



Minutes of the First Meeting 2007-2008 ASA Council

Hilton Hotel
New York, NY

August 15, 2007

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August 15, 2007
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Officers Present: Arne L. Kalleberg (President); Patricia Hill Collins (President-Elect); Frances Fox Piven (Immediate Past President); Douglas McAdam (Vice President); Margaret Andersen (Vice President-Elect); Bonnie Thornton Dill (Immediate Past Vice President); Donald Tomaskovic-Devey (Secretary).

Members-at-Large Present: Judith Auerbach, Kathleen Blee, Dalton Conley, Marjorie DeVault, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Michèle Lamont, Mary Pattillo, Clara Rodriguez, Mary Romero, Rubén Rumbaut, Marc Schneiberg, Gay Seidman, Robin Stryker.

Staff Present: Janet Astner, Karen Edwards, Lee Herring, Sally Hillsman, Kyle Murphy, Michael Murphy, Jean Shin, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Daniel Spar, Margaret Vitullo.

1. Call to Order

ASA President Arne Kalleberg called the first meeting of the 2007-2008 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.

2. Report of the Secretary

President Kalleberg called upon ASA Secretary Donald Tomaskovic-Devey for his report.

A. Review of 2007 Budget

Tomaskovic-Devey reported that financial projections indicate the budget should breakeven at the end of the year.

B. Journal Subscription Rates for 2008

Subscription rates for ASA journals are adjusted as needed to keep pace with changes in postage and inflation. It has been Council policy to provide journals to members at cost. Over the years the member rates for different journals have varied by a few dollars. Institutional subscribers pay a modestly higher rate.

Recently, in an effort to ensure the widest possible dissemination of ASA journals, Council approved a new member benefit that enabled all members who subscribe to two (or more) journals to receive free electronic access to all ASA journals. This raised some concern that the existing (albeit small) differences in prices among ASA journals (i.e., \$5 for more for bi-monthly than quarterly journals) might affect some members' choice of which journals to get in print. Review of the data from 2006 and 2007 suggested that price may be affecting some ASA members print journal purchases. Journal retention patterns of renewing members between 2006 and 2007 show a drop in subscriptions for the bi-monthly ASR and CS, while the quarterlies have seen an increase in print subscriptions. While there are obviously other explanations unrelated to cost for the decreases in ASR and CS print subscriptions, member price sensitivity remains a possibility.

The Committee on Publications recommended, and the Committee on the Executive Office (EOB) concurred, Council move to a uniform price for all ASA journals (excluding *Sociological Methodology* which, as a hardcover annual publication, has a price \$10 higher than any other ASA journal). ASA last raised member subscription rates in 2005 to \$40 for bi-monthly journals and \$35 for quarterlies, based on the cost of the journals in 2003. Since then, other subscription rates (and member dues rates) have increased by 15-20 percent through adjustments for inflation. In addition, postal costs have increased 10-15 percent during the same period.

The recommended member price for ASA journals in 2008 is \$40 per journal for regular members (an increase of \$5 for quarterlies) and \$25 per journal for student members (no increase over 2007). No change was recommended in the member price for *ASR*, *CS*, *Contexts*, and *Sociological Methodology* or in student member rates. There are approximately 5,100 member subscriptions that would be affected by the recommended \$5 increase for the quarterlies, a revenue increase of approximately \$25,000.

Following a brief discussion,

<p>Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Publications Committee and EOB regarding member rates for ASA journal subscriptions in 2008.</p>

C. Membership Dues for 2008

In line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) set by the US Department of Labor for the time period from May 2006 through May 2007, EOB recommended a cost of living

adjustment (COLA) in membership dues of 2.7% for 2008. Based on this adjustment, dues rates for 2008 would be:

Dues Category	2008 Dues
Under \$20,000	\$24
\$20,000-\$29,999	\$25
\$30,000-\$39,999	\$65
\$40,000-\$54,999	\$113
\$55,000-\$69,999	\$157
\$70,000 and over	\$176
Associate	\$42
International Associate	\$42
Student	\$18
Emeritus	\$42

Members of Council briefly discussed the long-standing Council policy of adjusting dues gradually through annual COLA increases as needed versus a periodic overhaul of the dues rates and reaffirmed the soundness of the policy of incremental adjustments.

