

**Minutes of the First Meeting  
of the 2002-2003 Council  
August 20, 2002  
Chicago, IL**

**Officers Present:** William T. Bielby (President), Michael Burawoy (President-Elect), Barbara F. Reskin (Immediate Past President), Ivan Szelenyi (Vice President), Bernice Pescosolido (Vice President-Elect), Elijah Anderson (Immediate Past Vice President), Arne L. Kalleberg (Secretary)

**Council Members-at Large Present:** Linda Burton, Craig Calhoun, Esther Ngan-Ling Chow, Robert D. Crutchfield, Jennifer Glass, David Grusky, Deborah K. King, Rhonda F. Levine, Victor Nee, Barbara Risman, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Pamela Walters

**ASA Staff Present:** Sally T. Hillsman, Janet Astner, Karen Gray Edwards, Lee Herring, Michael Murphy, Jean Shin

**1. Call to Order**

President William Bielby called the meeting to order at 8:42 am on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in the Lake Erie Room of the Hilton Chicago Hotel. New members of Council were introduced and welcomed to the meeting: Esther Ngan-Ling Chow of American University, Jennifer Glass and the University of Iowa, Deborah King of Dartmouth College, and Rhonda Levine of Colgate University. The agenda for the meeting had been distributed in advance of the meeting; the agenda was approved as presented.

**2. Report of the President**

Bielby reported that planning for the 2003 Annual Meeting was well underway. The Program Committee held its last face-to-face meeting in Chicago at the 2002 meeting. Plans for the plenaries and other events in and around the hotel related to the theme of culture are nearing completion. The only problem was a slight decrease in the number of sessions. While this is a problem in the eyes of some, for others it means they are pulled in fewer directions simultaneously.

There is some concern among Program Committee members about how Atlanta will affect attendance. The Chicago meeting just completed was an overwhelming success with excellent turnout. The last time ASA met in Atlanta in 1987, however, attendance was down from some other cities.

The theme of the 2003 Annual Meeting, "The Question of Culture," is an invitation to critically assess how the concept of culture is used across the full range of areas of social inquiry and to take stock of alternative approaches to theory, method, and explanation developed outside of our discipline. What is the empirical and theoretical status of the concept of culture, not just in fields that deal centrally with symbolic realms such as arts, media, and religion, but also in traditionally

more materialist and structuralist subfields such as demography, organizations, and stratification? How has "the cultural turn" changed our understanding of social categories such as gender, race, class and the way we study social processes ranging from identity formation to globalization? How do we address issues of meaning, representation, and interpretation, and what are their implications for sociology as an explanatory science? The 2003 Annual Meeting will be an occasion for lively debate on these and related issues, for sharing new ideas for theorizing and research, and for experiencing first hand the culture of Atlanta, one of the world's most vibrant multicultural urban centers.

Barbara Risman asked the Executive Office to explore the possibility of hiring a vendor to provide an Internet café at the meeting. She reported that she, and probably many others, found it difficult and frustrating to not have access to e-mail while at the meeting.

### **Centennial Planning**

Council engaged in a substantial discussion of the 2005 centennial of the American Sociological Association, considering various alternatives for celebrating and recognizing this milestone event.

A sub-committee on ASA History and the Centennial chaired by Craig Calhoun had been created previously by President Reskin to consider publications related to the centennial. This group felt that there were basically three options: (1) compile a commissioned book on the history of the ASA; (2) edit a diverse collection of historical perspectives on American sociology; and (3) create a website with someone specifically designated as editor.

Members of the sub-committee had spoken with some of the publishers present at the meeting. Several of them expressed interest in an edited volume. When questioned about the audience for and goals of such a volume, members of the sub-committee reported that the book would be intended to inform the membership about the rich history of the association. Since the primary audience would be members of the association, the volume would be limited unless it could be woven into the overall history of sociology, which would provide a larger audience.

A number of alternatives were explored, including reissuing some older sociological classics with expired copyrights, a series of articles representing difference perspectives on the development of the association, and republishing key historical articles. It was proposed that the History of Sociology section be invited to participate, along with the previous ASA Presidents. However, there is very limited time so it was agreed that for something to be ready by 2005, work to finalize ideas would have to be completed in time for the February 2003 Council meeting.

