

# Official Reports and Proceedings

## 2000-2001 Council Minutes

Friday, February 9, 2001

Present: Richard D. Alba, Elijah Anderson, Catherine White Berheide, William T. Bielby, Florence B. Bonner, Diane Brown, Michael Burawoy, Craig Calhoun, Nancy Denton, Paul DiMaggio, Joe R. Feagin, Richard Flacks, Arne L. Kalleberg, Nan Lin, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Douglas S. Massey, Ross Matsueda, Barbara Risman.

Absent: Carole C. Marks, Barbara F. Reskin  
Staff: Felice J. Levine, Carla B. Howery, Alfonso Latoni, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Katherine Rosich

President Douglas Massey convened the Council meeting at 7:30 p.m., following a Council dinner. The Friday evening meeting focused on a number of issues under the topic "The Annual Meeting and Looking Ahead." Executive Officer Felice J. Levine outlined a range of issues requiring Council input, including policies relating to Annual Meeting participation. She introduced Janet Astner, Director of Meeting Services to lead the discussion, but first surprised Astner with toasts from her and others on Council to honor her 25 years of service to the Association in many important capacities.

Council discussed site selection and the criteria for choosing a location for the 2005 Annual Meeting—ASA's centennial year. Next, Council members turned their attention to a consideration of the policies relating to participation in the Annual Meeting. Council passed the following motion.

**Motion:** That the Annual Meeting program policy limiting an individual's participation to two program sessions be broadened to allow exemptions for professional service activities (e.g., workshop or seminar leader, data resource or funding source representative). Carried unanimously.

Other policies governing participation were also discussed, and Council reaffirmed the importance of current guidance. In particular, Council indicated that (1) an appearance as a book critic or invited panelist is a substantive role and does not qualify for a professional service exemption, and (2) participation is limited to one sole authorship per individual.

Saturday, February 10, 2001

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

### 1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved as presented. Council reaffirmed its approval of the minutes from the August 16-17, 2000 meeting, previously reviewed and approved by e-mail.

### 2. Report of the President

President Massey reported that plans and activities for the 2001 Annual Meeting were proceeding smoothly. He said that the vast majority of the meeting sessions were organized, and that several more author-meets-critic sessions and special sessions have been added. He also noted that a videotape has been commissioned, entitled "Cities in Celluloid," as an added feature; it covers topics such as the systematic disenfranchisement of the electorate.

### 3. Report on Behalf of the President-elect

Secretary Florence Bonner reported for President-elect Barbara F. Reskin, who was ill and unable to travel to Washington, DC for the Council meeting. Bonner said that the 2002 program planning was progressing quite well. She described the innovative meeting format proposed for the 2002 meetings, designed to offer multiple opportunities to learn about and discuss a key topic. As currently envisioned, a plenary session would feature invited speakers who would raise key issues. Two or three special sessions would then follow that expand on those issues, leading to a final tier of roundtable discussions to encourage member dialogue. Secretary Bonner commended Janet Astner for doing an excellent job of keeping the 2002 meeting on track.

### 4. Report of the Secretary

Secretary Bonner reported on 2000 membership and section membership figures. Noting that there was a small drop (202 members) below 13,000 members, Bonner said that membership numbers since 1995 have remained fairly stable, and retention rates across categories have remained fairly strong. Rates of retention are highest for regular members at 86 percent and lowest for student members at 73 percent.

Turning to section membership, Secretary Bonner noted that 60 percent of ASA members are section members, and on average they belong to more than two sections. She noted that the decline across sections generally reflects the decline in membership in 2000. Overall however, sections remain healthy. Sections with the largest membership include Medical Sociology; Organizations, Occupations, and Work; and Sex and Gender, each with more than 1000 members. She noted that the Section on Economic Sociology reached full section status and made the 300 plus membership mark.

### 5. Report of the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Levine presented a brief overview of where the Association has focused its attention for the past five or six months. She complimented the Executive Office staff on doing an excellent substantive job both for the Association and for sociology. The result has been a strengthening of internal work, and also

raising the visibility of sociology externally.

Levine also reported on ASA's continuing contributions to the Census as a member of the Decennial Census Advisory Committee. In addition, she provided an update on her activities over the past year on issues of human subjects protection relating to the social and behavioral sciences. She underscored that ASA and the other social science societies were working to bring to the fore the concerns of researchers and teachers about sound ethical and scholarly practices. President Massey added that Levine was appointed by outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to the National Human Research Protection Advisory Committee, and, as a result, the social and behavioral sciences are in an unusually good position to have an impact.

Levine also provided an update on grant support. She indicated that she had been informed informally that the proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the renewal of the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) was being recommended for funding. She commended Roberta Spalter-Roth for her work on the proposal. Also, she reported that she had heard informally that the proposal she submitted to NSF with William Frey (University of Michigan) to undertake a "Collaborative Project on Integrating Census Data into the Curriculum" will receive support.

Levine said that another major area of focus over the past several months has been ASA website development. The active involvement of the Executive Office staff in this project was a key factor in the successes achieved so far. On-line submission of abstracts and papers for the Annual Meeting was a priority in the website development, and, while submitting documents online can be frustrating initially, the web developers have been attentive to solving problems. The database containing the abstracts and paper submissions will function as an ongoing repository, which will be accessible in the member-only area after the end of calendar year. It will also be the location from which papers presented at the Annual Meeting can be purchased.

Council discussed website developments and raised some questions about the technical aspects of the system. Council members asked whether there were plans to expand the system capacity for dissemination of Council materials. Levine said the goal of this phase of the website development is to set up a backbone or a template, which would include restricted listservs where committees and task forces can communicate with each other. Included in this design would be a structure that would have the capacity for the Executive Officer to communicate with Council and to post materials for Council's retrieval.

Levine noted that innovations on the horizon for the ASA website included an online Annual Meeting program with more robust search ca-

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capities and online access to abstracts and texts from ASA journal articles. A goal of ASA, ideally by 2002, is to have journals online in member-only space so that member-subscribers to journals would have access to electronic and print versions. Levine also described the Member Forum that permits interactive, online discussion on topics pertaining to sociology by ASA members. She noted that it is located in the member-only area of the ASA website. She acknowledged the important leadership of Joe Feagin and John Kennedy on this project.

Council members briefly discussed whether formal web posting of journal articles constitutes prior publication for submission of papers for publication. President Massey said that this issue was discussed at the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB). Levine added that ASA has the benefit of legal counsel with expertise and extensive experience in intellectual property issues to guide decisions in this area.

#### 6. Report on ASA Investments and Reserve

Secretary Bonner provided an overview of the state of ASA investments and reserves. She reported that, while ASA investments overall did not perform as well as the S&P index in the last quarter, the designated fund from the house proceeds gained. In response to Council members' questions, she said that in a conference call with the investment manager in January, EOB raised critical questions about investment decisions. Bonner said that EOB meets regularly with Fiduciary Trust International, the ASA investment firm, to discuss the ASA portfolio. In general, while the ASA portfolio reflected the recent market declines, in the long-term, ASA investments have experienced growth with this investment firm. Council members advised a conservative approach to managing the ASA funds, given the uncertainty of the market.

