



**Minutes of the  
Second Meeting  
2006-2007  
ASA Council**

Hotel Palomar  
Washington, DC

February 3-4, 2007

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# Minutes of the Second Meeting of the 2006-2007 ASA Council

February 3-4, 2007  
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Washington, DC

**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, Judith Auerbach, Kathleen Blee, Dalton Conley, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Michele Lamont, Ann Shola Orloff, Mary Romero, Rubén Rumbaut, Gay Seidman, Bruce Western.

**Staff Present:** Janet Astner; Les Briggs; Karen Edwards; Lee Herring; Sally Hillsman; Carla Howery; Kareem Jenkins; Michael Murphy; Sujata Sinha; Roberta Spalter Roth.

## 1. Call to Order

ASA President Frances Fox Piven called the second meeting of the 2006-2007 Council to order at 8:46 am on Saturday, February 3, 2007. A quorum of members was present for the conduct of business throughout the course of the meeting.

### A. 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.
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### B. Approval of August Council Minutes

Draft minutes of the August 14, 2006 and August 15, 2006 Council meetings were presented for approval. It was noted that the minutes of the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting contained several tense errors. There were no other corrections or changes to either set of minutes.

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2006 and August 15, 2006 Council meetings.
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**C. Conflict of Interest Statements**

In follow-up to prior Council action, all members were asked to review and sign the ASA Conflict of Interest Statement. Signature affirmed that each person had received a copy of the conflict of interest policy, had read and understood the policy, had agreed to comply with the policy, and understood that the ASA is a charitable organization and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

**2. Annual Meeting Updates**

**A. Update on the 2007 Annual Meeting**

President Piven briefed members of Council on the developing plans for the 2007 ASA Annual Meeting to be held August 11-14, 2007 in New York. Richard Lagos, former President of Chile, will be the featured speaker for the opening plenary session. Sessions topics include the global justice movement, the erosion and rebirth of American democracy, the future of Cuba, the incorporation of Muslims into New York City, as well as a number of other panels and presentations.

**B. Update on the 2008 Program Committee**

President-Elect Arne Kalleberg reported that the 2008 Annual Meeting will focus on the worlds of work, including the globalization and internationalization of work. The 2008 Program Committee met in early December and has identified five possible plenary sessions as well as a variety of thematic sessions. Sessions will explore the culture and meaning of work, social policy and work, the future of the American labor movement, and the view of work as a solution to poverty. The meeting will be held August 1-4, 2008 in Boston.

**C. Considering Convention Centers as Future Sites**

Director of Meeting Services Janet Astner discussed with Council that the relocation of the 2006 Annual Meeting to Montréal provided ASA and its members the opportunity to experience a convention center setting for the first time since 1992. Due to the last minute booking, the Association received free use of the convention center as well as additional incentives. This saved the Association more than \$200,000 dollars in rental fees for the facility and other expenses.

Staff is now exploring options for the next open Annual Meeting in 2012 and sought advice from members of Council on whether convention center facilities should be considered. Astner noted that the use of a convention center facility typically is more costly, including shuttle services from hotels. At the same time, convention center facilities provide more space for program activities. Many members reported a positive response to having all meetings housed on one floor of the Montréal center rather than in multiple hotels. Second-tier and third-tier cities with convention center space are often willing to negotiate reduced rental fees with groups that are willing to meeting in outside prime times.

Council considered discussed the pros and cons of convention center facilities. Council members generally favored considering future convention center venues, if there was no dramatic increase in cost to the Association and the conditions were otherwise appropriate. Members suggested exploring Seattle, Denver, San Diego and Vancouver as possible future meeting destinations.

### 3. Publications

#### A. Review of 2006 Journal Subscriptions

Secretary Wilson reported that, partly due to the continuing increase in membership, member subscriptions to all but one ASA journals increased in 2006. *Contemporary Sociology* experienced a loss of subscribers in 2006. Institutional subscriptions declined by 168 (2.1%) in 2006, the ninth year with declining institutional subscriptions. In an effort to address this decline, ASA has started to offer online subscriptions to institutions beginning in 2007.

#### B. Additional Journal Pages

Wilson reported that in 2005 and 2006, the Committee on Publications conducted an overall review of journal page allocations including information on current journal page allocations, requests for additional pages, manuscripts submitted per year, number of manuscripts sent out for review, acceptance rates, average number of pages per article, backlogs, editorial and production lags, number of subscriptions, and membership totals. Based on this review, the Committee on Publications made the following recommendations to EOB:

- A one-time increase for SPQ in 2007 of 100 pages to reduce the transitional backlog carried over from the previous editorship. (Approximate cost: \$8,500.)
- A one-time increase for SOE in 2007 of 40 pages to ensure adequate pages for a minimum of four articles per issue. Before it considers a more permanent increase, the Publications Committee requested a review of the editorial pipeline and asked the editor to provide new information in a year's time. (Approximate cost: \$3,800.)
- A permanent increase for JHSB of 64 pages each year reflecting increased manuscript submissions leading to a decrease in the acceptance rate over time. (Approximate cost: \$6,500 per year.)
- A permanent increase of 60 pages per year to ASR reflecting increased manuscript submissions leading to a decrease in the acceptance rate over time. (Approximate cost: \$9,600 per year.)

