

**2010-11 ASA Council First Meeting
Minutes**

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Hilton Atlanta

Room 204

Officers Present: Catherine White Berheide (Secretary), Randall Collins (President), Evelyn Nakano Glenn (Past President), John Logan (Past Vice President), David Snow (Vice President), Edward Telles (Vice President-Elect), Erik Olin Wright (President-Elect)

Members-at-Large Present: Sarah Fenstermaker, Rosanna Hertz, Jennifer Lee, Omar McRoberts, Cecilia Menjivar, Joya Misra, Mario Luis Small, Sandra Smith, Sarah Soule, Robin Wagner-Pacifici

Members-at-Large Absent: Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Debra MInkoff

Staff Present: Janet Astner, Karen Edwards, Lee Herring, Sally T. Hillsman, Michael Murphy, Jean Shin, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Margaret Weigers Vitullo.

1. Introductions and Orienting Documents

President Randall Collins convened the first meeting of the 2010-2011 ASA Council at 8:39 am on Wednesday, August 18, 2010.

A. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda. Carried.

B. Conflict of Interest Statement

New members were reminded to sign and turn in the Conflict of Interest statement.

2. Report of the Secretary

A. Summary Review of the 2010 Budget

Secretary Catherine White Berheide provided a brief recap of the report given by Past Secretary Tomaskovic-Devey to the 2009-2010 Council. In short, deficits were incurred in 2008 and 2009 due to the purchase of office space and the unexpected economic recession. Due to diligent efforts by ASA staff, it appears likely that the 2010 budget year will end with a modest surplus.

B. Membership Dues for 2011

The recommendation to Council from the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) was a COLA increase of 2.2% on dues for 2011. Council was reminded that it has the authority, per the ASA Constitution & Bylaws, to apply COLA increases to dues if it chooses to do so.

The report on 2010 membership showed drops in the Student and Emeritus categories. In general, membership was projected to be down somewhat this year because membership always drops when the Annual Meeting is held in a less popular site. Historical information on meeting registration shows that southern locations usually experience a 10-20% decrease in attendance. The final registration count for the 2010 Annual Meeting is just over 4,600, which represents a 16% drop from the 5,494 registration figure for the 2009 meeting in San Francisco. The budget for 2010 was built on the assumption of lower meeting attendance in Atlanta.

Some concerns were expressed about the decline in Emeritus members. It is important for several reasons not to lose contact with this population. ASA staff are concerned about services for emeritus members and will be looking at better ways to engage them in the association. Changing the criteria for the Emeritus category is being considered, among other things.

MOTION: That Council approve a COLA increase of 2.2% for 2011 membership dues rates. Carried.

C. Journal Subscriptions Rates for 2011

EOB recommended approval of subscription rates as shown in Table 1 below. The rates proposed for 2011 journal subscriptions included no increases for members.

Table 1: Proposed 2011 Subscription Rates

| Journal | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 Proposed |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| <i>ASR</i> | | | | |
| Student Members | \$25 | \$25 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Members | \$40 | \$40 | \$45 | \$45 |
| Non-member | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Institutions (print/online) | \$220 | \$250 | \$288 | \$311 |
| Institutions (online only) | \$200 | \$225 | \$259 | \$280 |
| <i>CS</i> | | | | |
| Student Members | \$25 | \$25 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Members | \$40 | \$40 | \$45 | \$45 |
| Non-member | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Institutions (print/online) | \$220 | \$240 | \$276 | \$298 |
| Institutions (online only) | \$200 | \$216 | \$248 | \$268 |
| <i>Contexts</i> | | | | |
| Student Members | \$25 | \$25 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Members | \$40 | \$40 | \$45 | \$45 |
| Non-member | \$50 | \$50 | \$50 | \$52 |
| Non-member student | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Institutions (print/online) | \$176 | \$192 | \$205 | \$230 |