<p>Council voted to approve the EOB recommendation for a 2.7% COLA increase in member dues for 2008 (rounded to nearest whole dollar).</p>

3. Council Committee and Advisory Panel Appointments

A. Nominations from President

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the President had notified members of his appointments to liaison roles, including Council Member-at-Large Liaison appointments. There were no questions raised about these assignments.

B. Nominations from Secretary

Secretary Tomaskovic-Devey presented a slate of three ranked candidates to fill the vacancy on the EOB.

<p>Council voted to approve the Secretary's ranked recommendations for appointment to vacancies on the Committee on Executive Office and Budget.</p>

C. Nominations from the Executive Office

The Executive Officer presented ranked nominations to fill vacancies on three committees that are advisory to the Executive Office: Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Advisory Panel, Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy Advisory Panel, and the Honors Program Advisory Panel. Members of Council

suggested an additional name for one list but later decided that if there was need for additional names that staff contact Council by e-mail.

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

D. Nominations from the Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees is elected by the membership each year to assemble rank ordered lists of members for appointment to more than a dozen ASA governance committees. Michael Murphy, Director of Governance and Sections, presented the committee's report. Council members asked questions about individual committees and about approaches to the construction of the rank ordered lists. Several Council members commented on their previous service on the Committee on Committees, the difficulty of the task, and their admiration for the work of the committee.

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

E. Requested Guidance to the Committee on Nominations

ASA Bylaws mandate that the ASA Vice President chair the annual meeting of the Committee on Nominations (CON). Vice President Bonnie Thornton Dill brought an issue to Council for its guidance that had arisen during the recent meeting of this committee: how should CON, and other committees charged with creating ranked list of candidates, handle the issue of spouses or partners when constructing lists of candidates?

Michèle Lamont commented that, as someone who is part of a couple where both are sociologists, it was best to let the individuals decide for themselves whether they wanted to run for elected office. Council members generally concurred with the view that people should be placed on nomination lists based on their qualifications and not based on partnership issues (which are also often difficult to know).

Council consulted the *ASA Code of Ethics* which does not specifically address this situation, although Section 9.05 addresses Conflicts of Interest in decision making outside the work place. Following an extensive discussion, did not believe a specific policy was needed for this situation since it does not raise a conflict of interest. Council indicated that all ASA committees should be aware of existing ethical standards about conflict of interest and the sense of this Council discussion that this situation does not generally appear to raise an ethical concern. Vice President-Elect McAdam, who will chair the Committee on Nominations next year, indicated that this discussion provided useful guidance to the committee.

4. Annual Meetings

A. Update on the 2008 Program

President Kalleberg reported that plans for the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting are progressing. The meeting will be held August 1-4, 2008 in Boston at the Boston Sheraton and the Boston Marriott Copley Plaza. The theme for the meeting will be “Worlds of Work” and will focus on the interconnections between work - broadly conceived - and society.

The theme—Worlds of Work—points to two main sub-themes: the increasing diversity by which work is organized and experienced in societies and the cross-national and historical diversity in work activities, work-related institutions, and the experience of work. Kalleberg said that the 2008 program will emphasize social change and the dynamic connections between changing patterns of work and social life. Meeting sessions will highlight how social, economic, and political forces are transforming the nature of work in society as well as the consequences—both intended and unintended—for social institutions and individuals. It will seek to demonstrate the relevance of social science research for public policy and for efforts to address social inequities and inequalities through activism around work-related issues—such as transnational labor movements, union-based movements, and community organizing.

A question was raised about the very early August meeting date for the 2008 Meeting. Executive Officer Hillsman responded that current Council policy is to rotate meetings within the month of August, noting that later meeting dates advantage those who are away on research activities but disadvantage those who teach since classes often begin in mid to late August. She noted that the dates for 2008 happened to be the only early dates available for this meeting in Boston. Others noted that this issue arises frequently but that Council’s current policy is reasonable decision because no date is perfect for everyone.