EOB concurred with these recommendations and asked Council to approve these requests. There were no questions or objections.

Council voted to approve a one-time increase of 100 pages for SPQ in 2007; a one-time increase of 40 pages for SOE in 2007; a permanent increase of 64 pages per year for JHSB; and a permanent increase of 60 pages per year for ASR.

C. Selection of Editors for *Contexts* and *JHSB*

Council met in Executive Session to review applications for the editorship of *Contexts* and the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (JHSB). The Secretary will contact all candidates regarding the status of their candidacy. Following negotiations with the successful candidates, the new editors will be announced in *Footnotes*.

With regard to *Contexts*, Council also noted that the magazine will be reaching the end of the 10-year business plan 2010. Anticipating this, Council requested that the Committee on Publications together with members of Council, the Executive Officer and the Director of Publications and Membership review the mission, format, finances and publishing partnerships for the future drawing upon whatever expertise they deemed appropriate.

D. Contemporary Sociology

Past President Cynthia Epstein shared her concern with Council that *Contemporary Sociology* (CS) may be straying from its core mandate by including pieces that appear more opinion than review of importation sociological and related books. Members agreed that the primary focus of CS is book reviews, and a former CS editor commented that review essays have been included in the journal from its earliest days. Following a thorough discussion, there was agreement that book reviews are appropriately the core of the journal, but that review essays that help members to contextualize books can enhance the journal and serve readers.

Council also noted that when the Publications Committee next reviews CS, as it periodically does each ASA journal, it should examine CS's declining subscriptions and whether its readership is nonetheless strong and, in this context, review the mission of the journal. Several members suggested that the Committee also consider the option of moving CS to online-only publication as a way to stabilize or even increase the reader base of this publication.

E. Section Journal Proposal

For several years the ASA Section on Political Economy of the World System (PEWS) has sought approval for the Section to sponsor the online *Journal of World Systems Research* (JWSR). While the Committee on Publications has previously declined to approve this sponsorship, the proposal was revised and resubmitted with attention committee concerns. The Committee on Publications now recommends that Council approve JWSR as a section on-line journal with the concurrence of EOB.

Members of Council discussed the strengths and limitations of the proposal, noting that it would be the first Association online only journal and that it could serve as an important experiment in this publishing approach. There was concern that the journal

content was narrow, the pool of potential authors submitting articles small (even within the section), and that the acceptance rate therefore remained unusually high for an ASA journal. There was also concern about linking the future editorships to institutions that would provide the necessary financial subsidy.

Council defeated the proposal.

F. Update on *Footnotes*

*Footnotes* has long been the primary printed source of news about the discipline, profession, and the Association aimed at the ASA membership. The newsletter's general format has been unchanged for more than 30 years and the current design was introduced in 1985. Executive Officer Hillsman told Council that it is time for an overall reassessment of *Footnotes* in terms of both content and design. The ASA website as well as the monthly email *Member News and Notes* provide alternative vehicles for communicating with the membership, therefore, the content of *Footnotes* should be reassessed. The Executive Office will begin this process with input from Council and the membership.

Council selected a sub-committee of Council members to serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Office regarding the redesign of the content of *Footnotes*. The committee will consider alternatives for *Footnotes* including the option of suspending the print version, and will report back to Council in August.

4. Briefing on Executive Office Programs

A. Academic and Professional Affairs Program

The Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) advances the discipline through work with academic departments at all types of institutions, with special collaboration with department chairs. APAP handles all the teaching and career publications and most topics relating to higher education. In addition to ongoing core activities (e.g., the Department Affiliates initiative, the annual Chair Conference, the Department Resources Group consulting service), APAP staff have been working on developing a DVD on sociology careers for undergraduate majors; moving Teaching Resource Center products to the ASA website; and collaborated with the National Numeracy Network on quantitative literacy.

B. Minority Affairs Program

As previously reported to Council, future NIH funding for the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is uncertain. Federal funds devoted to many similar training programs have recently been withdrawn. While the ASA training program is very robust and well-peer reviewed, the current five-year grant was only guaranteed three years of funding by NIMH; additional funding for years four and five will require a mid-term review process.