#### 7. Committee on Sections

Executive Officer Levine briefly summarized several recommendations for Council action that were approved by the Committee on Sections (COS) in a conference call on January 25, 2001. Levine also said that the COS was very positive about the change to a four-day Annual Meeting. The Executive Office had fully consulted with COS about this change and the processes for implementing it.

Council took up the general issue discussed by COS about section ballots. Council shared the concern about the need for clarification about what constitutes a ballot. Council thought that section elections and referenda should only be by mail and should not be sent electronically or included in section newsletters. Council encouraged adding language to the Section Manual.

Council discussed the recommendations of the COS, focusing especially on the importance of harmonizing the missions of sections. First on the agenda was the proposal from the Section on Undergraduate Education (SUE) to change the scope, mission, and name of the

section (to the Section on Teaching and Learning). COS had raised concerns about the possible overlap between SUE and the Section on Sociology of Education. Council shared these concerns and was supportive of the process proposed by COS for addressing the issue expeditiously. COS was recommending that SUE consult with the Section on Sociology of Education, reporting back to COS for final review and approval so that SUE could proceed with a spring ballot.

Council members also considered a proposal for a new section-in-formation on Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis. Council expressed some concern that the move to create new sections might encourage fragmentation of existing sections. In addition, Council reviewed bylaw changes proposed by COS. Finally, Council discussed the status of those sections that had dropped below the 300-member requirement. Council then passed a motion addressing four issues relating to sections.

**Motion:** To support the recommendation of the Committee on Sections. Carried (16-0, with 2 abstentions).

To delegate to the Committee on Sections final determination of whether the Section on Undergraduate Education can put on its spring ballot a proposal to change the name and purpose of the Section after a process of that section consulting with the Section on the Sociology of Education

To grant section-in-formation status to Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis, pending a commitment to join from 100 current 2001 members, as prescribed by the *Sections Manual*.

To approve by-law changes that are essentially administrative for the Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements and for the Section on Medical Sociology.

To approve the name change for the Section on Rational Choice to Rationality and Society, consistent with this section's efforts to broaden its appeal.

#### 8. Dues Structure and Cafeteria Plan

Executive Officer Levine presented a brief overview of the efforts over recent years by the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget, the Publications Committee, and Council to undertake an assessment of the dues structure in which journal subscriptions are embedded in a cafeteria of options with dues. The concern has been that ASA dues are high and publishing innovation is constrained by having many journal choices incorporated into the dues structure. Pending a consideration of this issue, since 1999, EOB and Council have kept dues constant without the normal COLA adjustments in 2000 and 2001.

Levine indicated that Fran Marchbank, a consultant with expertise in publishing and membership in scholarly societies, was retained to review this issue. A preliminary report pre-

sented to EOB in July 2000 led EOB to conclude provisionally that the best option was decoupling dues and journal subscriptions requiring that members subscribe to one journal, with no increased costs to members. In August, Council received a report on the EOB meeting and the work that was planned for the fall. After further data gathering and investigation this fall, Fran Marchbank and Levine, with contributions from Director of Publications Karen Edwards, produced an extensive report that provided alternative models and financial analyses.

The report essentially affirmed the provisional recommendation reached by EOB in August. A basic principle in this decoupling plan is to ensure that the overall aggregate cost to members does not increase when dues and subscriptions are separated. While members will be required to take one journal, the vast majority of members (approximately 90 percent) already subscribe to one or more journals. Since almost half of ASA members (better than 40 percent) subscribe to two or more journals, the ASA would be offering members potential savings although the hope would be that most members would continue their current subscription pattern. Emeritus members would be exempt from the one journal requirement.

Levine indicated that the Publications Committee considered this issue at its December meeting, and was very drawn to this plan. At its January 2001 meeting, EOB devoted substantial time to discussing the report, analysis, and recommendations, and passed a resolution recommending decoupling dues and journal subscriptions and requiring all members except Emeritus members to select one journal. EOB thought that this change should give members much more flexibility and also allow for more meaningful assessment of ASA's publication program. EOB emphasized the importance of instituting a change this calendar year—especially with ASA launching *Contexts* in 2002. Also, EOB members noted that member dues have been fixed without COLA adjustments pending a decision on this issue. EOB thought that this change required approval by ASA voting members. Levine and EOB recommended that this take place by ballot after an opportunity for full discussion at the Annual Meeting.

Council was impressed with this report and the care that EOB has given to this topic. Council members raised concerns that the literal uncoupling of dues and subscriptions needed to be essentially cost neutral for all categories of membership, especially for students and lower income members. Discussion focused on the long-term advantage of students receiving more of a subsidy. Council was supportive of the plan in principle but wanted EOB to arrive at final costs for membership and journals responsive to the special interests of students. Council indicated that, in August, it would review the final dues amounts, which would

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then go into effect in 2002 were the referendum to be adopted by ASA members.

Council emphasized that it needs to be clear to members that the decoupling of dues from subscriptions does not involve a change in the income categories (which might be considered in a separate process). EOB concluded, and Council concurred, that any recommended change should be widely publicized, discussed at the Annual Meeting, and then voted on by a special ballot directly after the Annual Meeting, so that ASA members could vote their preference.

**Motion:** To approve the decoupling of journal from dues as recommended by EOB such that all ASA members (except Emeritus Members) be required to subscribe to one journal, that the cost to students be further subsidized, and that members be consulted on this change with their approval being sought through a member referendum following the Annual Meeting. Carried unanimously.

Council reiterated that the decoupling of dues from subscriptions had benefits for members irrespective of whether income categories themselves needed to be changed. Additionally, Council thought that it would be useful to undertake what has become a periodic review of the progressive dues categories. They asked that EOB undertake this work during the coming year.

### 9. Status of Publishing the Journal *Contexts*

Executive Officer Levine provided a brief overview of the resources, finances, and status of the publishing agreement for *Contexts*. She noted that EOB devoted substantial time to reconsideration of the financial requirements for *Contexts* when it met in January. EOB members appreciated the importance of committing adequate resources to enable the success of this new launch, and agreed that a system of careful monitoring of the business operations is essential to ensuring that the journal has maximum opportunity for success and yet that the Association does not exceed whatever it commits as its maximum exposure.

Levine noted that much had been gained in understanding how to succeed in producing a top-flight social science magazine, and that substantial progress had been made in moving *Contexts* closer to publication. She indicated that inaugural editor Claude Fischer was creatively implementing the vision of the Publications Committee and Council to publish a magazine that would impart knowledge and be informative to all sociologists, social scientists, and other interested publics. The University of California Press has developed a revised publishing plan for Council's consideration. Levine also noted that the University of California Press has had very recent experience in launching a new magazine similar to *Contexts*.

