



Minutes of the Final Meeting 2006-2007 ASA Council

Hilton Hotel
New York, NY

August 14, 2007

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August 14, 2007
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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, Michèle 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 final meeting of the 2006-2007 Council to order at 2:35 pm on Tuesday, August 14, 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.

B. Approval of February 2007 Council Minutes

Draft minutes of the February 3-4, 2007 Council meeting were presented for approval. There were no corrections or changes to the draft minutes.

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 3-4, 2007 Council meeting as presented.
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C. Approval of May 11, 2007 Council Minutes

Draft minutes of the May 11, 2007 Council teleconference meeting were presented for approval. There were no corrections or changes to the draft minutes.

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2007 Council meeting as presented.

D. Approval of June 6, 2007 Council Minutes

Draft minutes of the June 6, 2007 Council meeting were presented for approval. There were no corrections or changes to the draft minutes.

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2007 Council meeting as presented.

E. Approval of July 17, 2007 Council Minutes

Draft minutes of the July 17, 2007 Council meeting were presented for approval. There were no corrections or changes to the draft minutes.

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2007 Council meeting as presented.

2. Report of the President

President Piven reported that the 2007 Annual Meeting had set a record for the highest attendance in the Association's history. By all accounts, the meeting was an overwhelming success for everyone who participated. At the same time, the Association membership is growing, returning to levels not seen for more than 30 years. Piven reported the organization has accomplished much over the last twelve months, including action on important academic freedom issues, creation of a task force to foster international relations, adoption of a new program to get news out to members and the media, and affiliating with IMEX to promote fair and equitable treatment of hotel employees. Members of Council applauded Piven for her work assembling such a stellar meeting program and for her leadership over the last twelve months as President.

3. Report of the Secretary

Piven called upon Franklin Wilson to present the report of the Secretary.

A. Purchase of ASA Headquarters

Secretary Wilson reported that on August 6th, 2007 the Association closed on the condominium property located at 1430 K Street NW. Bridge funding has been secured and efforts are continuing to secure low-cost tax-free bonds from the District of

Columbia to carry the remaining \$7.3 million mortgage and cost of building out the unfinished space. Wilson acknowledged the hard work that Executive Officer Sally Hillsman and Director of Finance Les Briggs have devoted to this effort and applauded their work on this project.

Les Briggs reported that much work remains before the office moves into the new space. The architects have laid out plans for the construction required, vendors have started obtaining the necessary permits from the District of Columbia, and the finance attorneys have put in place everything needed to obtain the District bonds.

At the time of this meeting, the Association had not yet locked in an interest rate, but would do so as soon as possible in relation to the bond offering. Bond rates are dropping so ASA will be able to secure an low rate. He reported that the DC Council would hold a hearing sometime in October to approve the bond offering; a bridge loan is in place to secure the purchase until the bonds are approved and available.

Build out should start in October, after the necessary permits are obtained. The current schedule calls for occupancy sometime in mid-to late-February or early March 2008. At the moment, plans call for the Executive Office to move to the new location sometime around March 1, 2008.

The build-out will be accomplished using environmentally friendly materials as part of the ASA's overall "greening" effort. To greatest extent possible, new furniture will be more ergonomic and user-friendly.

B. Report on ASA Investments and Reserves

Briggs reported that the Association made a \$2 million down payment on the new property at 1430 K Street, NW. To make this payment, the Association used \$1.6 million from the building investment account (proceeds and appreciation from the sale of the Association's N Street building) and \$350,000 from general reserves. After the down payment, the Association had about \$6.8 million in its investment portfolio. About \$3.7 million of that money is in the general reserve account. This level of reserves reflects about 70% of the operating budget which is higher than what EOB has recommended as a reserve. Secretary Wilson noted that operating surpluses from the last few years are not likely in the near future because we will be paying occupancy rates that are at market level for DC rather than below market rentals. While the higher occupancy costs will also be increasing the value of the Association's real property investment, the reserve fund will not be growing as a result of operating surpluses as it has recently.

4. Report of the Audit Committee

A. Year End 2006 and Current 2007 Financial Status

Les Briggs reported that 2006 revenues were higher than budgeted and spending was lower than budgeted. Significant activities in 2006 were strong publications sales and the introduction of the electronic job bank which had performed extraordinarily well

with a great many employers posting jobs. In addition, income from online journal content sales was greater than budgeted, and there were a number of financial concessions related to the Montreal Annual Meeting that offset the cost of providing shuttle bus service. The Association ended 2006 with an operating surplus of \$460,000.