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|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Institutions (online only) | \$156 | \$166 | \$171 | \$207 |
| <i>ST</i> | | | | |
| Student Members | \$25 | \$25 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Members | \$40 | \$40 | \$45 | \$45 |
| Non-member | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Institutions (print/online) | \$262 | \$299 | \$317 | \$337 |
| Institutions (online only) | \$249 | \$278 | \$295 | \$313 |
| <i>Other quarterlies</i> | | | | |
| Student Members | \$25 | \$25 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Members | \$35 | \$40 | \$45 | \$45 |
| Non-member | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Institutions (print/online) | \$174 | \$205 | \$236 | \$255 |
| Institutions (online only) | \$160 | \$185 | \$212 | \$229 |
| <i>SM</i> | | | | |
| Student Members | \$40 | \$40 | \$45 | \$45 |
| Members | \$50 | \$50 | \$55 | \$55 |
| Non-member | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Institutions (print/online) | \$256 | \$292 | \$310 | \$329 |
| Institutions (online only) | \$243 | \$271 | \$288 | \$306 |
| <i>C&C*</i> | | | | |
| Non-member | \$76 | \$82 | \$84 | \$84 |
| Non-member student | \$38 | \$41 | \$42 | \$42 |
| Institutions (print/online) | \$301 | \$343 | \$364 | \$386 |
| Institutions (online only) | \$276 | \$308 | \$327 | \$347 |
| <i>Society and Mental Health**</i> | | | | |
| Non-member | | | | -- |
| Non-member student | | | | -- |
| Institutions (print/online) | | | | \$250 |
| Institutions (online only) | | | | \$225 |

*ASA members can only subscribe by joining the Community and Urban Sociology Section; no separate member subscription is available.

**New in 2011. ASA members can only subscribe by joining the Mental Health section; no separate member subscription is available. No non-member individual subscriptions will be offered for the first year, and online access to libraries will be offered at no charge for three years.

Member subscriptions for 2010 are down somewhat, which may be a function of members having access to journals through their institutions. Library subscriptions are also down but the projection for the future is an increase due to Sage's marketing efforts and strategies (consortia, bundling). The Secretary reported that Sage is thrilled with renewal rates so far; for example, the institutional renewal rate for ASR is 98%. The average renewal rate for social science journals is somewhere in the low 90s, while ASA journals average 95%.

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| MOTION: That Council approve the subscription rates shown in Table 1. Carried. |
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3. Committee, Advisory Panel, & Task Force Appointments

A. Nominations from the President, Secretary, Executive Officer

Berheide presented a short list of nominees for the vacancy on EOB. One member-at-large is appointed annually. Current EOB members include Teresa Sullivan and Glenn Firebaugh, plus three Presidents (current, incoming, immediate past).

MOTION: To approve list of nominees for EOB. Carried.

President Randall Collins provided a handout listing liaison appointments/assignments for new Council members.

MOTION: To approve the proposed appointments. Carried.

Executive Officer Sally Hillsman presented nominations for advisory panels that oversee the Spivack Program, the Honors Program, and the Minority Fellowship Program.

MOTION: To accept the Spivack Program advisory list as proposed. Carried.

MOTION: To approve the HP advisory panel as proposed. Carried.

MOTION: To approve the MFP advisory panel as proposed. Carried.

B. Nominations from the Committee on Committees

Michael Murphy, Governance and Information Systems Director, presented the report from the Committee on Committees (COC). COC is comprised of members elected at large, with seats defined for different constituencies. The charge to COC is to provide rank-ordered lists of nominees as defined in Bylaws. The committee spends a full day during the Annual Meeting developing nominations and doing oversight with regard for Council's policy on diversity. There are skip rules in place so that members are not appointed to serve on multiple committees, and appointment of members from the same institution onto the same committee are avoided.

It was noted that the roster of continuing members on the book award committee is all male. To broaden the committee's composition, a suggestion was made to reorder the list of potential nominees to sort for gender first.

MOTION: To accept the entire COC report, with the re-sort of Book Award committee nominees to place women at the top of the list. Carried.

4. Annual Meetings

A. President's Update on 2011 Program

President Collins reported that his meeting theme, "Social Conflict: Multiple Dimensions and Arenas," was well-suited to the meeting site of Chicago. Program planning has taken this happy coincidence into account by including sessions such as a retrospective on the 1968 convention, 100 years of Chicago Sociology, comparative mafias, drug trafficking and cartels across borders, the Chicago tradition of ethnography, and so on. The Program Committee hopes to stir things up a bit and push the Chicago connection at the same time.

