



Minutes of the First Meeting 2005-2006 ASA Council

**Philadelphia Marriott Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Wednesday, August 17, 2005

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Minutes of the First Meeting of the 2005-2006 ASA Council

August 17, 2005
Philadelphia Marriott Hotel

Council Members Present: Rebecca Adams (MAL), Judith Auerbach (MAL), Kathleen Blee (MAL), Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (MAL), Bonnie Thornton Dill (VP Elect), Troy Duster (Past President), Cynthia Fuchs Epstein (President), Evelyn Nakano Glenn (MAL), Michele Lamont (MAL), Nan Lin (MAL), Ann Shola Orloff (MAL), Caroline Hodges Persell (Past VP), Frances Fox Piven (President-Elect), Lynn Smith-Lovin (VP), Diane Vaughan (MAL), Bruce Western (MAL), Franklin Wilson (Secretary), Min Zhou (MAL).

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

Following the close of the 2005 ASA Centennial Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, ASA President Cynthia Fuchs Epstein called the first meeting of the new 2005-2006 Council to order at 8:35 am on Wednesday, August 17, 2005.

2. Report of President

President Epstein congratulated Past President Troy Duster on the outstanding program for the 2005 Centennial Annual Meeting. Preliminary reports place attendance as second only the San Francisco meeting in 2004. Epstein commented briefly on the difficulty in planning a program for 2006, given two changes in venue. She deferred additional comments until later in the day when a full discussion of the 2006 meeting was scheduled.

3. Report of President-Elect

President-Elect Frances Fox Piven reported to Council that her preliminary thinking was to construct the 2006 Annual Meeting around the theme of Politics and Sociology. She presented Council with a proposed slate of members for the 2007 Program Committee. Specifically she proposed that Edward Telles and Mitchell Duneier continue to serve as carry-overs from the 2006 Program Committee, and that the following new members be appointed: Fred Block (UC-Davis), Gary Delgado (Applied Research Center), Paul DiMaggio (Princeton University), Peter Dreier (Occidental College), Susan Eckstein (Boston College), Magali Sarfatti-Larson (Temple University), and France Winddance Twine (UC-Santa Barbara). A member of Council noted that all members were either on the east or west coast and there were no members from the mid-west or south. Piven agreed, noting that she had six slots to fill and had focused primarily on the types of institutions people represented.

Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed slate of candidates for appointment to the 2007 Program Committee.

4. Report of Secretary

ASA Secretary Franklin Wilson presented a series of updates and action items from the July meeting of the Committee on the Executive Office and the Budget (EOB).

Journal Subscription Rates for 2006

In July EOB agreed to recommend a 6% increase in the institutional rates for ASA journal subscriptions. This increase is based, in part, on expected postage rate increases in early 2006 as well as inflationary adjustments in printing and labor costs. For comparison purposes, publishing industry experts are forecasting a 9% increase on average, so the recommended 6% increase is significantly lower than the industry overall.

Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed subscription rates for 2006.

Online Version of Contexts

The University of California has recommended a new online-only option for access to *Contexts*. The discount on this non-print option is quite low and ASA will retain a revenue stream comparable to the current print/online

combined subscription rate. ASA is developing plans for an online-only option for the self-published ASA journals in 2006.

Council voted unanimously to approve offering an online-only version of *Contexts*.

Membership Dues for 2006

One year ago Council approved the Executive Office recommendation to hold member dues rates for 2005 at the 2004 level (i.e., no COLA increase). With increasing costs, however, a COLA increase of 2.8% was recommended for 2006 membership dues.

A member inquired about the possibility of freezing dues rates for students, and offsetting that income loss by increasing the cost of the highest dues category. Council debated the merits of this proposal but when a motion was made, it failed for lack of a second.

Council voted to approve the EOB recommendation to increase 2006 membership dues by a COLA of 2.8 percent. (13 in favor, 1 abstention)

Financial Support for Minority Fellowships

The ASA T-32 Training Grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has been refunded for the next five years with years 4 and 5 to be based upon and NIH review at the end of year 3. However, all T-32 grants have been severely reduced. For ASA this means that there will be 16, rather than 26, slots available each year. Because fellows are generally provided three years of support, this means that, *on average*, we will have four new fellows each year depending of course on how many fellows complete in each year. This is down from an average of eight. In addition, for 2005 only, the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) has given us one slot that is guaranteed for only one year. While we hope NIDA will extend this to cover the additional two years, it may not.