Federal funding is the largest but not the only source for this program. In 2006, 580 members made contributions totaling \$18,860 to the Minority Fellowship Program. In addition to the support of individual ASA members, MFP received significant contributions in 2006 from other sociological organizations, including the Midwest Sociological Society; Alpha Kappa Delta; Sociologists for Women in Society; and the Southwestern Sociological Association.

**C. Department of Research and Development**

The ASA Research and Development Department provides information to support and inform the Association, its leadership and members, departments, and the broader scientific community about trends in sociology education, careers, the utility of sociology to science, and the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) workforce. Over the last few years R&D activities have increased through outside grant support. Current grants include: a PhD+10 survey supported by the Alfred E. Sloan Foundation; What Can I Do with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology? (Phase II) supported by the National Science Foundation; and a survey of Non-Academic PhDs supported by the Ford Foundation. A proposal on measuring professionalism and developing training strategies for science occupations in an era of transformation has been submitted to the American Institutes for Research.

**5. The Employment of Sociologists**

Director of Research and Development, Roberta Spalter-Roth, briefed Council on ongoing work about the labor force in sociology. The vast majority of sociologists are employed. Between 1993 and 2001 unemployment rates were low, about 1-2%. By 2003 the unemployment rate for sociologists increased slightly to 2.6% but it is unclear whether this is indicative of a longer-term trend or a short-term blip.

The majority of sociologists who are not in the labor market are retired. Retirement rates among PhD sociologists have steadily increased over the last ten years by about 19 % per year, the highest among the social science fields. Most sociologists active in the labor force work in the educational sector.

A recent ASA survey of 700 sociologists working applied or research positions suggests that traditional research-related skills they learned in graduate school were generally adequate for their current jobs. However, respondents also indicated that their graduate training in four key skill areas - policy analysis, graphic presentation, grant writing, and program evaluation - was significantly less than adequate for their positions outside the professoriate.

**Briefing on Membership**

**A. Review of 2006 Membership**

Membership in the Association continues to grow. The 2006 membership year closed with 14,222 members, an increase of 377 members of the 2005 membership total of

13,845. This marks the fifth consecutive year of growth and is also the first time ASA has surpassed the 14,000 membership level since 1974. Most members now join or renew online. In 2006, over 76 percent of ASA members renewed online; over 85 percent of new members joined online. With this continuing trend, it is possible that the Association could soon eliminate the print renewal option for most member categories.

Retention of members remains strong, with highest rates among middle- and high-income members (nearly 90 percent of members in the highest income category renewed in 2005), although retention rates among associate, student, and low-income members are significantly lower.

**B. Review of 2006 Section Membership**

Sections ended the 2006 membership year with a record high membership of 24,236. This is an increase of 4.8% over the 2005 membership of 23,120 and marks the fifth consecutive year of increased Section participation. Over the last five years, Sections have experienced a 29.1% increase in membership participation.

In 2006, the 24,236 Section memberships were held by 9,743 individual ASA members. On average, the 9,743 members participated in 2.49 Sections per person, which was an increase over the 2005 level of 2.45. Of the 14,222 ASA members, 68.5% belonged to one or more sections.

The Council of the Community and Urban Sociology Section (CUSS) voted to increase the section's annual dues for the Section by \$3.00 per person. The CUSS request is in keeping with Council policy and practice of other sections. EOB reviewed and approved this request and asked Council to do the same. Upon EOB and Council approval, this proposal will be placed on the CUSS ballot in the next election.

<p><b>Council voted unanimously to approve the increase in CUSS dues by \$3.00.</b></p>
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**C. Review of Affiliates Program**

The Department Affiliates initiative is a key component of ASA collaboration with departments. Since the launch of the program in 1994, there has been a steady and stable group of committed departments ranging from those with graduate programs to undergraduate efforts quite small in size. In late December, staff initiated an outreach to the 58 departments that have a graduate program and are not affiliates. Several of these departments have signed up to participate in this program. The first ever department affiliate for a sociology department not in North America has been received from the Department of Sociology at the Universidad del Rosario in Bogota, Columbia.

D. Member Contributions and Donations

Each year a number of members make contributions and donations to specific Association programs. The number of members and amount of their donations remains stable from year to year. In 2006, a total of 776 members contributed a total of \$27,909 to five ASA programs. Contributions to the Minority Fellowship Program remain the strongest, drawing \$18,860 in contributions in 2006 from 580 members.

E. International Membership Proposal

Last year the ASA received a request from the European Sociological Association to establish a reciprocal membership arrangement. This led to a broader discussion of how the Association might more effectively reach out internationally, especially to sociologists in countries where the economic situation makes ASA membership financially difficult.

