

Approved August 14, 2018

# MARCH 10, 2018

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

American Sociological Association  
Arlington, VA

**Participants:** Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (President), Mary Romero (President-Elect), Michèle Lamont (Past President); Christopher Uggen (Vice President), Grace Kao (Vice President-Elect), Kathleen Gerson (Past Vice President), David Takeuchi (Secretary), Nina Bandelj, Mabel Berezin, Daniel Chambliss, Cynthia Feliciano, Kimberly Ann Goyette, Erin Kelly, Monica McDermott, Mignon R. Moore, Wendy Ng, Andrew J. Perrin, Zulema Valdez, Rhys H. Williams, Nancy Kidd (Executive Officer), Les Briggs, Karen Gray Edwards, Mark Fernando, Michelle Randall, Jean Shin, Margaret Weigers Vitullo.

President Eduardo Bonilla-Silva called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on March 10.

### 1. Agenda

*A motion was made by Kelly to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Romero. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 2. Announcements, Updates, and Reports

President Bonilla-Silva indicated that written reports were provided on Executive Office activity, membership, department affiliates, sections, subscriptions, status committee composition, Task Force on Membership, Task Force on First Generation and Working-Class People in Sociology, and the Federal Statistics Working Group. Andy Perrin provided an oral report on the work of the Task Force on Membership. Monica McDermott provided an oral report on the work of the Task Force on First Generation and Working-Class People in Sociology. David Takeuchi provided an oral report on the work of the Federal Statistics Working Group.

### 3. Consent Agenda

President Bonilla-Silva presented the consent agenda which included approval of the August 15-16, 2017 Council meeting minutes, the October 4, 2017 Council report of ballot vote, the November 1, 2017 Council report of ballot vote, extending the *Socius* article processing charge waiver option, the conflict of interest disclosures as unproblematic and not requiring any special action, creation of a Funds Committee, a policy for section sponsorships of books or book series, section bylaws amendment and dues change proposals for placement on the next election ballots for the respective section memberships, amendment to the confidentiality policy, a Public Engagement Advisory Committee appointment process, a Committee on Professional Ethics appointment, and an additional date on the two-year Council meeting calendar. There were a few questions of clarification.

*A motion was made by Uggen to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Gerson. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **4. Investment Review**

Director of Finance Les Briggs provided a report on the investment portfolio since the last Council meeting. He reviewed the association's investment strategy, our current portfolio value, and how the value of our portfolio has changed over time.

#### **5. Campaign Next Steps**

Moore, chair of the Council subcommittee charged with developing an implementation process for the Annual Meeting Travel Fund, presented the subcommittee's report. Council discussed the proposal.

*A motion was made by Kelly to approve the implementation process for the Annual Meeting Travel Fund as presented. In addition, up to five additional awards can be made from the companion fund for international attendees without a membership requirement. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously.* Council agreed that this will be revisited after the first round of funding is done to see if any adjustments are warranted.

Council discussed the next steps in the development campaign for a more inclusive ASA based on recommendations from the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget. The group considered potential final steps in the leadership phase of the campaign as well as timing and steps for bringing it to an open campaign. In addition, Council discussed ideas for ensuring ongoing sustainability of the programs.

*A motion was made by Romero to approve the next steps for the campaign as presented. Seconded by Chambliss. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **6. Year-to-Date 2017 Budget Report**

Kidd provided an overview of revenue and expense at the close of 2017. ASA had a balanced budget for the first time since 2013.

*A motion was made by Perrin to allocate some of our 2017 cost savings to the Annual Meeting Travel Fund and the Minority Fellowship Program Fund with a 25%/75% split. Seconded by Bandelj. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **7. Executive Session on Executive Office**

Council moved into executive session at 10:15 a.m. to discuss the executive office. At the conclusion of the discussion at 10:40, Council ended executive session.

Council took a break and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

#### **8. 2018 Budget**

Kidd explained that the meeting materials contain a spreadsheet with the proposed 2018 budget as well as a detailed narrative explanation of the proposed budget. She highlighted some specific aspects of the proposal and provided some context for the future. This proposal comes to Council as a recommendation from the EOB. Discussion ensued.

*A motion was made by Takeuchi to approve the 2018 budget as presented. Seconded by Uggem. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **9. Executive Session on Publishing Contract**

Council moved into executive session at 10:55 a.m. to discuss the primary ASA publishing contract. At the conclusion of the discussion at 11:15, Council ended executive session.

### **10. Executive Session on Editor Selection**

Council continued in executive session to discuss an editor selection. At the conclusion of the discussion at 11:20 a.m., Council ended executive session.

