

**2011-2012 ASA Council
Second Meeting
Final Minutes**

Saturday-Sunday, February 11-12, 2012
Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel, Washington, DC

Officers Present: Catherine White Berheide (Secretary), Randall Collins (Past President), Jennifer Glass (Vice President-Elect), Cecilia Ridgeway (President-Elect), David Snow (Past Vice President) Edward Telles (Vice President), Erik Olin Wright (President)

Members-at-Large Present: David Brunnsma, Sarah Fenstermaker, Jennifer Lee, Amanda Lewis, Cecilia Menjivar, Monica Prasad, Mario Luis Small, Sandra Smith, Laurel Smith-Doerr, Sarah Soule, Robin Wagner-Pacifici

Members-at-Large Absent: Joya Misra

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

1. Introductions and Orienting Documents

President Erik Olin Wright convened the second meeting of the 2011-2012 ASA Council at 8:35am on Saturday, February 11, 2012.

A. Approval of the Agenda

One item of new business was added.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended. Carried.

After a round of introductions, the President highlighted a recent announcement of Council Member Sarah Fenstermaker's appointment as the new director of IRWG at Michigan.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 23 and August 24, 2011

No corrections or revisions were proposed for the drafts of summer meeting minutes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the 2010-2011 ASA Council on August 23, 2011. Carried.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the first meeting of the 2011-2012 ASA Council on August 24, 2011. Carried.

2. Financial Reports and Budgets

A. Requests for Additional Journal Pages for 2012

The Secretary reported that the Committee on Publications actively solicited requests for additional pages from editors due to concerns about the sufficiency of existing page allocations. The editor of the *American Sociological Review* (ASR) submitted a request for 100 pages, though it was noted that the editors were more focused on publishing more articles than on having room for longer articles which was a consideration for the Publications Committee. The *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (JHSB) editor requested 64 more pages to permit publishing a policy brief in each issue and to increase article length by two pages. The *Social Psychology Quarterly* (SPQ) editor asked for 30 more pages to permit slightly longer articles and to match what had been allocated in prior years. The editor of *Sociology of Education* (SOE) pointed to receiving more submissions, and submissions being of higher quality, as the basis to allocate 50 more pages to that journal.

The Committee on Publications discussed the four requests at its meeting in December and recommended increases in permanent base page allocations for ASR by 100 pages (from 998 to 1,098 pages) and JHSB by 64 pages (from 492 to 556 pages). For SPQ and SOE, the recommendation was to increase the base page allocation by 30 pages (from 390 to 420 pages) for two years (2012 and 2013). These page increases raise publications expenses by \$21,000 for 2012 and 2013.

At its meeting in January, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget reviewed the proposed increases and voted unanimously to recommend that Council approve the four recommended page allocations.

It was noted that journals request additional pages fairly often, mostly associated with changes in editorships, and a question was raised regarding whether the proposed increases would deal with the issue over time. The Secretary indicated it was not likely that the proposed increases would affect the backlog issues that arise with editorial transitions. Guidelines for transitions are being reviewed by the committee, however, to provide more clarity for editors on the issue of backlogs.

The possible connection between acceptance rates and increases in page allocations was discussed. Each editor determines how to use the annual page allocation for that journal. If longer articles are accepted, then the journal will publish fewer pieces in a given year. A suggestion was made that having a bigger backlog was a better alternative than rejecting good submissions. Council members with editorial experience noted that editors are under a variety of pressures and that publishing standards are complex social process, not a carefully calculated hard line. Getting obsessed with acceptance numbers is inadvisable.

Editorial transitions often give rise to concerns about content diversity in journals, particularly ASR, considered to be ASA's flagship journal. If Council wishes to do so, it can ask the Committee on Publications to address the issue of how eclectic the flagship journal should be. Council can also recommend an overview of the entire publications portfolio, especially in light of the trend toward more sections initiating proposals for section journals. An amendment to the EOB recommendation was proposed to encourage ASR to move toward a consideration longer articles.

MOTION: That Council approve permanent page allocation increases of 100 pages for ASR—with the consideration of publishing not just more articles but articles that

are longer than average—and 64 pages for *JHSB*; and two-year increases (for 2012 and 2013) of 30 pages each for *SPQ* and *SOE*. Carried (none opposed).

B. Current (2011) Financials and Proposed 2012 Operating Budget

The Secretary reported that year-end projections for 2011 were in the black. This positive projection is one reason why approving page increases for journals was not problematic. The balanced budget proposal for 2012 includes a cost-of-living raise for staff, whose salaries were frozen during the economic downturn, and support to return to printing and mailing *Footnotes* to all members. The 2012 revenues were projected higher than 2011 primarily because of an increase in the guaranteed revenue from the contract with SAGE Publications.

In response to questions about the revenue stream from SAGE, the Secretary indicated that ASA has a five-year contract with SAGE for publishing the ASA journals. That contract provides a specific amount of income to the Association. The primary sources of income for the Association are publications, membership dues, and the Annual Meeting. Publications income supports other programs of association, such as the Minority Fellowship Program, student affairs and the Academic and Professional Affairs Program.

It was noted that the process of finding a publishing partner involved considerations about subscriptions pricing. Efforts were made to find a publisher that would keep library subscription prices in a modest range, as has been ASA's traditional pricing approach. ASA has viewed its publication efforts as part of a collaborative relationship with universities and thus tries to keep subscription prices low. All bidding publishers said that ASA journals were considerably underpriced in comparison to other social science journals. ASA nonetheless maintained its approach to raise prices as needed, not merely because price hikes were possible.

MOTION: Council approves the proposed 2012 operating budget. Carried (none opposed).

C. Proposed 2012 Spivack Budget

The Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, one of the ASA core initiatives, is supported by an invested fund provided to the Association from Spivack's estate. Although the original Spivack funds were intended to be expended in a few years (rather than support a permanent Spivack Program), the health of the equities market in past years has enabled ASA to continue using this fund far longer than expected.

Over two-thirds of the proposed 2011 Spivack budget was not spent, in part to conserve resources in response to the currently unstable equities market that supports the program through the invested Spivack Fund, but also in anticipation of proposals for 2012 by the Spivack Advisory Committee. The only visible difference between the 2011 and 2012 Spivack budgets is the allocation of \$12,750 for "other projects," which is intended to provide partial support for the research survey of non-academic PhDs.

The President inquired whether there were any good projects that are not being supported. Assurance was provided that the program is doing what fits the guidelines, and those costs simply do not exceed fund growth at this time.

MOTION: Council approves the 2012 Spivack budget as recommended by EOB.
Carried (none opposed).