At the present time, ASA has no membership category specifically targeting this population. ASA has traditionally assumed that this population would use the steeply discounted student and low-income memberships, and possibly the associate membership. However, the added cost of international postage (\$20 per journal) may increase the cost of these discounted memberships beyond the reach of sociologists in many countries. Now that our journals and *Footnotes* are published online, as well as in print, this creates new possibilities for outreach to international scholars.

EOB reviewed a proposal from the Executive Office to create a new International Association membership category for persons in all countries, *excluding* OECD member countries and other high-income but non-OECD countries defined by the World Economic Forum as in the top 35 most “globally competitive” countries. International Associate Members would receive online access to all ASA journals, as well as other membership benefits, excluding voting in the ASA election, as do regular Associate members. The membership rate for International Associates would be the same as Associate members (currently \$41), but these members would not be required to purchase a print journal *and* would receive ASA journals online at no charge. as well as the financial impact of this new membership category and found the impact would likely be minimal. Last year the ASA had 101 members from countries that would be eligible for this new membership category. Since most of these members already pay low-income dues, the financial impact is not expected to be significant and will likely be offset by growth in the number of overall members.

The ASA also has a “Soft Currency Fund” to which members may contribute when they renew. Its purpose has been to subsidize ASA membership for one year upon request from members from soft currency country. Each year, ASA is asked to and does subsidize 10-15 new associate memberships for applicants from soft currency countries (dues plus one journal and foreign journal postage) for one year using the Fund. The Executive Office proposed using this fund to subsidize new one year International Associate Memberships upon request.

EOB recommended that Council approve this new membership category beginning in 2008 and that ASA add to its website an announcement that ASA will accept applications from new members eligible for the International Associate membership for a fully subsidized one-year membership to be paid from the Fund.

**Council voted unanimously to approve the new ASA "International Associate" membership category and use of the Soft Currency Fund to fully subsidize memberships for one-year as needed.**

## **7. Briefing on the Executive Office**

### **A. Overview of the Staff and Year**

Executive Officer Hillsman reported that, after more than 25 years with the Association, Carla Howery is leaving the Executive Office at the end of April. Advertisements for a new Director of ASA Academic and Professional Affairs Program have been placed in several publications. Members of Council shared their heartfelt appreciation to Carla Howery for her many years of dedicated service to the profession and to the Association.

In December, the ASA hired Sujata Sinha as Media Relations Officer. An experienced, award-winning broadcast media professional with experience in New York City and a background in sociology, Sinha will be a great asset to the Association's Information Program. Among her duties is to put out media advisories on issues where there is sociological expertise that can contribute to a news topic. She will also be exploring broadcast media opportunities for ASA. She recently brought together the public information officers of the various social science associations in DC to share ideas and explore possible future collaborative efforts. Members welcomed Sinha to the staff and looked forward to her contributions.

Hillsman also reported that ASA network support was shifted to an outside vendor on a contract basis after the ASA Director of Information Technology left last August to pursue a Master's Degree. In late December we brought onboard our first Website Manager who will help the organization better utilize this increasingly important communication device.

### **B. Technology Update**

Members of Council received an update on Association technology activities. These activities included bringing the Annual Meeting Employment Service online at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Montréal, hiring a full-time Webmaster for the Association, and launching online discussion forums on the ASA website.

### **C. Executive Office Lease and Taxes**

Hillsman noted that, as previously reported, there continues to be a degree of uncertainty regarding the status of the Executive Office lease which expires at the end of 2008. It is unclear if the Association will be able to exercise our option for a five-year extension of the lease, and if so on what terms. Given this situation,

Hillsman briefed Council on three options for housing the ASA headquarters that had been reviewed by EOB.

One option assumes that the Association is able to remain in its current non-profit rental space for an additional five to fifteen years. Another option is to secure space in a new, commercial rental location. The third option is to purchase an office condominium to house the ASA headquarters. Until 1999, the Association owned a townhouse. Faced with extensive (and expensive) renovation of that space that no longer met the needs of the organization, ASA sold the building and placed the proceeds in long-term investments anticipating its use as the down payment for a new purchase. Unable to find a suitable space, ASA found a temporary non-profit rental location.

The Executive Office is currently composed of 29 staff housed in 8,100 square feet. Staff space is fully utilized; expanding beyond current staffing levels is not possible due to space constraints. While no significant expansion anticipated in the near future, there are needs for space for temporary employees and interns.

The ASA headquarters is currently housed in space leased from a consortium of 501(c)(3) high education associations that can only rent space to “like” non-profits and cannot make a profit on the rent. Therefore, ASA leases space at sub-market rates; however, ASA is nearing the end of the lease with no assurance of being able to continue it for an significant period of time. Going out into the strong commercial rental market will substantially increase rental expenses. The third option is to purchase an office condominium. This involves higher up-front costs but over time produces the best financial benefit for the Association and ensures it can continue to remain in downtown Washington.