**Council voted to create a sub-committee of Council members, Publications Committee members, and others as needed, to review publications options for celebration of the ASA Centennial and to recommend to Council specific proposals that should happen with guidance on how those ideas should be put into place.**

President Bielby selected President-Elect Burawoy to chair this sub-committee.

A second sub-committee on Centennial Outreach, appointed by President Reskin, was chaired by Pam Walters; members are Pam Walters, Robert Crutchfield and Victor Nee. This sub-committee presented a series of issues for Council feedback: What audiences do we want to reach? What messages do we want to convey? How do we convey these ideas?

This group's mission was to focus on methods of communicating with an audience that goes beyond sociology itself. This group saw its focus as less on ASA as an organization and more on American sociology. The sub-committee suggested focusing on key sociological facts, understandings, and debates that had been sparked by sociological research, all of which could lend the material to looking forward, not just backwards. The group asked Council for some direction on how to proceed with their work. Options were considered along with pros and cons of each idea.

**Council voted to commend the committee for its work and to ask it to specify proposals and to establish the feasibility of the proposals. Council also asked the committee to start the process of soliciting membership input on these proposals.**

Finally, Council turned to the international component of the Centennial. Council considered the possibility of collaborating with the International Sociological Association (ISA) for the 2005 Centennial. It was suggested that ASA collaborate with ISA by helping the ISA Council of National Associations, a group that meets every other year and is hosted by national associations, hold its planning meeting for the 2006 ISA meetings in the United States. In conjunction with the 2005 ASA Centennial year, ASA could offer to host a combined meeting of the ISA Executive Committee, Program Committee, and Council of National Associations. President Bielby asked Secretary Kalleberg to ask Douglas Kincaid, ASA's representative to ISA, to explore the idea more fully (including costs, what "hosting" would mean specifically, can ASA afford to undertake this effort, and would this tie the hands of the 2005 ASA President too severely) and to bring more details to Council at the next meeting.

**Council voted to endorse the idea of having the ASA host at some site (e.g., Miami, Philadelphia) the ISA leadership for the planning meeting in conjunction with the 2005 meeting, if the costs are deemed reasonable. International participation is generally encouraged for ASA meetings, but especially for the 2005 Centennial annual meeting. To the extent that ASA might decide in the future to seek external funds to subsidize international participation, Council favors participants from less developed regions of the world with a diversity of international participation.**

### **3. Report of the President-Elect**

President-Elect Michael Burawoy reported that he had selected "Public Sociologies" as the theme for the 2004 Annual Meeting, which also builds upon the 1988 Presidential address by Herbert Gans. Sessions at the meeting will focus on the multiple publics (i.e., the inclusive notion of public sociology); how public sociology is dependent upon professional and academic sociology; and how public sociology varies in different countries. To prepare the program,

Burawoy proposed the following for appointment to the Program Committee for the 2004 Annual Meeting: Patricia Hill Collins, Joyce Iutovich, Verna M. Keith, John Lie, Cecilia Menjivar, Bernice Pescosolido, Walter W. Powell, Barbara Risman, and Rhonda Zingraff. In addition, Burawoy will serve as Chair, Sally T. Hillsman will participate in her role as Executive Officer, and Arne L. Kalleberg will participate in his role as Secretary. Burawoy also indicated that Emmanuel Wallerstein would be an advisor to the committee.

**Council voted to approve the recommendations of President-Elect Burawoy for appointments to the 2004 Program Committee.**

#### **4. Report of the Secretary**

Secretary Arne Kalleberg presented several items for Council information, discussion, and approval.

##### **COLA Adjustment for 2003 Membership Dues**

EOB recommended a 2.5% COLA adjustment for 2003 membership dues as permitted by the ASA Bylaws. Rounding, and holding low-income and student dues steady, produced the following rates:

<b>Category</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
A	\$20	\$20
B	\$20	\$21
C	\$54	\$56
D	\$97	\$100
E	\$135	\$139
F	\$151	\$155
Associate	\$36	\$37
Student	\$15	\$15
Emeritus	\$36	\$37

**Council voted to approve a COLA adjustment of 2.5% in the membership dues rates for 2003.**

##### **Re-examination of Membership Dues Categories**

Several years ago, EOB adopted a guideline that the Executive Office and the Council should periodically review membership income categories. To examine this issue, data are needed on a number of issues, including overall economic factors, professional salaries within the field, how other comparable organizations handle dues, and the history of ASA dues structure changes. Executive Office staff will compile for review by EOB at its January 2003 meeting.