D. Member Contributions and Donations

(1) General Contributions in 2011

As part of the annual membership renewal process, members are offered the opportunity to contribute to several ASA programs: American Sociological Fund, Congressional Fellowship Fund, Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, Minority Fellowship Program, Soft Currency Fund, and Teaching Enhancement Fund. The Secretary reported that, as of the close of the 2011 membership renewal period, contributions to these funds totaled \$22,869. The 772 contributions in 2011 came from 538 individual contributors (compared to 462 individual contributors for 2010).

(2) MFP Budget 2012-2013

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) budget proposal outlined support for regular fellowships plus several non-stipendiary awards. MFP Director Jean Shin reported that 113 applications had been received, which was a 53% increase over last year. There is clearly a strong demand for fellowship support, perhaps due to decreases in departmental funding, and for participation in the program for the other benefits it offers. The MFP Advisory panel will meet in March to make decisions about fellowship recipients and discuss outreach and fundraising.

Minority Affairs Program Director Jean Shin outlined several outreach efforts planned this spring. Two tours through the South and Southwest have been organized to take the ASA President to visit various Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and a tribal college. Tony Brown, acting chair at Vanderbilt (as well as former MFP Fellow and co-editor of ASR) is working with MFP to bring together current and new MFP Fellows with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Fellows at both universities for a minority-focused professional development conference hosted in Nashville this May. This conference can also play an important role in creating new ties for MFP fundraising with RWJF.

In response to questions about non-funded fellows and how they are involved in the program, Shin indicated that non-stipendiary fellows would be brought into the Vanderbilt project and all other MFP activities.

Noting the increase in applicants and the low number of fellowships, Council Member Robin Wagner-Pacific inquired about the possibility of using the Spivack Fund to provide a fellowship for an applicant with an interest in social policy. There was immediate support for implementing this suggestion for 2012 on a one-year basis initially, with the intent that the Spivack funding support a stipend rather than pay for tuition. As the Secretary clarified the consensus toward amending the proposed MFP budget, Council members proposed to allocate funding for two fellowships.

MOTION: Council approves a 2012-2013MFP General Fund budget of \$144,000, which provides for seven MFP Fellowship Awards (at \$20,000 each) and up to two non-stipendiary MFP awards (at \$2,000 each). Carried (none opposed).

MOTION: Amend the 2012 Spivack budget to allocate \$40,000 to support two MFP Fellowships oriented toward a social policy emphasis. Carried. (None opposed).

(3) Council Subcommittee on Member Giving

Council Member Sarah Fenstermaker reported that the subcommittee is moving toward the concept of a single small grants program for fundraising purposes. This program would be an umbrella for the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) grants, the Teaching Enhancement Fund (TEF) grants, and the Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) grants. Of these three, CARI is not currently included on the list of donation options offered to members during the renewal process.

The need to increase opportunities to donate to these programs was discussed. In particular, there should be at least one other time when members are asked to consider donations that does not coincide with paying for membership and meeting registration. The Association needs to start doing things that successful fundraisers do. At minimum, links to the programs should be included in *Footnotes* articles online.

MOTION: To add the Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) small-grant program to the list of ASA programs for which ASA solicits member contributions. Carried. (None opposed.)

Council took a short break at 10:05 – 10:20am.

3. ASA Investments and Reserves

A. General Financial Picture of ASA Investments

After starting out strong, 2011 turned into a highly volatile period for equity markets, with five months of gains and six months of losses as of the end of November. Although the market was down during 2011, ASA has been gradually weathering the tight economy and has not needed to withdraw any cash from long-term investments over the past eighteen months to meet operating or cash flow needs. After sustaining Operating Budget losses in 2008 and 2009, the Association crossed back to having positive results in 2010 and expects to end 2011 in the black as well. The Secretary noted that cash flow management has become easier with the transition to quarterly revenue payments from SAGE, and it has not been necessary use into short-term investments as frequently.

Several new Council members inquired about ASA policies on investments and socially responsible funding. The Executive Officer indicated that a copy of the policy which was developed in 2005 would be provided. The issue of social responsibility was last discussed when Council concurred with the decision by the EOB to change investment counselors eight years ago and go with Dimensional Fund Advisors (DFA) and approved the investment policy. Council determined that the DFA diversification strategy was sufficient to meet ASA's general interest in social responsible investments because the amount of the ASA investment in any individual company was extremely tiny under the DFA diversification strategy (which focuses on investing in thousands of companies world-wide). Past President Collins noted that any such mutual fund investments are in widely distributed types of companies, and there is no picking and choosing of specific stocks by the investor. If ordinary mutual funds were used, however, ASA would be investing in a relatively small number of companies (e.g., 35-100) involved, whereas DFA funds have thousands of holdings.

There were questions about some of the bond investments, in particular one involving a tobacco company. The Secretary indicated that EOB had agreed to let our investment advisor purchase individual bonds as well as bond funds in order to reduce investment costs; however, EOB will look

more carefully at the individual bonds ASA holds and direct our investment advisor about avoiding some types of choices. EOB will also discuss relying more on bond funds.

B. Reserves

ASA defines the Association's financial "reserves" as the unrestricted long-term investments of the Association, also referred to as the "General Fund Investment Account." The Secretary reported that as of November 30, 2011, the reserve amount was \$3,792,160, or 63.5% of the 2011 operating budget. Non-profit organizations vary on what percentage of reserves they targeted, ranging from 50 to 100 percent. EOB has agreed that the ASA reserve should be at a minimum half (50%) of the current operating expenses, and that a reserve of 60% or more would be favorable.

4. Audit Committee Report

Secretary Berheide indicated that the 2011 audit is underway. This will be the first audit done with new auditors selected by the Audit Committee. ASA has had clean audits to date, and there is every reason to expect a similar outcome for 2011. The new firm, however, may also have some additional ideas for the Audit Committee with regard to improving internal controls.

5. Publications

A. Subscriptions Report

Institutional (library) subscriptions provide the bulk of publication revenues. The slight decline in subscriptions that occurred when the SAGE contract was implemented was within expectations. It was noted that *Contexts* subscriptions experienced a similar drop with the recent shift in publishers. *Sociological Methodology* and *Sociological Theory* will move from Blackwell to SAGE next year. This will leave only *City & Community* with Wiley-Blackwell. It will remain with that publisher in at least the near term because the publisher underwrote the expenses for launching this new section journal.

The international scope of SAGE marketing has improved the availability of ASA journals, and Council was reminded that "subscriptions" do not equate with "readership." Although traditional institution subscriptions to individual journals have not grown since signing an agreement with SAGE, the publisher has increased exposure of the six ASA journals it publishes through consortia arrangements and free access to libraries in developing nations.

