



Minutes of the Final Meeting 2004-2005 ASA Council

**Philadelphia Marriott Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Tuesday, August 16, 2005

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Minutes of the Final Meeting of the 2004-2005 ASA Council

August 16, 2005
Philadelphia Marriott Hotel

Council Members Present: Rebecca Adams (MAL*), Kathleen Blee (MAL), Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (MAL), Michael Burawoy (Past President), Esther Chow (MAL), Troy Duster (President), Cynthia Fuchs Epstein (President-Elect), Jennifer Glass (MAL), Deborah King (MAL), Rhonda Levine (MAL), Nan Lin (MAL), Ann Shola Orloff (MAL), Caroline Hodges Persell (VP), Bernice Pescosolido (Past VP), Lynn Smith-Lovin (VP-Elect), Diane Vaughan (MAL), Bruce Western (MAL), Franklin Wilson (Secretary), Min Zhou (MAL).

Incoming Council Members Present: Bonnie Thornton Dill, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Frances Fox Piven, Gay Seidman.

Guests Present: James Ennis, Janet Huber Lowry, Phil Nyden.

Staff Present: Janet Astner, Karen Edwards, Lee Herring, Sally Hillsman, Carla Howery, Michael Murphy, Mercedes Rubio, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Jessica Spickard.

1. Call to Order

On the last day of the ASA Centennial Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, President Troy Duster convened the final meeting of the 2004-2005 ASA Council. The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm on Tuesday, August 16, 2005.

Introduction of New Members

President Duster invited all members of Council to introduce themselves for the benefit of visitors. He also welcomed newly elected members of Council who were present as observers before formally joining Council the following day.

* MAL = Council Member-at-Large

Approval of Agenda

With no additions, deletions or modifications, the agenda for the meeting was accepted as originally presented.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 5-6, 2005, and the July 21, 2005 vote on the 2006 meeting location, were presented for review and approval. Hearing no discussion, President Duster called for a vote.

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of both the February 5-6, 2005 meeting and the July 21, 2005 Council vote as presented.

The approved minutes will be made available to members on the association's website.

2. Report of the President

In the interest of time, President Duster gave a brief report. A year earlier, he noted, the many Centennial projects and events seemed ambitious. Nonetheless, the various efforts came together for a very successful Annual Meeting. The Centennial banners were prominently featured throughout the meeting and were well received by attendees, as were the Presidential film and the Ward documentary written and produced by Gale Larsey that premiered during the meeting.

The *History of ASA* book by Katherine Rosich was released during the meeting, as was the History of Sociology Section's book. Preliminary registration figures indicate very strong attendance, perhaps second only to the 2004 meeting in San Francisco. He concluded his remarks by expressing appreciation to Sally Hillsman and all of the ASA staff for their efforts over the past year.

3. Report of the Secretary

ASA Secretary Franklin Wilson reported on membership, sections, and journal issues.

Membership

Wilson reported that membership is higher this year than at the same time last year. The membership staff are hoping to reach 14,000 by the conclusion of the 2005 membership year on September 30th; immediately prior to the Annual Meeting membership stood at 13,712.

Members continue to gravitate toward online systems, including online membership renewals and applications. This shift has produced many benefits, including less staff time required for data entry, fewer errors in data entry, and reduced cost for printing and mailing renewal statements. In 2002, only 5.6% of ASA members renewed their membership online. In 2005, however, 73.7% of members used the online system for this transaction.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of new members joining. At the same time, however, prior year renewals are up, comprising nearly 80% of 2005 members. There has been a slight decrease in the number of student members, but this is due to limited marketing resources being directed to other segments of the membership.

Overall, ASA membership is good. Membership appears to be headed toward the fourth consecutive annual increase after a period of decline.