B. President-Elect's Report on the 2012 Program Committee

President-Elect Erik Olin Wright announced that the theme for the 2012 Annual Meeting will be "Real Utopias", plus a subtitle to be worked out. He indicated plans to change the format for a subset of sessions in the hopes of involving more discussion from floor. Discussion proposals will be posted on the website six months in advance, and one hour of the session will be reserved for general discussion. Plans for plenary sessions are underway but very open for ideas and suggestions.

The list of nominees to serve on the 2012 Program Committee was presented: New appointees – Ronald R. Aminzade, Rhonda F. Levine, Barbara Risman, Heidi I. Hartmann, Carmen Sirianni, Sandra S. Smith; Carryover members – Elizabeth A. Armstrong, Jerry A. Jacobs; Officers – Erik Olin Wright, Edward Telles, Catherine White Berheide, Sally Hillsman.

MOTION: To approve the proposed appointments to the 2012 Program Committee. Carried.

C. Registration and Other Fees for 2011

EOB recommended registration fee increases for 2011, despite initial concerns about the potential effect on attendance. Looking at the pace of registration in prior years yielded information that there seems to be little price sensitivity in relation to registration fees; airfare costs and hotel rates have more effect on members' decisions to attend. Several reasons were cited for raising fees for 2011, including high technology costs in Chicago, higher labor costs due to strong union contracts, and a desire to avoid raising fees for 2012 if possible.

It was noted that registration fees had been raised regularly in recent years, and concern was expressed about the student fee hitting the \$100 mark. That category experienced a \$25 increase from 2008 to 2011. Similar anxiety was raised about the \$100 threshold for retired and unemployed categories. After some discussion, consensus was reached that it was probably better to raise fees for Chicago than for Denver.

The large gap between expenses and revenues for the Child Care Service was noticed. By Council policy, that service has been heavily subsidized because most users are newer members of the profession and/or students. Support was given for continuing the subsidization, and there were also suggestions that more be done to promote the service and help members know that it is available.

MOTION: To increase general registration fees for 2011 for full member/non-member categories by \$15, for student and related categories (retired/emeritus, unemployed, secondary school teacher) by \$5, for guests by \$10. Carried

MOTION: To approve fee increases of \$5 for Seminars, Courses, Employment Service Candidate (members), Employment Service Candidate non-members and Employers. Carried.

Council members took a short break at 10:27 – 10:48am.

D. Future Site Selection

Meeting Services Director Kareem Jenkins presented background information on Annual Meeting site history, date options, geographic rotation patterns, and criteria for site evaluation. The next open year is 2017, and the geographic rotation calls for an eastern city. The advisory policy from previous Councils that ASA meet in Canada once per decade is also part of the consideration.

Two cities where ASA has held successful meetings in the past, Montreal and New York City, submitted interesting offers with special provisions. Both proposals for 2017 were linked to additional years. The NYC bid offered increased benefits for the 2013 Annual Meeting, which is already contracted for that city, while Montreal proposed a multi-year contract with improved provisions for booking both 2017 and 2024.

ASA last met in Montreal in 2006 and experienced its highest attendance at a meeting held in Canada. The meeting can be entirely situated in the downtown convention center, which has a number of good quality hotels within walking distance. There will be no charge for space rental, and the tourism bureau will provide additional funding to cover shuttling costs and support catered events. The city is a cosmopolitan destination, with great restaurants and nice weather in the summer. Drawbacks for members are air access, particularly from the West Coast, and the need to have passports.

When the ASA meeting has been held in Canada, it has been situated in eastern cities (Toronto, Montreal). This is primarily because cities in central Canada lack appeal and appropriate facilities, and Vancouver is usually too high-priced to make the cut. August is high tourist season in Vancouver, particularly for the cruise business. When the ASA meeting was reduced to four days, meeting in Toronto became less attractive because ASA could no longer fit its program into one or two hotels, and the convention center in Toronto is comprised of two separate buildings that are not close together.

The 2007 Annual Meeting in New York City set record attendance, and room rates were reasonable (by New York standards) because the contracts were negotiated in the aftermath of 9/11. The challenge with booking New York is always the room rates, and ASA has usually gone there only when special offers can be negotiated. One concern about selecting New York City is that the hotels cannot expand their meeting space, and it is impossible to know if current space is sufficient for the ASA meeting in 2017 or 2024.