Levine reported that the revised plan considered by EOB included increased costs to account for a more aggressive marketing plan and publishing *Contexts* in a magazine format.

EOB also discussed the maximum investment that would be prudent from the Rose Fund in light of wanting to ensure the sufficient funds would remain available for the Rose series were *Contexts* to be unsuccessful under the worst-case scenario. Based on analysis provided by ASA's long-term investment manager at Fiduciary International, EOB concluded that the maximum investment from the Rose Fund for *Contexts* should not exceed \$620,000. Levine and Secretary Bonner also reported on how EOB expected to monitor the financial performance of this new journal.

Council discussed the financial modeling and the potential impact on the Rose Fund of launching *Contexts*. Council members were supportive of enlarging the commitment of funds available for *Contexts*, but thought that EOB needed to be sure that Fiduciary International was realistic about growth and revenue from various investment strategies for the Rose Fund. In addition, Council discussed the vision of the magazine, how articles were to be commissioned, and the importance of articles meeting review standards in terms of publishing the best knowledge available on important issues. Council again emphasized that the primary objective of publishing this magazine is to be informative across specialty fields of sociology and aligned social sciences. Council reiterated its enthusiasm for *Contexts* and what it could mean to the discipline, to sociologists, and to budding sociologists in their various work sectors and areas of employment.

**Motion:** That the Association commit a maximum investment of no more than \$620,000 to launch ASA's new journal, *Contexts*, under the understanding that the Executive Officer will continue to monitor the financial operations, reporting annually to EOB and Council, and, that, in 2003, EOB examine any departures from projected revenues and expenditures—with a formal vote in 2004 and a recommendation to Council as to whether to continue to invest in *Contexts* based on a full consideration of revenues and costs in light of the maximum possible investment. Carried unanimously.

### 10. Report on Subscriptions

Secretary Bonner provided an overview of institutional subscriptions for 2000. She indicated that, overall, journal subscriptions remain steady with under a one percent decrease when compared to 1999 end-of-year totals. Secretary Bonner also reported on individual non-member subscriptions. These subscriptions are small in number (approximately 400 across the six journals published directly by ASA) and seem to reduce modestly each year. In addition, Bonner reported that the total number of member subscribers had dropped in 2000. In 2000, ASA restored the Emeritus category, which no longer requires that these members subscribe to a journal. She emphasized the member add-on subscriptions have only a modest effect on subscription revenue because most of this revenue is generated through in-

stitutional subscriptions.

Secretary Bonner also reported on EOB's recommendation to reduce the cost of the JSTOR subscription for ASA members starting mid-year (July 1, 2001).

**Motion:** To reduce the JSTOR subscription for ASA members from \$60 to \$40. Carried unanimously.

### 11. Reactivate Idea for a Development Campaign

Secretary Bonner provided background on the idea of launching an ASA development campaign. In 1998, during his President-elect year, Alejandro Portes convened a planning committee to explore the possibility of a development campaign. Though past Councils and EOBs have been positive about proceeding and have passed formal resolutions to that effect, no further work to launch a campaign has yet commenced.

Levine said that Portes had an ambition to put in place a long-term fundraising effort that would enable the Association to undertake important programmatic work on behalf of the discipline. He thought that a fundraising strategy to promote and advance "Sociology for the New Century" would be the right legacy to leave for sociology and for ASA. Despite Council's original hope of creating a planning committee, unanticipated events in 1999 and 2000 left this aspiration on the "back burner." In August 1999, Council reaffirmed its commitment to this idea and passed a motion to appoint a steering committee and to urge past-President Portes to remain involved.

Levine summarized the ideas and activities for a potential development campaign. She also reported on contributions from annual giving on the membership renewal and through a special mailing to high-income members. She noted that, particularly with the ASA centennial in 2005, it seemed appropriate to restart a development initiative. She said that the Executive Office stands ready to participate in the development campaign, but that such an effort needed and would be enriched by Council and officers' participation and leadership. Bonner said that EOB encouraged developing as quickly as possible a strong list of potential participants with knowledge and understanding about identifying resources.

**Motion:** To authorize the President to appoint a development committee including representatives of Council to develop an action plan that could link to the ASA centennial. Carried unanimously.

### 12. Centennial Planning for 2005

Council considered 2005 and the need to develop and implement plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Sociological Association. Levine reported that, in December, the Committee on Publications had formed a subcommittee to generate ideas about special publications for the centennial, including special

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issues of journals, "reviews," and so forth. Council considered a background memorandum on Centennial ideas provided by Levine and Carla Howery. Suggestions included special lectures, programming in high schools, film/video presentations, and exhibits for museums and schools; creative use of the internet; and preparation of special materials (teaching, history of sociology, major events in the field) and events targeted for the international sociological community, regional and specialty sociological associations, and the ASA's own Annual Meeting.

Council members discussed various ways in which the Association might mark this historic event, and what the objectives of such commemoration ought to be. Some members thought a history of ASA or a series on the historical origins of sociology, on the great sociologists, or excerpts from great sociologists would be appropriate. Other members of Council thought that a web site might be created for out-of-print sociological works, or that ASA might set up its own reprint service. Reprinting some of the old editions of *Footnotes* was also suggested. Some Council members felt the membership ought to be polled for their perceptions about the most influential sociologists and works; others suggested that departments should be asked how they would like to observe this event in terms of their resources. Most members agreed that projects to increase student participation (such as student centennial awards) should be given high priority, as should efforts to increase the international presence of and in the Association.

**Motion:** That the President begin to assemble a centennial committee to develop a concerted plan for the ASA centennial in 2005. Carried unanimously.

### 13. Long-Term Possibilities of 4-Day Annual Meeting

Levine gave a brief overview of feedback regarding the shift from a five-day to a four-day Annual Meeting. She noted that overall it has met with a very positive reaction across the membership and, as she reported earlier, from section leadership. She thought that members understood the message that Council hoped to convey in making this change; that is, that a four-day meeting would reduce member costs and increase the probability that more participants would be present together. She noted that for ASA the change also had the potential for financial savings.

Levine indicated that planning for the 2002 Annual Meeting would proceed more expeditiously if the decision about whether to continue a 4-day Annual Meeting were made now. While she indicated that she would have preferred President-elect Barbara Reskin to be present when Council made this decision, she reported that Reskin believed that her ambitions for the 2002 meeting could be achieved under the 4-day model and therefore that the change was acceptable.

Council members indicated that they believed

the 4-day meeting would have definite advantages and that others with whom they had spoken shared that view. Some Council members thought it might be premature to vote a permanent 4-day Annual Meeting in light of the need to assess how it will work in practice. Yet, Council members also recognized that the Executive Office needed lead-time in planning to be able to work out the most favorable options for the Association and members. Council considered whether to assess the 4-day Annual Meeting at the end of 2003, while authorizing the Executive Office to continue planning for 2005 based on a 4-day model. Council concluded that, with 2005 site selection upon ASA, it made the most sense to shift to a 4-day meeting which would not constrain any Council in the future from altering the number of days if it chose to do so. Accordingly, Council passed the following resolution:

**Motion:** To adopt a 4-day meeting schedule and authorize the renegotiation of hotel contracts in this format. Carried unanimously.