For more than a decade, ASA has supported additional MFP fellows beyond those funded by NIH, in partnership with the broader sociology community. When the ASA investment fund supporting those fellows expired in 2002, Council agreed to make up the difference between the cost of the existing fellows who had not yet completed their three-year terms and the annual revenue ASA receives from a wide range of other organizations and ASA members who contribute annually to the MFP fund. In 2003 Council also agreed to contribute ASA funds to support one new fellow in 2004, and then also agreed in 2004 to help support an additional new fellow in 2005.

ASA's organizational capacity to manage a successful national minority-training program for sociology PhD candidates has provided the discipline with an infrastructure for a collaborative training effort that is not available elsewhere. Therefore, other sociological associations have contributed to ASA's MFP fund in support of MFP fellows, including those who are not restricted to the sociological study of mental health or drugs and health as are the NIH funded trainees. Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), Association of Black Sociologists (ABS), Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), Midwest Sociological Society (MSS), Society for the Study of Social Studies (SSS) and several other state and regional associations contribute annually to this fund, which also receives some revenue from contributed royalties and donations from ASA members.

In 2003 ASA's General Fund contributed the difference between revenues we received and our expenses for these non-NIH fellows; the amount was \$11,362. In 2004, it was \$14,060. Beginning August 1, 2005, ASA and its sociology partners will have two non-NIH fellows with 2 and 3 years remaining. ASA will begin recruiting in the fall for the 2006 MFP cohort. If we are to add a new non-NIH fellow in 2006, we will need approval from Council. If ASA were to continue to add one new non-NIH fellow annually from 2006 on, the annual cost to ASA is estimated to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. This amount is the difference between anticipated revenues from other sociology sources and the annual cost of three fellows. This assumes, of course, that annual contributions from other sources continue, which we have no reason to believe will not be the case.

At its July 2005 meeting, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget voted to recommend Council support the following recommendation:

To approve using the ASA General Fund to contribute to the cost of adding one additional MFP fellow each year for the next five years beginning in 2006 at an anticipated cost of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year contingent on the continued funding of NIMH. Should the average amount over time exceed this estimate, the matter is to be revisited by EOB.

Members of Council voted unanimously in support of this motion.

Investment Sub-Committee

Wilson concluded his report by noting that EOB has established an advisory investment committee and that Michael Aiken and Paul DiMaggio have agreed to continue as members.

5. Report of the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Sally Hillsman reported to Council on two items; she had provided a detailed report on additional items to Council the previous day.

Executive Office Lease

The ASA Executive Office currently occupies 8,100 square feet on the 7th floor of 1307 New York Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. The lease began on January 1, 1999 and runs for 120 months, expiring December 31, 2008. The lease provides one five-year renewal option at a rent to be set by the building owners, *if* none of the four owner associations wants the space ASA occupies for its own use. If ASA wishes to exercise the renewal option, it must give notice to the owners within a very narrow window (no earlier than 240 and no later than 180 days before the lease expiration).

ASA leases this space for \$20 per square foot (psf) annually (\$162,000). On top of this base fee, ASA pays an additional amount for building operating expenses that is calculated annually based on the audited expenses of the building. This amount has risen somewhat each year. In 2004, ASA paid an additional \$69,929 in operating expenses (about \$8.63 psf) for a total annual rent of \$231,929 or \$28.63 psf.

Hillsman reported that though we are still three and a half-years from the expiration date of the lease, she is about to begin formal discussions with the building owners regarding whether ASA will be able to exercise the five-year renewal option and, if so, at what rent. Under our current lease, however, the building owners are not *required* to provide us with any final decision about whether we can exercise our five-year option until 240 days (eight months) before the expiration of our lease. Several of the owner associations are growing, as is ASA; it is not known if this means they will want ASA's space in the building.

Obviously, in the current tightening real estate market in Washington, it is not feasible to wait until eight months out from the expiration of the lease to develop alternative plans. The Executive Office has therefore begun to explore the current real estate market to understand our position in that market for both commercial rental and possible purchase of space.