One advantage that Montreal has over New York is that many international members find it easier to attend meetings held outside the US. Conversely, crossing the border into another country poses problems for sociologists and students that are in the US on visas. It was noted that if ASA does not go to Canada for 2017, the next open year to consider meeting there will not be in this decade.

There was some discussion about the tradition of meeting in Canada every decade, and a question was raised regarding why ASA does not go to Mexico. One factor affecting the decision at the time the advisory policy was established was that ASA had very few members in Mexico, whereas Canadians comprised 5-8% of the membership. Concerns about Mexico City now include safety issues and air pollution, among others.

In terms of taking risks with meeting sites, since the mid 1990s ASA has avoided meeting in cities that lie in the hurricane belt. Some opinions were voiced for staying in the US and rotating relatively frequently to major cities that attract attendees, such as San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and Washington, DC.

The incentive package offered by Montreal was very attractive, especially in comparison to the high costs of meeting in New York City. There was less certainty about locking into 2024 however.

MOTION: To select Montreal as the site for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Carried (14 yes, 2 no).

MOTION: To hold the 2024 Annual Meeting in Montreal. Defeated (7 – yes, 8 – no, 1 abstention.)

[These decisions were revisited and changed later in the meeting.]

5. Publications

A. Report of the Committee on Publications

The Secretary informed Council that an upcoming editorial transition had inadvertently produced a situation where an accepted article written by the now-incoming editor needed to be published in the last issue of the outgoing editor. Adding the extra pages necessary to do this would cost approximately \$2,700.

MOTION: To provide the extra pages requested for the final issue of *Social Psychology Quarterly* under the current editor. Carried.

The new version of the ASA Style Guide is now available. There are more changes pending, however, particularly regarding how to cite datasets. The Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences wants to create a social-science wide norm and is hoping that ASA will take the lead on this. The Publications Committee has appointed a subcommittee to come up with a proposal on how to do this, with the expectation that the information would be added to future versions of ASA's Style Guide.

The Secretary then reported on discussions in the Publications Committee meeting about proposals for new section journals. There is concern that sponsoring sections have a sufficient pool of resources to support a journal, both for editorial processes as well as subscriptions. It was noted that the Sage representative at the committee meeting commented that no groups are starting new journals right now, and that certainly no one would look at starting a journal with less than 500 subscriptions. There are questions of long-term viability of a proposed journal and also of the section sponsor that have to be dealt with. The Sociology of Culture Section, which is one of the largest sections in ASA, decided not to start a journal because of concerns about the costs to its members. All these factors were taken into account as the Publications Committee developed its recommendation that a threshold of 500 section members be set for proposing a new section journal.

Questions arose regarding whether requirements would be same for online journals as for print journals. ASA staff indicated that the cost of maintaining an online journal is not that

different from a print journal. For example, the Journal of World Systems Research is an online, open access publication, sponsored by the ASA Section on Political Economy of the World System (PEWS). The section is heavily dependent on people, such as the designer and editor, doing their work for free. The review process and technology costs still exist, whether the final product is in print or online only.

The Executive Officer presented data to Council on the substantial differences between journals in natural sciences and social sciences. Important factors for publishing in the natural sciences are that articles are short, shelf life is shorter, and the peer review process is completely different. The humanities/social sciences review process is a pedagogical and mentoring function as well as a selection process, and peer review is done on many more articles than are published. That peer review process is used as a tool to help people improve their scholarship.

There was basic support in Council for setting a membership requirement/threshold for section journal proposals. It was noted, however, that when sections consider proposing journals, they usually want to create an intellectual community. Perhaps the Publications Committee should look at offering other models or alternatives, such as an online working paper series, as possible outlets.

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| MOTION: To set a threshold of 500 members for an ASA section to be eligible to propose a journal. Carried (1 opposed). |
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The Secretary concluded the publications report by announcing that the committee will be seeking nominations for new editors for the Rose Series and for *Contexts*. Council members were encouraged to make nominations and/or encourage good applicants.

Council then broke for lunch at 12:14 – 1:05pm. Upon reconvening, a request was presented to reconsider the motion on the meeting site for 2024. Since the request made in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order, the topic was put back on the table for further discussion.