Council also discussed other Annual Meeting business. Council members urged that exhibits should remain open for the entire 4 days of the Annual Meeting, and suggested ideas for attracting more members into the exhibit area.

### 14. Reports of the Task Forces

*Articulation of Sociology in Two-Year and Four-Year Sociology Programs.* Catherine Berheide, Council Liaison, presented an interim report from this Task Force. The Task Force, established in 1999, was charged with examining sociology programs in community colleges and articulation agreements in various states, and with developing curriculum guidelines that would be useful in community college programs and in linking two-year and four-year programs. The interim report makes clear that, while articulation issues have not been discipline-driven (these issues have been addressed by institutions, educational systems, and accrediting agencies), a professional learned society such as the ASA has a stake in articulation, given its commitment both to the education of students and to the professional growth of sociology faculty.

Berheide briefly overviewed the interim report. She emphasized that it summarized the different types of articulation agreements in states. She noted that the final report will provide examples that could be used as models for states without such agreements or with articulation plans that are not working well for sociology departments and students.

Berheide indicated that ASA's 10-year-old report "Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major," might be revised to incorporate very explicit attention to articulation agreements. This report was based on the conception that college students earn degrees through a single institutional experience. However, it appears that increasingly students earning bachelor's degrees are actually graduating from a different institution than where they began. Berheide

observed that sociology likely fits this general pattern.

Berheide and Carla Howery, Staff Liaison, discussed some of the issues and challenges facing sociology and sociologists in community colleges. For example, they reported that faculty typically face significant resource limitations, have heavy teaching loads, are expected to package sociology for non-majors, rarely have opportunities to collaborate as equal partners with sociologists at universities, and are expected to inspire students in ways that favor solid performance at the BA level. They noted as well that students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education rely extensively on community colleges as their conduit to four-year institutions.

Howery emphasized that key to any discussion of articulation are jurisdictional issues and whether state authorities will take steps to enact changes. Another serious challenge relates to the sequencing of courses. The central dilemma raised by the *Liberal Learning* report is how to reconcile the highly desirable sequencing of sociology courses with the realities of program resources and student mobility. The Task Force is concerned with how ASA guidelines for the sociology major might be revised to recognize the pattern of student enrollment fostered by prevailing articulation agreements.

The final report of the Task Force will offer specific suggestions for actions external and internal to the ASA, derived from an assessment of articulation agreements around the country and a shared commitment to the enhancement of undergraduate education in sociology.

*International Focus of American Sociology.* Alfonso Latoni, Staff Liaison for the ASA Task Force on the International Focus of American Sociology (IFAS), presented a brief overview of its purpose, major activities, and objectives. Established by Council in the summer of 1999 to address important issues of the profession relating to its international dimensions, IFAS was charged with providing the Association with a comprehensive review of its international focus. Latoni indicated that, since last August, members of the Task Force have been active in collecting information in three areas: (1) an assessment of the international content of ASA Annual Meeting Programs, the participation of persons from outside the U.S. and Canada, and the international focus of ASA committees as well as formal relations with other organizations; (2) a review of ASA teaching materials so as to assess the international content of selected ASA syllabi sets; and (3) potential sources of funding to support travel for international sociologists to participate in ASA's Annual Meeting.

Latoni reported that, since he joined the staff in the summer, he has been maintaining regular contacts with especially Michael Micklin, Task Force Chair, and Cathy Rakowski. Progress is being made in compiling and analyzing materials for the final report. He noted that, in

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November, a closed listserv was created for IFAS Task Force members and Staff and Council liaisons to facilitate communication. Rakowski has been able to combine ASA resources with funds from the Rural Sociological Society, and is preparing the final draft of her report on the International Focus of ASA Meetings and Committees. Latoni indicated that a final report should be ready in time for Council consideration in August.

*Current Knowledge on Hate/Bias on Campuses.* Levine, Staff Liaison, reported that over the course of the 2000-2001 academic year, Task Force members sent to Chair Leonard Gordon (Arizona State University) campus research materials and documents that, along with other sources, are providing the essential information for a full Task Force report. Levine also noted that, at the request of the 2001 Program Committee, Gordon, Task Force Chair, and Valerie Jenness, Task Force member, are organizing an Annual Meeting special session on "Hate and Hate-Bias at Colleges and Universities: Campus and Community Implications." At that session, Gordon will summarize the ASA Task Force report on the state of knowledge on campus hate bias acts in terms of official crime data, the extensive sociological research literature on campus hate and bias acts not taken into account in official data, and identification of campus programs that appear to be models for effectively addressing hate bias. The Task Force plans to provide Council with a report prior to the 2001 meeting in Anaheim.

### 15. Executive Session

Council met in Executive Session.

#### Sunday, February 11, 2001

President Massey convened the Council at 9:05 a.m. He opened by announcing that the Council had enthusiastically endorsed and approved the appointment of Executive Officer Felice Levine for a third five-year contract.

### 16. Report on ASA Policymaking and Member Resolutions

Chair Richard Alba presented the report of the Council Subcommittee on ASA Policymaking and Resolutions, which provided recommendations on how the Council should proceed when possible public policy issues are raised by members, sections, task forces, or from Council itself. He briefly summarized the history of Council action in this area, noting that this is the second report on this topic. Over the years, Council has reflected on the criteria and process whereby it issues statements on behalf of the Association. In August of 1998, a Council Subcommittee, chaired by Patricia Roos, was charged with further review of this topic. This committee presented a report that was provisionally adopted by Council in January, 1999, with the expectation that it would be permanently adopted after a 12-month comment period from the membership. At its meeting in January 2000, however, Council was not

satisfied that it had heard sufficiently from ASA members, and it extended the life of the Subcommittee for one year, with Richard Alba as chair (since Roos's term on Council was complete).

In August 1998, Council temporarily suspended use of the guidelines in place for ASA taking positions on public policy matters outside of those that directly relate to sociology as a discipline or profession and to the business of ASA. Up until 1998, the policy concerning public policy statements by the Association stipulated a process that must be followed to bring member resolutions before Council. The key elements of this policy are: (1) Resolutions can arrive via the business meeting, from ASA sections and committees, or from individual ASA members who solicit 50 signatures to accompany their requests; (2) resolutions can come at any time during the year; (3) resolutions should show direct relevance to sociology as a discipline or profession or be grounded in the substantive expertise or knowledge of the discipline; (4) resolutions must include documentation to guide Council's understanding; and (5) resolutions must include specific suggestions about what Council action is requested.

