

**2011-2012 ASA Council
Third Meeting
Draft Minutes**

Monday, August 20, 2012
Hyatt Regency at Colorado Convention Center
Denver, CO

Officers Present: Catherine White Berheide (Secretary), 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 Brunsma, Sarah Fenstermaker, Amanda Lewis, Cecilia Menjivar, Joya Misra, Monica Prasad, Mario Luis Small, Sandra Smith, Laurel Smith-Doerr, Sarah Soule, Robin Wagner-Pacifici

Absent: Randall Collins (Past President), Jennifer Lee

Incoming Officers and Council Members-at-Large Present: Mary Romero, Stephanie Bohon, Dina Okamoto, Jane Sell

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

1. Introductions and Orienting Documents

President Erik Olin Wright convened the third and final meeting of the 2011-2012 ASA Council at 2:30pm on Monday, August 20, 2012.

A. Introduction of New Council Members

The President welcomed the newly-elected incoming officers and Council members who were in attendance and expressed gratitude to outgoing officers (Randall Collins, David Snow) and Council Members (Sarah Fenstermaker, Jennifer Lee, Sandra S. Smith, Sarah A. Soule).

B. Approval of the Agenda

No new items of new business were added.

MOTION: To approve the agenda. Carried.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 11-12, 2012

Secretary Catherine White Berheide distributed a revision to the draft of minutes for the February meeting. A proposal with substitute wording was offered by Council Member Monica Prasad, but the question was called on the original motion.

MOTION: To approve the revision provided by Secretary Berheide. Carried (15-yes, 1-no, 1-abstention).

MOTION: To approve the revised minutes of the second meeting of the 2011-2012 ASA Council on February 11-12, 2012. Carried.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2012

No changes were proposed for the Council statement on the Belfast Project, February 21, 2012.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Council statement on the Belfast Project, February 21, 2012. Carried (no opposed).

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2012

No changes were submitted for the Council statement on Teaching Foreign Languages, February 23, 2012.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Council statement on Teaching Foreign Languages, February 23, 2012. Carried (no opposed).

F. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2012

No revisions were proposed for the Council statement on the Reauthorization of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), March 1, 2012.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Council statement on the Reauthorization of the Institute of Education Sciences, March 1, 2012. Carried (unanimous).

G. Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2012

No changes were requested for the Council action on the Fisher v. UT-Austin *amicus brief*, July 10, 2012.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Council action on the Fisher v UT-Austin *amicus brief*, July 10, 2012. Carried. (unanimous).

H. President's Reply to Colorado AAUP

There was no action or discussion of this informational update.

2. Report of the President

Before the President began his report, Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman commented that press coverage of 2012 Annual Meeting was very successful. Visual evidence of this was provided on a 4x6 poster board, covered on both sides with stories and citations. Public Affairs and Information Director Brad Smith reported that the story in the news on August 20th was covered in every Canadian newspaper, and Council members were encouraged to look at the poster board during the break.

A. Reflections on the Year and the 2012 Annual Meeting

President Wright highlighted two kinds of projects pursued during his term as President, a Wikipedia Initiative and outreach to institutions that serve various minority populations. With support from Minority Affairs Program Director Jean Shin, visits to a variety of campuses were arranged during the winter and spring. The institutions selected included HBCUs (Historic Black Colleges/Universities), HSIs (Hispanic-Serving Institutions), a Denai tribal college, and Gallaudet University. These visits provided opportunities to show what resources ASA has to offer and gave the President a more nuanced understanding of what occurs on these types of campuses. Wright's travel blog about these trips was posted on the ASA website.

The first trip was to attend the annual meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association, considered to be the regional sociological organization with the highest density of minority-serving institutions. In conjunction with attending the MSSA meeting, Wright also visited Philander Smith College in Arkansas, a four-year liberal arts college and founding member of the United Negro College Fund, with strong historical ties to social justice.

The second trip was to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the ASA Council meeting in February. Wright learned a greeting in American Sign Language (ASL) to open his talk on that campus.