Section Memberships

In 1970 when the ASA had 14,156 members there were 8 sections with 4,087 section memberships. Today there are 43 sections and one section-in-information, ASA has roughly 13,500 members, and there are roughly 22,000 section memberships. Earlier fears that an increasing number of sections would lead to a decline in section participation have not been realized; instead the opposite has occurred with new membership records set each year since 2002. The 2005 membership year will close on September 30, 2005, but section participation for 2005 is already above the level experienced in 2004.

In addition to an overall increase in member participation, sections have introduced many new programs and activities that are clearly attracting the interest of members. Those initiatives are enumerated in the annual report each section submits to the Committee on Sections in the fall. By most measures, both large and small sections are active, have members, and represent vital intellectual communities.

Journal Subscriptions

ASA continues to experience a decline in institutional subscriptions. The steepest decline is for institutional subscriptions to the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (3.1%). The decline has, however, slowed down compared to previous years. Despite increases in ASA membership, two journals, *Contemporary Sociology* and *Sociological Methodology*, are again experiencing decreases in member subscriptions. *Contemporary Sociology* has now experienced a decrease in member subscriptions each year since 1997. The decline in *Sociological Methodology* member subscriptions is

likely due to editorial issues that have significantly delayed publication of the annual volume.

Contexts

Contexts has experienced a slight decrease in subscriptions, from 2,177 to 2,158 (with six more weeks before the end of the membership year). Wilson suggested that perhaps the membership has reached the saturation point for *Contexts* subscriptions.

Wilson reminded Council that *Contexts* is projected to lose money through 2009 and the organization does not expect to recoup the money invested in *Contexts*. He noted that cumulative losses are projected to be about \$630,000 at the close of 2005, which is about \$35,000 ahead of where it was projected to be at that time. He noted that the publisher has kept costs down. At this point the business plan had forecast 3,000 member subscribers, but instead there will likely be about 2,500 at the end of the membership year.

4. Report of the Executive Officer

ASA Executive Officer, Sally Hillsman, presented Council with a brief report on the activities of the Executive Office.

Staff

Hillsman reported that the ASA is fortunate to have an extraordinary professional staff. Some are professional sociologists and some professionals in other domains who have learned the art of sociology if not all of its science, and who therefore are able to represent the association in all of its venues. At all levels, the ASA has a truly extraordinary and talented staff, full of energy and creativity.

The long awaited new website premiered one day before the start of the Annual Meeting. There will be many bugs to work out and problems to fix in the days ahead, but the new site marks an enormous step forward in making information and resources available to members of the association in a more user-friendly fashion. A new online bookstore was added earlier this year and has been very well received by members. When the electronic bookstore was launched, usage of the ASA website, which was already substantial, increased by approximately 50%. The ever increasing move to online activities means there will be more pressure on the website and on the staff to keep the content current. The association must now think about how best to manage the association's online presence. Later this fall, a searchable, electronic job bank will become available as a replacement for the current *Employment Bulletin*.

While staff work hard for the association, members also volunteer a great deal of their time to the association. Increasingly, however, as members are faced with multiple professional demands, staff are being called upon for increasing committee and other support. The task facing the association now is to find out how much support will be needed and consider the staff level necessary to meet those needs. No specific proposals were presented to Council. Rather, this information was provided to prepare members of Council for possible future budget and staff changes.

Past Vice President Bernice Pescosolido asked that minutes of the meeting include an appreciation of the ASA staff for all of their hard work. Members unanimously concurred and offered a round of applause to Hillsman and the ASA staff.

Outside Funding

The Association has been quite successful at raising money for specific tasks. The ASA Research and Development Department has been awarded \$444,700 in grant money, of which about half has been spent. In 2005, grants have been received from the Sloan Foundation and the Ford Foundation to support two ASA research projects and the National Science Foundation to support work with the National Academy of Engineering.

The ASA received its sixth grant for the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) which nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, groundbreaking research initiatives and other important scientific research activities such as conferences. ASA/FAD awards provide sociologists with small grants (\$7,000 maximum) for innovative research that has the potential for challenging the discipline, stimulating new lines of research, and creating new networks of scientific collaboration. ASA matches the NSF dollar-for-dollar in making these awards.