Council examined the three options, including the projected total costs of each option and the annual cash flow projections for each option. Council strongly agreed with the EOB preference for the Association to purchase a permanent headquarters.

**Council voted unanimously to affirm its preference for the ASA to purchase a permanent headquarters; for the Executive Office to expeditiously bring a financially viable option for such a purchase to the EOB for review and recommendation to Council; and for the Executive Office to explore extension of the current lease as a temporary backup.**

**D. ASA Membership in Organizations**

In response to an inquiry from Council last August, Hillsman reviewed the organizations ASA has selectively joined over the years to enhance its strategic influence over policies that affect teaching, research, and the practice of sociology. These formal organizational memberships provide leveraging capacity beyond the staff involvement in Washington, DC-based national alliances and higher education groups. ASA is currently a member of six organizations: Consortium of Social Science

Associations (COSSA); Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS); National Humanities Alliance (NHA); American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS); International Sociological Association (ISA); and Research!America.

## **8. Briefing on Executive Office Programs, Part II**

### **A. Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline**

Spalter-Roth reported on the ASA Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) which is designed to nurture the development of science knowledge by funding small, ground-breaking research initiatives and other important scientific research activities. This project has been jointly funded by the ASA and the Sociology Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The current grant from NSF operates through July 31, 2007. The latest award cycle produced 39 proposals, close to a record.

Members of Council suggested that the Executive Office consider ways to reduce the staff and Council time needed to review the FAD proposals for a limited amount of funding per cycle. Council was highly supportive of the program and its positive results. Council suggested that the Executive Office conduct a program review of the FAD program in anticipation of submit a new proposal to NSF for funding and report back to Council.

### **B. Spivack Program**

The mission of the Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy is to advance the uses and contributions of sociology to public policy, including reaching out to the public and policymakers and facilitating the linkage of sociological knowledge to public policy. The Spivack Program has four primary activities: research-based policy briefings, special initiatives to integrate research and public policy through educational forums, Congressional Fellowships, and the Community Action Research Initiative (CARI).

### **C. Public Affairs Program**

Since the last meeting of Council, Lee Herring reported that Executive Office staff has been involved with a number of national science policy matters in collaboration with COSSA and other associations and interest groups. These issues have included efforts to support increased funding for the National Science Foundation, the 2010 census, and the National Institutes of Health. The change in Congressional leadership in 2007 presents new opportunities and challenges. In October the Association released a statement on "Creationism and Related Religious Doctrines in US Science Education," and in November the Association joined a group of social science researchers including sociologists in a research-based amicus brief on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (Cook v. Rumsfeld) in the First Circuit of the US Court of Appeals.

**D. Public Information Program**

As reported earlier in this meeting, and following discussions at the last Council meeting, Herring reported that ASA had hired a new Media Relations Officer (MRO). The MRO will work be both proactive and reactive in both print and broadcast media. She will enhance the flow of ASA information to the press and be a focal point for responding to the daily press inquiries. ASA is thus enhancing its publicity efforts and is defining a new, more creative and effective publicity program for the Association and sociology in general.

The Media Relations Officer will work to outreach to and engage the membership, identifying individuals who are willing and able to work with the media to provide expertise and research on specific issues. The primary aim of this effort is to increase the public visibility of sociology and sociologists.

Members of Council expressed their appreciation for this important addition to the Association and welcomed this expanded approach to informing the public about sociology. A proposal was introduced to involve a few Council members in an advisory capacity on the issue of promoting sociology to the media and beyond.

**Council voted unanimously to create a sub-committee (composed of Mary Pattillo, Judith Auerbach, and Michele Lamont) to systematically assess the process of diffusion of disciplinary social science knowledge to the media and policy experts; and eventually to make recommendations to Executive Office concerning how to promote sociology and sociological expertise in the media and beyond.**

**9. Report of the Task Force on Institutionalizing Public Sociology**

In January 2004 Council established a Task Force on Institutionalizing Public Sociology, extending its 2003 Task Force on Building Bridges to the Real World and anticipating the success of the 2004 Annual Meeting on the theme of “public sociology” that energized many sociologists to consider the discipline’s public face. Composed of members of the Association,<sup>1</sup> the Task Force has worked vigorously on a series of tasks and prepared initial recommendations to Council. Council undertook an extended review of the Task Force draft report at its 2007 mid-year meeting, spending its first evening in wide-ranging informal discussion on Task Force recommendations about potential promotion and tenure guidelines. Council continued its discussion during a substantial part of its formal day and a half meeting, including a review of all the initial Task Force recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Susan H. Ambler, Andrew Barlow, Kevin J. Delaney, Peter Dreier, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Ann Goetting, Leslie H. Hossfeld, Carla B. Howery (ASA staff liaison), Paul Lachelier, Donald W. Light, April Linton, Sam Marullo, Cynthia Negrey, Philip Nyden (Chair), Carmen Sivianni, Roberta Spalter-Roth (ASA staff liaison), Gregory D. Squires, Randy Stoecker, Diane Vaughan (ASA Council Liaison 2004-6), Rebecca Adams (Council Liaison 2007), William Velez.