In March, Wright and Shin visited HSIs in southwest Texas and a Denai tribal college in New Mexico. Wright remarked that he was very impressed by the level of seriousness of the faculty in these institutions. He admitted that, before visiting the campuses, he probably had certain stereotyped prejudices about the level of disciplinary seriousness at such institutions. His experiences left him impressed by the degree of intellectual devotion to the discipline on the campuses and caused him to reconsider the importance for pipeline issues in sociology of the inclusion of minority students from these institutions. He learned that issues involved in students' reluctance to go on to graduate school were things other than intellectual commitment. One conclusion he reached was that it would make sense for PhD programs to develop closer ties and interactions with MA programs in minority-serving institutions. Wright also noted that the HSIs he visited were in a region that is 95% Hispanic, so the defined "minority" is actually the majority population in that area.

The final tour was to HBCUs in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. One fact of interest, considered by Wright to be the quirkiest piece of information gained on the trip, is that Alcorn State University in Mississippi recruits white athletes from Russia for tennis teams and fast-pitch softball teams. Women for fast-pitch softball are recruited from Canada. This illustrated globalization issues in academia and also how race plays out in sport. At the last minute, a swing up through Tennessee and Kentucky was added to the end of tour which enabled visits to Tennessee State University and, at the last minute, Berea College.

Wright commented that he had a fantastic time during his year as President and asked Council to consider what ASA can do to improve the pipeline between four-year colleges and PhD institutions. One idea was for faculty to go to their admissions directors and open serious discussion about GRE scores. It was noted that when race was ruled out as a factor for acceptance decisions, that altered approached to diversity in admissions. Council members wondered whether it was possible to gather data in some way to support development of recommendations to PhD programs. The Executive

Officer indicated that staff sociologists could begin looking at what resources were available and what possibilities might be useful.

The Wikipedia project was present in the ASA Exhibits during the 2012 Annual Meeting, and Wright reported that more than 100 professors went to the booth and signed up. He noted that a later agenda item would take up a proposal for a Wikipedian-in-Residence.

Wright concluded his report by commenting that the special Annual Meeting program planning for 2012 was one of the few times where his actual experience exceeded fantasy (not just exceeded expectations, which were below fantasy). One area that was super-successful, according to Wright, were the thematic proposal sessions, each based on one paper. Most of the time in each session was spent in discussion, with presenters often moving from the podium to sit with attendees in a circle of chairs. Wright strongly recommended that successive presidents consider doing this kind of session.

3. Report of the Secretary

A. 2012 Election Report

Berheide reported a successful election in 2012, with a great turnout rate compared to other organizations. Factors that likely contribute to the high participation by voters are that ASA's elections are contested, and section elections are part of national balloting process.

A question was raised about how some of the categories of elected office are being defined. For example, someone elected in a "non-academic" slot has a university affiliation. It was pointed out that some research positions may be counted as non-professoriate, and it is also possible that members change employers between the time they agree to run in the winter and when the results are announced in the summer. The Secretary indicated that governance staff would look into the policies to see how positions are categorized.

B. 2011 Annual Report

The 2011 Annual Report was distributed at the 2012 Annual Meeting site, and copies will be mailed in the fall to sociology Department Affiliates members. The report is now posted on the ASA website and available for free through iTunes/iBooks. The Secretary reported that EOB supported continued production of annual reports, and feedback for the next report was invited from Council members. Most of the material used in the annual reports is pulled from memoranda supplied to Council for its February meeting, with the Deputy Executive Officer serving as editor/compiler.

C. Year-End (2011) and Current (2012) Financials

A modest net operating surplus of \$50,000 was budgeted for 2011, and some unexpected revenues along with a deferral of some expenses combined to bring the bottom line up to a positive \$273,500. Berheide indicated that a \$70,000 housing rebate from the annual meeting and a \$65,000 additional revenue payment by SAGE above the guaranteed payments on journal subscriptions were the major source of increased revenues. Hearing no questions about the 2011 financial report, the Secretary proceeded to review the status of the 2012 budget.

