

Official Reports and Proceedings

2000-2001 Council Minutes

Present: Richard Alba, Elijah Anderson, Catherine White Berheide, William T. Bielby, Florence B. Bonner, Diane Brown, Craig Calhoun (August 16 only), Nancy Denton, Paul DiMaggio, Joe R. Feagin, Richard Flacks, Arne Kalleberg, Nan Lin, Carole C. Marks (August 16 only), Douglas S. Massey, Ross Matsueda, Barbara Reskin, Barbara J. Risman (August 16 only), and Lynn Smith-Lovin

Absent: Michael J. Burawoy

Staff: Felice J. Levine, Carla B. Howery, Phoebe H. Stevenson, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Edward Murguia (August 16 only), Alfonso Latoni

Wednesday, August 16, 2000

President Doug Massey convened the Council at 1:10 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with one change: Consideration of committee and representational appointments will take place as the first item of business on the agenda for August 17.

2. Report of the President

President Massey reported on the progress of the 2001 Annual Meeting. The Program Committee has been meeting and working for a year, and the planning process is moving along smoothly. The hotels provide a very good site with all of the necessary accommodations, but there is some concern about available activities beyond the meeting, other than Disneyland. Massey reported that the Program Committee discussed the possibility of condensing the five-day meeting into four days and that this issue would be taken up by Council. He noted that the reasons included containment of costs, especially for attendees, and maximizing the presence of more participants on the same days. He indicated that most learned societies of ASA's size meet for four days. He emphasized that, if Council approves this change, there would be more concurrent sessions, not fewer sessions.

Council members asked how ASA decided on Anaheim as a meeting site. Massey indicated that a prior Council selected the site seeking a southern California location and a choice other than San Francisco for a West Coast rotation. Furthermore, since ASA met in downtown Los Angeles in 1994, a different location was deemed appealing.

3. Report of the Secretary

Secretary Florence Bonner provided a brief report on membership, sections, and subscriptions. Reminding Council that the Association year does not end until September 30, she noted that there is a drop in the 2000 membership count compared to the same time period in 1999. In general, the retention rate across all membership categories is slightly lower when compared to 1999, though the retention rates overall (and especially in higher dues categories) remain healthy. Also, the reintroduction

of the Emeritus category in 2000 has resulted in migration of members from other membership categories. Bonner emphasized that the renewal pattern and the recruitment of new members will continue to be important for the Association in the coming years.

Bonner then turned her attention to the section report. She indicated that the total number of section memberships varies with the total number of ASA members because the average number of section memberships has remained relatively stable. As a result, the lower year-to-date membership in 2000 has yielded slightly fewer total section members when compared with the 1999 count. Levine reported that Craig Jenkins, Chair of the Committee on Sections, has been in contact with chairs of sections with low membership counts to encourage those sections to be more proactive in their membership drives.

Bonner added that directly before the Annual Meeting she had attended the Unity Meeting of Practice and Applied Associations and that she believed this kind of consensus building effort should be continued. She noted that the continued collaboration of the Sociological Practice Section, one of the sections which has experienced a significant level of member decline, with the aligned groups might strengthen the base of the section. Council member Bielby, who is also a member of the Committee on Sections (COS), reported that COS had extensive discussion about the size of sections. One sentiment among Committee members was that as long as a section remains vital, it should be allowed to continue to operate. He further indicated that the restructuring of the Committee on Sections in 2000 to include representation from among outgoing section chairs was well received by section officers.

Council discussed the fact that over time there were few members in the lowest income categories. Council members reflected on whether the categories were the right divisions or whether a more progressive dues structure should be developed. For example, perhaps there should be further gradation above the \$70,000 level. A new dues structure might be one in which members from higher income categories (above \$70,000) pay higher dues so that members from lower income categories can be further subsidized. Some Council members felt that this might help in the recruiting of new members. They expressed concerns about any drop, however slight, especially given the good economy.

Regarding membership generally, Vice President Alba observed that there seems to be a notable number of members moving from the journal-included dues categories to the non-journal dues categories. Council discussed various reasons for the shift in subscription patterns among members. Regarding section memberships, Massey pointed out that the number of ASA sections has increased significantly since the early 1990s, while the level of section participation among members has remained fairly constant. These figures imply that there seems to be a limit to the number of sections that a member chooses to join, for reasons of dues and other resources or member's desired level of substantive investment in subfield specialties.

4. Proposal on Animals and Society as a Section-in-formation

As part of the section report, Deputy Executive Officer Stevenson provided an update on the status of Animals and Society as a section-in-formation. She noted that the group of members supporting this proposed section-in-formation has gathered the required number of signatures—more than 100—to become a section-in-formation. Council had provisionally approved the proposal in 1999 with the understanding that at least 100 signatures of 2000 members would be collected. Therefore, Animals and Society will formally become a section-in-formation starting with the 2001 membership year.