The operating budget for 2007 calls for a surplus of \$56,000, although performance to date suggests it could be little larger. Any surplus will be needed to cover the additional cost of the bridge loan interest in the latter half of 2007.

B. Approval of 2006 Audit

Les Briggs reported that the audit of the 2006 financial records went smoothly and the audit was unqualified. The audit requested no adjustments to be made to the ASA books and noted no problems for correction.

Wilson reported that the EOB had reviewed the audit and recommended Council's approval.

<p>Council voted unanimously to approve the audit of the 2006 financial records as presented.</p>

5. Reports of Council Subcommittees

A. International Outreach

Council established a Subcommittee on International Outreach at its winter 2007 meeting in an effort to explore how the Association might promote greater integration of American sociology and sociological organizations and sociologists throughout the world. This followed Council's decision to create an "International Associate" membership category at the lowest ASA membership rate including free electronic access to all ASA journals. This new membership category will be available in 2008 to sociologists from countries whose economies do not generally permit sociologists and students to afford ASA membership and journals.

The subcommittee is composed of Frances Fox Piven, Arne Kalleberg, Michèle Lamont, Douglas McAdam, and Sally Hillsman. The Subcommittee also invited Michael Burawoy, who is currently Vice President for National Associations of the International Sociological Association (ISA), to join its initial discussions because of his work to facilitate the development of active regional sociological associations worldwide and to expand international exchange.

After discussing possible options to increase international participation in the ASA meeting, a motion was made that the Council support a meeting for the subcommittee and others who volunteer to assist Council to more fully develop plans

for presentation at a later Council meeting. Hillsman asked for an expression from Council on whether this activity was a priority it could potentially consume a great deal of time of members. During discussion, another suggestion was made to provide \$20,000 for an upcoming ISA workshop meeting in Nigeria in an effort to help create networks of international scholars. Several members expressed reservations about such a move. The sense of the meeting was that Council believes considering options for increasing the Association's international outreach is important to the future of the Association and the discipline.

Council voted unanimously to request the Subcommittee on International Outreach develop a long-term plan that examines current and new approaches to ASA international outreach and explores potential funding sources for such initiatives.

B. Federal Data Production and Uses of Federal Social Science Data

Judith Auerbach reported on behalf of the Council subcommittee appointed by President Piven to explore ways the Association might respond to assaults on the production and uses of social science data. There have been numerous anecdotal reports of censoring of data by federal government officials. Auerbach reported that the subcommittee suggests the Association participate in the Union of Concerned Scientists which already has a structure to work such problems in addition to the other ongoing ASA efforts. The Association should also explore ways to collect reports on the misuses of social science data and monitor the range of problems.

Council voted to approve ASA's participation in the Union of Concerned Scientists' Integrity Working Group, and asked Roberta Spalter-Roth to be the ASA representative.

C. Public Information

President Piven called on Michèle Lamont to report on the Association's continuing efforts to disseminate information. Lamont reported that over the last year the Association has devoted increasing effort to reach out to the media in order to disseminate news about the discipline of Sociology and the work of sociologists. Lamont outlined some of the efforts engaged in over the last year to amplify our outreach to journalists and members. President Piven reported that representatives from 33 news outlets attended the 2007 Annual Meeting, including four *New York Times* reporters, a reporter from *Time* magazine, and a number of broadcast media. Previous meetings have attracted fewer than a dozen journalists. Hillsman emphasized that the long-term goals of these efforts are to "brand" sociology more in the media, and therefore with the general public, and to get sociological knowledge to the public and decision makers through the media. She indicated that she thought the Association had made significant strides in the last year toward accomplishing these Council goals.

7. Report of Committee on Awards

Bruce Western, Chair of the Committee on Awards, reported that the 2007 Awards Program was extremely well organized reflecting the dignity and enthusiasm for the recipients and their outstanding work while at the same time providing appropriate time in the plenary session for the Presidential address. Western reported that the committee had met with chairs of the individual award selection committees and had collected concerns and recommendations based on the latest round of award recipient selections.

ASA recently launched an online submission system to make it easier for members to provide nominations. Coupled with increased efforts to encourage members to do so, this should increase the number of nominations submitted. New efforts are already paying off as reflected by the larger number of nominations in 2007 than in recent years.

Western reported that the committee had also considered the selection of multiple recipients for an award rather than one award recipient for each award. He reported that the Committee on Awards agreed that selection committees should generally avoid multiple recipients in the same year, but it recognized that will occasionally happen. The committee will continue to monitor this.