B. Matters Arising from the Committee on Publications

(1) Public Release of Editorial Office Budgets

The Secretary reported on the committee's discussion of several transparency issues. The Committee on Publications meetings will now announced publicly as open to all ASA members, and the committee will post a full set of meeting minutes online, not just a summary. There was also discussion about putting applications for editorships online and open for member comments, but concerns about possibly deterring some candidates from applying were raised within the committee and the current editors. The committee eventually decided to propose to Council that it post short vision statements online from the candidates without identifying the individual candidate. ASA members could comment on the statements which would be reviewed by the committee during its decision process. It was hoped that this approach would provide useful feedback for the process of editorial recommendations and appointments.

Council members noted that it might be useful to remind members that committees like the Committee on Publications are elected by the entire membership and at some point members should trust their colleagues to do what they are elected to do. Yet Council members also recognized the value in providing as many opportunities for members to weigh in on important issues as possible if they wanted to because this broadens input to elected bodies of the Association

Council members agreed that because some applicants for editorships propose a major shift in a journal, it would be especially useful to have member input on such proposal before the Committee on Publications makes its recommendations. Publishing short vision statements would provide this opportunity. However, it was suggested that the member comments should go directly to the committee rather than be provided in an open blog format.

Council members discussed the advisability of framing this as a time-limited experiment in order to see how or whether it works. A three-year time period was suggested as an appropriate test period because it would cover most editorial transitions, including the ASR. There was discussion as to whether this process would be a barrier to applications for editorships and whether identified or non-identified vision statements were preferable.

The Secretary noted that the original proposal to post full editorial applications was part of a larger transparency discussion of the Committee on Publications. The proposal before Council represents a compromise between posting full applications online and having an entirely closed process. Applicants have to write a vision statement as part of the current application process, so this proposal does not add to the work of applying for an editorship.

Drawbacks to this proposal were discussed, but it was thought that making it clear to members that this was an experiment and that the vision statements are only one element among many used in the review of editor applications by the Committee on Publications and Council would limit them. Posting vision statements could also be useful in providing the Committee on Publications with another occasion for explaining the entire process of editorial appointments. Starting this practice with a journal other than ASR will help establish procedure in a narrower content domain. At this time, extensions of current editorships are being determined for seven publications, and it is definite that editorships for two quarterly journals will open for new applications.

MOTION: Council approves posting anonymous one-page vision statements from editor applications and inviting member comments to the Committee on Publications; the experiment will last for up to three years, after which time the Committee will review it for effectiveness and report back to Council. Carried.

Council directed that vision statements be posted so that viewers first have to read (or at least see) the criteria used to evaluate the editorship. The criteria should make it clear that the vision statement is just one element of what is being considered in the larger process.

Council then suggested that a short narrative of the Council and Publications Committee's discussion about posting editor applications be made available to members to increase transparency about the editor selection process. The Secretary was tasked with writing something for *Footnotes*, with support from Council Member Mario Small and the Executive Officer.

The Secretary then moved on to the Committee on Publications discussion about publishing information about editorial office budgets. The original proposal to the Committee on Publications was that full details of each editorial office budget be made available on line. Editors, however, indicated to the Publications Committee that this might create problems with their institutions because most considered the institution's financial and in-kind support to be confidential.

The Publications Committee considered other options and settled on providing a summary of the ASA contributions to each editorial office. The committee felt that providing information of support from ASA for each line item for each office would not be appropriate because the level of overall support, as well as the item-by-item support, provided by ASA varies considerably across journals. This is not as much a function of the journals' needs as it is the significant differentials in costs for the same line item across geographical and institutional settings. Council agreed but also felt that the annual audit that is published on ASA's website each year that includes a total of what ASA spent overall on editorial office budgets (<http://www.asanet.org/about/governance.cfm>) and the ASA *Annual Report* which also contains useful information on the editorial office was sufficient. Council suggested an article in *Footnotes* discussing the new process of vision statements *and* providing information on how editorial office financial support is determined would, however, be very helpful to members.

MOTION: To approve public release of the summary of Association contributions to individual Editorial Offices of ASA publications. Declined (1 yes, 17 no).

C. ASA Publications for Hand-held Devices

In the fall of 2011, the ASA Publications Department decided to offer the *ASA Style Guide* as an e-book through iTunes/iBooks for the iPad, iPhone, and iPod. Working with Cadmus, the printer that does the ASA's *Style Guide* and other publications, an e-publication format was created for a modest price of \$1.25/page (total cost: \$161.25). For example, the *ASA Guide to Graduate Departments of Sociology* is published on iBooks priced at \$9.99; since Apple retains 30 percent of the cover price, ASA needed to sell only 26 copies to break even.

On December 16, 2011, the *Style Guide* was also launched for the Amazon Kindle. Since its launch, the e-book has sold 24 copies. Priced at \$9.99, ASA earns \$6.95 each time it is purchased. At this point, the *Style Guide* e-book on both the Amazon and iTunes platforms has earned more than the production costs. The *Style Guide* will soon be offered for the Barnes and Noble Nook e-reader as well.

Three other publications were also formatted for distribution via iBooks: *Publishing Options*, the 2010 *ASA Annual Report*, and the *ASA Code of Ethics*. *Publishing Options* is priced at \$7.99, while both the *Annual Report* and the *Code of Ethics* are free. The *Annual Report* was downloaded 129 times since November 22, 2011, the first day it was available, and the *ASA Code of Ethics* has been downloaded 43 times in the three weeks since January 3, 2012 when it became available.

In addition to Publications and Governance materials, Research Department briefs will soon be available through iTunes/iBooks for \$0.99 each.

D. Annual Report

The 2010 Annual Report was distributed at the 2011 Annual Meeting site, and copies were also mailed in the fall to sociology departments. The report was posted on the ASA website in September

and available through iBooks in late November 2011. The Executive Officer reported that EOB supported continued production of annual reports, and feedback for the 2011 report was invited from Council members.

There was consensus that the annual report is useful, especially since it is made available in a variety of formats. Discussion turned to ways to highlight information being produced to make the association's activities and operations more transparent to members. Suggestions for the website included adding the equivalent of a "transparency button" on the homepage that would help members more easily access Council minutes, annual reports, audits, and so on.

Council took a short break for lunch at 12:30pm and reconvened at 1:00pm.

6. Annual Meetings

A. Update on the 2012 Annual Meeting & Related Presidential Activities

President Wright began his report by practicing a greeting in American Sign Language that he will use for a lecture at Gallaudet in two days. He encouraged everyone in the room to learn to sign at least one sentence.