5. Subscriptions

Bonner returned to presenting the subscription report. She indicated to Council that institutional subscriptions seemed again to be experiencing a modest drop, which is a pattern being experienced to even a larger extent in other learned societies. Council discussed the potential impact of JSTOR, which provides electronic access to back issues of selected ASA journals, on member and institutional subscriptions. Secretary Bonner indicated that the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) and the Executive Office will continue to examine more data on institutional subscribers so we can understand the trends. Massey assured Council that EOB has made this topic a top priority. Council member Marks, who is also vice chair of the Task Force on Journal Diversity, suggested that the Task Force should also examine subscription patterns in light of Council's concern about intellectual diversity among ASA journals. Levine indicated that the Executive Office has been scrutinizing the data and will report back to EOB and Council in the winter.

6. Report of the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Levine made some general introductory remarks, indicating how much she was looking forward to working with the new Council. She noted that many of the key items on the agenda reflected the work of the Association and its staff. She thanked Secretary Bonner for her support and availability and welcomed Arne Kalleberg as Secretary-elect. She noted that having Bonner and Kalleberg working together in their overlapping year will be an asset to the Association. Levine also introduced Alfonso Latoni, who succeeds Ed Murguia as the new Director for the Minority Affairs Program. Murguia returns to Texas A&M after a two-year leave. She also reported that Deputy Executive Officer Stevenson will be taking a leave this coming year.

Levine addressed the general issue of member contributions and annual giving. She reported that there has been a slight increase in both the number and amount of donations. She indicated that over half of the contributions that came as part of dues was earmarked for the Minority Fellowship Program. She indicated that, while the annual giving drive yielded only modest funds, the Minority Fellowship Program received the most donations. She noted the importance of returning to the topic of a development campaign for the Association.

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tion in 2001.

Levine also provided an overview of innovations on the ASA website and in other areas of technology. She indicated that the Member Forum, a threaded discussion space on the ASA homepage, is about ready to be launched. She noted that past President Feagin had identified three discussion topics and that a fourth topic would also be added related to the 2001 Annual Meeting. Levine asked Deputy Executive Officer Stevenson to address some of the other areas of emphasis related to technology.

Stevenson highlighted important features such as online membership and meeting registration on the ASA homepage. She emphasized that ASA was in the final stages of determining how best to update its membership database and management system. She reported that, with the concurrence of EOB at its July meeting, the decision was provisionally made to update to the new version of NOAH, which has been ASA's existing system. The conversion is anticipated to take place in spring 2001, with contract negotiations to be finalized this fall. She noted that the approved 2000 budget includes funds for the new system and that EOB will be briefed before any final commitment is made.

7. Report of the President-Elect

President-elect Barbara Reskin reported that "Persistence of Ascription" will be the general theme for the 2002 Annual Meeting though the exact title has not been finalized. She presented a slate of Program Committee members and briefed Council on each individual's areas of expertise. She reported that the Program Committee has met and brainstormed about the use of sequence events (or sequential sessions). Starting with a plenary where the invited speakers would raise key issues, the meeting will have two to three sessions expanding on those issues, with perhaps one of them as a brownbag event (where members can share meals together). She welcomes Council members to provide input on ways to enhance scholarly communication using different session types and formats for the Annual Meeting.

Motion: To approve the proposed 2002 Program Committee. Carried unanimously.

8. Report on ASA Investment and Reserves

Secretary Bonner reported that the recent market situation has had a negative effect on the ASA's investment portfolio, although the general longer-term performance remains positive. She highlighted the performance of the Building Fund and indicated that EOB has worked hard with ASA's investment manager at Fiduciary International to develop strategies to generate the needed income to contribute to the annual lease for the Executive Office. She reported that the anticipated income should meet the annual objective and that EOB is pleased with the overall performance. While the overall strategy is risk-adverse, we have been able to achieve healthy growth.

Bonner explained how EOB works closely with ASA's investment manager by having regular face-to-face meetings. EOB has recently interviewed other investment managers to gauge our performance and overall strategies. In addition, Executive Officer Levine and Deputy Executive Officer Stevenson also have frequent phone conversations with the investment man-

ager to discuss the market trends and portfolio performance.

Council discussed the overall performance and the investment fees involved. Vice President Alba noted the availability of TIAA as a possible investment option. Massey explained that EOB reviewed various options when the Building Fund became available for investment and determined that ASA benefits from the economy of scale by having the same investment manager handle all of the ASA long-term investment portfolios. Levine indicated that the Rose and Spivack Funds also have annual income requirements and that it is important for ASA's investment manager to manage the asset allocation and investment to ensure that the needed income can be generated.