4D continued: Future Site Selection, Part II

Some Council members were not fully aware of the financial consequences involved for 2017 if the multi-year provision for 2024 was not accepted. The additional benefits added up to \$130,000, plus rates and fees for 2024 would be hedged against the likely inflation between now and then. Contract language includes the option to review the arrangements for 2024 based on the outcome of the 2017 meeting, which builds some flexibility into the multi-year proposal.

There was growing consensus that the multi-year (2017 and 2024) package for Montreal represented a tremendous savings for the Association. The financial benefits of the two-for-one deal would help control costs and enable ASA to hold the line on increasing registration fees in the future. It was noted that Council would have plenty of opportunities to select other cities to host the meeting during 2020-2029; committing to 2024 is just the first site selection for that decade.

The change from a 5-day meeting to a 4-day meeting in 2001 did constrict site options for ASA. The number of days was decreased to reduce costs for members, but the number of

program sessions was not cut, so more meeting rooms are used simultaneously. This boosted the requirements for meeting space and made it important for ASA staff to look at how to generate more cost-savings during the site selection and contracting processes. One example of this is the multi-year contract that designated San Francisco as the meeting site for 2014 and 2019.

Site selection decisions are normally made at least five years in advance in order to secure the dates that ASA prefers. Organizations that meet in peak meeting periods (such as April-May and September-October) are booking ten years or more in advance. When the opportunity arises for ASA staff to negotiate special deals, efforts are made to take advantage of the situation. The only open year remaining in this decade is 2018, and site proposals will be brought to Council when propitious during the coming three years.

Several Council members indicated a willingness to change their votes on the issue of site selection for 2024, so a new motion was put on the floor.

MOTION: To select Montreal as the site for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Carried (12 – yes; 2 no, 1 abstain).

6. Committee on Sections

Governance and Information Systems Director Michael Murphy reported that membership in sections remains strong. The Committee on Sections (COS) assesses the health of sections by looking at membership levels and the type of activities that the sections are engaged in. Concerns exist about three sections that have low numbers of members and a lack of substantive activities, including holding no elections. These sections are Rationality and Society, Animals and Society, and Ethnomethodology & Conversation Analysis. COS will be contacting apparently dormant sections about the possibility of disbanding. On the positive side, COS recommended approval of two proposals for new sections—Sociology of Development, and Sociology of Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility.

Council members inquired about the history of disbanding sections and expressed some concerns about the effects on new sections on existing sections. Murphy indicated that there was no set level of membership for disbanding a section. The only section that was ever disbanded was Visual Sociology, and that occurred over twenty years ago. COS has been monitoring section membership, particularly as new sections become active, and the effect of new sections has been that overall participation in sections has increased, not diminished. There is no guarantee that this will always be the case, of course, and it is conceivable that the proposed Development section could be draw significant activity out of PEWS, for example. Nonetheless, both COS and Council concurred that sections should rise and fall based on member demand.

MOTION: To approve the proposal for creating a new Section-in-formation on the Sociology of Development. Carried.

MOTION: To approve the proposal for creating a new Section-in-formation on the Sociology of Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility. Carried.

COS had received requests for an extension of formation time from two sections-in-formation. Sections-in-formation have two years to gain the 300 members required to form a section, and neither Altruism nor Disabilities has made that threshold. Altruism has 190 members, and Disabilities has 270 members. COS recommended that Council approve an extension for Disabilities but not for Altruism, based on the level of interest as evidenced by paid section memberships.

There was concern in Council about having insufficient information on the activities of the two sections-in-formation to make an informed decision. It was unclear what Disabilities was doing to gain members that Altruism was not doing, and some viewpoints supported the possibility of having a viable intellectual community with “only” a hundred people.

MOTION: to grant a one-year extension of formation status to the Section on Disabilities. Carried (no opposed).

MOTION: to grant a one-year extension of formation status to the Section on Altruism and Morality. Carried (10 yes, 5 no).

To ensure that future Councils are provided with more information about the activities of sections-in-formation, Past Vice President John Logan suggested that COS be requested to obtain annual reports from all sections-in-formation.

MOTION: To request that the Committee on Sections get annual reports from sections-in-formation. Carried.