Council and Executive Office Science Policy Issues

In February of this year, Council issued a public statement regarding increasing the representation of women and minorities in science, engineering, and math. The statement addressed the comments made by Harvard University's President Lawrence Summers about the public debate

of causes of gender differences in science and math career paths and achievements.

In April, Council formally congratulated Dalton Conley as the 2005 winner of the National Science Foundation's Alan T. Waterman Award. ASA sponsored a research poster by Conley at the June 2005 Coalition for National Science Funding Reception/Exhibition; this event drew the largest ever congressional and federal audience of 380 people.

The Executive Officer has also been working on or monitoring eight other major issues since the last Council meeting. ASA has partnered with COSSA and other associations on these issues.

6. Committee and Advisory Panel Appointments

Nominations from the President

Prior to the Annual Meeting, new Members-at-Large of the ASA Council were informed of their Liaison assignments and invited to attend meetings as observers. Those appointments, made by President Epstein, are: Judith Auerbach, Council Liaison to Spivack Advisory Panel; Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Council Liaison to FAD and the Task Force on Sociology and General Education; Michele Lamont, Council Liaison to FAD and the Committee on Sections; Gay Seidman, Council Liaison to the Committee on Awards.

Nominations from the Secretary

Secretary Wilson presented a ranked slate of candidates for appointment to the one vacancy on the Committee on Executive Office and Budget (EOB).

Council voted to approve the Secretary's ranked slate of candidates for appointment to the EOB.

Nominations from the Executive Officer

The Executive Officer recommends to Council ranked lists of members for appointment to several Executive Office advisory components, including the MFP Advisory Panel, the Honors Program Advisory Panel, and the Spivack Program Advisory Panel. One member pointed out the need for gender diversity on one component (i.e., there were no males), but there were no other questions or comments.

Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed candidates for appointment to the MFP, Spivack, and Honors Program Advisory Panels.

Nominations from the Committee on Committees

Michael Murphy, Director of Governance and Sections, provides staff support to the Committee on Committees (COC) as it works to construct rank ordered lists of members for appointment to more a dozen ASA components. He presented the committee's report; the written report included several enhancements requested by members of Council last year.

Several members of Council asked questions about individual components and about philosophical approaches to the construction of the rank ordered lists. Several specific questions about gender and regional diversity were raised. Council discussed possible mechanisms to broaden the pool of potential appointees. A suggestion was made to consult more with section chairs and regional associations. It was felt that, in addition to providing more names to draw upon, it would also send an important message to sections and regional associations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, President Epstein asked Michael Murphy to thank the COC for its service and to convey the sentiments of Council to the in coming committee as it prepares next year's report. Council asked that the Executive Office also write to all Section chairs and regional association Presidents to solicit names for the Committee on Committees to consider. Council also discussed the desire to have more background information on potential appointees, perhaps along the lines of the brief biographical statements provided with the annual ballot. The Executive Office will explore options for providing uniform background information on members suggested for possible appointment.

Several Council members commented on their previous service on the COC, the difficulty of the task, and their admiration for the work of the committee.

Council voted to accept the slates proposed by the Committee on Committees with the removal of two names from the Dissertation Award Selection Committee list.

7. Committee on Sections

Michael Murphy, Director of Governance, Sections and Archives, reported to Council on behalf of the Committee on Sections. The Committee hosted a series of training and feedback events on Monday for incoming and outgoing officers of Sections.

Update on the Status of ASA Sections

As of August 10th, the last day the Executive Office was open prior to the Annual Meeting, section memberships stood at an all-time high of 22,327. This is a substantial increase over the 21,366 section membership count at the close of the 2004 membership year.

Not only have the total number of section memberships increased, but the number and percentage of ASA members participating in Sections has increased as well. With more than a month to go before the 2005 membership year draws to a close on September 30th, this year is shaping up to be a record year for section participation.

The number and amount of non-dues financial contributions to sections has also continued to increase. Several sections have also developed activities to raise money for section activities (e.g., book raffles, t-shirt sales).

Despite concerns that an increasing number of sections would dilute participation in sections, this has not materialized. ASA members continue to “vote” with their feet and wallets and are continuing to strongly support ASA sections, and the programs and activities of those sections. Participation in sections has increased each year since 2002.