9. Committee on Publications

Secretary Bonner and Executive Officer Levine gave a brief overview on the meeting of the Committee on Publications (COP). Bonner indicated that Jonathan Turner, Editor of *Sociological Theory*, had requested an increase of 66 pages for the journal's 2001 volume year in order to clear the backlog of accepted manuscripts. The request was received in mid-year but the Committee on Publications asked for a 6-month checkpoint. In August, COP reviewed the situation and recommended the request for Council's approval.

Motion: To approve a 66-page increase for *Sociological Theory* for the 2001 volume year. Carried unanimously.

10. Committee on Sections

Deputy Executive Officer Stevenson indicated that her report would be brief because some general issues considered by the Committee on Sections were addressed earlier in discussing section membership. In particular, she reminded Council that the reduced budget allocation for sections below 300 members would go into effect in 2001 and that sections were aware that this would happen. She also reported that Economic Sociology, which was granted section-in-information status by Council in February 1999, officially began enlisting members during the 2000 membership year. As of August 4, this section-in-information has 376 members, thus surpassing the required membership count of 300 to achieve full section status. In addition, the section-in-information has submitted its proposed By-laws to the Committee on Sections, which has recommended them for Council's approval.

Motion: To approve the By-laws submitted by Economic Sociology; thus, granting Economic Sociology full section status. Carried unanimously.

11. Update on Task Forces

Executive Officer Levine introduced the topic by noting that Council had created five Task Forces in 1999 to address specific topics of importance to the discipline and profession. Each Task Force has a Council and an Executive Office staff liaison. While Task Forces will issue reports for Council's review, the liaisons working with the Task Forces should provide interim updates on progress. Since the Task Forces had met in August, this agenda item was planned for those updates.

Task Force on Articulation of Sociology in Two-Year and Four-year Sociology Programs. Council member

Berheide and Deputy Executive Officer Howery reported that the Task Force has gathered articulation documents from a number of states and has consulted with sociology departments to ascertain what features of these agreements are helpful or problematic. Several states have mandatory articulation agreements where courses from two-year institutions can transfer into public four-year institutions within the state. Arizona and Illinois are the two states that have strong statements and active involvement by sociologists, including the Illinois Sociological Association. The Task Force plans a preliminary report to Council in January and a final report in January 2002.

Council discussed the importance of this Task Force, especially with the expansion of community colleges in higher education. Council noted the importance of a report that focused on the substantive alignment between two- and four-year programs and any guidelines or models that might serve to strengthen that fit.

Task Force on International Focus of American Sociology. Council member Flacks reported that the group met at the Annual Meeting. The Task Force has conducted content analysis of the Annual Meeting program and a research assistant has been hired to move the work forward. Three preliminary reports have been prepared: international focus of the Annual Meeting, international focus of teaching materials, and funding for international scholars. The Task Force is motivated to continue but requested better communication regarding resources and staffing. The group asked about the rationale behind the four charges as well as the reason for the discontinuation of the Committee on International Sociology.

President Massey indicated that, based on their reports, the Task Force should come up with recommendations for ASA and Council. Executive Officer Levine indicated that communication between the Task Forces and the staff and Council liaisons needed to be better aligned. Alfonso Latoni, who joined the staff in July, was succeeding Ed Murguia as staff liaison to the Task Force. She noted that Task Force chairs were informed in initial communications that funding requests for special activities could be brought forth and would be considered as part of budget planning. Levine stated, however, that no Task Force members should go out-of-pocket for undertaking valuable work and that these expenses could be covered in whole or in part under the 2000 committee support budget. She said that she would so inform the Task Force. Levine indicated that, if sufficient funds were not available to cover the total amount estimated at \$3,000, she would cover the costs through using the Executive Officer's discretionary fund.

New Council member Risman asked about the context in which specific Task Forces were appointed and how charges were developed. Levine provided a summary of the process that led Council to approve a "Task Force" model within the ASA governance structure. She indicated that Council introduced this model to address issues in a more flexible, timely, and focused manner; to broaden the ways that ideas for Association work could be brought to Council; to broaden the base of volunteer participation in ASA; and to strengthen Council's interest in work that it wished to have done. In the first round of the task force "model," Council

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identified five Task Forces to work on key topics suggested primarily by now former committees. In general, possible charges for Task Forces can come to Council from members, sections, task forces, committees, or Council itself. To ensure effective outreach, Council also puts out an annual call for Task Force ideas, although ideas may be submitted at any time. Task Forces address issues important to the discipline or Association such as the recent Task Force on ASA Journal Diversity. Council member Berheide gave the example of committees, such as the former committees on Teaching Sociology and International Sociology, proposing related task forces to address issues that they thought needed to be done.