##### **Development Campaign**

The idea of launching a development campaign was raised by President Portes during his Presidential year. Recently, the suggestion had been made to consider conducting this campaign in conjunction with the 2005 centennial celebration. Kalleberg reported that tying a development campaign to the centennial might not be the best approach. The idea is to raise money, which requires that we campaign with a specific goals; a development campaign tied to the centennial

would not be tied to specific projects or purposes. In addition the weak state of the economy makes this an inopportune time. Therefore, EOB recommended to Council that the idea be tabled. Council generally agreed with this conclusion.

**5. Report of the Executive Officer**

Executive Officer Hillsman provided an extensive update on the transition and Executive Office functions yesterday during the final 2001-2002 Council meeting. In the interest of time, she referred everyone to that report.

**6. Information Technology Update**

ASA Director of Information Technology and Services, Kevin Brown, provided an extensive written report on technology, including overall analysis of ASA systems and system security and firewall. Members now have access to numerous services via the ASA website, including online access to ASA journals, online membership renewals and changes, online registration for the Annual Meeting. Future plans include development of a disaster recovery plan, a document management system upgrade, investigation of new remote desktop access methods, and continued enhancements to online services for members.

**7. Electronic Enhancement of the Election**

Executive Officer Hillsman presented a proposal to offer ASA voting members an additional option for casting their ballot in future elections beginning in 2003. In addition to the current paper ballot system, she and EOB proposed adding an electronic aspect to the election so that members may access candidate materials online and cast their ballots online. As part of this proposal, all biographical materials and statements by all candidates for ASA-wide and section offices will be online. In addition to giving members access to more information more easily than ever before, no longer printing this information will save thousands of dollars in printing, collating, and postage expenses. The proposal for 2003 was outlined in an extensive written report.

Hillsman noted that while cost was not a driving factor in the development of this proposal, cost is nonetheless something that cannot be ignored. Overall election expenses have increased over the last four years by more than 25% from \$43,285 to \$54,089. The addition of an online balloting system will cost approximately \$8,250 for development in the first year, but will also reduce other expenses by nearly twice that amount. It is projected that election expenses could drop from \$54,089 for the 2002 election to roughly \$40,000 annually.

Hillsman reported that the participation rate in the annual election hovers at around 30%. This move to electronic ballots is not expected to give a huge boost to the participation rate, except possibly for international members, but will likely be viewed positively by the ASA membership that is increasingly using web-based methods of participating in association activities.

Hillsman indicated that ASA Bylaws currently require that ballots be distributed by mail; however they are silent on how members may cast their vote. ASA's legal counsel has reviewed the Bylaws and offered the opinion that Council has the authority to interpret the present Bylaws as consistent with the proposed action. Hillsman noted that a number of other issues in the Bylaws required attention and that Executive Office staff would undertake a thorough review

with Legal Counsel. It is likely that a series of Bylaws amendments will be proposed for addition to the 2003 ballot, including an amendment regarding the voting procedure.

One member suggested including a question on the upcoming dues renewal to ask members if they preferred voting electronically, giving us a sense of member preferences. There was no opposition to the proposal. Following discussion, the following was proposed and accepted:

**Noting that current ASA Bylaws require distribution of election ballots by postal means, but do not specify a particular method for their return, Council voted unanimously that implementing electronic voting for ASA elections is consistent with the Bylaws. Under this system, in 2003 members will receive paper ballots by mail but will then have the option of casting their vote on the paper ballot or online at a secure site. Council also voted to submit to the membership the necessary changes to ASA Bylaws to permit Council to determine the best methods for future elections consistent with the principles of fair and secret balloting.**

#### **8. Annual Meeting Issues**

Janet Astner, Director of Meetings Services, reported that the 2002 Annual Meeting had been a very positive meeting in terms of member feedback, attendance overall and at sessions, and hotel feedback. This year marked the first time that ASA has made a distinct effort to promote its extensive roster of educational seminars, workshops, and courses to ASA members. A special brochure was created and mailed to all members at the end of May. One goal of this promotional effort was to encourage members not to base attendance decisions solely on whether they are presenting a paper on the program, but also to consider attending the meeting to take advantage of the educational component. Registration for these seminars was very strong this year, with several seminars selling out completely. Initial feedback was very positive. The 2003 Program Committee will look at these workshops later this fall and will consider continuing this pattern.