Since the formal adoption of this policy in 1996 (it was provisionally adopted in 1993), Council was presented with several proposed resolutions that led them to seek greater clarity regarding the sociological basis for the proposed actions. Like the Roos Subcommittee, the Alba Subcommittee focused on three questions: (1) What is the range of issues on which Council should speak (in other words, what is the proper scope for ASA policy statements)? (2) What process should Council follow to evaluate the scientific basis for, and the appropriateness of, proposed resolutions and policy statements? (3) What institutional alternatives exist for the ASA and its membership to address issues of public policy?

Alba reminded Council that, based on the Roos Subcommittee report, in January 1999, the then Council had provisionally limited the range of issues on which Council could issue policy statements. He emphasized that his Subcommittee had the opportunity that was intended in 1999 but, because of other pressing matters, was denied to the Roos Subcommittee; namely, to hear directly from ASA members during an open forum. With benefit of an open forum at the 2000 business meeting, the Alba Subcommittee reached a different conclusion—*a priori* limits should not be placed on Council's ability to speak for the Association on important matters of public policy. This conclusion does not prevent Council from deciding that statements on a particular policy topic are inappropriate for the Association (because, for instance, they are well beyond the expertise of the discipline or not relevant to it). But it does raise in turn a difficult question: How Council can presume to speak on issues for which Council members may lack the expertise? Alba noted that the Subcommittee pro-

posed some procedures that Council may follow to assure that its statements on public policy are solidly anchored in social science research.

Alba indicated that despite this one important difference between the Roos and Alba Subcommittee reports, the common threads that link them are far more numerous. Most especially, both reports argue that ASA should continue to address issues and craft policies that promote or protect the well being of the discipline and profession (e.g., research funding, human subjects protection, intellectual freedom in the classroom) or speak to the internal operations of ASA (e.g., ASA contracting with businesses that adhere to fair labor practices). Alba also noted that, since the provisional adoption of the 1996 policy in 1993, only a small number of resolutions have been submitted to Council.

Levine also indicated that the Alba Report concurs with the Roos Report in emphasizing that Council resolutions are not the only mechanism provided by the Association for sociologists to speak to policy issues. She noted that both reports encourage members to use the many opportunities provided by the Association to address important policy issues with a sociological lens through the Annual Meeting, the Publications Program, the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline or the ASA's Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy.

Alba emphasized that his Subcommittee was not just returning to the 1996 policy in emphasizing that *a priori* limits should not be placed on Council's capacity to craft policy. His Subcommittee set forth in some detail internal procedures for Council evaluating resolutions. The 1996 policy provided little guidance to Council on how it should go about making judgments. This Subcommittee was recommending that Council have available procedures such as the use of expert review panels when Council needed guidance to assess the sufficiency of the sociological or social science knowledge sustaining a policy recommendation. He noted that Council would have the discretion to determine when it might use such a review panel, but its availability as an internal procedure could aid Council with assessing social science findings and data.

Council members responded favorably to this report and its recommendations. Council thought the thrust of the report was in line with bringing resolutions to Council on any issue while offering Council a sound set of internal procedures for evaluating resolutions, Council complimented the hard work of both the Roos and Alba Subcommittees for tackling these difficult issues and permitting a sound policy outcome.

**Motion:** To approve the report of the Council Subcommittee on ASA Policymaking and Resolutions. Carried unanimously.

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### 17. Reports of the Task Forces (continued)

*Implications of Assessing Faculty Productivity and Teaching Effectiveness.* Roberta Spalter-Roth, Staff Liaison, reported that the Task Force is in the process of examining strategies used for the assessment of faculty productivity and teaching effectiveness. The Task Force decided then that the most practical way to proceed was to examine particular cases, rather than to attempt a national survey of trends. The Task Force also has identified several states where assessment of productivity has been mandated by state government. The plan is to contact a range of differing institutions in three or four such states and to contact a range of differing institutions in a comparable number of 'non-mandate' states. Spalter-Roth indicated that, under the leadership of Chair Peter Meiksins, the Task Force agreed last August on a set of issues and questions that will form the focus of the inquiry. The Task Force plans to begin contacting institutions and complete the "data gathering" portion of the project by the end of March. Meiksins will be presenting findings in a briefing at the Chair Conference in August. A final report, modified in response to comments and additions at the Chair Conference and otherwise, will be completed by the end of 2001.

*Task Force on ASA/AAAS Relations.* Executive Officer Levine reported that, under the leadership of Chair Douglas Kincaid, the Task Force on ASA/AAAS Relations has made considerable progress in identifying areas for strengthening the relations between ASA and the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS) and the place of sociology and the social and behavioral sciences in AAAS. The Task Force will offer concrete recommendations to Council on how to enhance ASA's presence in AAAS. Levine said that there is considerable collaboration between ASA and AAAS in programmatic areas, and that strengthening the relationship among the members and the leadership of both organizations would be to the benefit of both groups. The Task Force plans to meet at the AAAS Annual Meeting in mid-February, including having a private meeting with Peter Raven, the incoming President of the AAAS. The Task Force will have a report prepared for Council by August 2001.

*Task Force on the Reexamination of the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Nominations.* Council and Task Force member Berheide presented a summary of the proposal from the Task Force and a brief background on what led to this reexamination. She noted that, in 1997-98, Council, in an effort to enhance the ASA committee process and the involvement of members, had recommended the elimination of the Committee on Committees (COC) and a change in the structure of the Committee on Nominations (CON) that was approved by the membership. The Committee on Nominations was modified to eliminate representation by geographic region and to be smaller in size. Some members felt there was insufficient opportunity to discuss these changes before ASA

members voted their approval. Berheide emphasized that, responding to these concerns, Council decided to create a Task Force. This Council-initiated Task Force held an open forum at the 2000 Annual Meeting to hear members' views about the role to be played by a COC and CON.

The Task Force, chaired by Myra Marx Ferree, is comprised of Council and non-Council members. The purposes of the Task Force are: (1) to assess whether a committee with responsibilities like the former Committee on Committees should be reestablished (i.e., with responsibility for nominating to Council persons to serve on ASA committees), and, if so, how it should be constituted; and (2) to assess whether changes introduced to the Committee on Nominations in 1998 (relating to regional representation and size) should be continued or altered.

Berheide reported that the Task Force has proposed the reestablishment of a modified Committee on Committees. As set forth in the Report, the Task Force recommendation is as follows:

The Committee on Committees shall be composed of eight members each serving two-year terms. Four are to be elected at-large and four in seats reserved for specific institutional constituencies (one seat each for members employed by PhD granting institutions; by MA and 4-year institutions; by 2-year schools; and by non-teaching institutions and in self-employment), with two at-large and two reserved seats up for election each year.

The Committee on Committees shall be responsible for making ranked recommendations to Council for appointments to all Award Selection Committees and Status Committees. Additionally, the Committee on Committees shall make ranked recommendations to Council for appointments to the Awards Committee, the Committee on Professional Ethics, and the at-large portion of the Committee on Sections. The Committee on Nominations will have the responsibility of nominating the candidates for the Committee on Committees.