A FAD Supplemental Grant (“Bachelors and Beyond”) was awarded to ASA to conduct the first phase of a survey of a sample of sociology majors to understand “What can bachelor’s-level graduates do with their degrees in sociology?” To explore what these BA graduates are actually doing, ASA’s Research and Development Department will survey a sample of sociology students three times: (1) in their senior year of college, (2) one year after graduation, and (3) two years after graduation. The senior year survey has been completed with more than 1,700 senior majors responding. The grant will be used to publish and disseminate the report and begin planning for the next round of the survey.

An Alfred E. Sloan Foundation Grant ("PhD + 6") supported the third wave of an ASA longitudinal study of the universe of PhDs who received their degrees in sociology in 1996 and 1997. From the beginning, one ASA focus was the potentially contradictory efforts of developing successful careers and forming families for men and women with sociology doctoral degrees. Brief follow-up surveys with cohort members were conducted in 1999 and 2001 to ascertain if they had changed jobs, married, or had children and a major on-line survey (the PhD +6) was conducted with the \$36,500 Sloan grant. An additional grant from Sloan in 2005 will allow ASA to continue to analyze and disseminate the findings. Thus far they have been presented at organizations of human resource professions, regional sociology meetings, and at the Chairs Conference at the 2005 Annual meeting. In addition, a solicited article for a special issue of *Change, The Magazine of Higher Learning*, will be published in November.

A Ford Foundation grant received in May provides support for a 14-month, four-city survey of PhD-level sociologists who are employed in research and professional sociology positions in sectors other than the academic sector. This study will explore if and how these sociologists use the sociological skills they learned in graduate schools in their current paid employment; whether they continue to think of themselves as sociologists, and how satisfied they are with their careers. ASA is currently developing a group of partner organizations to help us develop and field this survey. We will use membership lists from a variety of organizations and a snowball sample to increase the number of survey respondents.

A National Science Foundation grant received last month provides support to the ASA and the National Academy of Engineering, Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on Engineering Education (CASEE), to collaborate on a two-day national workshop that will bring together 18 engineering faculty and sociological researchers in a cross-disciplinary effort to explore models, hypotheses, and study designs to investigate the social dynamics, including the social and organizational processes needed to improve the diffusion and acceptance of new engineering curricula and pedagogy.

Department Affiliates

ASA Department Affiliates program continues to be an important element in the ASA's collaboration with departments. This program is a key vehicle for strengthening ties among departments and with ASA to advance the role of departments and of the discipline more generally.

Since the Department Affiliate was launched in 1994, there has been a steady and stable group of committed departments ranging from large graduate programs to small undergraduate programs. A larger proportion of departments with graduate programs, however, currently choose to be Affiliates. The Chair Conference and Meeting of Directors of Graduate Studies at the ASA Annual Meeting also continue to be important venues for sociology departments to work with each other and engage in important discussion with each other and with ASA.

High School Affiliates

The High School Affiliates program – launched in 2003 – is an effort to reach out to high school social studies departments and link them to the ASA, in a manner similar to department affiliates. The teachers are *not* ASA members, but they have information about, and access to, ASA resources, particularly teaching publications. They receive a subscription to *Contexts*, a teaching resource. At present, there are 21 high school affiliates, up from 12 last year. The Executive Office is continuing to undertake outreach to encourage more schools and teachers to take advantage of this relationship with ASA. While this will never be a large group, an increase in affiliates is anticipated.

Election

The annual ASA election was conducted on schedule in May. The election was conducted smoothly and without problem, producing the largest recorded member participation.

There were 10,942 members eligible to vote in the 2005 election. With one exception, this was the largest number of eligible voters anytime in the past decade (in 1997 there were 11,179 eligible voters). Of those 10,942 voters, 4,422 members cast votes in the 2005 election (40.41%), which is the largest number of voters and the highest percentage of members voting in any ASA election for which we have detailed records (i.e., over the last 20 years).

