



Minutes of the First Meeting 2006-2007 ASA Council

Palais des Congrès de Montréal
Montréal, Quebec

August 15, 2006

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Minutes of the First Meeting of the 2006-2007 ASA Council

Monday, August 15, 2006
Palais des Congrès de Montréal
Montréal, Quebec

Officers Present: Frances Fox Piven (President); Cynthia Fuchs Epstein (Immediate Past President); Arne L. Kalleberg (President-Elect); Franklin D. Wilson (Secretary); Donald Tomaskovic-Devey (Secretary-Elect); Bonnie Thornton Dill (Vice President); Lynn Smith-Lovin (Past Vice President); Douglas McAdam (Vice President-Elect).

Members-at-Large Present: Rebecca Adams, Kathleen Blee, Dalton Conley, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Michele Lamont, Ann Shola Orloff, Mary Romero, Rubén Rumbaut, Gay Seidman, Bruce Western.

Members Absent: Judith Auerbach.

Staff Present: Janet Astner; Karen Edwards; Lee Herring; Sally Hillsman; Carla Howery; Michael Murphy; Jean Shin; Roberta Spalter Roth; Dan Spar.

1. Call to Order

ASA President Frances Fox Piven called the first meeting of the 2006-2007 Council to order at 8:30 am on Tuesday, August 15, 2006.

A. Introduction of New Members of Council

Members welcomed four new Council Members-at-Large as well as the new President-Elect, Vice President-Elect, and Secretary-Elect.

B. Approval of Agenda

Additions, deletions, and amendments to the agenda were invited but none were proposed.

Members of Council voted unanimously to accept the agenda proposed for this meeting as presented.

2. Report of the President

In the interest of time, President Piven called the attention of Council members to the report she had presented the previous afternoon.

3. Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect Arne Kalleberg reported that the 2008 Annual Meeting will focus on "Worlds of Work" and will deal with the relationship between work and society. Sessions will deal with work in paid and unpaid forms, as well as the cross national differences in work, the changing construct of work, and immigration policy. He noted that the 2008 meeting coincides with the national presidential conventions and the official launch of the 2008 Presidential campaign and that scholarship relevant to areas of particular public concern would be considered for the program. A preliminary theme statement should be ready by the end of the September.

A. Approval of 2008 Program Committee

President-Elect Kalleberg proposed that Council approve the following members for appointment to the 2008 Program Committee: Dan Cornfield, George W. Bohrnstedt, Sharon Collins, Lottee Bailyn, Cecilia Menjivar, Rick Fantasia, Magali Sarfatti-Larson (carry-over from 2007 Program Committee), and Susan Eckstein (carry-over from 2007 Program Committee). In addition, the President-Elect, Vice President-Elect, Secretary, Secretary-Elect, and Executive Officer serve as ex-officio members of the committee.

<p>Council voted unanimously to approve the 2008 Program Committee as proposed.</p>

4. Report of the Secretary

ASA Secretary Franklin Wilson reported to Council on several items.

A. Journal Subscription Rates for 2007

At its meeting July 15-16, EOB approved a recommendation that Council increase most institutional subscription rates for 2007 by six percent. This increase is based on inflationary adjustments in printing and labor costs and is comparable to the increases proposed by our publishing partners (e.g., Blackwell and the University of California Press).

The only journal that will experience a higher increase is the section journal, *City & Community*. EOB accepted Blackwell's proposal for a nine percent increase as part of overall negotiations to increase the stipend paid by Blackwell to defray editorial office expenses. (In 2007, Blackwell will increase the stipend from \$16,000 per year to \$18,000 per year.)

EOB also recommending instituting a new online-only option for library subscribers to ASA "self-published" journals (this option is already available for *Contexts* and the

Blackwell journals.) ASA and other publishers are under pressure from libraries and their agencies to institute an online only rate. The cost of maintaining hard copies of journals has become prohibitive for many libraries and they no longer want print issues mailed to them.

Non-Member Individual Subscription Rates

Only *City & Community* and *Contexts* were exempted from the elimination by ASA of non-member individual subscription rates in 2005. ASA has approved Blackwell's recommendation of \$37 to non-member students and \$74 to other individuals for *City & Community* in 2007.

The non-member individual rate (\$45) for *Contexts* will not increase in 2007 as we continue to work with the University of California Press to increase the number of subscribers in that particular category.

Member Subscription Rates

As approved by EOB and Council, any ASA member who subscribed in 2006 to two or more print journal subscriptions received online-only access to *all* ASA journals through Ingenta. The "buy two, get the rest online free" policy adopted for 2006 is probably affecting the extent to which members add or drop journals. Therefore, it is difficult to judge the impact of subscription prices. At the end of 2005, members purchased an average of 1.40 journals per member. As of May 30, 2006, the average was 1.45 journals per member. Members appear to be dropping fewer journals overall because there is now an incentive to subscribe to at least two. And, there are factors other than price to be considered, including members defining some journals as necessary in print for their personal library (possibly explaining the low drop rate for *ASR*. Preferred Use in "hard copy" may also explain the lower drop rate and higher member subscriptions in 2006 for *Contexts*.