Financial Allocation Formula

Chairs of smaller sections have reported that the current financial allocation formula makes their programmatic efforts exceedingly difficult. Currently sections with more than 300 members receive a \$1,000 base allocation plus \$2 per member. If a section falls below 300 members, the first year base allocation is reduced; if they continue to operate below the 300-member level their base allocation is eliminated, leaving them with only the \$2 per member allocation.

The Committee on Sections recommended that Council change the current financial allocation formula so that reductions in funding kicked in if a section falls below the 200-member level rather than the current 300-member level. Smaller sections are expected to grow and demonstrate vitality, but at the same time their hands are tied and they cannot afford to put together programs and services that would attract more members.

The Council Liaison to this committee concurred with the recommendation, noting that the total cost of this adjustment is only a few thousand dollars. He urged Council to approve this recommendation in recognition that not all sections will be 1,000+ member powerhouses, but will nonetheless fulfill a vital role for the Association.

Members of Council concurred, noting that in earlier years there was an organized effort to discontinue smaller sections. Those sections, however, have continued to function, and have in many cases become the intellectual communities members seek. There was consensus that smaller sections are generally viable and have an important role to play.

President Epstein recommended referring this item to the EOB for review and recommendation at the next Council meeting. Several Council members noted that an important shift has happened over the last few years regarding smaller sections and asked that Council continue discussion of the proposal in an effort to help guide EOB with the sense of Council on this issue. When no one spoke in opposition to the proposal, President-Elect Piven made a motion that Council unanimously approved.

Cognizant of the vitality of smaller sections, Council voted unanimously to direct EOB to explore alternatives for supporting small sections with a report back to the next meeting of Council.

Several members of Council asked that the Minutes reflect the strong support of Council for this move and their reluctance to defer action. Executive Officer Hillsman noted that EOB would consider this in the context of the 2006 budget, which will be presented to Council at the January meeting.

8. Annual Meetings

Janet Astner, ASA Director of Meetings and Operations, was involved with post-meeting wrap-up during the morning, but joined Council following lunch to report on the just completed 2005 meeting, as well plans for future meetings.

2006 Annual Meeting Site

The 2006 ASA Annual Meeting originally scheduled for New York, was later moved to San Francisco by vote of Council when it became clear that hotel labor contracts in New York could have a potential impact on the meeting. Later it unfortunately became clear that the same issue existed in San Francisco, despite previous assurances that the labor contracts that expired in 2004 would be signed by now. Given this situation, Council voted unanimously to move the 2006 Annual Meeting to Montreal.

Astner reported that Montreal contracts will be signed later in September following a site visit. Currently anticipated meeting dates are August 11 through 14. Montreal will feature a few differences from previous practice:

meetings will take place in the Montreal Convention Center, and potentially five to six hotels will be utilized for sleeping rooms.

A number of other groups meet in conjunction with ASA, before, during, or immediately after the ASA Annual Meeting. Astner reported on discussions with several of those organizations and the probable status of their 2006 plans.

Meetings outside of the United States always raise questions about possible declines in attendance. Other associations that have recent met in Canada, and Montreal specifically, found that US member registrants were down slightly, but attendance by international scholars increased. Astner reported that ASA would engage in a vigorous member information effort to inform everyone about the documents required for entry into Canada and return to the United States.

Future Annual Meeting Dates, Locations, and Contracts

Astner updated Council on plans and possibilities for future Annual Meeting dates, locations and contracts. New York was previously approved for 2007 and contracts for that meeting are complete. Boston was previously approved for 2008 and contracts for that meeting are complete. Atlanta was previously approved for 2010 and contracts for that meeting are complete.

Attention then turned to 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. Astner presented favorable proposals from San Francisco for 2009 and 2013, and from Chicago for 2011 and 2014. When asked about the wisdom of scheduling far in advance given the current hotel labor market, Astner responded that it is impossible to predict patterns in the industry and that space must be secured for future meetings. The Association now negotiates a clause in all meeting contracts on strikes and other labor disputes; this clause was reviewed for the benefit of the new members of Council. Astner added that hotels are now aware of how important this issue is to the members of the Association and she is hopeful that the Association will be able to secure the necessary contractual language for out years.