Once again a majority of ASA members continue to opt for online voting. Of the 4,422 votes cast in this election, 2956 votes (67%) were cast via the Internet, with paper ballots making up 32% of the votes (1,430 voters). The opening of the election was announced in our emailed *Member News and Notes (MNN)* and on the ASA website. However, the large increase in voter participation in the 2005 election is attributable to the introduction of a new service: customized e-mail reminders for eligible voters. Ten days after the paper ballots were mailed, a personalized e-mail message was sent to all voters with instructions on how to log into the online system to read statements and to cast their vote. Fifteen days later (5 days before the

closing of the election), another personalized reminder e-mail message was sent, this time only to eligible voters who had not yet cast a vote in the election. Spikes in member participation were directly followed by those messages. Clearly members found this new service to be a useful innovation. We are also pleased to report that we negotiated with our election vendor to significantly reduce the cost of this service from the original proposal.

The move to online publication of candidate biographical statements has reduced Association costs in printing, collating, and mailing; it remains, however, an extremely costly item in the ASA operating budget. This is largely because most members hold multiple section memberships, some as many as 18 section memberships. ASA's ballot is notable as one, and perhaps the, most complex in the Association community.

Member Contributions

As part of the annual membership renewal process, members are offered the opportunity to contribute to several ASA programs, including the American Sociological Fund (ASF), Congressional Fellowship Fund (CFF), Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD), Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), Soft Currency Fund (SCF), and the Teaching Enhancement Fund (TEF). Through July 21, 2005, contributions to these funds totaled \$26,505. This is an increase from 2004 contributions of \$25,942. While not a large amount, the rate at which ASA members make contributions is similar to the rate reported by other learned societies.

5. Report of the Committee on Publications

Secretary Franklin Wilson reported on meetings and activities of the Committee on Publications, and presented one item for action. The Committee on Publications proposed that Council approve a trial project that would allow students who are in classes where the sociology instructor will be using *Context* as a specific teaching tool to subscribe to *Contexts* for a significantly reduced rate, perhaps \$10-12 per year, for four issues.

If approved, the Committee on Publications would work with the instructors and the publisher to prepare a more complete plan for this experiment, which would be reviewed by the committee, the Secretary, and the President prior to launch. Wilson emphasized that this proposal is designed to be financially neutral for the magazine.

Several members asked why students would subscribe to such a magazine if their university had a library subscription. Making subscription to *Contexts* a course requirement would be difficult since instructors would not know in advance what information a particular issue would contain. Some argued in

general against this use of the magazine. These issues were discussed and Council agreed to try this experiment for one year with a target set of classes and instructors.

Following a lengthy discussion,

Council voted to accept the recommendation of the Committee on Publications and authorize a sub-committee of the Committee on Publications to experiment with expanding the use of *Contexts* for undergraduate and graduate students.

(14 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions)

The Secretary also reported that the Publications Committee had agreed to reactivate the Committee on Electronic Publication, having members from the Publications Committee, Council, and the EOB. The President, Secretary, and Chair of the Publications Committee will discuss potential members.

6. Report of the Committee on Awards

Esther Chow, chair of the Committee on Awards (COA), briefed Council on the recent Awards Ceremony as well as the meetings of the committee. COA met twice on Monday, August 15th, once in the morning with chairs of all but one of the ASA award selection committees, and again in the afternoon with just members of the committee present. Chow thanked Michael Murphy for his help to her, the COA, and the eight award selection committees over the last year. Council expressed their appreciation to Chow for her leadership of the annual Award Ceremony the previous evening.

Award Ceremony

Members of the committee were generally pleased with the Awards Ceremony the previous evening, noting that it was very close to on time and that everyone adhered to the 90-second time limit for remarks.