Council expresses its gratitude to the Task Force members for the important work they have accomplished and especially for the influence their efforts have had on expanding Council's thinking about sociology at this time in its development as a discipline. Council's discussion about the work of the Task Force leads it to endorse the view that the discipline should vigorously encourage sociologists to engage, as sociologists, with a wide array of publics.

Council believes that to encourage such sociological engagement, the discipline should broaden the definition of what are generally considered sociological products and activities falling under the traditional categories of professional work—research, teaching and service—to include work that addresses a wider array of audiences. Council supports the view that sociological research and scholarship can be disseminated in venues other than peer reviewed journals and university press books; that sociological teaching includes communication with audiences through the media and other public venues; and that sociological service can be rendered in cooperation with community and other groups.

Council, therefore, encourages the discipline to be increasingly open to a more expansive definition of professional work in sociology. Successfully encouraging a broader definition of professional work and the communication of sociological knowledge to wider audiences rests on ensuring that this professional work, like all professional work, is of high quality. Central to the judgment of quality in science is the review of professional work by professional peers. Sociological products and activities designed to communicate with broader audiences but considered within the corpus of professional work, be it research, teaching, or service, should be subject to the same professional standards as all sociological work and judged within the context of local institutional missions. Council recognizes that in order for individuals to receive career credit for their public work, it must be documented. Council thinks, however, that what documentation is considered and how it is weighed should be left to departments and institutions. Council does not believe that special guidelines for the evaluation of public sociology from the Association are necessary to encourage the discipline to move in this more expansive direction.

Council views public sociology as part of the discipline rather than a sub-specialty. As members of a highly diverse discipline, sociologists have always made and will continue to make different choices about what types of professional work they will do as well as how, and to whom, they will communicate their professional knowledge. Council believes this diversity should be encouraged and rewarded appropriately within the context of local organizational goals and missions.

Council believes that encouraging the discipline to be increasingly open to a more expansive definition about what constitutes professional work in sociology without compromising professional standards holds promise to advance sociology as a science and profession, promote the public face of sociology, and contribute to the uses of sociology in society. Alan Leshner, chief executive officer of AAAS and executive publisher of *Science*, said recently:

“[P]ublic engagement goes beyond public education. We must have a genuine dialogue with our fellow citizens about how we can approach their concerns and what specific scientific findings mean...What can be done? First, the scientific reward system needs to support our colleagues’ efforts to interact with the general public concerning their work and its implications. Second,...[we] need to add media and communications training to the scientific training agenda.”<sup>2</sup>

*Next Steps.* Council has authorized the Task Force to continue until August 2008 in order to complete various aspects of its work. Based on Council’s perspective about the value of broadening the communication of sociology to a range of public audiences and encouraging the discipline to be more inclusive of this work, it views the mission of the Task Force as continuing its evolution from creating Bridges to the Real World to Encouraging Public Sociology.

In the spirit of this view of the Task Force’s mission, Council is changing its name to the *Task Force on Encouraging Public Sociology*. This name change is meant to emphasize our commitment to the importance of public sociology across the entire discipline, including all subfields, and the three traditional domains of teaching, service and scholarship, with an explicit mission to encourage such engagement with wider publics as part and parcel of a robust sociological practice rather than to institutionalize, bureaucratize, or otherwise separate public sociology from other forms of professional sociology. In other words, Council endorses the notion of integrating public sociology across the discipline not institutionalizing a subfield or ghettoizing sociologists who engage publics as a primary component of their work.

Drawing on the initial Task Force recommendations, it supports the following Task Force activities:

- Working with the ASA staff to develop a “tips and tools” manual to help individual sociologists work with the media;
- Expanding the idea of a *career guide* targeting students to encompass a guide for *any* sociologist (including graduate students, faculty, and research professionals) on engaging publics and public issues, suggesting resources and strategies;
- Developing a mock webpage and a narrative discussion of how relevant information would be gathered, vetted, organized, edited and updated;
- Preparing a book proposal for presenting examples of effective public sociology, indicating its purpose, audiences, and potential content; if it is aimed at students, considering with ASA staff whether it might be part of the ASA Teaching Resources Center materials.