#### Annual Meeting Fees

Secretary Kalleberg reported that EOB reviewed registration fees for the 2003 Annual Meeting and recommends to Council a \$10 increase for general member and non-member registration fees. In addition, EOB recommends to Council small increases in fees for several categories of events and services.

Employment Service, Member Candidates	Increase from \$20 to \$25 for 2003
Employment Service, Non-Member Cand.	Increase from \$35 to \$50 for 2003
Employment Service, Employers	Increase from \$125 to \$150 for 2003
Exhibit Booth, Single	Increase from \$1100 to \$1200 for 2003
Exhibit Booth, Double	Increase from \$2100 to \$2200 for 2003
Exhibit Booth, Triple	Increase from \$3000 to \$3100 for 2003
Program Ad, Full Page	Increase from \$1600 to \$1650 for 2003
Program Ad, Half Page	Increase from \$900 to \$950 for 2003
DAN Department Fee	Increase from \$125 to \$140 for 2003

**Council voted unanimously to approve the following changes in 2003 Annual Meeting registration categories and fees: (1) increase by \$10 the pre-registration fees for full member and non-member categories, (2) modest increases for events and services (as outlined in Table 4 of the written report and as outlined above), and (3) modification of the registration structure to include the new Secondary School Teacher category.**

## **9. Committee on Sections**

Lynn Smith-Lovin provided a report on the meetings of the Committee on Sections during the course of the Annual Meeting.

### **Update on Sections-in-Formation**

Smith-Lovin reported that there are currently two sections-in-formation: (1) Animals and Society, and (2) Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis. Sections-in-formation are given two years in which to recruit at least 300 members before they can become full-fledged sections. Animals and Society has until September 30, 2002 to reach this number, and Ethnomethodology has until September 30, 2003 to reach this number. As of August 1, 2002, Animals and Society had recruited 239 members and Ethnomethodology had recruited 142 members. Members of Council agreed to follow existing guidelines regarding these sections, noting that if Animals and Society had not recruited at least 300 members by the deadline their status as a section-in-formation would cease and they would have to begin the process anew.

### **Interest Groups**

Smith-Loving indicated that for some time, the Committee on Sections has been considering options for handling sections that fall below the required minimum of 300 members. Recognizing the desire of relatively small groups of ASA members (i.e., fewer than 300) to meet regularly at annual meetings to discuss substantive issues of common interest, the committee asked Council to consider the formation of "interest groups". Interest groups may not have enough people to constitute an official section, or necessarily want the organizational costs and benefits of full section status, but would like to have a session on the program at annual meetings, and perhaps a room to hold a business meeting.

Currently, the only way for such groups to have an official session is to become a section. Therefore, COS has seen a proliferation of requests to form sections, raising concerns about the possibility of "too many" in the Association that would be unlikely to achieve sustaining membership numbers. Some sections (especially some formed recently) have found it difficult to meet or maintain the membership of 300 people needed for continuing section status.

The Committee on Sections therefore asked Council to consider an alternative means for such groups to have opportunities for intellectual exchange at annual meetings operating as a full section. The committee asked Council to consider allowing the formation of "interest groups" with the following stipulations:

- a. ASA members who wish to form an interest group must present to the Committee on Sections a petition with at least 100 signatures of bona fide ASA

- members. As part of the petition, organizers must draft a brief rationale for the interest group, and describe its anticipated activities.
- b. Organizers must select a "convener" who will represent the interest group and serve as its sole contact for all ASA business.
  - c. Once the signatures have been certified, COS will consider the petition in a timely manner. Two criteria will govern the decision to grant "interest group" status: (i) The proposed substantive focus must be a legitimate and proper area of sociological inquiry; (ii) The proposed substantive focus must not overlap significantly with any existing section or interest group. COS may at some time also decide to limit the total number of interest groups.
  - d. If the petition is approved by COS, the interest group becomes an official ASA entity for subsequent annual meetings (the exact number of meetings is to be determined). To continue its existence for a longer duration, the interest group must provide a new petition with 100 bona fide signatures and an updated rationale. There is no limit to the number of times an interest group may renew itself.
  - e. An interest group will be entitled to one regular session at each annual meeting. The convener of an interest group will provide the ASA program committee with a title for its session, as well as the name of its organizer, and must conform to the schedule of deadlines for sessions organized by sections.
  - f. Apart from the conditions just discussed, the ASA will not provide any other services to interest groups (e.g., run elections, prepare and send newsletters, collect dues, prepare annual budgets, maintain website space and so forth).
  - g. Existing sections or sections-in-formation may choose instead to become an interest group, by following the above stipulations. Interest groups may become sections by satisfying established criteria.