President-elect Reskin inquired about the use of the reports to be developed by these Task Forces. She stressed the importance of timely action by Council on recommendations proposed by Task Forces. Levine indicated that these reports might lead to a variety of outcomes such as improved teaching materials and the sharing of findings with other learned societies. Massey encouraged Council to stand ready to review recommendations from these Task Forces and take appropriate actions. He reaffirmed that the task force model, which replaced a large number of former committees appointed by Council, aims to produce timely and targeted recommendations and action on them.

Council members expressed concern that, as with the prior committees, there was the possibility of initial enthusiasm dwindling due to the lag time between when Task Forces were formed and when their reports issued. Council discussed the provision of better orientation for Task Force members, including clearly stating the expectations and support provided, similar to the orientation prepared for section officers. The importance of good communication with Task Forces was emphasized so that a more "entrepreneurial" model for task forces can be achieved, and so that its volunteer format can bring members closer to the Association. There was consensus that more effective and proactive communication with Task Forces is important.

Task Force on Hate/Bias Acts on College and University Campuses. Levine reported that, while neither she nor Council liaison Marks could attend the meeting, the group did meet. Leonard Gordon is serving as chair of the Task Force. The Task Force has collected and reviewed literature on the topic as well as reports received from institutions that have had such acts on their campuses. The group has asked for an additional year to complete its work.

Task Force on Implication of Assessing Faculty Productivity and Teaching Effectiveness. Council liaison Bielby reported that the group met and reviewed how best to assess faculty productivity and teaching effectiveness in a period where academic institutions are emphasizing outcome assessment. State-mandated outcome assessment was a rationale for the formation of this Task Force, although there was the hope that a Task Force could address how to usefully and effectively make these evaluations. The group is in the process of gathering information about how sociology departments are approaching the challenge of assessment and how they are documenting workloads and faculty effectiveness. The Task Force will develop and administer a questionnaire and write up case studies

to accompany their report in spring 2001. The group requested a budget allocation, and Secretary Bonner has approved an allocation of \$2,500.

Task Force on ASA/AAAS Relations. The group's charge was to evaluate the relationship between ASA and AAAS. A preliminary report has been submitted and a final report will be available in 2001 for Council's review. Because the next Annual Meeting of AAAS is after Council meets in February, a final report may not be available until a year hence.

Massey summarized that this is the first round of reform and thought that the overall outcome is satisfactory. He recommended that each Council liaison communicate frequently with these Task Forces to find out their progress and determine if they need additional support. Howery indicated that some of the Task Forces will present their reports and solicit feedback at the 2001 Chair Conference.

Council asked how some of these important initiatives can be sustained after a Task Force finishes its work. Levine clarified that after a task force completes its charge, the actual activity that followed would vary based on the specifics of the recommendations or information provided. New Task Forces might even be recommended for further work on certain issues. Furthermore, recommendations that are approved by Council will be incorporated into the operating plans of the Executive Office.

12. Annual Meeting Issues

Preliminary Program. Secretary Bonner summarized the new delivery strategy for the Preliminary Program that was implemented in 2000. She indicated that EOB and the Executive Office have been working on the topic for some time and that the savings from eliminating the print publication were significant. In general, the feedback from the membership and Council has been positive, though there was some concern about persons who may not have access to the internet. Bonner indicated that members were informed through Footnotes that they could request a hardcopy version if they did not have internet access. Such requests were relatively few in number and were filled by the Executive Office.

Council suggested the creation of an ASA member-wide listserv for announcing important topics, such as the availability of the *Preliminary Program*. Council discussed a full-range of topics more generally regarding communications with members. Suggestions included: the availability of full text search for the full program; enhanced search capacity so that a search by a person's name can yield session information, date, and time; an e-mail broadcast reminding members that membership renewal does not include meeting registration or vice versa so that members will not be confused. Council agreed to solicit members' comments regarding the new delivery strategy. Levine indicated that these suggestions were all helpful and would be considered as part of 2001 planning.

Discussion turned to other general Annual Meeting issues. Council felt it was important to communicate with members about why Anaheim was chosen in lieu of other West Coast cities and to explain the costs of a meeting better, including room rates. Council discussed how the general membership does not understand many issues related to how Annual Meet-

ings are structured and that communication is very important. Massey suggested that a list of Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ) be posted on the website and in *Footnotes* as soon as possible.

Meeting Registration Fees and Services at the Annual Meeting. Secretary Bonner summarized the costs related to the shuttle service and the electronic messaging center incurred in 1999 and 2000. She indicated that a rebate arrangement for hotel sleeping rooms has helped pay for these services. EOB reviewed the current practice when it last met and Council was satisfied with the arrangement.