Projections for 2012 are not particularly rosy. Membership is down a bit, though sections are staying strong. Meeting registration is fairly good, and the Annual Meeting is at this point expected to meet

revenue projections. Council members commented positively about the free WiFi available at the convention center and adjacent Hyatt hotel. Questions about the cost of WiFi and internet access were deferred until the Meeting Services Director could be present. Discussion closed with the Secretary expressing cautious hope that the 2012 budget year might end up breaking even.

D. Report on ASA Investments and Reserves

ASA's investment portfolio continues to do surprisingly well in turbulent times. Briggs reported that it has not yet been necessary to draw on long-term reserves, so the organization is in reasonably good shape fiscally.

E. ASA Investment Policy

Berheide reported that ASA sold the bonds that were questioned during the February Council meeting, and instructions were given to ASA's investment advisor to avoid those in the future. Moving in the direction of wider diversification with bonds is in line with the statement in the investment policy (enacted in 2005) about socially responsible investing. It was pointed out that this portion of investments is not in traditionally indexed funds that typically have a relatively small (100-300) number of companies. The index-like funds currently in ASA's portfolio involve a range of 3,000-5,000 companies, so holdings in any one company are parsed much smaller.

Implementation of the investment policy, which is EOB's responsibility, involves reviewing the portfolio every quarter and rebalancing as appropriate. Those portions of portfolio that appreciate are then sold, and the gains are used to buy in low sectors. Council expressed thanks to the investment committee for taking the issue seriously and eliminating the problematic bonds.

4. Report of the Audit Committee

A. Approval of the 2011 Auditor's Report

A new auditor was selected last year on the premise that if the first year's experience was good, the contract would be renewable for up to five years. Berheide reported that the 2011 audit went well, and EOB has authorized signing an appointment letter with the auditors for the 2012 audit.

The loss of the NIMH award for the Minority Fellowship Program means that ASA's grant income no longer exceeds the \$500,000 threshold so that it was not necessary to do an A133 audit. The Executive Officer assured Council that careful and accurate accounting procedures continue to protect the fiscal integrity of current federal grants.

The new auditors provided several suggestions for improving business practices. These included requiring receipts for all charges to the ASA credit card, updating the financial operations manual, and raising the threshold for items considered eligible for capital expense. Berheide indicated that the Executive Office was happy to receive these suggestions and is moving forward with implementation of those that appeared helpful.

MOTION: Council accepts the 2011 audit. Carried (no opposed).
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5. Reports of Council Subcommittees

A. Member Giving Subcommittee

In February, Council approved the subcommittee's recommended initiative for fundraising using a single Small Grants Program umbrella. Plans are underway in the Executive Office to continue more aggressive outreach to members for charitable contributions to ASA program, especially those that benefit sociologists directly. All members of the current subcommittee are now rotating off Council. If the subcommittee is to continue, new members need to be appointed. Another route would be to have the Executive Office carry on with the subcommittee's recommendations and report back to Council, then assess the need to have an active oversight committee.

The scope of work for the subcommittee in the coming year would be to help assess the Association's fundraising efforts and come up with new ideas or provide feedback on suggestions from staff. It is important to have Association members lead fundraising efforts.

Moving ahead with many of the current recommendations cannot be accomplished until the transition to the new AMS is completed, however, and that timetable continues to shift. For the future, consideration could be given to looking at the ASA Honors Program and the Student Forum as worthy programs for fundraising.

It was suggested that Council Member Joya Misra be appointed as the Council Liaison for the Member Giving Subcommittee in the coming year while the Executive Office works to implement current recommendations. Council can then consider reconstitution of the subcommittee next summer, depending on what progress has been made and what needs have been identified.

MOTION: To continue the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Member Giving with Joya Misra as designated Council Liaison. Carried (no opposed).