B. Proposed Members for the 2009 Program Committee

Patricia Hill Collins, President-Elect, presented Council with the following slate of proposed candidates for the 2009 Program Committee:

Daniel Cornfield, Vanderbilt University
Rick Fantasia, Smith College
Nancy Denton, University at Albany
Clarence Lo, University of Missouri - Columbia
Nancy Naples, University of Connecticut - Storrs
José Calderon, Pitzer College
Tukufu Zuberi, University of Pennsylvania
Patricia White, National Science Foundation

She noted that in addition to these individuals, the Secretary, Vice President-Elect and Executive Officer also serve on the Program Committee.

Council unanimously approved the proposed slate of members for the 2009 Annual Meeting Program Committee as presented.

Collins also reported that her early thinking was to focus the 2009 meeting on the theme of “The New Politics of Community.” Traditionally, the concept of community referenced geographically specific, culturally homogeneous, and seemingly natural entities such as families, villages, academic disciplines, neighborhoods, races, and religious groups. Whether by choice or by force, people belonged to one primary community and such communities were typically ranked. The massive social changes of the post-World War II era changed this. The growth of global capital marketplaces and their ensuing population migrations, the successes and failures of the civil rights, feminist and similar social movements for social justice, the rapid emergence of new technologies of transportation and communication, and the increased attention to security and surveillance of the post-9/11 period all greatly transformed traditional understandings of community. No longer seen as naturally occurring, apolitical spaces of home and homeland populated by people who belong, communities of all sorts now constitute sites of political engagement and contestation.

The term community also resonates throughout social policy, popular culture, and everyday social interaction in ways that generate dynamic social and political identities and people understand community in diverse ways, and the social practices of community catalyze new meanings of freedom. The ideal of community holds significance for quite different populations with competing political agendas. The idea of community constitutes an elastic social, political and theoretical construct that holds a variety of contradictory meanings and around which diverse social practices and understandings occur.

C. Registration Fees for 2008 Annual Meeting

At its summer meeting, EOB reviewed registration fees for the 2008 Annual Meeting and proposes Council authorize a \$5 across-the-board increase in meeting registration fees. Two areas where the association has experienced rapid increases in Annual Meeting costs are program planning and audio visual services. Continuing Program Committee interest in inviting international scholars and non-sociologists to participate on the Annual Meeting program has also increased costs.

Audio visual technology is changing rapidly and is a source of increasing cost for the association. In 2007, videoconferencing access for a feature plenary speaker and audio-conferencing access for a Thematic Session panelist boosted the cost of AV services. The New York City venue was also exceptionally high. In an effort to contain these increases, the Executive Office recently negotiated a new three-year contract for AV support and to supply the equipment needed to operate On-Site registration and the Employment Service.

Council was pleased to learn that when Registration closed on the last day of the meeting, there was a record 6,024 people in attendance at this Annual Meeting.

Council unanimously approved an increase in Annual Meeting registration fees for 2008 by \$5 across-the-board, and by \$5 for Employment Service Candidates who are members.

5. Reports from the Publications Committee and Joint Committee on Electronic Publishing

A. Electronic Publishing

While a Subcommittee on Electronic Publishing has existed since 2003, the committee has been inactive for several years. It was re-activated earlier this year and held a meeting on May 14, 2007 to begin discussing a long-term agenda. Some of the background issues the subcommittee discussed included the context in which ASA's publishing activities take place. ASA plays a key role as a publisher of scholarly journals for scholars, students, and the discipline. The peer-review selection process has always been the Association's major focus, but with electronic publishing the Association must consider what role it may have to play in the preservation of ASA content. Many libraries are moving away from printed journals, thereby also moving away from serving as permanent repositories of journals content.

The subcommittee also explored the financial implications of ASA's current journal publishing program. Publishing is always an expensive venture but the advent of electronic publishing and world-wide circulation has increased costs. Traditionally, ASA and most other scholarly publishing Associations have relied upon disseminating new content to libraries via subscriptions as the main source of income to support their publication missions. The advent of electronic publication has meant declining revenues from institutional subscriptions while, at the same time, increasing revenues from the sale of digitized historical content.

The subcommittee discussed the two alternatives for covering the costs of publishing: a "user pays" model (i.e., subscriptions) versus an "author pays" model (i.e., publication fees). Library subscriptions a "user pays" model because economic analyses have shown that virtually all users of scholarly content are scientists in or outside universities and students. The alternative source of revenue without subscriptions is the "author pays" model favored by the open access movement. "Author pays" means that the authors' research grants, universities, or authors themselves pay the full costs of the publishing process. The Association has always favored the subscription or user pays model.