The last recommendation from COS was to raise the number of signatures required for a group of interested members to submit a proposal to form a section. 100 signatures are currently necessary for a formation proposal, whereas 300 memberships are required to establish a full-fledged section. Closing the gap between those two figures might help ensure viability for successful formation. It was also pointed out that the requirement for 100 signatures was set in a previous era that had no internet communication.

MOTION: To increase the number of signatures required to support a section-in-formation proposal from 100 to 200. Carried (14 yes, 1 no).

7. Reports and Updates from Task Forces and Status Committees

A. Final Report: Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology (CSREMS)

The CSREMS staff liaison, Jean Shin, presented the committee's request for an extension on the due date for its five-year report. Contributing reasons are health issues and the need to incorporate feedback from the committee's meeting and workshop at this Annual Meeting. Qualitative data collection is in process, and an extraordinarily large number of respondents indicated that they wanted to be interviewed.

MOTION: To extend the due date for the final report of the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology to February 2011. Carried.

B. Request from the Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology

Noting that the committee's final report is due next year, Margaret Weigers Vitullo, the staff liaison for this committee, presented the committee's request to include "persons with disabilities" in the ASA diversity statement. The importance of this inclusion was emphasized because the statement is used to guide various ASA committees that suggest candidates for appointed and elected positions, and it calls attention to the kind of diversity that the association wishes to embrace.

MOTION: To amend the ASA diversity statement as requested by the Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology. Carried.

The updated ASA diversity statement is now:

Much of the vitality of the ASA flows from its diverse membership. With this in mind, it is the policy of the ASA to include people of color, women, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, persons with disabilities, sociologists from smaller institutions or who work in government, business, or other applied settings, and international scholars in all of its programmatic activities and in the business of the Association.

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

The committee had presented its five-year report last February, and it is now focusing on Council's responses to the recommendations and requests in that report. The CSWS staff liaison, Roberta Spalter-Roth, indicated that continued collection of data on women's career trajectories in sociology is proceeding, and the committee expects to spend a year doing research before going on to next steps, such as submitting ideas for program sessions.

D. Update: Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in Sociology

Spalter-Roth reported that the committee was finding it difficult to move forward as there were still vacancies to be filled. There have been more liaison efforts with the GLBTQ Caucus though, and committee members are pleased that unisex bathrooms were designated for the first time at this year's Annual Meeting.

Council acknowledged the positive feedback about the designation of unisex bathrooms at both Annual Meeting hotels as well as the concerns about taking women's restrooms out of inventory at both facilities.

E. Update: Task Force on Sociology and Criminology

Task Force members have been following up on the report presented to Council in February by continuing to work on disseminating the report. It was presented during the Chair Conference and also at a workshop on the Annual Meeting program. Feedback from department chairs and faculty members indicated the report was useful. A workshop will be presented at the American Society of Criminology meeting in November, and another is proposed for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). This latter proposal may

encounter some difficulties because ACJS disapproves of the fact that ASA does not certify departments.

8. Report of the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Sally Hillsman and pertinent staff members gave short summaries of the informational reports provided to Council.

A. Summary Review of the Minority Fellowship Program

As directed by Council, the MFP Advisory Board has been expanded by three people, and it has begun considering implementation of the recommendations contained in the MFP Transition Subcommittee's final report as well as other potential program changes.

B. DRG Program Review Status

The DRG Advisory Board is working on an assessment of the ASA Department Resources Group (DRG), and a report will be ready soon.

C. Science Policy Issues

Since 2005, ASA Public Affairs staff have worked to increase *Science* magazine's and AAAS's appreciation of sociology and social sciences generally. One positive measurement of this effort is that a quick search of *Science* content during 2006-2010 revealed twice as many hits on "sociology" than during 2000-2005.

This fall there will be national science fair on the National Mall for the first time, and ASA will participate by having a booth at this family-friendly science & engineering festival.

D. Technology Update

The Executive Officer has been working closely with EOB on technological innovations within the Executive Office, not only to the run office efficiently but to enhance communication with members and between members. One major project that reached fruition in 2010 was TRAILS, the new Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology. There has been positive reception to this electronic resource, which made its debut in May.