13. Membership Dues

Dues. At its July meeting, EOB unanimously recommended that ASA's membership dues be held unchanged for 2001, making the dues rates constant for a second year. Council discussed whether the dues categories need to be realigned. Levine indicated that the income ranges used in the dues structure were last adjusted in 1996. She reminded Council that ASA's By-laws allow for an annual increase by COLA. While the Association is examining a wide range of issues relating to dues, including the cafeteria plan, it makes sense to hold dues constant for another year.

Motion: To hold 2001 dues at the 1999 and 2000 dues level rather than having a COLA increase. Carried unanimously.

Strategy for Revisiting the Cafeteria Plan. Levine explained the rationale behind reevaluating the cafeteria plan and the complexities and costs of maintaining a dues structure where journal subscriptions are embedded in dues. The topic was first considered in the early 1990s when a joint subcommittee of EOB and the Committee on Publications subcommittee reviewed the cafeteria plan and the current structure. The key concerns are the effects on dues of having a cafeteria plan (with options ranging from no journals to two selections for dues at most income levels), and on the development of a dynamic publications program for ASA to have journal subscriptions fully embedded in dues. In developing the ASA Guidelines on Publications, the Committee on Publications, EOB, and Council committed itself to have financial information on journals and having journals operate on a firm financial footing with fuller information on costs and revenues. She indicated that ASA has since learned from the experiences of other learned societies that have decoupled dues and journal subscriptions, such as the American Psychological Association and the American Statistical Association.

The document "Discussion Points: Decoupling Journals from Dues" presented to Council highlights key discussion topics for Council and EOB to undertake. Levine stressed the importance of taking the time to let the discussion process unfold and to gather input from membership. The issue is extremely important and may bring new opportunities in addition to containing dues. Massey indicated that this issue is becoming more important as we think ahead about electronic publication of journals and the need to know the real costs of journal publication (which is not transparent under the current structure). Unless such cost information is available, it is difficult to determine what the base dues should be if journals

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are decoupled from membership dues.

The discussion turned to whether *Contexts*, the new ASA journal, will be distributed to all members at no cost for one year. Levine indicated that the plan was to provide one or at most two issues to members at no charge. Mailing expenses are very costly. Thus, one possibility is to distribute the first issue at specialty and regional meetings to generate visibility and to send the second issue to all members.

Council members discussed how best to support journal publishing and ensure that journals are self-sustaining. Some members of Council expressed concern about the Association running too much like a business where operations are evaluated in terms of revenue and expenses. Levine indicated that a commitment to a high quality, dynamic publications program was leading the Committee on Publications, EOB, and prior Councils to this reconsideration. The Committee on the Executive Office and Budget and the Executive Office were also examining ways to contain or streamline costs, such as reducing redundant costs. Vice President Alba suggested that this discussion be broadened to include JSTOR. He suggested reducing the JSTOR subscription fee so that the service can be more widely available and affordable.

Council member DiMaggio expressed three concerns. First, in the sociology of accounting, there is no innocent calculation of overhead. People will disagree about how to assess indirect and transaction costs. Second, ASA should be careful about centralizing services across several entities. Potential political conflicts over access to services may lead to new costs and problems. Third, it is important for Council to work in partnership with the Committee on Publications (COP). Levine indicated that in many respects it was these very kinds of concerns that were motivating this reexamination. She noted as well that Michael Schwartz, the most recent past chair of the Committee on Publications, had been very involved in the cafeteria plan discussion and had wanted to recommend decoupling dues from subscriptions as part of the Publications Guidelines. That draft section of the Guidelines was not brought forward because we concluded that any change of this nature required more study. Levine also indicated that Bernice Pescosolido, the new Chair of the Publications Committee, has been fully briefed on the topic and that it will be on the COP's agenda for December.

Bonner emphasized the fact that there will be a broad comment period. Council discussed both the benefits to ASA publications and the importance of finding out what appeals to members beyond the benefit of journal subscriptions. The concern is whether decoupling or any other restructuring changes might affect membership in general, given that membership has been fairly stable in recent years. Council also realized that a reluctance to change the system could have consequences for ASA, as members have access to and opt to receive journals through different ways.

Council member Berheide asked the question of what "breaking-even" means. Levine indicated that the intent of the Publications Committee, EOB, and Council is that over time each journal would operate at no net loss—considering all revenue and costs. The "member price" would continue to be a deeply dis-

counted price if uncoupling were to occur. Council member Risman used the example of *Gender and Society* to show that a contract can be negotiated with a publisher so that publishing the journal would be profitable for the organization. Levine indicated that ASA journals do produce a positive revenue. The topic is being addressed in order to ensure a continued positive financial footing, not due to any specific concerns. She also pointed out that, from a revenue point of view, it is generally advantageous for the Association to publish journals on their own behalf rather than contract out this activity where revenue needs to be shared.