The Joint Committee on Electronic publication, reflecting discussions over the last few years in the Publications Committee, EOB, and Council, expressed the view that it is time for the Association to consider alternatives to self-publishing. The major reasons include the Association's inability to compete successfully with the types of consortia and licensing arrangements available to libraries from large publishers and other institutional subscribers; our limited ability to market internationally; and our limited ability to offer individual and library subscribers new forms of quicker access to content

(e.g., pre-publication access by article). In the context of the increasing powerful, service-oriented technology base that electronic publishing is providing, the Association can no longer provide a state-of-the art publishing base. Similarly, we cannot market cost-effective purchase packages broadly enough to stem the tide of institutional subscription losses as well as meet growing international demand.

With continuing consultation with the subcommittee and other relevant committees, the Association will release a request for proposal (RFP) some time in the next year to solicit proposals for publishing the ASA journals. The goal is to have a new arrangement in place by 2010 to cover all six journals that we currently self-publish.

Most members of Council indicated that the author pays model should be struck quickly, many noting that this approach to “open access” was not feasible for ASA. One member of Council argued that the costs for open access seem to be based on the current total costs for print, and argued that electronic publishing should produce lower total cost and a focus on the marginal costs for pricing. Hillsman noted that the experience of all journal publishers moving from print only to electronic, including the ASA, indicates that the total cost of producing the first electronic copy is about 95% of the costs of producing the first print copy. The only savings are the paper print run and postage which is not the most expensive part of producing a journal.

Members were almost uniformly opposed to the Author Pays Model, noting that it effectively introduces another layer of cost for our members, especially younger scholars, which is the antithesis of what we want to do. Because much scholarship is produced in sociology without grant support, publishing costs would be unequally burdensome. It was also noted that getting published in an ASA journal is a way for many people to keep their jobs and to move ahead with tenure. Members at less-than-wealthy institutions probably would not receive any financial assistance from their institution to cover the cost of publishing, which would mean that these members would have a disincentive to publishing in ASA journals.

The Secretary noted that the Author Pays Model is on the table only because it is currently a very popular idea in some areas of academia. He reported that the RFP process is crucial since in it we will define the parameters of the contract we envision. There is value to our journals intellectual content. Publishers don't generate content; our members do, which places the Association in a relatively strong negotiating position.

One Council member suggested that some version of the Author Pays Model should remain on the table since it ties in with international accessibility, the emerging interactive “Web 2.0” concept, and RSS feeds by key words. Another approach is to consider paying article by article, using keywords in a robust internet search rather than subscribing to particular journals.

There was general agreement that technology for publishing has evolved dramatically in recent years, and is likely to continue to do so. The Association is no longer able to

provide the technology infrastructure required, which clearly requires partnership with someone who has it and can keep up with the evolving technology needs.

President Kalleberg thanked the members of Council for their thoughtful discussion. He noted that this discussion would provide valuable input to the Joint Committee, the Committee on Publications and EOB.

B. Proposal for a Rose Series Session at the Annual Meeting

The Secretary reported that, at the request of the Rose editors, the Publications Committee had again discussed the idea of reserving one of the Annual Meeting author-meets-critics sessions as a forum for highlighting important books published by the association as part of its only book series. There are about eight Author Meets Critics sessions each meeting with approximately 40-50 submissions. Some years Rose Series books are in the group selected and in other years they are not. The Committee on Publications recommended a compromise to permit the ASA to promoting its own Rose Series books, namely, designating one slot on each Annual Meeting program—not an author-meets-critic slot—for the Rose Editors to propose a session featuring the Rose books. The Program Committee would have the responsibility for determining the shape and content of the session with the editors.

As in previous discussions by Council, members of Council reiterated concerns about intruding into the domain of the Program Committee and about privileging one book (in this case the a Rose book) over others for the small number of author-meets-critic slots. Several acknowledge, however, that if authors knew that a Rose book could lead to its being featured at an Annual Meeting session, there might be an increase in the number of submissions to the Rose Series and an increase in the quality of books published.