Chow reported that several of the award selection committees have commented that the selection committees are nearly invisible in the selection process and that they feel shut out of the Award Ceremony. COA discussed this at some length, ultimately deciding to recommend to Council that the chairs of the selection committees be invited to participate in the Award Ceremony to read the 100-word citation printed in the Awards Program (not make a speech) and to hand the plaque to the recipient.

Members of Council concurred with the sentiments of the award selection chairs, but were at the same time concerned about the very tight timetable required for the Award Ceremony and felt that the simple movement of

additional people to and from the microphone could add extra time to the event.

The Executive Officer had earlier commented on the general overload members are feeling with their professional responsibilities and the consequences for fulfilling their volunteer roles in the association. Building on those comments, a member of Council urged adoption of this motion, noting that the selection committees work very hard in reviewing nominations.

Ultimately, a suggestion was made to try the recommended approach for one year to see how it works. If this approach adds significant time to the event it will have to be reconsidered.

Council voted to accept the COA recommendation to invite the chairs of the award selection committees to read the 100-word citation and present the plaque to their recipient during the annual Award Ceremony. (4 abstentions)

Minor Award Changes

COA recommended the following administrative changes to current awards:

- Print the names of the award selection committee members in the Awards Program.
- Print extra copies of the Awards Program to have available at the door on the night of the Ceremony.
- Seat all recipients and presenters on stage throughout the ceremony to save time moving on and off the stage (if the venue permits).
- Continue practice of limiting all participants to 90 seconds for any remarks.
- Continue practice of inviting everyone to arrive one hour early for photos.

The Executive Officer reported that these appeared to be possible; members of Council concurred with these recommendations with no additional discussion.

Council voted to accept the recommendations on the Awards Program enumerated immediately above.

Award Nomination Deadlines

Chow reported that most ASA awards have a deadline of June 15th; the Dissertation Award deadline is April 15th. Currently, at the request of

several of the award committees, COA voted unanimously to move the deadline date for ASA awards to January 15th. It was felt that this would assist award committees by giving adequate time to review nominations, and would give time to generate additional nominations if no or insufficient nominations are submitted. Also, the earlier date will assist staff by moving the deadline away from the time of peak/early summer Annual Meeting preparation.

Members of Council concurred with the sentiment of the recommendation, but debated what constituted a good deadline. After consideration of several options,

Council voted unanimously to change the deadline for submission of nominations for all ASA Awards to January 31.

Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award

Currently the criteria for the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award specify that nomination letters must be submitted by two ASA members. Chow reported that the committee recommended this be changed to require only one nomination.

Current award criteria specify that publications in the three-years preceding the award presentation be considered. The committee recommended that this be changed from three years to two years.

Finally, the committee recommended that the name of the Award be changed from the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award to the Distinguished Book Award, noting that “scholarly publication” is too vague and should be more specifically focused on books.

Council voted to accept the three recommendations of COA enumerated immediately above regarding the name and criteria for nominations for the ASA Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award. (1 abstention)

Fellowship Category

Chow reported that the COA met with Patricia Yancey Martin in follow-up to her earlier letter to President Duster proposing that ASA develop a formal fellowship program. The committee agreed that they needed additional information before making a recommendation to Council, and asked staff to check with other scholarly associations regarding their programs, policies procedures, and criteria. The committee will review that material and consider this proposal at a future meeting.

Proposed Name Changes for ASA Awards

Chow reported that the Committee on Awards received and reviewed proposals to change the names of two of the existing ASA Awards: a proposal to change the name of the ASA Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award to the DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award, and a related proposal to change the name of the DuBois-Johnson-Frazier Award to the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award. Chow reported that the members of the committee carefully reviewed these proposals. Members of the committee were concerned about several things related to these proposed name changes, but most crucially that many people were giants in the founding and development of sociology, so the selection of one person, especially for the most important award ASA offers, is impossible. In addition, the member making these proposals did not consult with the selection committees for the two awards in question. The committee also reviewed prior Council stands on the issue of such issues over the last 25 years, finding that Council has consistently opposed named awards. The committee concluded this discussion by voting unanimously to reject these proposed name changes.