### **11. Section Decommissioning Process**

In March 2017 ASA Council approved a policy that requires the Committee on Sections to provide annually a list of sections that fail to meet certain specified criteria to be considered for probationary status. Should any sections go on probation and eventually be slated for dissolution, we need a process for the dissolution. As such, Committee on Sections submitted a proposed process for decommissioning a section for Council consideration. Discussion ensued.

*A motion was made by Perrin to approve the section decommissioning process as presented. Seconded by McDermott. Motion carried with 8 for, 7 against, and 3 abstentions.*

### **12. Section Probationary Status Review**

This is the first year Committee on Sections was required to provide Council with a list of sections that fail to meet certain specified criteria to assess whether they should be put on probationary status. Council reviewed materials regarding each of the sections as well as the Committee on Sections' recommendations for each group. Discussion ensued.

*A motion was made by Takeuchi not to put any sections on probation. Seconded by Bandelj. Motion carried with 17 for and 1 against. Council took a break for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:56 p.m.*

Discussion continued. *A motion was made by Takeuchi to amend the current probation policy to require Council review every three years instead of annually. In addition, Council will ask Committee on Sections to review and potentially revise the section annual report form. Finally, Council will ask the Committee on Sections to perform a comprehensive review of all policies related to the lifecycle of sections, from section formation to dissolution. Seconded by Gerson. Motion carried with 17 for and 1 abstention.*

### **13. Harassment**

Council reviewed a report from the Working Group on Harassment related to harassment at our Annual Meeting. The Working Group is preparing a series of relevant articles for *Footnotes* and is planning a few workshops for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Other educational initiatives are underway as well. The Working Group also provided a number of recommendations regarding preventing harassment and managing reports. Discussion ensued. A number of steps are being taken, and Council is considering additional possibilities. This discussion will continue at the next Council meeting in August.

*A motion was made by Lamont to modestly revise the Anti-Harassment Policy as presented for use starting with the 2019 Annual Meeting. Seconded by Uggen. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Takeuchi to send a message to section chairs with the Working Group's suggestions regarding rethinking social activities/events at the Annual Meeting and information about the planned workshops. Seconded by Lamont. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Lamont to solicit professional training for ASA personnel to handle harassment complaints at the Annual Meeting. Seconded by Uggen. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **14. Site Selection**

Council discussed a range of site selection issues separate from consideration of particular site choices. Topics included review of the current formal site selection criteria, security considerations, and the trade-off between popular, expensive cities and less popular, less expensive cities.

*A motion was made by Kelly to amend the criteria for consideration in site selection as presented with the replacement of "and" instead of "/" before fair labor and using the more extensive anti-discrimination language option. Seconded by Perrin. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Lamont to clarify the language in the policy regarding preferred timing for the Annual Meeting as presented. Seconded by Kelly. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **15. Permissions for Recording, Social Media Use, and Press Coverage**

Council discussed a variety of issues related to recordings, social media use, and press access at the Annual meeting.

*A motion was made by Lamont to approve the terms and conditions for meeting registrants as presented. Seconded by Romero. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Kelly to approve the expectations for the press as presented. Seconded by Romero. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **16. Amending Slot Allotment for the Annual Meeting**

Council had a routine discussion about whether there is some value to reconfiguring our slot allocation strategy, and there was consensus that our current approach is working well.

## **17. Bylaws Revision**

There are some components of the bylaws provision related to the Annual Meeting that do not align with our preferred practice, so Council discussed a proposed bylaws amendment. Council also considered a practical issue with respect to timing of the planning process.

*A motion was made by Williams to put the proposed bylaws change on the next membership ballot. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion was made by McDermott for Council to take an email vote to appoint the program committee prior to each Annual Meeting. Seconded by Romero. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **18. Sociology Action Network**

The Sociology Action Network Advisory Committee provided Council with a report detailing recommendations for the definition, eligibility terms, legal provisions, financing, next steps, and ongoing oversight of the Network. Discussion ensued.

*A motion was made by Perrin to approve the description of SAN as proposed by the SAN Advisory Committee. Seconded by Goyette. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Lamont to approve the process for selection and rotation of members of the new Advisory Committee. Seconded by Chambliss. Motion carried unanimously.*

Council moved into executive session at 2:53 p.m. to discuss appointments to the new Sociology Action Network Advisory Committee. Council took a break at 3:00 p.m. and reconvened at 3:15 p.m. At the conclusion of the discussion at 3:20 p.m., Council ended executive session.

## **19. Adjournment**

Bonilla-Silva adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.