The consensus was again that the Rose books should not be favored in author-meets-critic sessions or the number of those sessions reduced. A motion was made to accept the Publication Committee's compromise recommendation that the Rose Series be given a special session that does not take away from the author-meets-critic sessions, without specifying the details of the nature of that session, that Council leave it to the discretion of the editors to determine how that session is used the final approval being with the Program Committee.

<p>Council voted unanimously that one special session in each Annual Meeting program be devoted to highlighting the Rose series under the auspices of the Program Committee in collaboration with the Rose editors.</p>

C. The American Sociologist

Karen Gray Edwards, Director of Publications and Membership, reported that in 1982 the Association gave the rights to publish *The American Sociologist* (TAS) to Irving Horowitz and Transaction Publishers. The original agreement specified that if Transaction ever stopped publishing TAS that the title would revert to the ASA. However, the Association has not been able to locate a copy of the original signed

agreement, only drafts leading up to the final agreement and notations about the agreement in ASA's official publications—Council minutes and *Footnotes*. Transaction recently sold its periodicals, including *TAS*, to Springer in violation of the agreement. A number of efforts have been made to locate the original agreement, including conversations with prior Executive Officers who recall the agreement being made, trying to locate the files of the attorney who we know wrote the agreement, and reviewing hundreds of files in the ASA Archives. Our next step will probably be to have our attorneys contact Transaction Publishers.

6. Report of the Executive Officer

A. Minority Fellowship Program

At the request of the Executive Officer, Jean Shin, ASA Director of the Minority Affairs Program, reported to Council on status of funding for the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). MFP was established in 1974 under a T-32 research training grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to the ASA; the Executive Officer is the Principal Investigator. In 2004 MFP also received a year-to-year commitment of co-funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). In addition, over the years a variety of other sociological groups, as well as individual ASA members, have joined with the Association to provide financial support to this program, increasing the number of fellowships and broadening the areas of intellectual work the represent.

After intense discussions internally, NIMH has notified ASA that a T-32 renewal application after the current five-year program is over will not be accepted because NIMH wants to reduce the resources devoted to training and because it does not want to continue "minority" fellowship programs. This effectively ends the major portion of the ASA MFP funding (about 30 fellowships in total). The current T-32 five-year cycle runs through 2010; NIMH has agreed to provide funding for the current T-32 through the end of current five-year cycle in 2010 without a major mid-cycle review it had originally required.

Hillsman indicated that this situation provides the Association with an appropriate—if pressing—moment to review how we can best serve and support minority doctoral candidates. While the Association has done this in smaller ways with each T-32 renewal, and with the design and implication of other programs, times have changed in graduate education and ASA should address how we should structure our efforts to expand the number of underrepresented minorities in the professional pipeline, including providing financial support.

Council voted unanimously to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Minority Fellowship Program to reassess its structure and to consider future funding options, and authorized the President to appoint members to it.

B. Grants

The Executive Officer reported that the ASA Research and Development Department applied for one new grant in February, received a supplemental grant in May, and continues to work on two ongoing grants. Work has recently been completed on three additional grants.

C. Redesign of Footnotes

The Executive Officer reported on the redesign of *Footnotes*, the ASA member newsletter. Its audience is primarily ASA members, who receive *Footnotes* as a member benefit. *Footnotes* was launched in January 1973 as a successor to *The American Sociologist* (which later evolved into a journal). Member and reader input and preferences have been solicited. As with journal publishing, rapidly evolving electronic options have an impact on *Footnotes*. In recent years, the Association has launched *Member News and Notes*, an electronic news alert which disseminates timely news on membership-related matters with linkage to more detailed information on the ASA website.

As expected, Hillsman reported there are mixed feelings among members regarding the format of *Footnotes*. While some favor immediate moving *Footnotes* to an online format, more are adamantly opposed to moving away from a print version. The physical size of the publication is not surprisingly an important issue. The current 11" x 17" tabloid size is distinctive among newsletters. While some members would prefer a magazine-sized newsletter, most found the tabloid size easier to read and most distinctive among the many items they receive in the mail.

The Executive Office will continue to work on the re-design of *Footnotes* with launch anticipated in January 2008.

