in the Bylaws.

Discussion then segued into the scheduling of the ASA Award Ceremony and the Presidential Address. The possibility of coupling the awards with the business meeting was mentioned but met with concerns about downgrading attendance for the award ceremony. Since the ASA awards are the national honors in sociology, the recipients deserve appropriate time and respect.

Both presenters and recipients are given time limits, and the entire ceremony is scripted. That does not prevent someone from going off script when in front of the microphone, however. One suggestion to keep things moving was for the President to stand beside the podium and implement cutoffs, but that is an unwelcome and distracting chore when one is trying to focus on being ready to present a major address.

It was noted that ASA staff manage this process very closely and provide detailed instructions and monitoring. They developed the current scripting that is use; the time taken by the awards ceremony shortened dramatically after this step was taken a decade ago, and it has remained almost exactly 45 minutes each year. Years when there are two award winners in one or more award categories run a few minutes longer; years when participants are dutiful with regard to their time limits run a few minutes less.

Council members were invited to think of suggestions for improving the award ceremony next year, and Jennifer Glass and Jane Sell volunteered to work with Annette Lareau.

(2) Oversight of Journal Editors. A concern was relayed about the number of Revise and Resubmit (R&R) circuits that a manuscript may go through, creating problems for authors trying to cope with different reviews at different stages. ASR in particular was cited as giving more than one R&R on a semi-regular basis.

President-Elect England commented that this issue was discussed at the recent ASR editorial board meeting. One Council member said that there is a common perception that ASR does more R&Rs than AJS, which is not the case. A question was raised about whether data can be made available for ASR and other journals. It was noted that the submission software program at one time counted each revision as a new submission, which impacts the R&R data. Past President Ridgeway indicated that it is reported both ways now.

Asking a panel of previous editors to demystify the process was suggested as a possible program session. Authors are very interested in hearing about what editors are thinking as they make their decisions. This would not be just a “how to publish” session; it would identify what editors and reviewers look for.

Part of the ongoing concern about R&Rs is the length of time a manuscript spends under review. Past editors serving on Council pointed out that editors are absolutely not in control of how quickly reviewers work. It was also noted that some people expressing concern about the length of review times are actually not focusing on ASR although they might say they are; it is universally understood that AJS has long review times, where ASR’s statistics are generally reasonable. Given the overall concerns about multiple R&Rs, the path of reviews, and the number of reviewers, there was consensus to ask the Committee on Publications to investigate and collect information on this issue.

Adjournment

With thanks to all the Council members and ASA staff in attendance, President Lareau adjourned the first meeting of the 2013-2014 ASA Council at 4:39 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2013.