Council discussed whether some members' ill feelings towards *ASR* stemmed from the belief that membership dues were subsidizing a journal that they personally may not find to be useful/meaningful. Council discussed ways to provide more information to the membership and how to receive feedback. Levine indicated that the analyses to be undertaken and any recommendation to depart from the cafeteria plan could go a long way to reducing any such member concerns.

14. ASA Program Reports

Minority Affairs Program (MAP). Ed Murguia reported that the Program is in good shape. He welcomed Alfonso Latoni, the incoming MAP Director, with whom he has overlapped for the last three weeks. The five-year renewal application for the Minority Fellowship Program was successfully funded by NIMH, with a total of \$2.7 million for the next five years. There are a number of new initiatives planned for the new grant period: incoming fellows will attend a special workshop and be invited to attend the Annual Meeting; mentoring conferences will be held to strengthen Fellows' mentoring and the connections of the MFP program to the Fellows' university training programs; a "working group" will be convened of departments wishing to share good practices in sociology of mental health training; and interdisciplinary training workshops will be held for ASA Fellows with Fellows from the American Psychological Association's MFP Program.

Murguia reported that Minority Opportunities through School Transformation (MOST) continues to be a collaborative effort involving Carla Howery, Havidan Rodriguez, and Felice Levine. He noted that funds from The Ford Foundation have permitted working intensively with 11 departments. The goal is to use various activities to institutionalize research-based training and mentoring. MOST departments have been learning from each other, developing measures (quantitatively and qualitatively) to assess their performance, and compiling and disseminating best practices.

Latoni also reported on the high quality of the MOST roundtables at the Annual Meeting this year. Council members asked when current funding for MOST will end. Levine indicated that we anticipate the program continuing under ASA's leadership over the next two years, but with the 2001-2002 year being a period of disseminating and transporting results. She indicated that there will be some transition through a capstone conference, probably to be held in March 2002. Institutions should be developing their own resources to continue. Funding from The Ford Foundation was meant to be a stimulus and not to provide ongoing support. The plan is that the changes introduced

in departments and the way departments are now working will be sustainable after the formal ASA MOST Program has completed its work.

Additional program reports will be presented tomorrow. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Thursday, August 17, 2000

President Massey convened the Council at 9:15 a.m.

15. Committee Appointments

Council Committee Memberships and Liaisons. President Massey confirmed the liaison roles for existing committees and task forces.

Recommendations from the Committee on Awards for Various ASA Award Selection Committees. Council reviewed the recommendations from the ASA Committee on Awards for new members for the Award Selection Committees.

Motion: To accept the recommendations as amended. Carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the President – At-Large Committee Members and Representational Appointments. President Massey distributed his recommendations for these appointments.

Recommendations from the Secretary – Committee on the Executive Office and Budget. Secretary Bonner presented recommendations for the open position on the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget.

Motion: To accept the recommendations as amended. Carried. (1 absence).

Recommendations from the Executive Officer – Advisory Panels for MFP and Spivack Program. Executive Officer Levine presented a slate of names for the advisory panels for the Minority Fellowship Program and the Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy within the Executive Office.

Motion: To accept the recommendations. Carried unanimously.

Past Vice President Lin suggested that recommendations presented be ranked in future years.

16. Task Force Recommendations from ASA Council Subcommittee

The Council Subcommittee, mindful of ASA's commitment to diversity, presented the lists of recommendations for the Task Force on the Advanced Placement Course in Sociology for High Schools and the Task Force on an ASA Statement on Race.

Task Force on the Advanced Placement Course in Sociology for High Schools. Council discussed the work of this Task Force and the place sociology currently has in high schools and might have if an AP course were developed.

Motion: To approve the amended list of Task Force members and chair. Carried unanimously.

Task Force on an ASA Statement on Race. The Council Subcommittee decided that members of this Task Force should be scholars of race and that they need to have race as a primary area of concern and study. The Subcommittee also suggested members with strong scholarly reputations representing a diversity of constituencies. They presented their recommendations using the criteria stated above. Council dis-

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cluded the recommendations and added three additional names.

Motion: To approve the amended list of Task Force members and chair. Carried unanimously.