Submission of Nominations

COA continues to be concerned that most awards experience problems in getting a significant number of nominations. The committee considered this and will attempt more specific "target marketing" in the next round of nominations.

Award Procedures

Chow also reported that the committee is pleased to have a draft of an Awards Manual summarizing all existing policy and procedures for ASA awards. The committee will work to expand this material in the next year with the goal of distributing the manual to all award selection committee members to help them with their work.

A member of Council expressed concern about committees selecting multiple award recipients. Some agreed, but others did not see this as a problem, pointing out that Nobel awards are frequently given to more than one recipient.

This fall Executive Office staff will review the entire ASA award process and develop recommendations for improving the process for future years.

7. Task Force Reports

Final Report of the Task Force on Sociological Specialties

James Ennis, Chair of the task force, joined Council for the presentation and discussion of the report. Roberta Spalter-Roth, staff liaison to the task force, also participated in the presentation and discussion.

Two years ago Council established the Task Force to Revise the ASA Specialty Areas and asked them to review the current 70+ specialties to determine if they are adequate. The task force focused on three major issues: Are the names for specialties current or outdated? Can the current listing of 70+ specialties be organized so that they reflect a smaller list of broad or core categories without losing the detail of the specialties? What are the structural relations among the specialties? Can a way be devised for members to describe their own work in a more open ended way?

The task force approached several of these questions by means of a cluster analysis of ASA member data, as a guide to which current categories might be aggregated into larger groupings. A draft was prepared and was circulated to section chairs for comment.

The task force recommended that Council adopt a new system of interest reporting that featured 16 categories and 77 sub-categories, based on a restructuring of the current system. The task force also recommended that members be allowed to provide a description of their work if it does not fit into an existing category. The task force recommended that the revised interest options be included on a trial basis in the 2006 membership application and membership renewal forms.

With numerous issues to address before adjournment, President Duster asked to defer the discussion and vote on this report until the next day. There was no objection to deferring this item. Duster thanked the members of the task force for their efforts.

Follow-up to the Final Report of the Task Force on Contingent Work

In August 2004, Council accepted the report of the Task Force on Part Time and Contingent Work. Among the recommendations from the Task Force Report was the following:

In an effort to keep contingent faculty active in the profession, the task force recommends Council consider special registration fees for the Annual Meeting as well as travel subsidies.

Before considering this Task Force recommendation, Council asked the Executive Office to review data on the need for and cost of implementing special registration fees for contingent, part-time or adjunct faculty. That review has been completed and reported to the EOB at the July 2005 meeting.

Currently, three categories of members pay a subsidized fee to register for the ASA Annual Meeting: retired members, student members, and unemployed members. These groups pay \$60 for pre-registration (\$100 on-site) compared to the \$130 pre-registration (\$180 on-site) fee paid by regular members. Part-time/contingent faculty status is not currently a category for receiving a subsidized registration fee.

The ASA Research and Development Department analyzed 2004 membership data on part-time/contingent faculty within the ASA membership and their participation in annual meetings. Each year, ASA develops a research file at the close of the membership year. To identify potentially part-time/contingent faculty in the 2004 membership, research staff selected *non-student members who indicated they were working part-time in the academic sector*. Using these criteria, there were 419 ASA members who were part-time/contingency faculty (3% of the total 2004 membership) of whom *13 (3%) reported having incomes under \$30,000*.

Of the 419 ASA members identified as part-time/contingent faculty, 68 (16%) attended the 2004 Annual Meeting. Half (34) paid the subsidized registration fee for the "unemployed" (\$60 or \$100) and the other 34 paid the unsubsidized fee for regular members (\$130 or \$180). Thirteen of the 34 who paid the regular member registration fee reported having low incomes (under \$30,000). Two who paid a subsidized registration fee for the "unemployed" reported an income over \$30,000.