Members of Council supported this concept in principle, noting that it creatively addressed long-standing problems with the current section structure, but raised several questions about its operations and consequences. First, is there some way to avoid the recurring petition mechanism outlined in item (d) of the proposal? Second, is it possible to place interest groups on the dues statement and assess a nominal charge for interest group membership?

Third, by the terms of this concept, there is a potential for a large number of interest group sessions, which would come out of the program committee's allotment. Council expressed concern that this could crowd out the remainder of the program.

Finally, it was noted that sections have a detailed Sections Manual that defines what they are allowed to do and not do. Before interest groups can be recognized, a detailed set of policies and procedures will need to be developed.

Following an extensive discussion, Council voted to support the general idea of the Committee on Sections' concept with several amendments. Council noted that many details will need to be addressed and analyzed by the Executive Office staff prior to implementation, including issues of charging a nominal fee, tracking members, and mechanisms for managing such information. Council agreed that the Committee on Sections needs to prepare a set of detailed rules and regulations for consideration at a future Council meeting.

**Council voted to endorse the idea of the Committee on Sections for the establishment of interest groups with the following amendments: (1) in line 3 to delete the bracketed optional wording “or working groups”, (2) to change item (d) to read “If the petition is approved by the Committee on Sections, the interest group will be recognized for the subsequent 3 annual meetings. To continue its existence, the interest group must meet standards to be determined by the Committee on Sections.” (3) to insert at the end of item (d): “Whether there will be a dues charge will be determined by a subsequent action of Council, (4) to delete in item e use of the word “regular” and substitute the appropriate ASA meetings language (e.g., “session”), (5) to add to item (g): “Existing sections that fall below the approved minimum number of 300 members for 3 consecutive years would be automatically restructured as interest groups unless the Committee on Sections recommends that there are overwhelming reasons that the group remain a section. Council also voted that there will be a one year delay after implementation of interest groups before there will be any mandatory movement of sections to interest groups, and that the Committee on Sections will be charged with determining what rules and regulations must be assembled and provided. [12 in favor, 1 opposed]**

### **Three-Year Moving Average**

A suggestion was made during the annual session of the Committee on Sections with Section chairs that ASA to consider changing to a 3-year moving average system for determining section session and budget allocations. Executive Office staff will examine this proposal and run models to determine the financial and programmatic impact of this proposal and will report back to Council at its next meeting.

### **Free Section Membership for New Student Members**

The Population Section has asked if it would be possible to give all new student members one section membership automatically in their first year of membership free of charge. Again, it was noted that there are financial and procedural implications of this proposal. In addition to the implication of sections and ASA losing the student section membership fees, there would be difficulty in the office determining the status of students. As with the item above, Council asked the Executive Office staff to examine this proposal and assess the implications of implementing the proposal as presented.

**10. Executive Office Reports**

Extensive written reports were provided to Council with updates on recent activities for each major programmatic area of the organization.

**Academic and Professional Affairs Program**

The Academic and Professional Affairs Program is focused on advancing the discipline through a number of ongoing efforts: the Preparing Future Faculty effort, collaboration with the MOST program, a series of annual meeting education efforts, and the NSF-funded project on undergraduate education.

**Minority Affairs Program**

A total of 39 MFP graduates were present at this annual meeting. A number of activities were planned for those graduates, including an all-day orientation for the new MFP Fellows at the start of the meeting. Plans for the upcoming academic year were reviewed.

A member of Council suggested that the name of the Minority Fellowship Program be changed to the Minority Scholars Program. There was agreement, however, that we must review the details of the NIMH grant that supports the program, which may dictate the name of the program. In addition, it was suggested that we solicit input from MFP graduates about such a name change. Council asked Executive Office staff to investigate these issues and report back at its next meeting.