The President then outlined a schedule of road trips with the ASA Minority Affairs Program (MAP) Director Jean Shin, starting with a visit to Little Rock, Arkansas, in the fall to speak at Follander-Smith College. Wright noted that it was his first time in an American setting to give a lecture where all but one person were African American. Travels in the spring include a trip to Texas and the Southwest to visit several Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs) and a Denai tribal college, followed by a trip to Alabama and Mississippi to visit several HBCUs, with a swing north into Tennessee and Kentucky at the end. ASA Public Affairs & Public Information staff is working with Wright and Shin to coordinate real-time social media content on the trips, using Wright's travel journals.

The Executive Officer noted that this type of outreach to institutions focusing on underrepresented groups is now regular part of the MAP with support built into the 2012 budget. She noted that this is not the first time ASA presidents have made trips focusing on colleges and universities that are less well connected to the association, but the planning for 2012 has been more extensive. Future outreach could involve officers and leaders as well as or in addition to the president. It is important that the Association have an agenda in this area and devote time and resources to it.

The President also thanked ASA staff for its wonderful support of his 2012 Annual Meeting plans and then outlined highlights of the plenary activities. The three plenary sessions will focus on quality, democracy and sustainability, and Wright will preside at each to tie the sessions together as part of his utopias agenda. One innovative feature this year is that the opening plenary will begin with a 30-minute hip hop poetry presentation. Fifteen UW-Madison students are taking a seminar on Utopias to get feel for the meeting theme, and there will be a competitive performance at the end of the semester to select five or six presenters to come to Denver for the opening plenary.

A special real utopias program component for thematic sessions involves invited presenters posting their papers in March 2012 on a special ASA website that has a comment/discussion utility for sociologists and meeting attendees to use before the Annual Meeting begins in August. This

approach is to permit more focused discussion of the real utopia proposals presented in the papers from attendees at the sessions in Denver.

A Presidential Panel session has also been developed in which Frances Fox Piven, Claus Offe, Joel Rogers will all address the question: "What does it mean to be a progressive in the 21st Century?"

On the social event side, Wright is proposing a music and party on the second or third night of the meeting that will include square dancing, an open genre jam session with attendee musicians, and a dance room with a DJ. Local musicians will provide the core band for the jam session, and square dance experts will be there to perform and to teach attendees the basic steps. Wright admitted to playing the fiddle on occasion and urged everyone who plays a musical instrument to bring them to the meeting.

B. Update on the 2013 Program Committee

President-Elect Cecilia Ridgeway announced that the theme for the 2013 Annual Meeting is "Interrogating Inequality: Linking Micro and Macro." Inequality is fundamental to the discipline of sociology and to all problems in American society, she said. The Program Committee is planning a variety of sessions that look at past assumptions, identify what is changing, and more. Three plenary sessions will focus on inequality and social movements/protest, micro-processes as agents of inequality, and how inequality in the US is changing. Six presidential panels will delve further into the theme, followed by a host of Thematic Sessions.

7. Council Ad Hoc Committee Reports

A. Ad Hoc Committee on Proposed Common Rule Changes

On July 26, 2011, an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) was published in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 76, No 143) soliciting comments on U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) proposals for an extensive revision of the Common Rule, the federal rules governing federally sponsored research with human participants. At the 2011 Annual Meeting, ASA Council authorized formation of an *ad hoc* committee to support efforts the Executive Office already had underway to collaborate on a response with other scholarly associations in the social and behavioral sciences. Council Members Karen Hegtvedt and Laurel Smith-Doerr, along with the ASA President and Secretary, comprised the *ad hoc* committee.

In late October, a draft white paper was circulated that had been prepared by a group of social and behavioral science scholars who are well-known for their expertise as well as highly regarded by the federal Office of Human Subjects Protection (AHRP) that issued the ANPRM. They included: George Alter, Director of ICPSR at the University of Michigan; Paula Skedsvold, social psychologist and lawyer and Executive Director of the Federation of Associations in Behavior and Brain Sciences; Richard Lempert, sociologist and lawyer; and Felice Levine, former ASA Executive Officer and social science member of SACHARP and current Executive Director of AERA. The content of the white paper had been outlined at an earlier meeting of social sciences including ASA members and the Executive Officer.

Aided by ASA Academic and Professional Affairs Program Director Margaret Weigers Vitullo and Public Affairs & Public Information Director Brad Smith, the Council *ad hoc* committee reviewed drafts of the white paper and concluded that the draft covered the major social science concerns and that the discussion had much to be commended from the perspective of sociology. It was also noted

that there would be a considerable period before AHRP issues any final rules for response from the scientific community. Based on the review of the *ad hoc* committee and with authorization of President Wright, ASA added its endorsement to the SBS White Paper Report along with 21 other associations together representing more than 350,000 members in the social and behavioral sciences.

Some areas of concern covered in the white paper were that historical and archival research not be placed under unnecessary scrutiny, the unintended consequences of designating an “excused research” category, and the value of single IRB review for multi-site or multi-institution projects. AHRP reportedly received 1,125 responses to the proposed rulemaking, and it will take awhile for the government to read and assimilate the feedback and decide how to proceed to develop new rules for public review.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on Turnaround Times in Sociology Journals

The *ad hoc* committee members appointed in August were David Brunsmma, Glenn Firebaugh, Monica Prasad (chair), Sarah Soule, Ezra Zuckerman, and ASA staff liaisons (ex officio) Karen Edwards and Sally Hillsman. Prasad reported that the committee had two goals: to determine whether manuscript review times are a problem in the discipline, and, if so, to give recommendations to Council for addressing it. She noted that one concern was that journals appear to be taking considerably longer to review manuscripts than they have before and that this has consequences for authors, especially those up for tenure or promotion review. At this time, however, there is no known empirical study that identifies this as a factor in tenure.

The *ad hoc* committee investigated the issue of turnaround times in sociology journals by collecting publicly available information and by emailing journal editors for available data and feedback. While a conclusion was reached that most editors are doing an excellent job of reviewing manuscripts in a timely manner, several areas for continued examination were identified: the unavailability of data on review times from non-ASA journals, the apparent increase in rejecting manuscripts without review, and the unreliability of data.