The ASA Committee on Publications developed a subcommittee on journal pricing, which examined the current at-cost journal prices to members in August 2005 without making any recommendations for changes in the current policy and pricing. The Executive Office and Budget Committee agreed with the Executive Office's recommendation *not* to increase member subscription rates for 2007.

Proposed 2007 Subscription Rates

Journal	2006	2007 proposed
<i>ASR</i> and <i>CS</i>		
Student Members	\$25	\$25
Members	\$40	\$40
Non-member	--	--
Institutions (print/online)	\$196	\$208
Institutions (online only)	--	\$190
<i>Contexts</i>		
Student Members	\$25	\$25
Members	\$40	\$40

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Non-member Institutions	\$45 \$152 (\$140 online only)	\$45 \$166 (\$147 online only)
<i>ST</i> Student Members	\$25	\$25
Members	\$35	\$35
Non-member Institutions	-- \$232	-- \$246 (\$233 online only)
<i>Other quarterlies</i> Student Members	\$25	\$25
Members	\$35	\$35
Non-member Institutions (print/online)	-- \$164	-- \$174
Institutions (online only)	--	\$160
<i>SM</i> Student Members	\$40	\$40
Members	\$50	\$50
Non-member Institutions	-- \$226	-- \$240 (\$228 online only)

Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2007 subscription rates as presented in the table above.

B. Membership Dues for 2007

EOB recommended a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in membership dues of 4.2 percent for 2007 based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI) set by the U.S. Department of Labor for the period from May 2005 through May 2006.

2007 Proposed Dues Rates after COLA Adjustment

<i>Dues Category</i>	2004 and 2005	2006 (2.8%COLA)	2007 (4.2%COLA)
A (w/ reduced section dues)	\$ 21	\$ 22	\$ 23
B	\$ 22	\$ 23	\$ 24
C	\$ 58	\$ 60	\$ 63
D	\$103	\$106	\$110
E	\$143	\$147	\$153
F	\$159	\$164	\$171
Associate	\$ 38	\$ 39	\$41
Student	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$18
Emeritus	\$ 38	\$ 39	\$41

Council voted unanimously to approve an increase in 2007 membership dues by a COLA of 4.2 percent.

5. Report of the Executive Officer

President Epstein called upon Sally Hillsman, Executive Officer, to report on Executive Office activities.

A. ASA Message Boards

As part of the ongoing effort of the Executive Office to be responsive to evolving membership needs, staff has been working on a message forum system that would allow open communication among ASA members and others interested in the discipline through the Association website. The system allows users to post their own topics (within the limitations of the Code of Conduct) within a number of different forums (e.g., Teaching, Students). The system will also feature a forum for each of the ASA section specialty areas, and sections will be invited (but not required) to sponsor and moderate the forum in their specialty have its own forum.

The system has been developed using off-the-shelf software with minimal cost for this new member benefit and replaces the current “member forum” on the ASA website that does not allow members to post topics or invite discussion. Unlike listservs, discussion forums through the website are not e-mail based (although users can opt to have responses to certain topics e-mailed to them on a regular basis). Members, sociologist non-members, and others interested in the discipline can visit the forums when they choose—or when they are specifically seeking input from other users on a specific question.

We have also been encouraged by various groups within ASA (including some sections, journal editors, etc.) to develop a more open system of discussion for them to use to bring to the attention of members (or subscribers) items of immediate interest—e.g., calls for papers, media coverage of articles, etc.

While other forums in the system will have ASA staff moderators (to scan for matters that should be of interest to the Association or the Executive Office and to loosely monitor the forums for violations of the code of conduct), each group may appoint its own moderator for its forum. The moderator will have the ability to edit posts and topics within the forum (which should be done only in cases of a violation of the code of conduct). ASA does not intend, except in cases where a violation has been reported to the system administrator, to actively moderate forums sponsored by ASA sections.

This service will provide a unique opportunity for member-to-member communications. While the forums will not be restricted to ASA or section members, all users will be required to register and respond to an e-mail link. Members of Council reported that the Family Section had expressed concerns about the concept of Message Boards. Concerns were specifically that the Family section tackles issues that are potentially controversial and could attract the attention of non-member non-sociologists.

<p>Council approved the Executive Office’s plan to launch of the Message Boards as outlined, taking comments from the Council discussion into advisement in structuring the experiment.</p>

B. Relations with Non-US Associations

Hillsman reported that earlier this year Mark D. Jacobs of George Mason University, a member of the ASA and a member of the *European Sociological Association (ESA)*, had contacted her about the insufficient dialogue between American and European sociology. He suggested that US sociologists lacked knowledge of intellectual and scholarly developments in Europe; few US sociologists participated in ESA meetings; European sociologists command greater visibility and respect in the public and civic spheres; and, therefore, that there was much for US sociologists to learn from greater dialogue.

Professor Jacobs suggested that it would be advantageous for ESA and ASA to develop a reciprocal membership relationship at reduced rates, and that his European colleagues would approach ESA about this. Hillsman provided Professor Jacobs with information on what ASA now does with cognate disciplinary associations in the United States, namely a one-year \$10 discount for any category of membership (except students, but including low-income and associate memberships).