**Research Program on the Discipline and the Profession**

The Research Program on the Discipline and the Profession is actively engaged in numerous efforts, including a departmental survey, a PhD cohort survey, and an analysis of the 2002 membership. Plans for the remainder of 2002 were reviewed.

**Spivack Program on Applied Social Research and Social Policy**

The Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy is directed to advancing the uses and contributions of sociology to social policy. Activities during 2002 were reviewed, including the Congressional Fellowship, Congressional Seminars, professional workshops, and the community action research program.

**Public Information Program**

Council was briefed on media inquiries that the ASA Public Information Office has handled over the last six months, as well as other activities of the office including press releases, *Footnotes*, promotion of ASA publications and activities, promotion of the new journal *Contexts*, and development of tools and strategies for public information.

**Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline**

The Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline is designed to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, groundbreaking research initiatives and other important scientific research efforts. Nine grants were awarded in the winter round of reviews. A FAD funding workshop was organized for this annual meeting.

## **11. Committee Appointments**

A key activity of the August meeting of the new Council is to review recommendations for appointment to committees. These recommendations come from several sources.

### **Nominations from the President**

President Bielby presented recommendations for the appointment of ASA members to be representatives to outside, non-ASA groups (e.g., representatives to AAAS).

**Council approved recommendations from President Bielby for appointments of ASA members to serve as representatives to outside organizations.**

### **Nominations from the Secretary**

Secretary Kalleberg reported that the Executive Office and Budget Committee is composed of the secretary (who functions as chair), the current president, the immediate past president, and the incoming president, and 3 at-large members who each serve a 3 year at-large term. Each year the secretary presents a ranked list of candidates for one of the three at-large positions. Important skills for service on this committee include administrative experience, and knowledge of budgeting. Kalleberg presented five names in ranked order for service on EOB. Members of Council reviewed and accepted the list as presented.

**Council voted unanimously to approve the ranked recommendations of the Secretary for appointment to the opening on the Executive Office and Budget committee.**

### **Nominations from the Executive Officer**

In addition to the committees established by the Bylaws and the award selection committees and task forces, there are several committees that serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Office. Executive Officer Hillsman presented ranked lists of candidates for appointment to these advisory committees. Members of Council reviewed the candidates for the various advisory committees and accepted the lists as presented.

It was noted that while several different committees or individuals are preparing lists of people for possible service on committees, it is important to monitor the lists to ensure that specific members do not receive multiple appointments. Because there are far more members than committee openings, it is desirable to have as many members as possible participate. While Council did not want to make this a binding rule, they did suggest that, as much as possible, each member should hold only one appointment. Council seeks nomination of good, qualified people without significant overlap.

**Council voted unanimously to approve the ranked recommendations of the Executive Officer for appointments to the ASA Advisory Committees.**

**Nominations from the Committee on Committees**

Following a hiatus, the Committee on Committees has been reinstated by action of the membership. The newly reconstituted committee met for a full day to develop a slate of candidates for appointment to ASA components. Council carefully reviewed the ranked slates of candidates for each committee.

**Council made one amendment and then voted to approve the ranked recommendations of the Committee on Committees for appointments to ASA components. [1 opposed]**

**12. Report from the Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons in Sociology**

Roberta Spalter-Roth reported that over the course of the last three years, this Committee has been developing a review of major aspects of the professional experience of LGBT people in the discipline. The results of that review have been compiled into an 85-page report which was distributed to members of Council. The report's Executive Summary provided an overview of the report, an overview of the research findings, directions for future research, and 6 specific recommendations. Spalter-Roth reported that the committee would like to work on the structures needed to implement the report's recommendations.

Members of Council expressed their appreciation to the committee for this effort. Noting that this item came up late on the agenda after several members had already left the meeting, it was proposed that Council accept this report with thanks and that the recommendations be reviewed more thoroughly at the next Council meeting.

**Council voted to accept the report of the committee with thanks to the members for their hard work. Council indicated a commitment to carefully review the recommendations contained in the committee's report at the next Council meeting.**

It was agreed that recommendation 5 could move forward now, rather than wait six months for the next Council meeting.

**Council agreed that the chair of the LGBT committee should communicate their recommendation to the *Contemporary Sociology* editors immediately rather than wait 6 months for the next Council meeting.**

**13. Proposal for a Task Force on Assessment of the Major**

ASA member Jon Lorence proposed the formation of a new task force to address student learning. Specifically, Lorence was concerned about the issue of standardized testing. Many states are requiring state universities to conduct outcome assessments for every major. Private institutions are also moving increasingly in the direction of requiring such standardized testing.