Council also supports the following activities by the Executive Office based on the recommendations of the Task Force. Council itself is also considering some of these

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<sup>2</sup> *Science*, January 12, 2007, volume 315, p. 161.

activities and encourages the Task Force to offer suggestions to the Executive Office about new ways to accomplish them:

- Expanding coverage of *Contexts* magazine by the media, government, and relevant non-profit organizations;
- Expanding the capacity of ASA to disseminate sociological research to broader public audiences;
- Working with the recipients of Spivack Program Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) grants to develop, where applicable, dissemination plans for the products of their projects;<sup>3</sup>
- Ensuring the Department Resources Group (DRG) has sufficient academic members with experience engaging wider publics and producing professional work for these audiences through research, teaching and service.

Council is temporarily tabling the Task Force recommendations that materials be developed for sociology departments about how they might increase the visibility of public sociology and engage in regional networking.

As described above, Council views public sociology as an important aspect of the work of sociologists, and encourages sociologists to consider such broader professional activities. Council, therefore, supports the Task Force decision not to consider proposing a special ASA section for public sociology. Council does not see it necessary to develop ways for ASA members to formally identify themselves as public sociologists (e.g., by providing public sociology as an area of expertise). Council strongly cautions against activities that imply public sociology is a sub-specialty within the discipline. Rather, *all sociologists are potentially public sociologists when they orient their substantive or methodological knowledge towards publics external to the academy*. Council encourages sociologists to broaden the range of audiences for sociological work carried out in any area of the discipline. The discipline should then, in Council's view, include this broader range of products and activities, as appropriate, in the corpus of professional work subject to peer review and incorporated into the professional resources offered by the Association.

Similarly, Council is sensitive to the Task Force's concern that public sociology be recognized within the Association, but does not view changes in the ASA governance structure as a means to achieve this outcome. Public sociology should not be confused with working in professional venues that are outside the academy. Council policy already acknowledges that "[m]uch of the vitality of ASA flows from its diverse membership" and calls for all programmatic and business activities of the Association to include sociologists "who work in government, business, or other applied settings."<sup>4</sup> Council suggests that the Task Force members consider discussing with ASA Governance staff new ways to encourage members of the Association to bring to the

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<sup>3</sup> Based upon EOB's review of the long-term health of the Spivack Program budget, Council does not believe it is necessary at this time to raise additional money to support CARI grants.

<sup>4</sup> 1996 ASA Diversity Statement.

attention of nominating bodies and the Program Committee sociologists who do public work.

Finally, Council is pleased to add to the Task Force five new members whose contributions should enrich its future work: Elaine Draper, Hayward Derrick Horton, Douglas Klayman, Ronald L. Mize, and Florence R. Rosenberg. Council again thanks the current and retiring members of this important Task Force for undertaking the challenge of providing observations and recommendations through which Council can discuss effective ways of enhancing the discipline and extending its capacity to communicate sociological knowledge and expertise more effectively to new and traditional audiences. Council looks forward to continuing this conversation.

## **10. Briefing on ASA Investments and Reserves**

### **A. General Financial Picture of ASA Investments**

At the request of the Secretary, Les Briggs, ASA Director of Finance, reported on the Association's long term investments. They have performed very well over the 2006 calendar year. At December 31, 2006, the market value of long term investments was \$8,299,546. The annual return for 2006 was 15.5 percent.

## **11. Financial Reports and Budget Analysis**

### **A. 2006 Financials and Budget Analysis**

Briggs reported that on the 2006 ASA fiscal year that closed on December 31. While all expenses applicable to 2006 are not yet processed, preliminary projections indicate that the Association will end the 2006 fiscal year with a positive balance. Factors resulting in revenues exceeding expenses include the financial incentives ASA received to meeting in Montréal, performance of the online Job Bank, strong interest and dividend returns, and increased membership.

### **B. Proposed 2007 Operating Budget**

The Secretary provided Council with the proposed budget for 2007 that anticipates a small positive net balance. Revenues for 2007 are anticipated to increase by 1.24 percent and expenses by 7 percent.

<p>Council voted unanimously to approve the 2007 operating budget as submitted.</p>
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### **C. Proposed 2007 Spivack Budget**

The Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy is funded by a restricted fund provided to the Association from the Spivack estate. Expenses for 2006 are projected to be slightly under budget. The Secretary presented Council with the budget proposed by the Executive Office and approved by the EOB.

Council voted unanimously to approve the 2007 budget for the Spivack Program as presented.

**D. Update on Grant Support**

Council received an update on all outside grants currently in effect. In addition, Council was briefed on a new grant submission of \$30,000 to the American Institute for Research.

**12. Report of the Audit Committee**

Three new internal control policies approved by Council at the August 2006 meeting have now been fully enacted.