Part-time/contingent faculty are a very small proportion of the Association's membership. The situation of part-time/contingent faculty within sociology departments is a complex phenomenon well described in the Task Force report. Many recommendations in the report are activities that the ASA can continue to work on, especially through our research on the discipline and the profession, including foci on both career and employment patterns and on faculty structures within sociology departments.

It was the unanimous sense of the EOB that Council should follow the recommendation of the Executive Office to retain for the current structure of Annual Meeting registered fee subsidies. EOB also asked the Executive Office to begin developing additional information on who the Association

subsidizes and for what services as part of EOB's on-going examination of the Association's dues and fees structure.

Council voted to retain the current structure of ASA Annual Meeting registration fee subsidies and its standing policy on travel subsidies to the Annual Meeting. (1 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Final Report of the Task Force on Assessment

Janet Huber Lowry presented the final report of the Task Force on Assessment to Council. The task force was charged with developing materials to help departments undertake the assessment of student learning in their undergraduate sociology program. The task force reported that it has completed its charge. The resulting manual is available at a 72-page paperback entitled *Creating an Effective Assessment Plan for the Social Major*. The publication will be sold through the ASA Teaching Resources Center with other teaching resources. Council thanked the members of the task force for their efforts on behalf of the association.

Interim Report Task Force on Institutionalization of Public Sociology

Phil Nyden, Chair of the Task Force on Institutionalization of Public Sociology, presented an interim report on task force activities to Council. The task force has been working with sections to integrate public sociology into ongoing activities. This raised a discussion on the need for a section on public sociology, but according to Nyden, the task force members feel that integration of public sociology into ongoing efforts was more fruitful than creating a section. Nyden noted that the task force is exploring ways to ensure an ongoing presence or organizing function within the association for public sociology. He added that there is a tremendous amount of public sociology work occurring at the moment, both visible and invisible, that just needs to be pulled together in some way.

Members of Council questioned the contradiction of the task force considering a separate group or function while at the same time discouraging creation of a section on public sociology. Nyden and others suggested that a key element of this proposal was the need for more ongoing ASA staff support, which at the moment is not feasible since the staff is stretched to the limit already.

The sense of Council was that the task force should explore several things: gather and report back to Council what is already going on so that Council could explore if or how ASA could be a facilitator, and define reasonable activities within the current structure of the ASA. Nyden agreed that this

was appropriate. President Duster thanked Nyden and the members of the task force for their work.

8. Report on Information Technology

ASA introduced a new member benefit in March with the launch of the online bookstore. The launch had minimal technical glitches that were primarily related to overseas shipping charges; all known issues have been resolved. Revenue related to bookstore sales in the March 2005 through June 2005 period showed a 50% increase over the same period in 2004. This, coupled with traffic to the online bookstore, clearly shows the service has been well received.

A new telephone system was installed in June 2005, replacing a system that was more than 10 years old. The old system was becoming difficult to service as both spare parts and technicians with knowledge of the old system were becoming increasingly scarce. The transition to the new phone system went very well. The Executive Office experienced very little downtime on the morning of the cutover from the old to the new system. The new system brings new features to ASA, including direct phone and fax numbers to staff, the ability to send and receive faxes directly to and from a PC, caller ID, and a quicker transition from the ASA main number to staff lines.

ASA has contracted with Bean Creative, an Alexandria, Virginia, company, to develop a web-based job bank. The job bank will be based on a system Bean Creative developed for the American Political Science Association but will be significantly improved to better meet ASA member needs. It will replace ASA's Employment Bulletin (EB). Employers will be able to post complete job opportunity listings as soon as they are available (rather than having to wait for the next EB), remove them when the position is filled, and search candidate resumes. Candidates will be able to post resumes that can be accessed only by prospective employers, and search job opportunity listings using a sophisticated data base search capacity. System administrators will have many capabilities, including the ability to review and approve/disapprove all employer and candidate posts, create reports, search candidate resumes and job opportunity listings, and set pricing. Access will be free to member job searchers and non-member job seekers will be able to purchase access to the Job Bank for only as long as they need to, rather than for an entire year, thus keeping the cost low.