E. External Grants

Spalter-Roth referred Council members to the information about grant activity contained in the agenda books. She noted that grant funding is currently supporting one senior research associate, 40% of two research associates, and 20% of two program assistants. The Research Department is using more soft money than previously which has both positive and negative consequences that are important to understand in the context of current budget conversations.

Hillsman noted that the department chair at a research one university, who has used a large amount of the data on the discipline and the profession provided by ASA's Research Department, reported that material was very useful. Another "bestseller" from the Research Department is information on what to do with a BA in Sociology.

9. New Business

A. ASA Business Meeting Resolutions

Two resolutions were discussed and voted on at the ASA Business Meeting held on August 17, 2010. Per the ASA Constitution, one hundred voting members must be present at the Business Meeting in order for resolutions to be placed on the agenda of Council. There was, however, insufficient attendance at the meeting to meet this requirement. Nonetheless, Council agreed to consider the two resolutions out of courtesy.

(1) Sociologists without Borders

The resolution below was passed at the ASA Business Meeting by a vote of 17-yes, 0-no.

We resolve that the American Sociological Association stands firm in its support of endangered sociologists, worldwide, and in particular those who have been jailed, persecuted, and tortured for their ideas and writings. This is not without precedent. In 2003 the ASA, along with AAAS, worked successfully for the asylum of Egyptian Saad Eddin Ibrahim.

Recommendation: That the ASA set up a standing committee that can quickly respond to the persecution of sociologists. This committee may work in partnership with other U.S. academic organizations: American Association for the Advancement of Science, Committee on Human Rights of the National Academy of Sciences, the International Human Rights Network of the National Academy of Sciences, Middle East Studies Association, and Scholars at Risk.

While it is true that these other organizations may protest the persecution of sociologists, this committee made up of sociologists would bring special expertise and authority to letter writing and publicity.

Information was provided to Council regarding how such issues are identified and handled by ASA staff. For example, the Public Affairs Director is in touch with the AAAS Science Coalition and similar working groups, and an AAAS staff person sends out alerts when an issue arises with scientists seeking asylum, etc. When a letter of support or protest is needed, one is provided, often in connection with other organizations.

Council members were not clear on the utility of creating a new standing committee. There was some sentiment that a "standing committee of academics to respond quickly" was an oxymoron. It was suggested that the Executive Office should share information with the resolution sponsors regarding what services have been provided in this area and what collaborations exist with other organizations and networks. Council directed the Executive Officer to draft a statement affirming support of endangered sociologists for vote via email following the meeting.

Via e-mail ballot in September 2010, Council approved a resolution in support of endangered sociologists. The following statement is posted online at www.asanet.org/images/Council_Statements/docs/pdf/Council_Statement_on_Endangered_Sociologists.pdf).

Sociologists Worldwide Who Are Endangered by Their Writing and Ideas

Adopted by the Council of the American Sociological Association
on September 21, 2010

The Council of the American Sociological Association (ASA) stands firm in its support of sociologists worldwide who are endangered by their sociological writings and ideas. As the national association for sociologists in the United States, the ASA has often worked on behalf of

sociologists in many areas of the world who have been imprisoned, persecuted, and tortured for their writings or other public expressions of their ideas.

The ASA works both independently and in collaboration with other United States academic institutions, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Committee on Human Rights of the National Academy of Sciences, the International Human Rights Network of the National Academy of Sciences, Sociologists without Borders, and Scholars at Risk to combat these abuses. With input from the ASA elected leadership and the ASA Section on Human Rights, the ASA Executive Office engages in quick and targeted letter writing and publicity through the media, bringing attention to such cases, and assisting in asylum efforts.

The ASA urges its members and other parties concerned with the academic freedom, freedom of speech, and personal safety of sociologists to contact the ASA immediately with relevant information so it can take appropriate actions and participate in effective collaborations.

(2) Human Rights of Children

A statement affirming and expanding the commitment of the ASA to the Human Rights of Children was adopted by the Council of the ASA Section on Sociology of Children and Youth on August 16, 2010. This statement was brought to the ASA Business Meeting on August 17, 2010, where it was passed by a vote of 17-yes, 2-no.