To address those issues, the *ad hoc* committee presented several options for Council’s consideration; ASA could:

- conduct a survey on a random sample of ASA members get data that do not rely on self-reports from journals;
- create and maintain a website of potential reviewers and their specialties that could be searched with keywords;
- ask for editorial lag numbers that exclude immediate rejects and 2nd or 3rd-round conditional acceptances in the statistics it collects;
- make editorial lag statistics easier to find on the website;
- make *Publishing Options* available for free;
- encourage editors to send letters to department chairs summarizing the performance of faculty members as reviewers, and encourage department chairs to take this information into account when considering tenure and promotion;
- present an annual “best reviewer” award at the Annual Meeting, with the recipient to be determined by editors;
- interview editors on what strategies work best for faster manuscript review as the basis for a document summarizing the findings;

- interview reviewers nominated by editors as unusually skilled as the basis for a document summarizing these reviewers' strategies for reviewing articles in a thorough and timely manner; and/or
- provide an opportunity for a public discussion of the issue of manuscripts rejected without review.

Council members were concerned about what, if any, role the Association could appropriately play in relation to non-ASA journals. A number of members also raised significant methodology concerns about what could be learned from a survey of ASA members. The Association cannot directly (and even indirectly) intervene with or comment on journals it does not publish, and it was thought that non-ASA editors and journals that appear "problematic" would not respond to a journal survey from the ASA. In addition, some journals that are perceived as taking an unusually long time to make a decision, may provide outstanding reviews that contribute to the submission even if the article is not selected for publication.

Regarding reviewers and turnaround times, Council discussed the likelihood that norms have changed over the years. Some colleagues, Council members said, will not now review for a journal in which they do not publish, whereas older cohorts of colleagues were socialized into believing that it was their professional obligation to review an appropriate manuscript when asked by any reputable journal if they had time. Coupled with the time demands of changing research and teaching expectations and the growing number of journals seeking reviews, this perspective can make it more difficult for editors to get a sufficient number of excellent reviewers who can work within desired timeframes.

It was also noted that there are a many factors that are particular to each editor and each journal. The case of one author was shared, where it took nearly two years to complete the R&R process, but the reviews were fabulous and helped improve the paper immensely. The quality of contribution to the discipline should not be disregarded.

Council Member Brunnsma steered discussion toward some of the other recommendations, including the points that data from ASA journals could be made more useful. As the national sociology organization in the country, other journals might consider ASA's lead if it set out parameters for the types of manuscript processing data that are important to the profession. Regarding developing reviewers, it is an issue of professionalization. This makes it important to start early with graduate students and educate them about what it means to be a reviewer. ASA could provide a service to the discipline by collecting best practices and thinking about how best to lead in this area. As for authors, they will submit articles to the journals that provide the most data to help them figure out whether their manuscripts are a good fit.

The recommendation about creating an award for best reviewer was met without enthusiasm. However, the Committee on Publications could be asked to consider appropriate ways to reward reviewers for ASA journals and prepare a proposal to the Committee on Awards if it decided an ASA award would be appropriate and useful.

Because the recommendation to conduct a survey had the most implications for time and resources in the coming year, the President pressed for a decision. There was little support among Council members that a survey would be productive. A structural problem exists with faculty workloads and

the increasing number of publications looking for reviewers, and most sociologists do as much reviewing as they can.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation to conduct a survey. Defeated (2 yes, 13 no, 3 abstained.)

Discussion turned toward the third recommendation about developing a measure of review times that did not include manuscripts rejected without review. This proposal received some favorable response along with some expressions of concern that it was not obvious that excluding manuscripts rejected without review is better. One possibility could be to report statistics both ways. The Secretary indicated that the Committee on Publications could be requested to consider best mechanisms for reporting review times, and whatever conclusion is reached could then be applied to the data collection for ASA's *Publishing Options*.

Regarding creation of a separate reviewer website, Publications Director Karen Edwards informed Council that the ASA journals published by SAGE now have a centralized database that handles manuscript submissions, and that editors can access ASA members' areas of interest as part of their searches for reviewers.

After considerable discussion of the problem of getting enough reviewers to review and to review in a timely fashion, Council concluded that it was advisable to refer this and the remaining recommendations to the Committee on Publications for its consideration.

MOTION: To request the Committee on Publications to consider best mechanisms for reporting review times, including the possibility of excluding manuscripts rejected without review, and to refer the remaining *ad hoc* committee recommendations to the Committee on Publications. Carried. (None opposed.)

President Wright expressed thanks to Prasad and Brunnsma for their efforts in bringing the issue of timeliness of reviews issues to Council and the Publications Committee. Council then took a short break at 3:20pm – 3:35pm.

8. Status Committee Reports

A. Review of Recommendations from the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology (CSREMS)

In August 2011, Council received the CSREMS report on findings that emerged from the 2009 Graduate Student Survey and the accompanying seven recommendations from CSREMS. Action was taken to continue the status committee for another five-year term, and discussion of the remaining six recommendations was deferred to the February Council meeting. All seven recommendations were published in the minutes for the August 24, 2011, Council meeting.

As the staff liaison to CSREMS, MAP Director Shin provided an overview on efforts that were underway in response to the CSREMS recommendations. During the upcoming 2012 Annual Meeting, the report findings will be used as the basis for: the theme of the 2012 Directors of Graduate Studies conference; discussion topics during the 2012 Department Chairs conference; a workshop for MFP

Fellows and open to all students; and an agenda item for the meeting of chairs of regional and aligned sociological associations.

ASA's Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) will consider ways to encourage Department Affiliates to hold discussions with their graduate students about the report findings and ascertain what might be done within the program to improve peer relations and academic professionalization.

There was discussion about how best to approach the topics contained in the report in terms of particular strategies that a department could use to elicit the most fruitful results. Council Member Small shared information about an open town hall held by the Sociology Department of the University of Chicago. The meeting was scheduled for one hour but lasted nearly three hours due to the active participation. Many attendees then went to a nearby restaurant/bar and talked for almost two hours more. Small encouraged Council members to help their departments find opportunities for such discussions.

It was suggested that the findings should also be brought to the attention of the Council of Graduate Schools (COGS). Research Director Roberta Spalter-Roth noted that there are more data than what was contained in the report to Council, and the ASA Research Department expects to produce a research brief shortly. That material can be taken to the COGS monthly meeting.

The possibility of sharing models of good climate surveys was raised in order to help both institutions and departments to avoid reinventing the wheel. Executive Officer Hillsman informed Council that the final 2002 report on the MOST program (Minority Opportunities through Summer Training) would appear soon as an e-publication, and part of the report content deals with best practices. ASA Sections are also good avenues for communicating about mentoring and professionalization structures. There was general support for developing a set of best practices or guidelines from departments framed around the CSREMS report findings.

MOTION: To approve the recommendations in the CSREMS report and commend the committee for its excellent work. Carried. (None opposed.)