Regional variation was questioned, specifically focused on possible meeting sites in the south. Astner responded that Atlanta was at the moment the only viable option. She noted the danger of scheduling meetings farther south in the middle of hurricane season.

Following careful review and discussion,

Council voted unanimously to approve a package proposal for Annual Meeting locations for 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2014.

When asked about meeting dates, Astner responded that current Council policy has been to schedule meetings in the middle of August, with each meeting concluding no later than August 15th. Previously the ASA Annual Meeting was scheduled around Labor Day, but this created increasing conflicts when the opening of schools started moving earlier. The move to earlier dates in August also provided better hotel rates for participants.

Astner noted that when scheduling a meeting for more than 5,000 people, no one date will work for everyone. Balancing preferred dates is just one factor involved in booking future meetings, including such factors of the desire of members to meet in hotels rather than in convention centers. Astner and Hillsman added that following the 2006 meeting, which will be in a convention center, the Executive Office would likely undertake a survey of members to determine their current thoughts on meetings in Convention Centers.

A suggestion was made to try to vary meeting dates between early and mid-August in the four years currently under discussion (2009, 2011, 2013, and 2014). Council members were cognizant of the difficulty in obtaining space at favorable rates and terms and noted that this was not meant to derail plans. Results of the survey following the 2006 Annual Meeting will provide valuable data for scheduling meetings beyond 2014. In the interim, the Executive Office was urged to explore earlier date options and try to obtain those dates in some years if feasible, but not to abandon the proposal if the earlier dates were not available. Astner noted that earlier dates might be available in two of the years and that she would explore those options if it was the direction of Council.

Council voted that, as much as possible with the numerous constraints already in place, the Executive Office should try to vary future annual meeting dates between early and mid-August, rather than cluster all meetings in mid-August. (7 in favor, 0 opposed, 8 abstentions)

Registration Fees for 2006

Two changes in registration fees for the 2006 Annual Meeting were proposed: (1) change the registration fee structure by raising the non-member rate significantly to encourage sociologists who are not

members to join before they register; and (2) increase all other registration rates by \$5.

Astner reported that the ASA was lagging behind other associations with regards to the first proposal; many other associations have already implemented this policy to encourage non-members to become members. Such a move not only saves the new member money on registration fees, but also provides a new member for the association.

Secretary Wilson asked about the distinction between non-member sociologists (\$395 onsite proposed for 2006) and non-member non-sociologists (\$185 onsite proposed for 2006). He asked about the rationale for the considerable gap between the two rates.

Executive Officer Hillsman responded that there are non-sociologists who participate in the meeting each year, including journalists and panelists. These individuals are not likely to ever join the association since they are not sociologists.

Council voted to accept the recommendation of the EOB to approve the proposed registration fees for future Annual Meetings starting with 2006. Council also asked EOB to revisit the fee structure for non-member sociologists, compare it with other associations, and monitor the impact on international sociologists. (16 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

9. 2005 Budget Report

Secretary Wilson provided a written report on income and expenses through June 30, 2005. Performance in 2005 is about \$17,000 better than at the same time in 2004. He noted that the Annual Meeting accounted for a significant portion of the Association's annual revenue and expenses, and are not yet awarded for 2005. There were no questions and no discussion.

10. Reports from Task Forces

During its February 2005 meeting, Council voted to create two new task forces, one focused on Sociology and General Education, and the other on the Master's Degree in Sociology. A call for volunteers was published in an earlier issue of *Footnotes*, which produced a record response. Based on those submissions, a Council sub-committee has appointed members to both

new components. Both task forces held their first meetings earlier in the week in Philadelphia and appear eager to get to work.

Task Force on the Master's Degree in Sociology

The Task Force on the Master's Degree in Sociology will assess the current state of MA degree programs generally and will undertake the following work:

- Identify key components and characteristics of a professional MA program (collaborating with the Council of Graduate Schools on a project of the same name);
- Identify the key components and experiences of applied MA programs (working with the Society for Applied Sociology and the Sociological Practice Association);
- Link the BA degree guidelines (in the Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major II report) to possible MA requirements;
- Examine how departments are developing an understanding of and an expansion of local/regional employment opportunities for MA sociologists;
- Describe various interdisciplinary MA programs in which sociology is the host department or plays a key role;
- Develop a network of MA-only department chairs and directors of graduate study to review issues and concerns raised during a meeting of MA Department Chairs at the 2004 Annual Meeting.