This statement of the Sociology of Children and Youth Section suggests to affirm and expand the commitments of the American Sociological Association to human rights and freedoms enunciated in the ASA statements of human rights of 2005 and of August 2009 to include in its commitment the human rights of children, with a special focus on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its ratification by the United States.

The very definition of "children" in the Sociology of Children and Youth Section in 1991 was founded upon this international treaty. Article 1 reads: "For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier." This international treaty articulates the civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights of children and is analogous to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1949. 194 countries have ratified this treaty, with the sole exception of the United States.

Members of the Sociology of Children and Youth Section affirm that we are committed to advancing the human rights and protection of children through our research and policy initiatives.

Children have no independent voice in society. Since the research and teaching of our ASA Section is devoted to the protection, well-being, and rights of children, and since human rights are both universal and indivisible, we encourage the American Sociological Association to fully support the human rights of children as they are articulated in the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To this end, we also encourage the Council of the American Sociological Association to join other academic disciplines and the international research community in supporting the U.S. ratification of this international human rights treaty along with its evolving jurisprudence and social policies.

There was some discussion regarding the definition of childhood, and it was suggested that the resolution is more about human beings under the age of 18 having rights. Lacking full information about the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, Council members agreed to table the resolution to the next meeting.

MOTION: To table the Human Rights of Children resolution to the February 2011 meeting and ask the Human Rights Section and the Executive Office to provide more information on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Carried.

B. Dates for the Winter Council Meeting

Dates of Saturday-Sunday, February 12-13, 2011, were selected for the winter Council meeting. The accompanying meeting of the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline Advisory Group was set for Friday evening, February 11, 2011.

C. Proposed Council Task Force on the Post-Doc in Sociology

Following a successful selection process this past spring for the first cohort of the new ASA/NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship program, staff sociologists Roberta Spalter-Roth and Jean Shin submitted a recommendation that Council establish a new Task Force on Post-Doctorates in Sociology, with the aim being to better understand the place, purpose, and future career trajectories of post-doctoral appointments in the discipline and to formulate policy recommendations.

The resources available to ASA from the NSF grant for conducting the evaluation sub-contract on the ASA/NSF program are small, and the Executive Office will not be able to gather and weigh all of the available evidence. Although there appears to be mixed evidence about the value of post doctorate programs and the treatment of participants in other disciplines, all of the evidence has not been evaluated. In contrast to the biological sciences, and increasingly fields such as mathematics, engineering, and psychology, where a post doctorate appointment is a transition stage for nearly all PhDs, sociology had 37 post doctorates in 2006, a substantial decline since 1999 (according to the NSF Survey of Doctoral Recipients (SDR)). A Task Force of sociologists with experience in doing research on higher education could aid ASA in answering important questions about the current and future status of the post doctorate programs in sociology.

The mission of the proposed Task Force would be to:

- 1) Work with the ASA Executive Office to weigh evidence from the evaluation of the Postdoctoral Fellowship program.
- 2) Do research comparing findings in sociology and other disciplines, both within and outside the social and behavioral sciences, working with other professional societies if appropriate and also the National Postdoctoral Association, of which ASA is a member.
- 3) Investigate research and policy concerns in science and higher education that have to do with post doctorates across disciplines, and provide directions for future research on post doctorates and career-related issues, funding, and the workforce.
- 4) Weigh what aspects of the natural science model sociology might follow and what are the potential problems and issues that need to be addressed.
- 5) Identify recommendations for new and existing post doctorate programs in sociology with regard to mentoring and training, and develop a network of research universities and programs that house post doctorates in sociology to increase potential dialogue and cooperation.

In response to questions about the substantive difference between having staff do the study and appointing outside people, it was noted that a broader array of views would be represented and there would be more assistance and support for the research. To form the task force, normal governance processes would be used to call for volunteers and generate nominations from the membership. Emphasis would be placed on encouraging volunteers who have thought about the shape of higher education or had experience with post doctorates or had a post doctorate themselves.

MOTION: To set up a Task Force on the Post-Doc in Sociology. Carried.

D. Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Adjournment

With expressions of appreciation for the efforts of ASA staff in general, and Kareem Jenkins in particular, President Collins adjourned the first meeting of the 2010-2011 ASA Council at 3:53pm on Wednesday, August 18, 2010.