Currently, the cost of membership in the ESA is much higher than membership in the ASA because the major cost of an ESA membership is the price of their journal *European Societies*. While the ASA provides several ways for Europeans to join the ASA at relative low rates (e.g., low income and associate memberships), the reverse is not the case, except for students.

If a US sociologist currently wants to join the ESA, the cost for two years (all ESA memberships are two years) is \$282 or €220 including its *European Societies*. A European sociologist who wants to join the ASA as an Associate member for two years with *ASR* it is \$198 or €155, or less if he or she joins at a low-income rate (\$162 or €127) or an even lower student rate.

In June, the ESA approved a convention for reduced fees for members of sociological associations from other continents on the condition of reciprocity, and offered the ASA a reciprocal agreement at €50 or \$62 without journals.

The Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) reviewed this proposal at its July 2006 meeting, and determined that such an arrangement would not be appropriate for the ASA, because it is contrary to the current ASA policy of requiring all members to take at least one ASA journal. Any change would require a vote of the entire ASA membership. In addition, ASA would be offering European sociologists, many of whom are from hard currency countries, a membership that is not available to either U.S. or Canadian sociologists, namely, one without journals. Finally, this would result in a substantial loss of current income for the Association because ASA already has many members from Europe who are full, regular members.

EOB, however, thought that outreach to sociological organizations in other countries on principles of reciprocity was an important concept and one consistent with the ASA mission. Therefore, it decided to create an ad hoc committee to work with the

Executive Office to consider various ways in which the Association could develop such arrangements in the future, including strategies for reaching out to associations in the southern hemisphere where ASA has far fewer ties and members. It also requested the Executive Office to continue dialogue with the ESA to explore alternative models of reciprocity.

6. Component Appointments

A. Committee on Committees

Michael Murphy, Director of ASA Governance and Sections, reported to Council on the recent meeting of the Committee on Committees. Bylaws direct that the committee is responsible for making ranked recommendations to Council for appointments to the nine ASA award selection committees, the four status committees, the Committee on Awards, Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), and Committee on Sections. The Committee on Committees met all day Saturday to fulfill their Bylaws responsibility. Each member identified potential appointees prior to the meeting, and then during the face-to-face meeting members augmented those lists with additional names. The committee winnowed each list and then ranked the individuals to identify the order in which candidates should be invited to serve.

Members of Council reviewed each list, noting only one concern: they noted that the proposed nominees for the Jessie Bernard Award Selection Committee were all female. Names of several males were offered to be integrated into the existing COC list for this committee.

Council voted to approve the report of the Committee on Committees as amended, with ranked recommendations for appointments to the nine awards selection committees, four status committees, Committee on Awards, Committee on Professional Ethics, and Committee on Sections.

B. Executive Officer

The Executive Officer is responsible for making ranked recommendations for appointments to the ASA advisory committees. Executive Officer Hillsman presented names for the vacancies that will begin on January 1.

Council voted to approve the ranked recommendations of the Executive Officer for appointments to the ASA advisory committees.

C. Secretary

Each year one member of the Committee on Executive Office and Budget (EOB) completes three-year term and rotates off the committee. Bylaws direct that the Secretary recommend possible replacements to Council for their review and approval.

Secretary Wilson presented a ranked list of members for appointment to the EOB. Council expressed support for this list as presented.

Council voted to approve the Secretary's ranked recommendations for appointment to vacancies on the Committee on Executive Office and Budget (EOB).

7. Committee on Sections

The Committee on Sections met during the course of the Annual Meeting, as well as sponsoring several events and activities for Section officers. In the interest of time, however, a detailed report of this meeting was held over until the next meeting of Council.

8. Annual Meeting Issues

A. Update on 2007 Annual Meeting Site

The 102nd Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 11-14, 2007 in New York City. Earlier disputes between hotel workers and hotel management have now been resolved with the signing of a multi-year contract that will continue through the upcoming ASA meeting.

B. Update on Future Meeting Contracts

As part of the site relocation discussions surrounding the 2006 Annual Meeting, ASA Council approved a strategy that involved rescheduling the San Francisco contracts from 2006 to 2009 in connection with an accompanying multi-year contract with Hilton to meet in San Francisco in 2014 and Chicago in 2011 and 2015.

Personnel changes at one hotel, coupled with hotel sales representatives' efforts to make their first quarter goals, resulted in final contract proposals that contained the exact labor language originally requested by ASA *plus* a reduced penalty scale for cancellation/relocation decisions. All contracts were sent through legal review one last time, and the last signature was affixed by March 31st.

Future contracts are attrition-free contracts, which represent a major concession from the hotels and lift a major contractual liability from the Association.

C. Registration Fees for 2007

At its annual mid-year meeting, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) reviews registration fees for the next Annual Meeting and makes recommendations to Council for pertinent adjustments so that fee information can be published in the fall. The experiment tried this past winter of enabling members to pre-register for the 2006 Annual Meeting at the time they renewed their membership

for 2006 was positive. Pre-registration for 2007 is slated to open when membership renewal for 2007 becomes available in late October.