Earlier plans were to replace all executive office desktop computers in the spring of this year. The online bookstore, Web site redesign, and phone

system replacement projects have delayed the desktop replacement project. It is now anticipated that this will occur during the first quarter of 2006.

The launch of the new ASA website was reported above as part of the Executive Officer's report.

9. 2004 Financial Statements and Report of the Audit Committee

Secretary Wilson reported to Council on 2004 finances and presented the audit of 2004 financial records.

Approval of the 2004 Audit

At its July 9, 2005 meeting, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget convened as the ASA Audit Committee and reviewed the 2004 audit report and discussed internal control issues for the Association.

The auditors found the financial statements to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and issued a clean (i.e. "unqualified") opinion to the Association.

The committee was apprised of the recommendation from the auditors that, as a good practice of internal controls, all journal entries should be reviewed by a second person. The majority of the Association's journal entries are made by the Accounting Manager and are routinely reviewed by the Controller. However, the Controller also makes journal entries for monthly closings. The Executive Officer will now review the Controller's entries quarterly and sign off on them; the first such review occurred at the beginning of July for the first and second quarters.

The Audit Committee reviewed the internal control policies that are being developed and transformed into a formal document by the Controller. They were very pleased with the progress. The Committee discussed two areas where additional policies are desirable: a statement of policy regarding the use of outside vendors that are related to or have some connection with staff, and protocols for the protection of credit card information and other personal data generated via e-commerce and stored in the in-house database. Staff will report back to the Audit Committee at its next meeting.

Council voted unanimously to accept the audit of the 2004 financial records as presented.

2004 Year-End Financials

Members of Council received copies of 2004 year-end financial statements, including a narrative report detailing final operating amounts for 2004. Information for 2003 was provided for comparison purposes. Operating results for 2004 were up significantly over the previous year, due primarily to increases in membership, a very successful annual meeting, and controlled expenses across most program areas. Income was higher than anticipated and expenses were lower than expected, which resulted in a positive net operating amount of \$280,033 for 2004.

10. Report on ASA Investments and Reserves

In January 2005, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget, along with its Investment Subcommittee, completed the final necessary steps in its review of ASA's long-term investments, and in February, these investments were transferred to a new brokerage account under the management of the Association's new investment advisor, Gordon Bernhardt. All of the stock holdings and approximately one third of the fixed income holdings were liquidated and replaced with shares of Dimensional Fund Analysis funds.

The Investment Subcommittee met by conference call in July 2005 to review the transition and current status of the investments. The subcommittee was very pleased with the transition, with Bernhardt, and with the clarity of the new quarterly report. The full EOB, likewise, expressed satisfaction with the transition and new manager after reviewing the reports at its July 2005 meeting.

As of June 30, 2005, association reserves totaled \$6,764,979. Of this amount, all are restricted as to their use except for \$2.66 million. EOB has debated the amount of unrestricted funds ASA should have in reserve. While no one standard exists, many experts recommend that associations and individuals should have a minimum of 50% of their annual expenses in reserve. EOB will continue to discuss this matter.

11. Follow Up Business

Council Statement on Human Rights

With the consent of Council, President Duster deferred discussion and vote on this item to the meeting the following day.

12. Adjournment

Duster thanked all members of Council for their hard work during his term as President, and wished the following members well as their terms on Council drew to a close: Michael Burawoy, Esther Chow, Jennifer Glass, Deborah King, Rhonda Levine, Bernice Pescosolido. Outgoing members of Council were presented with small gifts bearing the association's Centennial as a token of appreciation for their service on Council. Executive Officer Hillsman presented Troy Duster with a signed, framed print of the cartoon that appeared on the cover of the Centennial cartoon book.

With no additional business for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.