**13. New Business**

**A. Academic Freedom and Cuba**

In keeping with the Council statement issued on September 19, 2006 on academic independence and scientific integrity, Council member Rubén Rumbaut presented a draft statement on “Academic and Educational Travel and Exchange Between the United States and Cuba.” Several background documents were provided to Council, including an amicus brief filed in the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida by the Emergency Network of Cuban American Scholars and Artists for Change in US-Cuba Policy, a publication entitled “Retreat from Reason: US-Cuban Academic Relations and the Bush Administration” (September 2006), and legislation introduced in Congress entitled the “Export Freedom to Cuba Act of 2007.” Members proposed two friendly amendments to the text of draft statement, both of which were accepted by the maker of the motion.

Council unanimously supported the following resolution:  
In response to the bi-national report Retreat from Reason: US-Cuban Academic Relations and the Bush Administration the Council of the American Sociological Association calls for free and unhindered academic and educational exchange between the United States and Cuba, and for the removal of restrictions on travel and on transactions incident to such travel by academics, researchers and students. The free flow of scholarship and scholars across national borders is a fundamental tenet of academic freedom. The ASA Council affirms its ongoing support, as issued in its statement of September 19, 2006, “for the protection of academic independence ... through the open movement of faculty and students between universities irrespective of nationality or political views.” (unanimous support, no opposition, no abstentions)

**B. Task Force on International Outreach**

Piven reported that creation of a new international associate member category raises the question of how the Association could more effectively increase the connections between North American sociologists and sociologists around the globe. She noted that former ASA President Michael Burawoy was recently selected to serve a four year term as Vice President of the International Sociological Association (ISA) for Regional Associations. Piven suggested that Council create Task Force to work with Burawoy and with others on ways the Association could support such increased connections and collaborations.

Members discussed the function of such a task force, but felt a more specific definition of the mission for the task force would be helpful. Council suggested that small Council sub-committee meet by e-mail or conference to develop a formal mission statement. Once the mission is defined, Council can more accurately decide on the need for a task force.

**Council voted unanimously to approve formation of a sub-committee of Council members (Michele Lamont, Doug McAdam, Frances Piven) to work with the Executive Officer to develop a mission statement for a new task force on international outreach. The draft mission statement will be brought back to Council at its next meeting.**

**C. Task Force on the Production and Uses of Federal Social Science Data**

Piven suggested that at present there was no mechanism for the Association to systematically monitor the development and uses of federal social science data. She noted that there have been many reports in the media recently about problems with the current administration's use of natural science data on the environment. She proposed that we should undertake some organized monitoring of this important issue.

Judith Auerbach suggested that the Union of Concerned Scientists already engages in such monitoring but less in social science areas, and that perhaps ASA should look into working with them rather than reinventing their well-established monitoring apparatus. Hillsman observed that COSSA and COPAFS both operate in this arena, but only to a limited extent. Piven suggested that Judith Auerbach work with Roberta Spalter-Roth to give preliminary consideration to this idea, consult with the Union of Concerned Scientists to learn more about their monitoring operations, and return to Council in August with a recommendation. Members of Council concurred with this recommendation.

**Council voted unanimously to authorize Roberta Spalter-Roth and Judith Auerbach to give preliminary consideration to issues around the production and uses of federal social science data, including consultation with the Union of Concerned Scientists, and to come back to Council in August with recommendations.**

**D. Possible Changes in Future Council Meetings**

Consideration of this item was deferred to a later meeting.

**E. Member Resolution on Mascots**

Hillsman briefed Council on a potential member resolution being circulated by two members of the Association calling for the discontinuation of the use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport. The resolution has not been formally submitted as yet so no action by Council is required at this time. Members of Council noted that several other organizations have already taken positions on this issue and that many find the use of Native American names for sports teams to be objectionable. It was agreed that the core issue was important, but members were concerned about stating an opinion from social science scholarship with which they were not familiar. They suggested that the Executive Officer ask the authors of the resolution to prepare a bibliography of sociological scholarship on this subject for inclusion with the final resolution.

Council voted to communicate with the authors of the potential member resolution on the discontinuation of the use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport that Council supports the sentiment expressed in this statement, but would like to see the sociological research prior to taking final action on this resolution.

**F. SSF Resolution on Human Rights**

Council reviewed a petition from the organization Sociologists Without Borders (SSF) entitled "We Condemn Militant Threats Against Iran." Several members indicated personal support for the statement and asked that the President convey their thanks to Judith Blau for informing them about this issue.

**14. Adjournment**

With no additional business for consideration, the President adjourned the second meeting of the 2006-2007 ASA Council 11:46 a.m., Sunday, February 4. The next scheduled meeting of Council will be held on the afternoon of August 14, 2007 in New York.