D. Science Policy Issues

Hillsman reported that the ASA continues to be very actively involved with a variety of science policy and public affairs issues in collaboration with other associations and advocacy groups. Recent issues have included the fiscal year 2008 federal budget, open access to NIH-supported research findings, the next director of the US Census Bureau, the Department of Education's "Spellings" Commission report, and the work of the National Academy of Science's Board on Children, Youth and Families.

E. Human Rights/Academic Freedom Responses

Council received a written update on recent human rights and academic freedom issues in which the ASA has been involved, including the Adam Habib visa case, Kian Tajbakhish correspondence, the British Teachers boycott of Israeli Institutions, academic freedom and Cuba, and Moscow State University sociology student protest. No Council action was required and the Executive Office will keep the membership informed through *Footnotes*.

F. Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD)

This item was held over from yesterday's Council meeting. Roberta Spalter-Roth, ASA Director of Research and Development, reported that the FAD program is currently funded by the NSF, usually on a three-year cycle. The Association will re-apply to NSF this fall. Previously the ASA had requested \$165,000 to support six rounds of awards over a three-year period (awards are twice each year), but that figure is no longer sufficient. The reapplication will be for approximately \$185,000. Previously the Association has provided a dollar-for-dollar match, but in 2008 the organization may only be able to provide approximately \$80,000 rather than \$165,000.

Council members were concerned that this new proposal would leave a \$105,000 funding shortfall. Several members indicated that FAD provides an important source of funding for members doing innovative work, noting that the Association gets a great value for these grants. It was suggested that the Association request \$220,000 from NSF and that the Association provide at least \$100,000 in matching funds from the General Fund.

Council voted unanimously to authorize \$100,000 over three years from the General Fund as matching funds for the proposal to renew the NSF FAD grant.
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Spalter-Roth noted that the reapplication for funding provided an opportunity for ASA to develop an electronic submission system that would enable electronic transmission of proposals to reviewers. This is a huge step forward that should be well received by members.

7. Reports from Task Forces

A. Academic Freedom and Research Integrity

The Task Force on Academic Freedom and Research Integrity has not yet had the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting, but has been in active communication regarding how to accomplish its assigned task. Council will be kept informed as the task force proceeds with its charge.

B. Sociology and Criminology

Task Force members participated in two conference calls where they discussed existing models and approaches used by departments for including both criminology and criminal justice (CCJ) in sociology. This discussion included a consideration of models for interdisciplinary programs; the content of a model curriculum (including core courses) that incorporates the interests of CCJ students; structural and financial challenges for departments that take on CCJ as a formal arrangement; advising issues for both faculty and students; and issues in faculty evaluation with regard to publications in CCJ journals, teaching, and service duties.

In these preliminary calls there was agreement that the Task Force should address at least the following structural arrangements: (1) joint programs/majors; (2) CCJ concentrations within sociology departments; (3) the presence of CCJ courses within sociology departments that do not constitute an official concentration/major; (4) separate departments; and (5) interdisciplinary programs. Additional topics will also be considered, including how to start CCJ programs, differences between BA and MA programs, and faculty staffing concerns about qualifications, background, and advising.

The Task Force plans to divide into subcommittees on three topics: (1) program structures; (2) curriculum and student needs; and (3) faculty issues and professional development. This division into subcommittees, further organization of the report drafting and writing process, and other related discussions took place at Task Force meeting during the 2007 Annual Meeting. The Task Force got feedback from the Chair Conference attendees will also get additional input from ASA members at a workshop during the 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston. The final report will be reviewed by Council at its winter 2009 Meeting.

C. Teaching Ethics throughout the Curriculum

The Task Force on the Teaching of Ethics Throughout the Curriculum is actively engaged in completing its charge. It is anticipated that the task force will make its final report to Council at the winter 2009 meeting.

8. Committee on Sections

The Committee on Sections reported that it has viewed proposals for several new Sections-in-Formation. The committee recommends two of these proposals to Council for consideration and approval of Section-in-Formation status: Disability and Society, and Human Rights.

Council revisited previous discussions on whether the increasing number of sections is an indicator of the health of the discipline or of further fragmentation. Some members were also concerned that more sections might have unanticipated consequences for organizational resources, including space on the Annual Meeting program.

Both current proposals were considered meritorious, so Council voted to authorize their Section-in-Formation status, and asked the Executive Office to review the implications of the growth of sections, including whether some sections could be combined.