Members of this task force are: William Canak, Middle Tennessee State University; Barbara K. Chesney (Chair), University of Toledo; Marie Cornwall, Brigham Young University; Juanita M. Firestone, University of Texas - San Antonio; Dustin Kidd, Temple University; Judith K. Little, Humboldt State University; Carole L. Seyfrit, Radford University; James L. Sherohman, St. Cloud State University; and James A. Wilson, Fordham University. Staff Liaison to this Task Force is Roberta Spalter-Roth.

Task Force on Sociology and General Education

The Task Force on Sociology and General Education has been charged it with developing models and rationales for how sociology courses can, do and should contribute to general education requirements and liberal arts skills. The Task Force will focus on six frequent challenges in general education where sociology does, can, or should play a role:

- Multicultural education/diversity
- Quantitative literacy
- Writing intensive experiences
- Freshman survey courses

- Interdisciplinary freshman seminars
- International/global issues

The Task Force will identify promising practices where sociology courses have creatively met general education requirements.

Members of the task force are: S. Kay Andrews, Chattanooga State Technical Community College; Karen A. Callaghan, Barry University; Lada Gibson-Shreve, Stark State College; Nancy A. Greenwood, Indiana University; Gary Hampe, University of Wyoming; Carol A. Jenkins, Glendale Community College; Bruce Keith, United States Military Academy (Chair); Peter Meiksins, Cleveland State University; Susan M. Ross, Lycoming College; Debra H. Swanson, Hope College; and Deborah White, Minnesota State University – Moorhead. Staff Liaison this Task Force is Carla Howery.

11. Executive Office Reports

ASA Executive Office staff reported to Council on current initiatives and recent activities in the following arenas: Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP), Minority Affairs Program, Research, the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD), Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, Public Affairs Program, Public Information, and Archives. Extensive updates were provided in written form with brief informational highlights during the meeting.

12. New Business

Several items were raised under New Business, including two resolutions presented during the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday morning.

History of Sociology Resolution

The Section on History of Sociology presented the following resolution:

Whereas at this 100th meeting, we have focused collectively on the history of sociology as discipline, profession and practice;

Whereas that focus has shown that the history of sociology is not only a history of ideas, methods and empirical works, but also a history of individual actions, social networks, formal organizations and interaction with the society;

Whereas an understanding of that history serves to make us more reflective about our present enterprises;

Whereas students considering or embarking on a career in sociology would be well-served by an understanding of that history;

Whereas the natural sciences and other social sciences are more committed and successful in the teaching of their histories,

And whereas the ASA now has a section dedicated to the study and teaching of the History of Sociology, as a discipline, profession, and practice,

It is recommended that the ASA Governing Council refer to standing committees and task forces or establish a committee or task force, that will develop a policy and strategy for encouraging and assisting sociology programs to offer at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and independent courses on the History of Sociology as action, relationship, organization, practice and systems of meaning.

The History of Sociology section in making this recommendation also is willing to offer the collective skills of its membership to assist in such an endeavor.

There was no opposition to this proposal. Deputy Executive Officer Carla Howery indicated that this proposal was in line with other APAP efforts and could be referred to APAP; members of Council concurred with her recommendation and thanked her for volunteering to undertake this task.

Council voted unanimously to approve the Resolution introduced at the Business Meeting by members of the History of Sociology Section that the ASA develop a policy and strategy for encouraging and assisting sociology programs to offer at the undergraduate and graduate levels courses on the History of Sociology.

Minuteman Resolution

A resolution in opposition to the Minuteman Project was introduced during the Business Meeting and was also referred to Council for discussion and action. The Minuteman Project is an unofficial effort currently targeting Latino migrants along the California, Arizona, and New Mexico borders with northern Mexico. Under the banner of patriotism, armed civilians have started patrolling the borders in these

regions in an effort to locate people trying to slip across the US border with Mexico.