17. Report from Council Subcommittee on ASA Policymaking and Member Resolutions

Alba reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. Members of the Subcommittee include Alba, Chair; Bielby; Smith-Lovin; and Levine. Alba indicated that the final subcommittee report will be presented to Council at its mid-winter meeting. Based on its meeting at the Annual Meeting, the Subcommittee decided that there should be modifications to the resolution proposed by the prior Council Subcommittee. The discussion at the ASA Business Meeting this year suggests that some members are concerned that this resolution would infringe on ASA's openness, if adopted. Therefore, the Subcommittee would like to continue to seek member input about how best to handle resolutions. Alba reminded Council that member resolutions are not that common. He reiterated that groups presenting resolutions must include social science background information to support the resolution. However, according to former Council members, Council is often unable to evaluate this information readily or it needs additional information.

The Subcommittee is inclined toward recommending some kind of National Research Council (NRC) model for the consideration of policy resolutions that rely on social science knowledge. Alba indicated that the Subcommittee leaned toward recommending the continuation of the framework for handling member resolutions provisionally adopted in 1993 and officially adopted in 1996. He indicated, however, that a process needed to be put in place for Council to evaluate the social science evidence (whether it supports the resolution, whether the resolution is appropriate for the ASA) and/or recommend further activities.

Alba indicated that the NRC model allowed for the presentation of multiple points of view in assessing the strength of the knowledge on a particular topic. Levine circulated a handout on the 1996 guidelines for Business Meeting Resolutions. Past President Feagin reminded Council that the latest round of efforts to review the Business Meeting resolution is prompted by the "Don't ask don't tell" resolution proposed by the Gay and Lesbian Caucus. Based on materials presented then, Council did not feel that it was in a position to make a determination. The "Don't ask don't tell" resolution is still being tabled and will be the test case when and if Council approves the report/recommendation. Massey encouraged Council members to provide input to Alba.

18. Proposal to Change the Annual Meeting from Five to Four Days

Levine summarized the proposal to hold a shorter Annual Meeting being brought forth by President Massey and Secretary Bonner after discussion this past February and August with the 2001 Program Committee. The idea was to consider the 2001 Annual Meeting to be an experiment with a shorter meeting, and, if successful, it can be considered as a permanent arrangement. The goal is to condense the Annual Meeting and to increase the critical mass

of participants attending the meeting at the same time. While this change will increase the number of simultaneous sessions, it should help with community building since increasingly participants attend for only parts of the meeting. In addition to the potential fit with member preferences and behavior, a shorter meeting will also facilitate future negotiation with hotels and contain costs for both members and the Association. National societies of the Association's size usually do not have 5-day annual meetings.

Bonner noted that this possibility has been discussed informally before. The 2001 meeting in Anaheim seemed like a good year to experiment with the change because the location may be even less conducive to attendees coming for the full time. She indicated that the decision needs to be made now so that the Executive Office can make all the necessary arrangements and that all of the announcements of the meeting—including the Call for Papers—would reflect this change. Past Vice President Lin suggested that a survey be conducted among attendees to identify the highly overlapping sections and sessions for use in future scheduling.

Council members expressed concerns about the possible impact on sections as they have been operating under the ongoing "Section Day" rotation. Massey indicated that sections will be informed immediately if the proposal is approved and they will have an opportunity for input about the transition to a 4-day model. Council emphasized the importance of soliciting member feedback, especially about the impact of this proposed change on sections. Council discussed ways in which session organizers could be innovative about the session format and use more interactive refereed roundtables and other venues in addition to paper presentations. Council expressed concerns about exhibitors who do not stay for the full duration of the meeting. Levine indicated that having a shorter meeting period would respond to the concerns of attendees and exhibitors about the exhibits only being available for part of the meeting. Council member Denton noted that, since members belonging to sections belong to 2.3 sections on average, then condensing the meeting duration should help reduce the need for attendees to stay from day 1 through 5.

Motion: To shorten the 2001 Annual Meeting from five to four days. Carried (yes, 11; abstain, 2).

19. 2000 Financial Statement and Analysis

Secretary Bonner stated that the 2000 financial analysis is only a preliminary report based on half-year information. She reported that dues revenues to date are below budget due to the slightly lower membership count thus far. Subscription revenues as well as other publications sales revenues are being projected to be slightly below budget. She noted that these revenue projections are conservative because they are based on mid-year numbers. She also reported on projected revenues from the Annual Meeting, noting that a complete picture will not be available until after the Annual Meeting.

On the expense side, Bonner reported that the personnel-related expenses are projected to be below budget due to the phasing in of staff which was budgeted on a 12-month ba-

sis. Bonner also reported on publications-related expenses, noting that the above-budget expenditure can be attributed primarily to the additional page allocation given to *ASR* to clear a significant backlog. All other expenditures are generally on budget. She indicated that, while Council approved a deficit budget for 2000 and we still project a slight deficit, we are optimistic about the end-of-year balance.