6. Report of the Committee on Awards

The Council Liaison to the Committee on Awards (COA), Sarah Fenstermaker, presented the report. In addition to its own meeting, the COA invites the chairs of all award selection committees to meet with the COA after the selection committees have completed their work. The two award chairs (Career Award, Teaching Award) who came to the joint meeting this year brought some recommendations for consideration and reported basic satisfaction with the award processes. The concerns brought to COA involved the quantity and quality of nominations received from the membership and issues with managing the nomination portfolios.

COA approached the issues from the perspective of providing workable guidelines rather than imposing rules on the selection committees. One way to enrich the nomination pools might be to encourage former committee members to submit nominations. To better equalize the volume in each nomination packet, the COA thought that letters of support should be limited to no less than three and no more than five in order to streamline the process. Lastly, incomplete nomination portfolios should not be considered.

Council agreed that it was reasonable to permit former committee members to be contacted for award nominations, as long as it was clear that committee chairs are not required to do so.

MOTION: Council confirms that chairs of award selection committees may solicit suggestions for nominations from past members of their committees. Carried (no opposed).

Discussion about nomination packet size brought out concerns regarding how letters of support would be chosen if more than five were received. It was suggested that the nominator could review the letters and determine which five would be included in the final portfolio. Discussion about addressing the question of multiple authors for letters reached no conclusion, but it was viewed as important to discourage anything that has the character of mobilizing a campaign on behalf of a nominee.

MOTION: For those awards that require support for nominations, nomination portfolios should include three to five (no fewer than three and no more than five) letters of support. Carried (no opposed).

There was immediate consensus in Council that nomination portfolios must be completed to receive consideration.

MOTION: Incomplete award nomination portfolios cannot be considered. Carried (no opposed).

The final COA issue concerned the structure of the ASA Awards Ceremony and the tradition that designates the Vice President as responsible for presenting the introduction of the President. COA suggested letting the President select the individual to do her/his introduction instead of making that the function of the Vice President. After discussion, the sense of the meeting was that the award ceremony needs to be conducted smoothly, briskly and evenly, and the current approach facilitates that objective. So Council took no action on the last COA recommendation.

Council took a short break at 4:25pm – 4:40pm, at which time outgoing members Sarah Soule and Sandra Smith departed.

7. Report of the Executive Officers

A. Executive Office Staffing

Hillsman reported that there were several staff turnovers in 2012, mostly due to younger staff going off to graduate school. She invited Council members to ask any questions they had about the various programs housed in the Executive Office. There was a commendation for having three staff members in Public Affairs and Public Information (PAPI), one of whom is a professional journalist. Requests from the media for referrals of expert sociologists on various topics are handled by PAPI staff; they also work with college/university press offices to get local coverage in addition to national attention. There were thirteen reporters on-site at this year's annual meeting, but the beauty of the internet is that on-site presence is not a prerequisite for covering the event.

B. Expansion of the ASA Wikipedia Project

Since the Wikipedia project portal went live last fall, there has been a relatively small uptake in terms of people using it. As reported earlier by President Wright, 100 meeting attendees who visited the Wikipedia booth during the 2012 Annual Meeting left emails for follow-up contact. Wright now brought to Council a proposal to establish a Wikipedian-in-Residence program, submitted during the spring by Piotr Konieczny, one of the key people in the Sociology group in Wikipedia.

A Wikipedian resident would ramp up the Initiative by talking to college/university faculty, assisting in development of class projects, etc. Other organizations that have Wikipedian residents have used them to help get material from the organizational archives into Wikipedia. Wright commented, however, that the Wikimedia Foundation representatives who staffed the exhibit booth in Denver did not think that a resident necessarily addresses problems with Wikipedia Initiative. Officers of the ASA Section on Communication and Information Technology (CIT) have offered to assist with the Wikipedia project, and the Teaching & Learning Section may be another source of member volunteers.

In response to a query about how Wikipedia interfaces with more authoritative encyclopedias online, Wright summarized that every factual statement in a Wikipedia article is supposed to have footnotes to reference the original source material. The only interfacing that occurs with online encyclopedias is when someone who is writing an article cites something from an encyclopedia.