Last year the fee structure was changed to increase the gap between fees for members and non-members. Because the registration fee structure is set up so that fees for non-sociologists and scholars outside the US always match Member rates, individuals using the general non-member category are almost always US sociologists. The fee change seems to have been effective. There has been a 70% drop in the number of general non-member registrations for 2006, and we know that ASA membership figures are ahead of last year's pace.

The program planning costs for 2006 doubled, partially due to difficulties with speaker commitments when the meeting site changed location three times. Sometimes the ASA President, Executive Officer, and Program Committee members are able to obtain funding from outside sources to cover the travel and accommodation costs of bringing major non-sociologists to make public addresses at Annual Meetings, which is an increasing and well-received trend, but this is not always possible and should not be a burden on the Program Committee. While the program planning budget has remained stable over a decade, costs for travel and lodging have been increasing. EOB therefore recommended that it was time to raise the planning budget to reflect current costs and programming needs by adding \$2 to the registration fee.

Electronic technology continues to make an impact on meeting expenses. The ever-increasing demand for LCD projectors in session rooms is now at the point where every meeting room (except roundtable rooms) for 2006 had that equipment available every day. All ASA registration services now operate via web access on-site, the Employment Service is now totally web-based, the onsite ASA Message Center provides a modest amount of free web access to attendees, and the demand for web access for session presentations is increasing. There is also the hovering issue of "wireless, wireless, who pays for wireless?" Arranging to supply wireless access to every attendee at the convention center in Montreal, for example, would have cost roughly \$25,000 per day. In future hotel contracts, ASA has successfully negotiated free internet access in guest rooms for ASA attendees who book through the ASA housing service, so there was no recommendation at this time to increase registration fees to cover wireless access. EOB also recommended that Council consider raising the registration fee by \$5, as well as the Employment Service fees, to support increasing technology costs for the Annual Meeting.

The only fee changes proposed for Events and Services in 2007 are for the Employment Service.

The 2006 Annual Meeting introduced the first online Employment Service (ES), following the successful transition of the *Employment Bulletin* (EB) into the online Job Bank. In prior years, ES fees for employers have matched EB fees. This year, however, the ES employer fee remained at \$150 while the Job Bank fee was set at

\$200; other association online job centers charge \$295 and up. In contrast, ES employers/interviewers receiving substantially more services. EOB recommended Council raise the ES Employer fee to \$275 for 2007.

EOB recognizes that raising fees for candidates/job seekers should be done cautiously. The last time candidate fees were raised was 2003, and prior to that there had been no increase since 1996. At this time however, EOB recommended a modest increase of \$10 for non-members and no fee increase for member candidates.

Council voted to approve a \$5 fee increase for all Annual Meeting registration categories for 2007.

Council voted to approve setting the 2007 rates for the Employment Service at \$275 for employers, \$25 for member candidates, and \$60 for non-member candidates.

9. Review of 2006 Financial Status

Revenues and expenses for the first five months ending May 31, 2006 are on track with budget. Projections for the remainder of 2006 show increases in both revenues and expenses.

10. Review of *Contexts*

Based upon a thorough financial review in 2003, EOB and Council committed to publication of *Contexts* at least through the end of the first three-year term of the magazines second editor in 2007. In 2006, the current editors are approaching the end of the second year of their three-year term. The Committee on Publications asked Council for a firm financial commitment through the end of the next three-year editorial term (2008-2010).

Contexts has had marked successes during its first five years of publication. Member subscriptions (while not meeting initial projected totals) are healthy. Library subscriptions are exceeding initial projections. With the cooperation and support of the University of California Press, production expenses have remained below initial projections. Early on, the magazine received two major professional awards—it was named the best journal in the social sciences for 2002 by the Association of American Publishers and *Library Journal* named it one of the 10 best new magazines of 2002.

Nonetheless, both member and non-member individual subscriptions continue to remain subsidized by Council's allocation of invested ASA funds to support the early years of the magazine. *Contexts* currently has a per-subscription cost of approximately \$55—excluding editorial and executive office expenses—significantly

down from \$143 in 2003. The member rate for a subscription to *Contexts* is \$40; the non-member individual rate is \$45.

By the end of 2005, the modified business plan EOB and Council approved in 2003 estimated 3,000 member subscriptions, 320 non-member individual subscriptions, and 122 library subscriptions. The actual subscription totals at the end of 2005 were 2,214 members, 223 non-member individuals, and 204 libraries. The success in increasing library subscriptions has been absolutely key to keeping *Contexts* in line with the revenue projections, despite lower than projected member and non-member individual subscriptions.

Contexts' financial statement is on-target with the projected bottom-line losses anticipated in 2003. Projecting out to 2010 (both the end of the next editorial term *and* the end of the original 10-year business plan), the Executive Office anticipates that *Contexts* will reach an annual "breakeven" point by 2010 in keeping with the modified business plan in which annual profit/loss will not exceed a few thousand dollars. *Contexts* is not expected in the foreseeable future to produce income for the association or repay the subvention provided by the association.