In discussing the revenue generated from JSTOR, Vice President Alba inquired about the subscription rates for JSTOR. He is concerned about the initial objective to make JSTOR available to members who otherwise would not have access through their institutions. He suggested that we consider lowering the subscription fees so that JSTOR is more accessible and affordable for individuals. There was consensus among Council members that EOB reconsider the pricing structure to make sure that JSTOR is widely accessible.

20. Business Meeting Resolutions

Council first reviewed a resolution which urged welfare regulations, especially under the new reform legislation, to recognize post-secondary education as a form of qualified activities. Massey and Levine indicated that, based on ASA's 1993 policy on member resolutions, the resolution needs to be accompanied by more background information. Council suggested that the resolution be returned to the submitting group and that the group should be encouraged to prepare further supporting materials.

Motion: To request the submitting group to prepare further supporting materials and Council will consider the resolution at its January meeting. Approved unanimously.

21. ASA Program Reports Continued

Academic and Professional Affairs Program. Howery indicated that her written report focused on key activities in MOST and on peer review of teaching. She focused her presentation on a new initiative that involved disciplinary associations collaborating with higher education associations on the topic of Preparing Future Faculty. Four graduate departments (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Indiana University, Texas A&M University, and North Carolina State University) were competitively selected to prepare future faculty for 2- and 4-year colleges. She also reported on recent collaborations with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Carnegie funded two cohorts of sociology scholars (a total of nine individuals) on teaching and learning to spend summers at the Carnegie Foundation working on a project. Also, she noted that Carnegie provided support for a summer workshop on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Sociology, held July 20-23 at James Madison University. The Academic and Professional Affairs Program collaborated with the Section on Undergraduate Education in convening this workshop. Forty-five sociologists at various career stages were competitively selected to participate in this workshop, from which a number of publications are expected.

Levine reported on CUR (Council of Undergraduate Research) which is an association created to enhance undergraduate research in science. By virtue of ASA's encouragement, CUR

(continued)

has now expanded to include memberships for sociology and other social sciences in addition to other scientific fields. (Psychology has been a part of CUR.) ASA encouraged CUR to broaden its involvement since the intent of CUR is to reach to all NSF-funded disciplines.

Spivack Program. Levine and Howery reported briefly on the Program and key activities underway. The Program continues to hold valuable Congressional seminars and produce the Issue Series in Applied Social Research and Social Policy. The most recent product in that Series is on *Hate Crime in America: What Do We Know?* The next Congressional seminar will be held in the fall and will focus on social science research on neighborhoods. This year, the Spivack Program also sponsored two pre-Annual Meeting professional workshops on how to conduct policy research and how to work effectively on Capitol Hill. The new ASA Congressional Fellow is Larry Burmeister, University of Kentucky, who specializes in rural sociology and will seek a Hill placement beginning in January 2001 on issues relating to the environment and resources.

Research Program. Spalter-Roth brought Council's attention to the recent publication of freestanding research briefs. While data reports and briefs have been disseminated through *Footnotes* in recent years, the intent has been for the Program also to produce some separate data reports on issues important to the discipline and profession. The first two such briefs are based on the PhD Tracking Survey. ASA is currently working on the dissemination strategy and how to deliver these briefs as economically as possible. Along with the other Associations which collaborated on the Tracking Survey, funds are being sought for a small planning grant to continue that work.

The Research Program is also planning on conducting another survey of sociology departments. A number of chairs who attended the Chairs Conference at the Annual Meeting volunteered to participate in a pre-test. Council member Smith-Lovin suggested that perhaps the research briefs could be made available online on the website rather than incurring printing costs. Levine indicated that ASA is thinking about ways in which knowledge from ASA Programs can be disseminated, especially given the advances in technology in recent years. This could include the dissemination of research briefs, teaching materials, career publications, and other products. President-elect Reskin suggested that perhaps the Association should consider inclusion of a donation checkbox on the renewal form for members to make donations to support research on the discipline.

Public Information and Public Affairs Program. In reporting on ASA work with the media and in public information, Levine emphasized the presence of media and their engagement in the 2000 Annual Meeting. She indicated that ASA held two press conferences that resulted in coverage from more than 20 press persons. She noted that two staff members worked intensively on press releases and staffing the press office. Levine also distributed a written report that highlighted ASA's activities in public affairs in 2000. She focused her remarks on ASA's work on the 2000 Census, on the planning and implementation of an NIH conference on the social and cultural aspects of health, on the operations of institutional review boards as they affect the social and behavioral sciences,

and on current efforts to assess the operations of the human subjects review system.

22. *New Business*

There were no other items of new business raised by Council.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.