The selection committee for the newly renamed W.E.B. DuBois Career Award of Distinguished Scholarship asked for clarification about the criteria for the award. Specifically, the selection committee asked if the criteria for the award had changed with the award name change. The Committee on Awards responded that the award selection criteria have not changed and the sense of the Council meeting was in agreement.

Western also reported that the selection committee for the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award Selection Committee also requested clarification of the criteria for this award. Current award criteria specify that the award honors the intellectual traditions of Oliver Cox, Charles S. Johnson and E. Franklin Frazier and is given for work in the tradition of these scholars. The vagueness of the phrase "in the tradition of" has been an issue off and on since the award was founded in 1971. Some committees have defined "tradition" to be African American scholars doing work on African Americans, while other selection committees have interpreted the criteria more broadly to include work on the social conditions of all minority populations.

Council recognized that all award selection committees do some interpretation of award criteria in carrying out their responsibilities. Council decided that the selection committee's request for clarification would be accomplished best through a Council review of the criteria for Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award.

Council voted unanimously to form a broadly constituted ad hoc committee composed of members of Council, the Committee on Awards, and the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award Selection Committee to review record on the criteria for the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award and to make a recommendation to Council at the mid-year meeting.

8. Report of the Executive Officer

A. Executive Office Staffing

Executive Officer Hillsman reported that there have been several significant staff changes since the last Council meeting. After twenty-five years of service to the Association, Carla Howery, Deputy Executive Officer and Director of the Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP), has left active service in the Association. Janet Astner has been promoted to Deputy Executive Officer for Administration. A new Media Relations Officer position has been created and staffed. After an extensive search, Margaret Weigers Vitullo, chair of the sociology department at Gallaudet University, was hired as the Director of APAP.

B. Election Report

Hillsman reported that participation in ASA elections is extraordinarily high reflecting the growing engagement of the members. Of 11,212 eligible members, 4,841 members cast votes in the 2007 election—a record 43% participation rate. Participation in elections prior to the introduction of an electronic voting option had averaged about 30%, itself a high participation rate for membership associations. Of the votes cast in the 2007 election, about 82% were cast online, with paper ballots making up about 18% of votes cast. The ASA is significantly ahead of other associations in having such high member participation in its annual election.

C. Task Force on Encouraging Public Sociology

Council received a brief information only update from the Task Force on Encouraging Public Sociology.

D. Task Force on Professional Master's Degree

As the Council Liaison to the Task Force on the Professional Master's Degree, Rebecca Adams reported on its activities. The Task Force was originally appointed in June 2005 and was charged with five specific tasks. The Task Force has completed its research and has developed a preliminary report, a copy of which was provided to members of Council. A final report with recommendations will be provided for Council action at its mid-winter meeting.

Adams reported that 80% of all graduate degrees granted in Sociology are master's degrees. Unfortunately, departments that grant master's degrees only are often less-well supported by their institutions than are departments that offer terminal degrees

in other disciplines. This is despite master's programs producing more income for universities than PhD programs.

Adams reported that in contrast to PhD granting departments in which the currency to bargain for resources is research productivity, in master's only departments the currency is FTE's. This means that master's programs can become the stepchildren of the undergraduate program and do not receive much support of attention from their departments. She added that is often not clear what the goals of master's programs are and, as terminal degrees, what they prepare students to do in the workforce.

Adams noted that for members of the public, most of their encounters are with sociologists are with master's degrees so that these sociologists are often our public emissaries. She suggested that these programs are growing and despite these problems and that it is important for the well-being of the discipline as a whole that master's programs are not ignored but receive appropriate types of support.

She reported that the current Task Force on the Professional Master's Degree will be recommending that a new task force be formed by Council to develop an ASA document providing guidelines on the issues departments might consider as they develop and improve master's programs. ASA has done this previously with BA programs in sociology and that report was well received by the field. The task force will also be recommending an open forum at the Annual Meeting to discuss the role of master's programs in the discipline and the collection of baseline data on sociology master's degree recipients by the ASA Research and Development Department. Adams reflected that these activities will be a long-term process because the problem of master's degrees confronting the discipline is substantial.

E. FAD Program Review

Council agreed to move this report to the next Council meeting scheduled for the following day.

F. Update on Health of Sociology Project

Council agreed to move this report to the next Council meeting scheduled for the following day.

G. Update on ASA Amicus Brief on Don't Ask/Don't Tell Research

Council agreed to move this report to the next Council meeting scheduled for the following day.

9. Adjournment

Members of Council offered congratulations to President Frances Fox Piven for her leadership during the Annual Meeting and over the last year. Council also thanked outgoing Council members for their service.

With no additional business for consideration, the President adjourned the final meeting of the 2006-2007 ASA Council at 6:15 pm.