B. Final Report of the Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology

Council had accepted the committee's report in August 2011 but deferred action on two recommendations pending additional information on cost implications. The recommendations dealt with provision of closed captioning at all plenary sessions during the Annual Meeting and training for ASA staff to conduct on-site inspections of meeting facilities for compliance with an accessibility checklist.

Meeting Services Director Kareem Jenkins reported that the contract for audio-visual services at the 2012 Annual Meeting includes real-time webcasting with closed captioning for all plenary sessions. The webcasts will be available to everyone and viewable on personal devices such as smartphones, iPads, and laptops. One additional feature provided by webcasting in the future will be that audience members and viewers can pose questions to the moderator, who can decide whether to incorporate those questions into the session. The 2012 Annual Meeting will also feature a mobile meeting application to help all attendees get around onsite, including useful information for mobility impaired attendees. The costs for these services are included in the 2012 budget proposal. APAP Director Vitullo, who serves as staff liaison to the disabilities committee, heralded this approach as perfect

universal design that takes care of a wide range of needs beyond hearing impairment, such as mobility issues which prevent using a floor microphone, speech impediments, and more.

Best options for handling on-site accessibility inspections were to hire a consultant from the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) at a cost of \$1,500 plus travel expenses, or provide additional training the ASA Meeting Services staff for \$1,500-\$2,000. Jenkins recommended staff training as the most cost-effective and fruitful approach in the long run.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Executive Office should provide appropriate training to address on-site inspection for disability compliance, and it should provide live webcasting for plenary sessions. Carried. (None opposed.)

Council gave acclamation to the status committee for its excellent work and commended ASA Meeting Services staff for their extraordinary efforts to improve accessibility at the Annual Meeting.

C. Update from the Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology (CSWS)

Research Director Spalter-Roth reported on CSWS's progress on the survey on time in rank that was previously approved by Council. The survey has been pretested with members of the ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work, and cover letters from the ASA President and the Executive Officer have been prepared. There will be one more review of the questionnaire before it is submitted for IRB review. Expectations are to have the survey out in the field by August 2012.

After reports of inappropriate behavior by some senior male members of the discipline, the CSWS Report was in recommendation for Council to support the suggestion from Sociologists for women in Society (SWS) that a statement on ethics to be placed in the 2012 Annual Meeting Program (and following Meeting Programs). This item was pending from the CSWS August 2011 report awaiting a final draft of the statement about ethical conduct that Council approved in principle for placement at the front of each Annual Meeting Program. Executive Officer Sally Hillsman helped refine the wording in consultation with the ASA Committee on Professional Ethics, and the final statement was now presented for Council's consideration. It reads:

It is unethical in any professional setting, including the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, for sociologists to use the inequalities of power which characterize many professional relationships to obtain personal, sexual, economic or professional advantages.

Sexual, sexual identity, or racial/ethnic harassment is also unethical behavior under the *American Sociological Association Code of Ethics*.

Attendees are encouraged to immediately report instances of harassment during the Annual Meeting to the ASA Executive Officer at Hillsman@asanet.org or through the ASA Annual Meeting Office.

To read the *American Sociological Association Code of Ethics* in its entirety, visit www.ASanet.org and follow the link to "Ethics."

MOTION: Council approves the above statement for insertion in the 2012 and subsequent ASA Annual Meeting Programs. Carried. (One abstention.)

9. Task Force Updates

A. Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change

As previously reported to Council in August, the Task Force is preparing a report in the form of an edited volume containing multi-authored chapters on key aspects of climate change in which sociology has important insights to offer. The current timetable calls for complete polished chapter drafts to be ready in the Fall of 2012 and, pending ASA approval in August 2012, publication of the report by a leading press is anticipated in early 2013. In addition, the Task Force plans to issue a few “white papers” drawing on individual chapters such as one on “climate justice.”

10. Executive Office Reports

A. Overview of the Staff and Year

There were no major staffing changes to report.

B. Functional Distribution of Staff

A confidential chart was handed out, showing functional distribution of staff costs by program and departments during 2011. Aside from some downsizing in the Customer Service office after SAGE took over journal subscriptions, little had changed from 2010.

C. Information Technology Report

Updates were provided on the IT projects completed during 2011 and those that are new or continuing into 2012. All computer workstations in the Executive Office were replaced in November 2011, accompanied by upgrading the OS from XP to Win7 and moving from MS Office 2003 to MS Office 2007. Upgrading to MS Office 2010 must be accompanied by upgrades of the telephone system and document management software, due to their integration with Outlook, and those projects are currently slated for the fall of 2012. ASA staff was able to recycle the used computer equipment to a non-profit organization that trains at-risk youth to refurbish computers and then donates the units to low-income families in DC and to eligible programs for low income children and youth.

In a somewhat related vein, the opening of web domain suffixes caused ASA staff to realize that the Association’s name was not legally trademarked. That process is now in the last stages of completion. Assurance was provided to Council that all ASA journal names are copyrighted/trademarked.

11. Executive Office Programs

A. Academic and Professional Affairs Program written report
(no discussion)

B. Minority Affairs Program written report
(no discussion)

C. Student Programs written report
(no discussion)

D. High School Sociology Affiliate Program (HSAP)

A restructuring of the High School Affiliates Program was undertaken in 2011. The new High School Sociology Planning Program (HSSPP) offers benefits directly to individual high school teachers, a change from the former affiliates program, which viewed the school as the recipient of benefits. HSSPP benefits include subscriptions to TRAILS and *Contexts*, discounts on publications in the ASA Teaching Resources Center, access to the high school sociology e-mail list service; a quarterly newsletter (edited by the planning program director); and access to a one-day High School Conference held during the ASA Annual Meeting. The conference is open to any high school teacher in the United States and abroad, and participation is free for any high school teacher registered for the Annual Meeting. Vitullo reported that over 200 teachers have signed up for the new email list service.

There are several reasons for the Association's outreach to sociologists teaching in high schools. Many of them identify as sociologists but feel that their discipline and profession does not acknowledge them. It is important for ASA to be involved at the high school level to make sure that sociology doesn't get ignored or eliminated as various levels of government move toward enhancing STEM in high schools. The climate in high schools around curricular issues is becoming more political, and it is sociology can be targeted. Sociology is not now a destination major for college freshman (which impacts higher education resources for the discipline) and efforts by ASA to support high school sociology can contribute to changing this.

E. Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program

In 2010, Council approved a Task Force on the Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Sociology, but no ASA members volunteered for service. Council then delayed implementation of the Task Force until the ASA Research Department had additional data from its work on the NSF-Funded Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in which ASA plays an important role. This program has now selected its second cohort of six fellows from a pool of 32 applications, and ASA has received funding to evaluate the program's impact.