Council considered how best to respond to this proposal. Noting that the support for this proposal during the Business Meeting was not overwhelming, Council considered asking for additional information and a more sociological focus. Another member of Council, however, indicated that these issues are not within the purview of the ASA and should not be dealt with by Council in any form. Others indicated personal support of the principles but needed more sociological logic for the ASA taking such a stand.

Following an extended discussion,

Council voted to reject the proposed resolution against the Minuteman Project as not in keeping with existing ASA guidelines.

Members of Council asked that members be reminded of the current guidelines for resolutions prior to the next Business Meeting.

Dates for Winter 2006 Council Meeting

Council considered several possible alternatives for the winter 2006 Council meeting. Each alternative had some conflicts; the alternative with the fewest conflicts was the weekend of February 3rd through 5th. Members were asked to arrive on Friday, February 3rd for dinner meeting, followed by meetings all day on the 4th and until 12 Noon on Sunday the 5th. Members who serve on FAD will meet on Sunday after the Council meeting. Additional details regarding transportation and housing will be provided by mail.

Members of Council voted to hold their next meeting on the weekend of February 3-5, 2006 (arrive Friday, February 3rd for dinner meeting, followed by meetings all day on the 4th and until 12 Noon on Sunday the 5th).

ASA Indemnification Policy

In December, at the request of the EOB, Executive Officer Hillsman contacted the ASA attorney to obtain information pertaining to indemnification of volunteers who might face legal expenses and liability as a result of their actions on behalf of the Association.

Indemnification in general means that an organization assumes responsibility for the legal costs incurred personally by an officer, director, or other volunteer who faces a legal claim arising out of his or her official

activities on behalf of the organization. Indemnification may also extend to damages assess against an officer, director or individual personally as a result of his or her official activities.

A volunteer's right to indemnification generally arises in one of two ways: either the organization's bylaws require that the organization provide indemnification under certain defined circumstances, or volunteers are indemnified pursuant to the statutes governing non-profit corporations, provisions that are usually permissible and not mandatory.

There is currently no right to indemnification for volunteers under the ASA Constitution or bylaws; however, under the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act, ASA volunteers are immune from civil liability; in addition, Council has authority to act on a case-by-case basis to indemnify a volunteer (or employee) upon request and where circumstances warrant.

Based upon its review of materials provided by ASA's lawyer, Council concluded that:

- Under most circumstances, ASA volunteers are immune from civil liability;
- Volunteers who receive stipends (e.g., journal editors) are "volunteers" and not paid staff;
- The ASA Bylaws and Constitution do not provide "mandatory" indemnification; but
- Council has the authority to indemnify on a case-by-case basis any volunteer who might not be immune; and
- ASA's Directors and Officers insurance is adequate and encompasses an appropriately broad category of both persons and actions.

Council thanked the EOB and the Executive Officer for this information but and expressed the view that there was no need for Council to take any further action on this issue at this time.

Plans for the 2006 ISA Congress

As a member of the International Sociological Association (ISA) and its Committee on National Associations (CNA), ASA has been invited to organize several sessions at the 2006 ISA Congress in Durban, South Africa. Possibilities were discussed for the planning of these sessions. Ultimately, Council decided to request one session around the theme of the 2006 Annual Meeting, and on session around the proposed theme of the 2007 Annual Meeting. Council deferred to the Executive Office to work out the details of the sessions with the President and President-Elect.

Statement on Human Rights

This item was held over from the 2004-2005 Council meeting the previous afternoon. In response to an inquiry from ASA member Judith Blau on behalf of the organized sociologists without borders, Council had previously considered making a statement on human rights. A sub-committee of Council members that included Rhonda Levine, Nan Lin, Deborah King, and Bruce Western, was appointed to work with Lee Herring and the Executive Officer to provide Council with a draft.

The sub-committee discussed various approaches to such a statement (e.g., broad or narrow, academic freedom or human rights) and provided some language. Committee staff drafted a proposed statement based upon these materials and earlier ASA Council statements as well as human rights documents from the National Academies of Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Social Science Research Council and other social science societies.