By mid 2006, *Contexts* has more member subscribers than at the end of the year in either 2004 or 2005. This is probably due to members adding *Contexts* as a second print subscription in order to receive online access to all ASA journals. Subscriptions for 2006 are approaching 2,500, which represents an eight percent increase over 2005.

The Committee on Publications and Council approved an experimental course adoption process providing subscriptions (and online access) to students in those courses at cost, and early electronic access to the instructors. Committee on Publications member Kathryn Edin secured commitments from five professors (at the University of California and the University of Pennsylvania) to use *Contexts* in their courses for the upcoming Spring 2006 semester. She reported this to have been a successful experiment.

ASA has contracted with W.W. Norton to produce an anthology of *Contexts'* articles for use in undergraduate courses. The editors are working with an advisory board chaired by Caroline Persell to select the articles from previously published issues of the magazine. Royalty income is projected for the first year of publication (2007), with an additional amounts for a few subsequent years. Norton anticipates a positive response to this publication so that it will want to provide regular updated *Contexts* anthologies in the future.

At its meeting in July, EOB voted to recommend to Council that it commit the Association to publishing *Contexts* through 2010. Members of Council engaged in a wide-ranging discussion on the history and prospects of *Contexts*. Some members expressed opposition to continuing *Contexts*, noting that it has become increasingly inwardly focused on the profession and has not succeeded in reaching a broader

general audience. Some applauded the innovation of using *Contexts* in undergraduate classes, but expressed concern about being dependent upon subscriptions of students to support the magazine. Other comments cited the evolving electronic communication options available today that were not available when *Contexts* was originally launched, suggesting that a “wiki” online publication could serve the same purpose as *Contexts* but at a significantly reduced cost.

Others urged continuation of Council’s commitment to the magazine because of its strong showing among members of the association indicating the need for such a publication. They noted that launching a new magazine is an extremely difficult task that requires many years to become established. While institutional subscriptions, which are a key element of the initial business plan for *Contexts*, have declined for all ASA journals, they are growing for *Contexts* which is a good sign, and support continuing *Contexts* as outlined in the 10 year business plan.

Following an extended discussion and some debate,

Council voted to commit the Association to publishing *Contexts* at least through 2010, the next three-year editorial term and the end of the original 10-year business plan.

A proposal was made to form a sub-committee of Council to articulate key points of consensus to guide the Committee on Publications in its editorial review process for *Contexts*. The motion was defeated.

11. Task Force Reports

A. Task Force on the Professional Masters Degree

The Task Force on the Professional Masters Degree held its first meeting in August 2005 and has created sub-committees to gather background data to information the six charges provided by Council. Some issues under discussion include whether: the report should be descriptive or normative; there are a set of basic courses, skills, or elements that all masters programs have or should have; there is sufficient data to determine best practices; additional information is needed and how it could be obtained. The final report to Council is due in August 2007.

12. Executive Office Reports

Time was not available for oral discussion of ASA program reports. Written updates had been provided to all members of Council as part of the pre-meeting background materials. Highlights from the written reports are as follows:

A. Academic and Professional Affairs Program

APAP advances the discipline through work with academic departments and with department chairs. APAP has continued its efforts to provide teaching resources via the Association website. New collaboration has been launched with the National Numeracy Network on quantitative literacy, as well as collaboration with the American Library Association on information literacy standards for sociology students. Efforts continue with high school sociology.

B. Minority Affairs Program

This is the first year of the NIMH Minority Fellowship Program competitive renewal of the ASA T-32 grant which funded the program's 32nd cohort of fellows. The Association continues to collaborate with aligned organizations on this program. A series of training events are conducted during each annual meeting for MFP Fellows. Concerns about whether NIMH will continue any of the minority T-32 programs remains substantial.

C. Research and Development

The Research and Development Department provides information to support and inform the Association, its members, and the broader scientific community about trends in sociology education, careers, and the utility of sociology to the greater science project. The Department has submitted several proposals for outside funding over the last six months, and has continued work on several ongoing surveys including: new sociology BA degree recipients, PhD sociologists in professional and research settings, and the cohort of sociology PhD recipients ASA has been following for almost a decade.

D. Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline

The Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) is designed to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, ground-breaking research initiatives and other important scientific research activities. The program, jointly funded by the ASA and the Sociology Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF) is funded through July 31, 2007. Twenty-one scholars submitted proposals for the June 2006 competition. Sociologists continue to submit proposals to this program in increasing numbers.

E. Spivack Program on Applied Social Research and Social Policy

The mission of the Spivack Program is to advance the uses and contributions of sociology to public policy, including outreach to the public and policy makers, as well as facilitating the linkage of sociological knowledge to policy. We continue to fund one or more Congressional Fellows, Community Action Research Initiative grants, hold Capitol Hill briefings on relevant sociological research, and support preparation of a monograph on school composition and school outcomes.