According to the latest survey of the ASA Job Bank, there are an increased number of postings for post-doctoral fellowship applications over the past two years. This trend, coupled with some expressions of interest by volunteers and the data being generated by the ASA postdoctoral fellowship program, may indicate that the timing is better for appointing a task force.

Various perspectives on postdocs were offered by Council members. In some cases, postdoctoral fellowships are considered wonderful, and students reap significant benefits. Having a postdoc provides time to think about research, particularly now that students are getting pushed through doctoral degree programs faster. Sometimes the choice is to do a shorter doctoral project or not finished the project. Yet there is reason to be wary about having a two-year period between getting a PhD and finding professional employment. Differences exist between the social sciences and the natural and biological sciences in this regard. There is also some concern that those receiving postdocs are also being viewed as the best candidates on the job market. Therefore, it may be that these candidates, but not other well-qualified candidates just completing their PhDs, have an edge in the initial hire and also in publications at the tenure decision. Is this something the discipline wants?

Another concern expressed was about NSF funding. With the continuing specter of budget cuts, NSF will have difficult decisions to make about what programs to support. Some Council members were wary about the consequences of NSF allocating limited funds to a permanent postdoc program in sociology versus other programs supporting faculty and dissertation support. The outcome of the

task force's work and subsequent Council action could have a role in any NSF decision about a permanent postdoctoral fellowship program in sociology.

Given the perception that postdocs are sweeping through the social sciences now and that, in psychology, postdocs apparently are considered to be better trained and cheaper than graduate students, the timing seems good to constitute a task force for sociology.

MOTION: Council approves moving forward with the ASA Task Force on Post-Doctorate Fellowships in Sociology. Carried. (None opposed.)

It was recommended that the charge to the task force include the issue of funding sources for postdocs. Council members were encouraged to send their comments, ideas, and nominations for volunteers to Spalter-Roth.

F. Research and Development Grants and Projects written report
(no discussion)

G. Fund for the Advancement of the Profession (FAD) written report
(no discussion)

H. Public Affairs and Public Information Program

One item from the informational memo was highlighted. A provision of the Grant Act (HR 3433) requires the Office of Management of Budget to put the full grant proposal on a public website when it is funded. This would also involve public disclosure of peer reviews, including the name, title, and employer of any person who served as a reviewer. Opinion at this time is that the bill will die in Congressional committee, but both COSSA and ASA staff will keep watching.

12. Membership

A. 2011 Membership Report

The 2011 membership year ended with a final count of 14,053 members, an increase of 355 compared to 2010. The popularity of the 2011 Annual Meeting site affected membership positively. Associate and International Associate categories experienced the highest percentages of growth, and there continues to be high rates of retention among middle- and high-income members.

Changes of note for 2012 membership are implementation of the new Unemployed category and provision of free online access to journals for Emeritus Members; information on both was published in *Footnotes*. It appears that the ability to self-select the Retired/Emeritus category has encouraged lapsed members to rejoin. The increase in International Associates was attributed to offering online access to all journals as part of the benefits for that membership category, accompanied by more promotions to sociologists outside the US. This has broadened membership into many African countries, several South American countries, and the Middle East.

The Secretary noted that the dues increase for 2012 was normal COLA. The new dues structure comes into play for 2013. Lower and middle income categories will have small, if any, dues increase from 2012. However, the current over \$70,000 income category will become several higher income categories from which members will select for renewal and these will have higher dues increases.

The Annual Meeting sites for 2013 through 2015 are popular destinations, so the connection between meeting attendance and membership should contribute positively to budget forecasts.

B. 2011 Sections Report

2011 was a record breaking year in terms of the total number of section memberships and the largest ever proportion of ASA members participating in sections. Section membership plays a significant role in those members who are engaged in the association's activities apart from the Annual Meeting. Seventy percent of ASA members hold at least one section membership.

(1) Proposed Bylaws Amendments

This year ten sections have elected to revise their bylaws. As part of this process the ASA Council has the right to review, alter and approve any changes requested by the section councils. Since the Committee on Sections has reviewed the proposed changes carefully, the Secretary recommended that Council approve the amendments for inclusion in the upcoming election.

MOTION: As recommended by the Committee on Sections, Council approves the proposed bylaws amendments for the following sections: Methodology, Sociology of Sex and Gender, Environment and Technology, Sociological Practice and Public Sociology, Sociology of Population, Sociology of Mental Health, Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Sociology of Emotions, and International Migration. Carried. (None opposed.)

The Council meeting recessed at 5:40 pm on Saturday, February 11, and reconvened at 8:45am on Sunday, February 12, 2012.

13. New Business

A. Proposed Task Force on Community College Faculty

Noting that ASA has hosted a Community College Faculty Breakfast at the Annual Meeting since 1998, APAP Director Vitullo reported that the 27 faculty that attended the early morning event in Las Vegas voted unanimously to request that ASA Council establish a Task Force on Community College Faculty. At the close of 2011, 762 ASA members listed their work sector as "Community/Junior College", and a third of these have already renewed their memberships for 2012. Also notable is the fact that 40 percent of first-year students/freshmen nationwide are enrolled at community colleges.

Historically community college faculty members have been viewed as marginal by other higher education institutions and faculty. Yet community college faculty members not consider themselves marginal. They have a strong professional identity, but it is not a disciplinary identity. Part of the impetus behind the proposal for a task force is the need to gather empirical data on faculty teaching sociology at community colleges, both those who are members of the ASA and those who are not, in order to better understand their characteristics, credentials, professional identity, professional goals, and professional development needs, as well as working conditions and structural arrangements that impact sociological curricula and its implementation in their institutions.

Task forces are normally appointed for two-year terms, but a three-year term was requested for the community college task force in order to accommodate the heavy teaching loads of the community college faculty volunteers who will participate. The proposed task force composition is 10-12

members, with representation from two-year and four-year colleges as well as graduate sociology programs in which future community college faculty are being prepared. The President recommended that someone from a tribal college also be invited to serve on the task force.

There was immediate consensus among Council members to support the proposal. Community colleges are gateways for all kinds of students, and the sociologists who teach there are viewed as among those who are most dedicated to the discipline.

MOTION: Council approves the development of a task force to (1) examine the professional role, professional development, and possible advocacy needs of sociologists employed as community college faculty, and (2) develop recommendations for how the ASA, as the national association for sociology, can best support community college faculty in our discipline. Carried by acclamation.