Wright reiterated that the Wikimedia reps were not advocating for a Wikipedian-in-residence at ASA, and he supported the notion that a better way to organize this would be to utilize people in sections who want to be involved. Council members commented that the quality of sociology articles in Wikipedia is low, and attention needs to be paid to improving this material.

<p>MOTION: To proceed with working with the ASA Section on Communication & Information Technology and the ASA Section on Teaching & Learning in Sociology to involve member volunteers in support of the ASA Wikipedia Project, and by extension to turn down for now the proposal for a Wikipedian-in-residence. Carried (no opposed).</p>

It was noted that Wikipedia editors in the physical sciences are 95% white male. Social science students coming into the project fit a different profile, and Wikimedia is excited about that.

C. Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change Update

Under the direction of Task Force Chair Riley Dunlap and Co-Chair Robert Brulle, the members of the Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change have been working intensely on a 15 chapter edited volume that provides a rich analysis of the issues surrounding climate change from a sociological perspective. Several of these chapters are already drafted, with nearly all of the remaining chapters scheduled to be fully drafted by the end of the summer.

The ASA Publications Committee received a book prospectus and cover memo from the Task Force asking that the final edited volume be designated as an official ASA publication. Using a model similar to the one employed for Craig Calhoun's edited volume, *Sociology in America* (2007), produced in conjunction with ASA's centennial celebrations, the Task Force proposes that the prospectus be used to identify a publisher, with the final contract to be negotiated by the ASA and copyright and

royalties going to the ASA. Results of the Publications Committee's discussion on this proposal will be presented at the next Council meeting (on August 21). In the meantime, Wright informed Council that Brulle had reported that Oxford University Press has expressed interest in this project.

D. New Initiatives Launched at the 2012 Annual Meeting

A key goal of the ASA Annual Meeting is to provide a space for scholars to assemble to share ideas, connect with colleagues and disseminate information for some common purpose of advancing the discipline of sociology. Meeting Services Director Kareem Jenkins summarized several ways efforts were made to increase connectivity and facilitate networking in both physical and virtual spaces.

Complimentary basic bandwidth Wi-Fi was provided for attendees in all ASA meeting rooms at both the Colorado Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Denver. A new Annual Meeting mobile/web-based app was created that included information about getting around Denver and the meeting venues, maps and floor plans of the facilities, easy access to information about local restaurants, hours and locations for various Annual Meeting services, and the virtual *Convention Bulletin* which is continuously updated on-site by ASA meeting staff with program corrections and changes.

Live webcasts of the major Plenary Sessions were accessible to attendees and to those not in attendance via the meeting portal at the start of each session, and each webcast also included real-time transcription. This brought session accessibility to a whole new level at this year's meeting.

In addition to virtual spaces, ASA staff developed a new physical space for networking and information-sharing during the Annual Meeting. A new area called The Hub was a multi-purpose, WiFi-enabled complex that was part bookstore, technology learning lounge, and cybercafé. Staffed by the ASA webmaster, The Hub offered informal, 20-minute technology training modules on an array of topics, such as using social networking tools (e.g., Twitter and Facebook), creating mobile sites through publishing platforms, and making your personal website 508 compliant in order to increase its accessibility. The full schedule of training modules was available on the Annual Meeting app and all attendees were welcome to stop by and ask questions at any time.

Council members affirmed their approval of these new initiatives and via applause encouraged Jenkins to keep up good work. One hope was expressed that future improvements would include electronic balloting for meetings of nominating groups, such as the Committee on Nominations and Council Members-at-Large.

E. Changes in the Annual Meeting Call for Papers

Jenkins indicated that feedback from members is reviewed at the close of every call for papers process, and several interesting ideas were received this year. After discussing various ideas with staff sociologists to get more input about the submission process and its comparability to other associations, several recommendations were prepared for Council's consideration. These included:

- Update the language in the submission criteria to call for a "*draft paper/working paper that represents a well-thought out idea or topic*" (rather than a "completed paper").
- Remind Session Organizers that authors need *feedback from the review process* to be entered into the appropriate place in the electronic submission system so authors can improve their accepted draft/working paper prior to presentation at the Annual Meeting.