Council discussed the Task Force proposal. There was strong support for the change and consensus that it retained some of the improvements of the initial committee reorganization while addressing members concerns. Council members, however, felt that asking members to vote on this change in the spring, without adequate time for deliberation, would reproduce the situation that was initially unsettling to members. Accordingly, Council supported the recommendation of the Task Force and moved to have it addressed by ballot after the Annual Meeting.

**Motion:** To reestablish a new Committee on Committees with the composition and scope recommended by the Task Force and to seek approval of this change in a member referendum after the Annual Meeting. Carried unanimously.

The Task Force on the Reexamination of COC and CON requested another year to further consider the issues involved in the restructur-

ing of the Committee on Nominations. The Task Force indicated that it intended to hold another open meeting and a working meeting at the 2001 Annual Meeting and report to Council in winter 2002.

*Task Force on ASA Journal Diversity.* Executive Officer Levine, ex officio member, provided a brief overview of the work of the Task Force on Journal Diversity. This Task Force is under the aegis of the Publications Committee and is chaired by Bernice Pescosolido, Chair of the Publications Committee. Council Member Carole Marks serves as Task Force Vice Chair. Levine reviewed for Council that the charge of the Task Force was to examine issues of diversity, broadly defined, in *all* ASA journals. This mandate includes but is not limited to issues of inclusion regarding different types of sociological work, participation of ASA members, targeted audiences, mission statements, current journal practices, editorial boards, reviewers, success rates, and types of submissions. The Task Force is expected first to report to the Publications Committee with the Publications Committee reviewing that report and reporting to Council in winter 2002.

### 18. ASA Status Committees

Executive Officer Levine provided a brief overview of the Status Committees and their ongoing efforts. She emphasized that it was important for both Council and staff to work closely with these committees. She reported that the open call for volunteers to serve of these committees produced a roster of candidates that President Massey could draw on for any necessary appointments.

*The Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology.* Roberta Spalter-Roth, Staff Liaison, indicated that the Committee's objectives in 2001 included determining the relevant indicators needed to monitor the status of women in the profession, identifying relevant data sets (including data from the ASA), and determining what work needs to be done by the Committee and what support is required by the ASA to fulfill its objectives. She described the data preparation processes in progress and the nature of extant data systems, both from federal sources and at ASA that are available on sociologists. A report will be completed in 2002.

*The Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology.* Alfonso Latoni, Staff Liaison, and Ross Matsueda, Council Liaison, provided a brief update on this Committee. Matsueda indicated he had been in direct communication with members of the Committee and noted positively the efforts of the Executive Office to provide information that could help the Committee in its work. Executive Officer Levine indicated that she has been working closely with Verna Keith, Chair of the Committee, since September, and that she and Roberta Spalter-Roth, Director of the Research Program, are in the final stages of constructing core data sets from the PhD tracking survey and from the membership survey so that these

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this Committee and the Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology could have accessible information from ASA (without identifying data). Also, a restricted listserv has been set up to facilitate communication of the Committee.

*The Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) People in Sociology.* Roberta Spalter-Roth, Staff Liaison, reported that this Committee has been productively addressing its charge in a number of ways. A progress report by Nancy Whittier, Chair of the Committee, described the data gathering for the final report on the status of sociological research on GLBT issues. The final report will provide an analysis of publication of GLBT research in sociological journals, presentations at ASA meetings, and review of GLBT books in sociological outlets. The final report, to be presented to Council in winter 2002, will address changes over time in the amount of such research as well as any trends in subject areas in which GLBT research has been relatively over- or under-represented.

*Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology.* Carla Howery, Staff Liaison, reported that the work of the Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology is focused in two areas: (1) on facilities and services for disabled at the Annual Meeting, and (2) how to facilitate the process of job employment for sociologists with disabilities.

### 19. Proposals for Task Forces

The Council Subcommittee on Task Forces reported to Council on its discussion and recommendations concerning proposals for four new task forces. (Materials on these proposed task forces were included in the Council agenda book received in advance of the meeting.) The proposals were for a Task Force on the Undergraduate Sociology Curriculum, Task Force on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Sociology, Task Force on Employment in Teaching, and Task Force on ASA Relations with Latin American and Caribbean Sociology.

Catherine Berheide reported for the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee recommended that Council establish a Task Force on the Undergraduate Sociology Curriculum to revise *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major*. The Subcommittee also recommended that, two new task forces—a Task Force on Contingent Employment in the Academic Workplace and a Task Force on Opportunities Beyond Graduate Education: Postdoctoral Training and Career Trajectories—should be created that would address many of the issues being raised in the proposal for a Task Force on Employment in Teaching. The Subcommittee recommended against Council forming a Task Force on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at this time since the Association was in the midst of addressing this issue in a number of ways through the activities and rethinking within the Section on Undergraduate Education, the work of the Task Force on the Articulation of Sociol-

ogy in Two-Year and Four-Year Sociology Programs, the recent ASA workshop on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Sociology, and the work of the ASA with the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. The Subcommittee was also less certain of how Council should proceed with creating a regionally-based task force to address international issues, but thought that it might be premature to do so at this time.

Council discussion focused on the merits of the specific proposals as well as the broader issue of assessing the need and criteria for creating new Task Forces. Council members affirmed the importance of task forces as a vehicle for member participation in the Association and for addressing important issues on a timely basis. Council members thought, though, that work of existing Task Forces with closely related mandates should be completed before others are constituted. Council members suggested that the proposal for a task force to establish and consolidate emerging ties with Latin and Caribbean Sociological Associations be discussed with the Task Force on the International Focus of American Sociology.

Based on the Subcommittee's recommendation, Council was inclined to establish three new task forces as set forth in the proposals and as modified by the Subcommittee. Council reaffirmed the procedure of an open call for nominations, including self nominations, in *Footnotes* for service on any new task force established and that these nominations should be considered by the Council Subcommittee in making recommendations on composition to Council. The three task forces under consideration by Council were:

*Task Force on the Undergraduate Sociology Curriculum.* The purpose of this Task Force is to undertake a revised and updated edition of the ASA report *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Curriculum*, published in 1990, which set forth recommendations for the major. A great deal of new research on teaching and learning and many new curricular innovations have occurred over the last decade that should inform the Task Force's work. In addition to a focus on baccalaureate degree granting institutions, the Task Force will examine the sociology curriculum in community colleges. The Task Force will present a preliminary report at the Chair Conference in August 2002. A final report will be submitted for Council's consideration at its winter 2003 meeting.

*Task Force on Contingent Employment in the Academic Workplace.* The purpose of this Task Force is to assess current practices and make recommendations concerning employment issues related to the teaching of sociology, including attention to the preparation of graduate students to teach, hiring practices, faculty development, and possible policies on contingent employment (part-time, contractual, and adjunct appointments). The Task Force will present a preliminary report at the Chair Conference in August 2002. A final report will be submitted for Council's consideration at its

winter 2003 meeting.