F. Public Affairs Program

The Executive Office continues to be actively engaged in policy-related efforts to advance social science through coalition work; signing on to letters addressed to

agency leadership, the White House, and Congress; and meetings with key policy stakeholders and policymakers. We also work closely with COSSA and other advocacy-focused scientific, social science and humanities organizations to initiate actions of relevance to protecting the interests of sociological research, scholarly publication (e.g., open access policies), and professional issues as well as science issues generally (e.g., protecting federal funding of the American Community Survey, the 2010 Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' collection of income and federal program utilization data; protecting against ideologically motivated efforts to redirect public school science curricula toward religious conceptualizations of natural phenomena; legislative initiatives to mandate an "Academic/Student Bill of Rights").

Public Affairs staff worked to bring significant people in science communication (i.e., *Washington Post* reporter, *Science* magazine senior editor) to participate in a special session of the 2006 ASA Annual Meeting. The Executive Office continues to work to achieve recognition at various agencies—including the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)—of the unique qualifications of sociologists to contribute to national policy discussions.

Through affiliation with established coalitions and with occasional ad hoc groups, ASA has access to many opportunities to have influence over issues important to science and to sociology specifically and to keep sociology and sociologists visible and "at the table" with other scientists in policy forums where it counts.

G. Public Information Program

Staff of the ASA Public Information Office (PIO) primarily promote — especially through major media — the Association, sociology generally, and sociologists in particular. This office also tracks publicity. The primary aim is to increase the public visibility of sociology and sociologists. PIO staff also assists in Public Affairs activities (e.g., promoting congressional briefings to Capitol Hill audiences). Staff work with ASA journal editors to publicize research articles; assist members write, edit, and place op-ed and editorial columns; track down press mentions of sociologists and sociology, ASA and its journals, articles, and authors to encourage additional coverage; publicize news stories to the media (local, regional, and national) regarding ASA members' research findings, Annual Meeting activities, and other newsworthy events (e.g., ASA Capitol Hill briefings, Council resolutions); collaborate with university PIOs to further disseminate and promote sociologists; and respond to the daily news media and popular press requests for sociologists as sources/interviewees on newsworthy topics.

The PIO has widely publicized *Contexts*, *American Sociological Review*, and *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* articles to the press by writing and distributing press releases and copies of articles with embargoed release dates. A small number of reporters have requested and are sent the pre-release of Table of Contents and abstracts for *ASR*.

13. New Business

The annual Business Meeting of the association was conducted on Monday, August 14th at 7:00 am. Officers reported to the membership on the status of the association and the activities of the last year, as well as listening to concerns of the members.

A. Business Meeting Resolutions

President Epstein introduced a resolution at the annual Business Meeting focused on supporting academic freedom by affirming the principle of not excluding persons on the basis of nationality or political views. Council considered this resolution and voted to support the concept with the understanding that exact language would be prepared after the meeting.

Council unanimously approved the following:

“The American Sociological Association (ASA) affirms its ongoing support for the protection of academic independence and the integrity of scientific research through the open movement of faculty and students between universities irrespective of nationality or political views. Similarly, the ASA also strongly endorses the principle of scientific worthiness as the primary basis for assessing articles for scholarly publication, service on editorial boards of scholarly journals, and participation in scholarly conferences, not excluding persons on the basis of nationality or political views.”

September 19, 2006.

B. Winter 2007 Council Meeting Dates

Council considered the best dates for the winter meeting and separately considered the question of where the meeting should be held. A proposal was made for an exception to Council’s long-standing policy that the mid-winter meeting is held in Washington, DC, permitting Council to meet in New Orleans as an expression of solidarity and support for the city as it recovers from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Support was mixed about meeting in New Orleans, but February 2-4, 2007 was clearly the best date choice. Following discussion,

Council voted 11 to 7 in favor of meeting February 2-4, 2007 and to meet in New Orleans with the understanding that if New Orleans turns out to be difficult or impossible, the meeting will be held in Washington, DC, on the same dates.

C. Proposed Task Force on Academic Freedom and Research Integrity

At Council’s February 2006 meeting, it was proposed that Council create a task force to explore issues related recent challenges to academic freedom and scientific

integrity, some of which have been reported to the Association. Council members Judith Auerbach, Kathleen Blee and Gay Seidman agreed to constitute an ad hoc subcommittee of Council to work with Executive Officer Hillsman and Director of Communications Herring to prepare a charge for this task force.

The sub-committee met by conference call to discuss options for the Task Force. Recognizing that task forces are temporary, the group agreed that the major need at this time is for fact finding on two sets of issues: (1) attacks against sociology faculty and/or departments; and (2) experiences with the federal government that sociological researchers experience as attacks, censorship or other limitations on scholarship. Fact finding will not be easy because of the sensitivity of some examples and a concern for privacy or anonymity. However, without collection of broad-based information, the Association is limited to the few anecdotes that are widely known, limiting the ability of the task force to understand the extent and types of problems, conceptualize or classify these problems, and develop suggestions regarding the future role of the ASA in addressing them.

The sub-committee proposed that the new task force be charged with developing a fact-finding strategy to compile information on examples of these situations (being mindful of confidentiality concerns) and to suggest ways the ASA might address them.

The task force should develop information on the broad range of attacks on sociologists and departments of sociology, consider whether the Executive Office should establish an on-going clearinghouse of such incidents, and review how such information could be used by the Association and the profession to protect academic freedom. Initial information should be collected on the extent and form of such attacks and trends over time; links among individuals or groups mounting or funding such incidents; and the nature and (in)effectiveness of current defensive or proactive strategies by sociologists and departments of sociology.