B. Request from the American Educational Research Association (AERA)

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) requested that ASA endorse its report on the reauthorization by Congress of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) within the U.S. Department of Education. The report addresses the need to ensure the *independent* production and dissemination of social science data related to education and educational outcomes carried out by the IES' National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Although AERA took the lead in generating the report, a wide range of professional organizations were involved in the workshops that led up to its conclusions and release, including the ASA, AAAS, American Statistical Association, Society for Research in Child Development, and American Psychological Association, among others.

The proposed reauthorization bill does not place NCES under leadership that is experienced in research and research methodology. The proposed legislation also identifies the types of research methods that should be preferred rather than leaving the appropriate methodology to be selected by researchers to answer the questions or research problem posed by policymakers or educators. The general sense within the scientific community is that it is inappropriate for authorizing legislation for any scientific center to refer to specific methodologies.

Comments from four prominent sociologists were solicited by the staff to provide Council with additional review of the AERA report (those authors also included sociologists of education). There was general support among Council members for endorsing the report with special emphasis on the specific recommendations dealing with methodology issues and the organizational independence of a scientific center.

MOTION: Council endorses the 2011 American Educational Research Association's (AERA) *Report and Recommendations for the Reauthorization of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)* and emphasizes the particular importance of two recommendations to the social science community: reestablishing the independence and autonomy of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and ensuring that IES has the ability to determine the appropriate research design and methods for its studies through the process of scientific peer review. Carried. (None opposed.)

The Executive Officer was requested to draft a statement reflecting the Council action and the importation information in the AERA report. The full statement was posted on the ASA website (http://www.asanet.org/about/Council_Statements.cfm) in March.

C. Request from the Modern Language Association (MLA)

In response to the recent column in the *New York Times* rejecting the need to learn more than one language, the Modern Language Association (MLA) contacted other disciplinary professional associations and asked them to take a position on the important of language study as it relates to their disciplines.

Council agreed that there are positive socio-cognitive effects to learning another language, and encouraging second language competency helps broaden students' outlook. There is also concern that at a time when sociology graduate students are increasingly turning to international research, they are finding a lack of language options available in their institutions to support that work. While many doctoral programs are being encouraged to reduce time to degree completion, many are eliminating second language requirements. Nonetheless, institutions of higher education need to make foreign language opportunities available to the many sociologists in doctoral programs who need and want this training as part of their doctoral education.

MOTION: Council expresses the Association's support of teaching and studying languages other than English in American institutions of higher education and their importance to the discipline of sociology. Carried. (None opposed.)
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The Executive Officer was requested to draft a statement reflecting the Council discussion and action. The full statement was shared with the Modern Language Association and posted on the ASA website (http://www.asanet.org/about/Council_Statements.cfm) in late February.

D. Request from the Colorado Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

In November 2011, the ASA President, President-elect and Past President received a request from the Colorado Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) to share a letter with ASA members regarding the inadvisability of accepting a position at the University of Colorado due to recent actions taken by that university to dismiss two faculty members, Ward Churchill and Phil Mitchell.

Background information supplied to Council included the report by the Colorado Conference of the AAUP and the text of an AAUP National Council Resolution on Ward Churchill Case. The latest status reported indicated that Ward Churchill had brought the case to court, so it is now an ongoing legal case. (One interesting point of information was that several of the major higher education organizations (AAU, NAICU, AAUP and others) are arguing as a friend of the court that the University of Colorado Board of Regents is a quasi-judicial body and thus immune from lawsuit.)

Some pertinent history with the now disbanded ASA Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT) was summarized for Council. In the late 1990s, the ASA ceased its own investigation of most cases in which the violation of academic freedom was alleged and brought to the attention of the Association. This was primarily because universities, and sometimes the faculty members themselves, ceased to cooperate with professional association inquiries. The increasing formality of university proceedings and the likelihood of litigation were seen as likely contributing factors.

Council expressed concern about any allegations about the violation of academic freedom in faculty dismissals at the University of Colorado, but the ambiguity of the conference report and the fact that there was ongoing and complex litigation raised difficulties for third or fourth party involvement. There was consensus that ASA should not become involved. The ASA President was asked to communicate this decision to the Colorado Conference of the AAUP.

Council then took a short break at 10:30 – 10:45am.

E. Follow-up on Council 2010 Statement on Arizona's Anti-Ethnic Studies Law

In May 2010, Council issued a statement condemning the State of Arizona for passing HB 2281 which is an anti-ethnic studies law. This statement was provided to academics in Arizona who are working on this issue, and it was also posted on the ASA website. Since then the court ruling has been appealed, and the case is now in Federal district court. While no one knows what will happen, or how long it will take, it was suggested that it might be prudent for Council to consider whether ASA may wish to file or join in an *amicus* brief at an appropriate time.

There was general agreement that it would be good to decide in principle that Council supports drafting or participating in an *amicus* brief in this case, if that turns out to be useful at the appropriate time. It was noted that Council will have to take action on the actual brief when it is prepared, so a choice can still be made not to submit it if future developments dictate that direction.

MOTION: Council authorizes potential development of an *amicus* brief in support of ethnic studies if deemed appropriate in relation to court cases arising from Arizona's Anti-Ethnic Studies Law. Carried. (None opposed.)

F. Threat to Academic Freedom: Boston College Oral Histories from Northern Ireland

An ASA member contacted the ASA President and two section chairs asking that ASA voice its opposition to a threat to academic freedom raised when the British government filed a subpoena seeking access to oral histories deposited at Boston College as part of the Belfast Project during 2001-2006. Personally identifiable data were collected on the political and sectarian violence in Northern Ireland decades ago, and researchers guaranteed their subjects that the information they provided would not be released with personal identifiers until after the subjects' deaths.

Council indicated that defending the confidentiality of research data is vital to the sociological community. Such guarantees are a core component of efforts by historians and social scientists to develop research-based knowledge that is critical to an informed society and its well being. It was pointed out that the principle of protecting the confidentiality of information obtained from human research subjects is an important part of U.S. federal law and regulation governing research.

MOTION: In reference to a court case involving oral histories from Northern Ireland collected by researchers affiliated with Boston College, Council reiterates its support in principle of academic freedom and the confidentiality of research data. Carried. (None opposed.)

The complete Council statement on the Protection of Human Subjects from the Subpoena of Confidential Belfast Project Research Data may be found on the ASA website (http://www.asanet.org/about/Council_Statements.cfm).

New Business concluded with Council expressing congratulations to Executive Officer Hillsman on her election as a 2011 AAAS Fellow. President Wright then adjourned the second meeting of the 2011-2012 ASA Council at 11:35 a.m. on Sunday, February 12, 2012.