*Task Force on Opportunities Beyond Graduate Education: Postdoctoral Training and Career Trajectories.* The purpose of this Task Force is to examine the postdoctoral experience and the role of postdoctoral opportunities in sociology. The Task Force report will assess the nature of the postdoctoral experience, consider the potential for such training, and make recommendations on how best to structure and enhance the postdoctoral experience as integral to a sociological career. The Task Force will have an open discussion at the Chair conference in August 2002 and prepare a report to Council by August 2003.

**Motion:** To approve the recommendation of the Council Subcommittee on Task Forces to establish three new task forces. Carried (yes, 12; no, 1; abstention, 1).

### 20. Proposal for Candidate Statement or ASA Elected Offices

Council also considered a proposal from active members of the ASA's Department Resources Group and the Section on Undergraduate Education requesting that all candidates for ASA President, Vice President, Secretary, and Council be asked to address the question, "What are the three most critical issues facing the discipline?" Those advancing the proposal indicated that such information would better inform members about choices among candidates for ASA elected offices. Council members appreciated the purpose and potential value of this proposal. Consistent with the spirit of this request, Council supported offering candidates the opportunity to include a brief statement on issue of concern to ASA and the discipline. Council members thought that such statements should be limited to 150 words.

**Motion:** To amend the election process to allow each candidate for ASA President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Council to include a statement up to 150 words in the biographical material included in the ASA ballot. Carried (yes, 12; 2 abstentions).

### 21. Collaboration with Other National Sociological Associations

Council considered a proposal for closer ties with other national sociological associations outside the United States. Executive Officer Levine reported that ASA has been engaged in a one-year arrangement for reciprocal fees at member rates for members of the British Sociological Association (BSA), the Australian Sociological Association (TASA), and the ASA to attend each other's annual meetings at the member-only rates. Council discussed continuing this policy beyond 2001, as well as the more general topic of enhancing communication, collaboration, and exchange with other national associations. Council members agreed that exploring potential ties with the BSA, TASA, the Latin American Sociological Association

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(LASA) offers new opportunities for ASA and the discipline.

**Motion:** To inform ASA members of the agreement with the BSA and TASA for member-only registration rates; to work with other national associations outside the United States on collaborations including reciprocal fees; and to continue to offer international sociologists member-only Annual Meeting registration fees. Carried unanimously.

## 22. 2000 Budget Reports, Analysis, and Review

Secretary Bonner said that, although Council had approved a modest deficit budget for the 2000 year, some key areas of revenue were higher than anticipated, and a surplus is projected. Council reviewed the 2000 budget report and affirmed that some unanticipated areas of revenue and wise spending have produced a positive financial picture for 2000.

## 23. 2001 Proposed Budget

Secretary Bonner provided a brief summary of the proposed 2001 budget as recommended by EOB. She noted that that, while the 2001 budget is again a deficit request, it is modest (\$59,552 after depreciation) and lower than last year. From a management and cost accounting perspective, the excess of expenses over revenue is approximately 1.4 percent of the overall revenue. Bonner emphasized that a deficit of slightly more than one percent is minimal and well within acceptable budgeting practices on an operating budget of \$4.3 million.

Bonner reminded Council that the proposed budget is conservative in income and expenditure projections. Through careful monitoring of each, the Association has been able to return positive revenue. Bonner noted that, because of the absence of the COLA dues increase for 2001 (reducing membership revenue by about \$30,000) and the expenditures relating to the implementation of a new membership database and management system, every budget item was scrutinized closely in crafting the proposed budget.

**Motion:** To approve the 2001 proposed budget, including allocations from the Rose and Spivack Funds. Carried unanimously.

## 24. ASA Program Reports

*Minority Affairs Program (MAP).* Alfonso Latoni, the Director of Minority Affairs, summarized recent Program highlights. He emphasized the importance of the renewal award of \$2.7 million from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for the Minority Fellowship Program. He indicated that the new award became effective August 1, 2000. Currently, 26 Fellows are supported under the NIMH grant. Also, effective August 1, 2000, MFP Fellows supported by the NIMH Training grant receive a stipend award of \$15,060 per year.

Latoni also described several new initiatives to be undertaken as part of the MFP grant, including (1) orientation training in the sociol-

ogy of mental health for incoming Fellows, (2) workshops for mentors of MFP Fellows, and (3) joint workshops with the American Psychological Association to foster connections between the work being undertaken by MFP Fellows in these two fields. He also emphasized that the Proposal Development Workshop and the Summer Research Initiative, which seeks to place Fellows at sites with major ongoing studies in mental health, will again be supported this year. Also, the MFP Program will fund Fellows to present research and attend regional sociological and professional meetings during the spring.

Latoni reported that the MFP Program was represented at the NIMH-sponsored "Career Opportunities in Research Education and Training Colloquium" held on November 16-19, 2000 in Washington D.C. Students from 22 predominantly undergraduate and minority institutions throughout the nation and Puerto Rico, along with their mentors, attended the conference, which is intended to provide a national forum for students to interact with their peers and senior scientists on a professional level. Latoni and Keisha Jones, MFP Program Assistant, staffed the ASA booth at the Conference's "Career Fair" during two of the three days of the meeting. Executive Officer Levine and Latoni participated in a session on "Training Opportunities for Graduate and Undergraduate Students," and Robert Peralta, currently a fourth-year MFP Fellow at the University of Delaware, presented a paper at the conference about his experiences as a minority graduate student in the sociology of mental health and the value of ASA's Minority Fellowship Program in enhancing his graduate training.

Latoni also reported on the Minority Opportunities through School Transformation (MOST) Program. Carla Howery, Felice Levine, Havidan Rodriguez, and Alfonso Latoni are actively participating in the planning, development, and implementation phases of this program. This initiative is a joint effort of the Minority Affairs Program and the Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP). The MOST Program, funded by the Ford Foundation has engaged undergraduate and PhD-conferring sociology departments in working on issues of mentoring, curriculum transformation, research training, climate, and minority recruitment and retention. The national MOST team is continuously undertaking site visits at the twelve sites, and ASA staff continues to visit MOST institutions to work with the entire department on MOST goals. Each active department has had a visit at least once every two years, by two members of the MOST teams.

The national MOST team is also working in collaboration with Dr. William Frey, University of Michigan, on incorporating Social Science Data Analysis into the curriculum as part of the building research-based skills in all students. The goal in working with MOST departments is to build the elements of research training into introductory courses and to help fac-

ulty department-wide to do so. MOST departments at Texas A&M University, University of Texas-El Paso, and the University of California-Santa Barbara are current participants, with similar training anticipated in at least one other MOST department.