The task force should also engage in fact finding and reporting on the experiences of sociologists doing research in government agencies, as contractors, or sponsored by government that suggest attacks, censorship, or other limitations on research. It should explore information that underlies the strong perception among the scientific, public health, public interest and human rights communities that science relevant to policy-making is being ignored, misused, and/or abused by the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. Any activity that undermines the integrity of science erodes public policies that have concrete affects on public health and safety, misallocates tax dollars, erodes the public trust in science, and demoralizes scientists, especially those in government service. The integrity of science that is necessary for sound public policy is undermined by activities that:

- Control scientific information by suppressing, distorting, censoring, limiting access to, or the exchange of, information;
- Ignore the advice of scientific experts that is built on scientific consensus;

- Restrict or “chill” researchers’ works through threats of de-funding, excessive audits, limits on scientific travel of federal scientists or other limitations to free scientific exchange; and
- Limit effective access of policy makers to sound scientific advice by appointing agency Advisory Councils or senior personnel who lack appropriate credentials.

While some examples of breaches of scientific integrity have received considerable media attention, we do not yet know the extent and nature of this problem among sociologists or what role the Association could play in resolving such problems.

Council voted unanimously to approve the establishment and proposed charge of a Task Force Academic Freedom and Integrity as proposed.

D. Proposed Task Force on Sociology and Criminology

Working with members of the American Society of Criminology (ASC), this Task Force would be charged to develop model curricula and sample course content for courses in criminology taught in sociology departments. The curricula and courses would cover the BA, MA, and PhD levels. The resulting report would be similar to the recent publication on sociology and anthropology programs. It would provide guiding principles and recommendations, as well as illustrations (“promising practices”) for how departments of various types offer strong criminology programs within sociology departments. The report would include, as well, information on the optimal relationships between sociology and criminology programs that are separate departments. This Task Force could finish its work in one year, with a second year devoted to “field testing” its ideas at the ASA, ACS, and regional meetings, as well as gathering promising practices to post on the ASA website.

Council voted unanimously to approve the establishment and proposed charge of a Task Force on Sociology and Criminology as proposed.

E. Proposed Task Force on Ethics Throughout the Curriculum

Working with members of the ASA Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), this Task Force would develop curriculum materials to teach students about professional ethics from early in their undergraduate careers throughout graduate school. The Task Force would develop case materials (some of which exist from earlier COPE work but need updating) and course modules that faculty could include in a variety of courses. The resulting set of materials would be housed on the ASA website so they can be downloaded quickly and easily and can be updated. The Task Force would also offer a series of workshops at the ASA and regional sociology meetings to illustrate how these materials can be used.

Council voted unanimously to approve the establishment and proposed charge of a Task Force on Ethics throughout the Curriculum as proposed.

F. Proposed Membership in *Research!America*

Founded in 1989, *Research!America* is an alliance of non-profit public education and advocacy groups working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. *Research!America* has been well-respected for many years in important policymaker circles, and it generally commands attention in the health/medical/disease research policy domain. It is generally perceived to be effective.

ASA is already heavily involved in the medical/health research community through its current partnership with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in support of the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), now in its 32nd year. In addition, ASA sections, especially those on medical sociology; mental health; alcohol, drugs, and tobacco; children and youth; science, knowledge, and technology; and social psychology have a tremendous stake in the direction of medical/health-related research, the level of investment in social science research, and its impact on the general public.

Research!America members have full access to advocacy communication resources, such as public opinion poll data (state/national), media and science forums, media relations support, advocacy training workshops, e-advocacy alerts, tailored messages to policymakers/media, and a monthly newsletter. Membership would provide ASA with additional access to important "influence venues," especially at the national level.

Membership in *Research!America* for professional societies with more than 5,000 members is \$2,500 annually. Council was asked to approve the Association becoming a member beginning in January 2007. Secretary Wilson suggested that perhaps Council defer action on this item pending overall review of the ASA memberships in support of public and professional affairs. Others argued that the Association should join for one year and at the end of that year report back on how this alliance fits into the nature and scale of ASA outreach efforts.

Council voted to approve membership for the ASA for 2007 in *Research!America*.

G. Proposed Statement on the Teaching of Science and Evolution

In May 2006 the Executive Office learned that the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Council (SSHRC) had declined a recent grant application which proposed to investigate the potential impact of anti-science movements on the teaching of science in Canada. The SSHRC declination letter reported that the review committee did not find "...that there was adequate justification for the assumption in the proposal that the theory of Evolution, and not Intelligent Design theory, was correct."

After investigation and consultation with the President, the Executive Officer wrote a letter to the SSHRC raising serious concern about this basis for the rejection (not the rejection itself). In June 2006, the National Academies of Science joined 61 other national science bodies in a joint international statement on teaching evolution through the Inter-Academy Panel on International Issues (IAP). Recently the Association has been approached by the National Center for Science Education about joining 75 other scientific and scholarly associations by placing a statement on the NCSE website regarding the teaching of evolution.