Lorence argued that an ASA nationally normed test could be administered to graduating seniors as part of a sociology department's effectiveness evaluation. ASA members have previously

been involved with development of tests such as the Graduate Record Examination in sociology (which is no longer offered).

Carla Howery, ASA Deputy Executive Director, offered a modification to this proposal suggesting that a task force entitled “Task Force on the Assessment of the Undergraduate Sociology Major” be created with a somewhat broader mission to:

- Describe the “landscape” of undergraduate assessment as it pertains to sociology;
- Identify promising practices in sociology departments, including exams, portfolios, assessment imbedded in courses, and so forth;
- Explore the possibility of and pluses and minuses of a standardized exam and what role, if any, ASA might play in its preparation and update over time; and,
- Suggest means to help departments consider these options and learn more about them, including proposals for relevant events at the annual meeting.

Council carefully reviewed the background and details of such a task force and a national standardized test. Caution was urged by many members, including a concern about the amount of time, work, and sophistication required to develop and administer such a test. Following an extensive discussion, it was agreed that a decision on this proposal was premature.

**Council voted to table this proposal until the final report of the Task Force on the Implications of Assessment of Faculty Productivity and Teaching Effectiveness is received so that Council can determine if that task force adequately covered the issues proposed for this new task force.**

#### **14. 2002 Budget Review and Analysis**

Members of Council received financial statements for January through May 2002 as well as projections of revenue and expenses through the end of fiscal year 2002. Data from actual 2001 performance was also provided for comparison purposes.

Secretary Kalleberg reported that the approved 2002 operating budget included a deficit of \$1,159 (excluding losses on the Association’s long-term investments). However, based on financial data through the end of May, EOB was currently projecting a deficit of approximately \$231,000 (excluding losses on investments). A portion of this operating deficit is attributable to lower than projected revenues and a slight increase in transition year expenses over what was originally budgeted.

Kalleberg reminded Council that projections are always tricky, especially when major activities such as the annual meeting, occurred in the latter half of the year. EOB will closely monitor the financial picture as it develops during the remainder of the year and will construct a 2003 budget for presentation at the next meeting of Council.

## 15. Follow-up Business

### Business Meeting Resolutions

The Annual Business Meeting of the American Sociological Association was held on Monday morning, August 19, 2002 during the Annual Meeting. Reports were presented by the ASA President, President-Elect, and Executive Officer. In addition, members were invited to present issues of concern for discussion and forwarding to Council. Members in attendances voted to send three resolutions to Council: (1) a “bill of rights” for researchers in relation to Institutional Review Boards (IRBs); (2) an amicus brief in the University of Michigan Law School affirmative action case, *Grutter v. Bollinger*; and (3) support for Hilton Chicago hotel workers in their negotiations for a new contract.

### IRBs

ASA member Harry Perlstadt of Michigan State University and Jack Katz of UCLA requested Council’s endorsement of a “Researcher’s Bill of Rights” including:

- The right to be told of the waiver to documented informed consent provisions contained in 45 CFR46 and have the waivers considered precedental;
- The right to use data collected by state agencies under human subjects provisions governing those agencies under IRB standards no higher than state law;
- The right to apply federal regulatory criteria that exempt research from IRB review without IRB review of the exemption;
- The same rights to associate with and observe people, ask questions, and publish the information they acquire as does any person whose rights of assembly, inquiry, and publication are protected by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution unless the receipt of funding for research specifically requires prior review and approval of research procedures; and
- The right to fair and uniform procedures and to due process.

Members of Council reviewed the resolution and discussed possible next steps. There was general agreement that IRB reviews can be challenging to field workers, but there was also agreement that steps were already being taken to address many of the issues raised by the resolution. There was also agreement that posing researchers’ rights against the rights of human participants in research would be counter-productive.

Following discussion, Council agreed that there is widespread concern about problems with IRB’s review of social science research, but that the way to address those issues was to improve existing processes rather than seek emancipation from it as outlined in the proposal.