The 2001 MOST Chairs and Coordinators Conference will be held on May 18-20, 2001 in Washington DC. This year's Conference involves planning and preparing for the 2002 MOST Capstone Conference and Report. Since the MOST Program as an experiment in departmental change will formally conclude in 2002, an assessment has already begun in order to be in a position to report on what has been achieved and to articulate strategies for change that can be transported to other departments.

*The Academic and Professional Affairs Program.* Carla Howery presented highlights of the Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP). She noted that this program continues to focus on advancing the discipline through work with academic departments at all types of institutions, with special collaboration with department chairs. This year's priorities include collaboration with the Minority Affairs Program on training and curriculum transformation in MOST departments, the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) initiative, and a book on the *Peer Review of Teaching and Sociology*.

The book on peer review of teaching received initial support from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. Led by Howery as primary author and editor, the project involves a team of sociologists who are drawing together empirical work and useful advice on how to use peer review of teaching for formative and summative processes. Based on an anonymous gift to the Council of Graduate Schools and the American Association of Colleges and Universities, the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) initiative involves six disciplines, including sociology. ASA and the other disciplinary associations are working with departments to develop models for preparing future faculty, especially in terms of teaching preparation. The four sociology departments competitively selected are: North Carolina State University, Texas A&M University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Indiana University.

Howery also described work in progress resulting from the workshop on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Sociology held from July 20-23 2000 at James Madison University. With support from the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and James Madison University, 48 sociologists met to discuss "what we know" and "what we need to know" on six topics: teaching and learning styles, assessment of faculty, use of technology in teaching, curriculum, community academic partnerships, and the institutional context. Monograph summarizing the work of each of these groups are being prepared, and it is anticipated that some will be published.

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Howery also reported progress on the collaboration with the Carnegie Academy in other areas. All nine Carnegie sociology scholars are completing their projects. The Carnegie Academy seeks to work with disciplinary associations to maximize the impact of the scholar's work, to disseminate scholarship on teaching and learning, and to identify disciplinary culture that pertains to this work. ASA has been invited to write a chapter on disciplinary traditions in teaching sociology.

Outreach and collaboration with aligned associations continues in this arena. Levine and Howery are working with the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) to include more sociologists as members, and more sociological research in their publications and meetings. APAP initiatives are also well represented at the 2001 regional sociology meetings—with panels on peer review, preparing future faculty, and chair leadership at most of the meetings.

*Spivack Program on Applied Social Research and Social Policy.* Levine and Howery provided an overview of Spivack Program highlights. On September 25, 2000, ASA sponsored a seminar on *How Neighborhoods Matter: the Value of Investing at the Local Level*. The briefing featured presentations by Robert Sampson, Gregory Squires, and Min Zhou, with Troy Duster serving as moderator. The publication from this seminar will be available as part of ASA's *Issues Series* in the spring of 2001. Congressional seminars will continue in 2001. Topics under consideration include homelessness, disparities across institutions, and school/work transitions.

Levine indicated that a key activity of the Spivack Program in 2001 is the project on race. Spalter-Roth and Levine who developed and brought the initial effort to fruition, have been considering the best strategies for ensuring a contribution that reaches wide audiences and yet does service to the extensive writing and research already done. Further attention to this effort comes at a good time as the ASA is also launching a Task Force on an ASA Statement on Race in 2001.

Howery noted that, through the Spivack Program, the ASA also encourages sociologists to become more involved in the application of sociological knowledge. She emphasized that particularly the Community Action Research Initiative, the Congressional Fellowship, and the AAAS-ASA Media Fellowship are directed to that end.

*Research Program on the Discipline and Profession.* Roberta Spalter-Roth summarized key activities in the Research Program on the Discipline and Profession. The ASA, with 14 other professional societies, conducted a multidisciplinary survey of labor market experiences of new PhDs in 1997-98, which has produced a database from which several research briefs and a number of presentations have resulted. A public use data file from the tracking survey has been extracted. ASA provided a report on available primary and sec-

ondary data and is in the process of creating data sets for the Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology and the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology.

Spalter-Roth said that the Research Program also anticipates conducting a survey of departments in the fall of 2001. She noted that data on ASA members is primarily generated from information provided on membership from the NOAH database. The Research Program also seeks to use effectively secondary data available from other sources in order to provide information on the discipline and on the profession.

Spalter-Roth also described efforts to increase the dissemination of data and findings from the Research Program in a variety of formats and venues, especially on the ASA website. Research materials are also disseminated through *Footnotes*; through presentations to department chairs and graduate directors, at regional and Annual Meeting workshops, and at other professional societies and conferences; and through research briefs. Two research briefs have been published. A third brief tentatively titled "Opportunity for U.S. Minorities at Three Stages in the Sociology Pipeline," is in the final stages of editing and will be published soon.

*Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD).* Levine and Spalter-Roth provided an update on the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD). FAD, a small grants program, jointly funded by the ASA and the Sociology Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF), provides a maximum of \$5,000 per award (soon to be increased to a maximum of \$7,000) for launching ground breaking sociological research or for developing new networks of scientific collaboration. The FAD has two submission cycles each year (in December and June). For the December 2000 round, there were 20 applications.

Since the last Council meeting, ASA submitted a \$165,000 grant renewal proposal for another three years of FAD funding. As Levine noted to Council in her Executive Officer report, she has received informal word that the proposal will be fully funded. Spalter-Roth also indicated that, as reported to Council in August, ASA received a supplemental grant to FAD from the NSF Sociology Program to hold a two-day working conference in spring 2001 with 15-18 scholars entitled "Toward a Sociology of Sociology: A Research Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The purpose of the conference is to assess what we know, to map promising issues for future research, and to stimulate the sociological community across relevant subfields to pursue research on the sociology of social science.

*Public Affairs and Public Information.* Executive Officer Levine gave an overview of recent public affairs and public information activities. She indicated that she had discussed some of these activities in her Executive Officer report. She noted that ASA had provided testimony before the National Human Research Pro-

tection Advisory Committee in December and before the Institute of Medicine's Committee for Assessing the System for Protection of Human Subjects in January. Levine also described ongoing collaborative work with other scientific and learned societies—especially as a member of the Executive Committee of the Consortium of Social Science Association (COSSA) and the Board of the National Humanities Alliance. She indicated as well that the ASA, the Population Association of American, and the American Statistical Association work closely together on the Decennial Census Advisory Committee—bringing social science expertise to this important group and to this key data source.

Levine also briefly summarized public information activities in the Executive Office. ASA staff routinely handles calls by the media on topics where the perspectives and knowledge of sociologists are being sought. She noted that ASA also issues press releases on ASA activities, events, and presentations. Levine also described the excellent response to the press briefings at the 2000 Annual Meeting—particularly to "Cyberspace and Everyday Life" with Barry Wellman, Keith Hampton, and Marc Smith held on August 12, 2000. Dozens of stories were published and continue to be published all around the world on that briefing and the work of Wellman and his colleagues. Considerable attention has also been placed this fall on disseminating and promoting ASA journal publications as they are issued.

## 25. New Business

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.