- Remind paper submitters that they can upload *revised versions* of their presented paper to the Annual Meeting archival site after the presentation *if they wish the paper available on this site*.
- Enforce the requirement that submissions include an *abstract* by preventing the author from continuing the submission process if this field is not completed. (N.B. Abstracts are useful in preliminary reviews of the submissions by Session Organizers, and not all submitters are providing them).
- Amend the requirement that limits the length of a submitted paper to no more than 20-pages to provide greater flexibility for submitting a paper that is in the *range of 15-35 pages*.
- Provide authors presenting at an Annual Meeting session with an electronic site containing *useful ideas and resources for creating effective presentations* based on their written papers.

There was agreement that if an author has a completed paper, the author would submit it to a journal for publication, not to a meeting for presentation. Permitting submission of a “draft paper or working draft” was viewed favorably, whereas inviting submission of “presentations” was not.

Concerns were expressed about increasing the page limit for submissions, in part because of the increased workload this would place on session organizers, some of whom receive 80-100 submissions. There was some consensus about raising the upper limit to 25 pages, but no higher.

Feedback to authors of submitted presentations was not viewed as being the responsibility of session organizers; that mentoring function more properly resides with graduate advisors/faculty. An organizer’s task is to build a coherent set of papers for a session and evoke a theme in different ways, which can be difficult enough to do without adding a mentoring element. For some sessions, it would be more appropriate for the presider/discussant to communicate with authors of accepted papers with suggestions aimed toward building more cohesion into the presentations and discussion.

There were mixed reactions for the idea of a centralized electronic site for housing final presentations. When a site works well, things are fine, but huge problems arise if the site goes down. Some concerns were also expressed about encouraging a mindset that authors/presenters have to provide a PowerPoint presentation.

Council members pointed out one more area for potential improvement in the submission process—the prioritizing of session topics. The handling of first and second priorities sometimes causes papers to get lost in the shuffle, particularly when session organizers fail to meet the review deadlines. This also results in roundtable organizers belatedly receiving forwarded submissions.

Jenkins and Hillsman thanked Council for the input and indicated that Meeting Services will keep trying to improve the submission process based on the comments and feedback received.

F. Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Advisory Committee Report

MFP Director Jean Shin thanked Council for the support allocated from the Spivack fund this year. The SWS-MFP Fellows attended the Sociologists for Women in Society banquet and were recognized there; the AKD-MFP Fellow went to Alpha Kappa Delta events; and the ABS-MFP Fellow attended the Association of Black Sociologists meeting. All in all, eight Fellows experienced the ASA Annual Meeting in a fundamentally different way than they ever have before.

In response to a question about the MFP application requiring an enrollment number, Shin clarified that the information was a requirement of the NIMH training grants. Now that NIH funding has ended, the enrollment number has been dropped from the application.

Vice President-Elect Jennifer Glass noted that the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) has sponsored a Fellow and expressed hope that this could be used competitively to fundraise from ESS, SSS, and other regional societies.

G. ANPRM 45 CFR 46 (Common Rule Changes) Update

Hillsman provided a brief recap of the call for responses to proposed Common Rule changes. The current status is that the process has slowed down, in part because of the huge numbers of responses. NIH is appreciative of the 60-page paper submitted by ASA, or so they said. Given that this is an election year, it is likely that things will not move ahead very fast. While one can hope something will happen in the next year, the course for now is to keep watching like a hawk.

H. Follow-up on Council Statement on Blackhorse et. al.

Hillsman reported that in June 2012, North Dakota voters said it was time to retire the Fighting Sioux nickname.

Having no new business on the agenda, President Wright adjourned the last meeting of the 2011-2012 ASA Council at 6:05 p.m. on Monday, August 20, 2012.