Council voted unanimously to direct the Executive Office to prepare a statement on the teaching of science and evolution in keeping with the scientific competency of sociology.

Council voted unanimously on October 18, 2006, to issue the following:

Statement of the
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
on Creationism and Related Religious Doctrines in
U.S. Science Education
October 18, 2006

The American Sociological Association (ASA) supports the teaching of science methods and content in U.S. public school curricula, and affirms the integrity of science education to include the teaching of evolution, a central organizing principle of the biological sciences that is based upon overwhelming empirical evidence from various scientific disciplines. ASA opposes proposals that promote, support, or advocate religious doctrines or ideologies in science education curricula. Religious doctrines and ideology include, but are not limited to, the non-scientific notion of "creationism," including "intelligent design." In two decades of careful peer-reviewed research, sociologists such as Francis B. Harrold and Raymond A. Eve have documented the relationships among popular cult beliefs, pseudoscientific ideas, and creationism. Creationism, in all its forms, has also been recognized as a religious doctrine by the U.S. federal courts.

ASA respects the right of people to hold diverse religious beliefs, including those that reject evolution and related principles of science, as a matter of faith. Such beliefs, however, should not be promulgated by science educators in the classroom because it would be a disservice to students to present such views as having a basis in science. The United States Constitution articulates the principle of separation of church and state as a means to prevent the government (including public schools) from advocating or imposing specific religious beliefs on our citizens.

Science is an objectively accountable endeavor. It requires systematic, empirical measurements that are intended to be replicated in order to rigorously test the accuracy of observations, concepts, hypotheses, and theories and to encourage further exploration and refinement. The goal of scientists is to determine whether propositions are empirically verifiable using transparent, objective methods of measurement. When scientifically proposed and testable ideas are found not to coincide with objective measures, they are rejected as scientifically unsuitable to explain observations. Creationism includes claims that are empirically un-testable and, therefore, not subjects for examination in the study of the natural and biological sciences.

By contrast, biological evolution is a scientifically developed and well-established principle supported by accumulated scientific knowledge in many fields. Efforts to qualify, limit, or exclude the teaching of biological evolution in U.S. public science curricula would adversely affect national science literacy, academic achievement, and technological and scientific

advancement. Such efforts would deprive U.S. public school students of their right to genuine and coherent science education, which they need in a world where science and technology are socially and economically vital areas of knowledge. Similarly, constraints on science curricula addressing theories of the evolution of the universe, the evolution of stars and galaxies, plate tectonics, and the biological development of life would also be detrimental to education and advances in U.S. scientific achievement and literacy.

Creationism, as a social movement and pseudoscientific cognitive process, is a legitimate topic for scientific examination (e.g., exploring social factors that influence social movements or documenting the social and behavioral correlates of cult beliefs). There are suitable curricular venues for teaching about these topics (e.g., contemporary social issues, sociology of religion, other behavioral science courses).

Natural and biological science curricula, however, are not the appropriate place. There are recognized authorities and respected educational standards and frameworks for teaching natural and biological science content. These standards are provided by organizations such as the National Academies of Science, National Science Teachers Association, and National Association of Biology Teachers.

H. Dues Structure

EOB regularly review the dues and journal subscriptions rates and structure. The last change in the dues structure occurred in 1996. At its last meeting, Council briefly considered the issue of the progressiveness of the Association dues structure and asked that it be brought back to this Council meeting. In follow-up to that decision, the Executive Office prepared a series of models for modifying the existing dues structure, all maintaining income neutrality. After review and discussion, EOB decided that the rationale for making what could only be a modest adjustment in the progressiveness of the dues structure while maintaining income neutrality was not justified. EOB therefore recommended to Council that it continue to monitor the dues structure, and return to Council at a future meeting with a recommendation if circumstances change.

Some members of Council expressed concern that the current dues structure is not as progressive as it should be given the increase in members incomes, and urged that a new income category of \$98,000 and above was warranted. Others agreed with EOB that this could not be done and maintain income neutrality, and argued for deferring any action on this question at this time. After discussion and deliberation,

Council voted unanimously to maintain the current Association dues structure for the time being.

I. State of Sociology

In follow-up to a previous Council discussion, the Executive Office prepared an initial draft document on the state of sociology. Early drafts of this report were circulated to department chairs which produced some feedback and revision. One member suggested that the report should include changes in salaries in the discipline, changes in the number of jobs available, courses taken by students, the number of students in sociology programs, and similar information. However, it was agreed that while such

information would be useful, it does not exist in any aggregated form and therefore would be very difficult and costly to obtain. Another member suggested a straight-forward focus on basic data, using the document as a platform of data to help members fend off attacks on their programs or departments. Others suggested that each department has a different set of needs which goes beyond the scope of this report. Ultimately, members of Council agreed to submit recommendations for inclusion or revision and revisit the document at a future meeting, noting that a document of this sort would evolve over time.

14. Executive Session

Council did not conduct an executive session during this meeting.

15. Adjournment

With no additional business for consideration, the first meeting of the 2006-2007 ASA Council was adjourned at 4:00 pm.