**Council voted unanimously to reaffirm its commitment to the association’s strong leadership role and efforts to improve the human research protection system and its operation. Council appreciates the need for federal rules for the protection of human subjects. Council urged the Executive Office, along with the Committee on Professional Ethics, to consider specific issues that may need to be addressed at the national and local levels to ensure the advancement of research in accordance with best ethical practices. Council**

**further commends the Executive Officer to work with HHS' National Human Research Protection Advisory Committee as well as other scientific societies and related organizations to further this goal.**

**Amicus Curiae Brief**

Grutter v. Bollinger is an affirmative action case involving the University of Michigan Law School. This case is likely to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2003 term. It was suggested that this case could have considerable ramifications for the future of race and gender in admissions procedures for professional education. A resolution passed by a business meeting requesting that the American Sociological Association apply the weight of sociological research to the legal argument by writing an amicus curiae brief for the Supreme Court in this case. Specifically, it was proposed that ASA:

- Contribute to Grutter v. Bollinger with an amicus curiae brief that provides relevant sociological data and research that supports the student intervenors' case for affirmative action.
- Endorse and help build the march on the U.S. Supreme Court on the date of the hearing in Grutter v. Bollinger.

Council supported the general concept of an amicus brief but expressed concern about the lack of detailed information on the case and the specific scientific data to be assembled. There was also agreement that amicus briefs can be expensive to prepare and that any brief must have a solid scientific foundation.

**Council voted to affirm the value of sociological knowledge for court decisions regarding matters such as this. In accordance with existing Council policy on making decisions, such as this, Council established a subcommittee to explore whether other scientific societies are taking action in the case, to consult with the University of Michigan, to explore funding sources and to report back to Council via electronic communication for a final vote. Council sub-committee members include: Reskin, Bielby, Burawoy, Kalleberg, Hillsman, with consultation from Craig Calhoun regarding foundation activity.**

Following the Council meeting, the Council sub-committee quickly organized to learn more about the case of Grutter v. Bollinger. The sub-committee learned that the attorneys for the student intervenors had not approached any other scholarly association, although they are considering approaching the AERA. The attorneys reported that what they needed was a substantive review; legal professionals will be available to integrate that review into a legal document. The sub-committee found that the ASA should not incur legal expenses associated with drafting the document.

Therefore, the sub-committee recommended that Council authorize an ASA amicus brief that summarized sound sociological research that addresses the need for affirmative action in legal education. This action, they felt, was consistent with other ASA initiatives, including the project synthesizing sociological research on race, and the Association's recent policy statement on race.

The sub-committee proposed a drafting structure modeled after National Research Council committees, in which experts agree on the terrain the amicus brief should cover and then draft sections within their expertise. The sub-committee reported that Barbara Reskin was willing to chair that group and to orchestrate and write drafts of the entire document.

The preceding information was provided to members of Council in a memo from President Bielby, along with the recommendation of the sub-committee. Council members voted overwhelmingly in favor (16 in favor, 1 abstention) of proceeding with preparation of an amicus brief in the case of Grutter v. Bollinger

### **Hilton Hotel Employees**

Several ASA members brought to the attention of the membership that workers at the Palmer House Hilton and the Hilton Chicago, a majority of whom are women and people of color, were in negotiations with the Hilton Corporation for a wage and benefits increase. The workers, through their union, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Local 1, had voted 98% in favor of a strike starting August 31<sup>st</sup>. It was reported that more than 500 ASA meeting attendees had signed a statement in support of the workers. The Business Meeting passed a resolution to urge Council to formally support the hotel workers in their quest for increased compensation.

**Council voted unanimously to direct the Executive Officer to send a letter to the Hilton leadership and the leaders of HERE Local 1 indicating ASA's support for improving the compensation of the hotel employees in the current labor dispute.**

### **Selection of Dates for Mid-Year Council Meeting**

The winter EOB meeting will be January 11-12, 2003. Based on this, Council members considered options for the next Council meeting for early 2003. Members agreed to meet on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, with some members arriving on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> for other meetings (e.g., FAD). The Executive Officer was asked to investigate the possibility of holding the meeting on the west coast.

It was suggested that Council meetings be scheduled farther in advance to avoid conflicts for individual Council members. Possibly as soon as the election results are known one of the first acts of the new President-Elect would be to set meeting dates for mid-year Council meetings.

## **16. Adjournment**

With no further business for consideration at this meeting, President Bielby adjourned the meeting at 4:03 pm.