In addition, Council deliberated earlier in the summer about a possible ASA statement on the British Association of University Teachers (AUT) boycott of two universities in Israel but did not arrive at a final agreement. Then President Duster and President-Elect Epstein suggested that several of the central principles of the Council's draft statement on that academic freedom issue be incorporated into the broader human rights statement for discussion at the upcoming Council meeting.

Members of Council complimented the sub-committee and staff for their efforts on the masterful statement. There was no opposition to the statement and no suggested amendments.

**Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed
"American Sociological Association Statement on Human
Rights on the Occasion of its Centenary."**

The final statement is attached to this report.

13. Adjournment

With no additional business for consideration at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

ASA NEWS

August 17, 2005

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AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION STATEMENT
ON
HUMAN RIGHTS
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENARY

August 17, 2005

As part of its mission as the national association for sociologists with more than 13,000 U.S. and international members, the American Sociological Association (ASA) has spoken often and taken significant actions in defense of sociologists and other scholars persecuted for their beliefs or scholarly activities. The ASA takes the celebration of its centenary (1905-2005) as an opportunity to reiterate its strongest support for the basic civil and political freedoms of peoples of all nations as articulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). As Nobel Laureate Thorsten Wiesel, fourth chair of the National Academies of Science Committee on Human Rights, said in 2003, "The UDHR is the anchor of our work and, given the international character of science and its pursuit of truth, it holds particular significance for us as scientists...." The ASA emphatically endorses these principles of basic human rights as fundamental to free scientific inquiry and human development.

The Association has a long-standing position of supporting the free exchange of ideas across national, state, cultural and social borders that is consistent with Article 19 of the UDHR that "[e]veryone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression [including the right] to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers." The Association deplores restrictions on the free movement of scholars and students and barriers to scholarly inquiry and exchange. Therefore, it seeks to reduce barriers through encouraging activities such as the First Global Colloquium of University Presidents that aims to build an international network of research universities that will bring the global academic community into discussions of pressing issues such as academic freedom and international cooperation on migration.

The Association affirms the principle that science is fundamental to designing and implementing successful international collaboration on human development. Therefore, it encourages the work of the world scientific community to achieve steady global progress on human rights through efforts to gain the release of all scientists who are unjustly imprisoned for their public speech or academic work. The world scientific community can achieve its human rights goals through activities of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, the

Human Rights Program of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, and the efforts of individual scholarly organizations worldwide including our sister societies in the social sciences.

Sociological research shows that intellectual life and scientific inquiry have flourished not just in the presence of rights to free thought, expression, and association, but also where access to education is universal and basic human needs are met. Sociological research has demonstrated that poor and unequally distributed social, economic, political and cultural opportunities are among the principal determinants preventing the development of individuals and societies, and that these deprivations are especially severe for women and racial and ethnic minorities. However, as sociologist Craig Calhoun, President of the Social Science Research Council and former member of the ASA Council, has noted: "The work of social scientists is challenged especially sharply because it touches directly on contentious matters of political power, economic performance, cultural identity, and social welfare. Social science recurrently intersects with public controversies, and too often governments respond by trying to repress the work of scientists who raise uncomfortable questions or present data that disturb the dominant."

The American Sociological Association recognizes that the early 21st century and the beginning of the Association's second century of work on behalf of the profession and discipline of sociology represents a critical period in progress toward universal human rights, international cooperation, and the free exchange of ideas—scientific, political, social and cultural—during which the knowledge provided by the social sciences is especially needed.

Therefore, the American Sociological Association urges all governments to resist attempts to restrict scientific exchange within and across national boundaries and to actively promote dialogue, debate and discussion across all barriers to communication and collaboration, and to uphold the spirit and the substance of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements that affirm the importance of full equality of all peoples and cultures; social and personal security; health care and education; freedom to join trade unions and otherwise assemble; a just wage and an adequate standard of living; and the freedom to participate in and benefit from scientific advancement.

At its centenary, the American Sociological Association re-commits itself to vigorous pursuit of these goals through scientific scholarship, international exchange, the freedom of unjustly imprisoned or silenced scholars, and active promotion of human rights.

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The American Sociological Association, celebrating its centennial year, is a non-profit membership association dedicated to serving sociologists in their work, advancing sociology as a science and profession, and promoting the contributions and use of sociology to society.