<p>Council voted unanimously to authorize Section-in-Formation status for Disabilities and Society and for Human Rights.</p>
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9. New Business

A. Business Meeting Resolution

Council received a resolution introduced by Neil Brenner, ASA member from New York University, at the ASA Business Meeting on August 14, 2007. It identified that the arrest by German authorities of Andrej Holm, an urban sociologist in Berlin, and another unidentified sociologist, allegedly on the grounds of names in their possession and interviews they had conducted pursuant to research on “gentrification.” Raising serious question about academic freedom should these allegations about the basis for arrest, Immediate Past President Piven suggested that the Council formulate a statement that expressed alarm at these events and the process as we understand it, namely the use of academic research and research contacts to implicate someone in terrorist political activity. Some members of Council were concerned about making a statement without more clarification on the facts of the case. Others agreed but felt the issue was of such importance that some statement should be issued immediately. After extensive discussion, Council voted to adopt the following statement:

The American Sociological Association categorically rejects the use by governments or their agents of scholarly concepts, writing or research contacts as the basis upon which to monitor, detain or incarcerate social science researchers or instructors. The use of social science scholarship, concepts and field contacts to generate criminal suspicion or accusation grossly violates the principle of academic freedom and integrity of scientific practice.

The Executive Office was charged with ensuring this statement was sent immediately to the relevant German authorities.

B. Resolution from Sociologists Without Borders

Council received a one page handout from the organization Sociologists Without Borders requesting ASA participation in a network it was forming to disseminate information about scholars, sociologists and others, who are at risk politically as a result of their academic work. Members expressed some concern about the proposal, partly because of its lack of specificity. Council expressed general support of the idea of collaborative effort on such cases, but did not feel the proposal was sufficiently developed yet for Council action. Council commended Sociologists Without Borders for its initiative on these serious academic freedom and human rights cases and applauded its efforts to focus attention on them. It asked the Executive Officer to correspond with Judith Blau, organizer of Sociologists Without Borders, to convey the spirit of this Council discussion and to seek ways in which the two organizations might effectively collaborate.

C. Resolution on Academic Boycotts

Council discussed a resolution presented by Claude Fischer. He requested that Council reiterate the general position the Association has taken previously against any restrictions on the free movement of scholars as a matter of academic freedom. The Fischer resolution also contained a specific reference to the consideration by the British University and College Union of a boycott of Israeli academics and academic institutions as the context for Council restating its position against any such restrictions.

Council's discussion reflected that the Fischer resolution was consistent with previous general statements Council had made against any restrictions on the free flow of scholars across national borders, but that because the resolution referenced specifically a boycott of Israeli academics and academic institutions, Council should consider adding a clause that also referenced Israeli restrictions on the movement of Palestinian scholars and students. The question was raised as to why Council should limit additions to the Fischer resolution to the Israel-Palestinian situation. The sense of the discussion was that adding all known restrictions on scholarly movements would only result in bringing the resolution back to the generic statements ASA has already made about academic freedom and restrictions on scholars. The amended resolution was moved and passed unanimously:

Whereas the ASA is committed to academic freedom, including full participation in the academic community, for all scholars irrespective of their nationality, institutional affiliation, or personal political beliefs; and Whereas the British University and College Union has voted to consider a boycott of Israeli academics and academic institutions; and whereas Israeli restrictions on Palestinian students prevent them from studying at institutions of higher education in Israel, the West Bank, and abroad;

The Council of the ASA reiterates its resolution of August 17, 2005, stating that "The Association deploras restrictions on the free movement of scholars and students and barriers to scholarly inquiry and exchange;" and its resolution of February 4, 2007, stating that: "The free flow of scholars and scholarship across national borders is a fundamental tenet of academic freedom. The ASA Council affirms its on-going support, as reflected in its statement of September 19, 2006, 'for the protection of academic independence...through the movement of faculty and students between universities irrespective of nationality or political views.'"

D. Resolution of Thanks to Craig Calhoun

Members of Council unanimously voiced its appreciation to Craig Calhoun on behalf of the Association and membership for his outstanding work collecting and editing the papers in Sociology in America: A History, which was published earlier this year by the University of Chicago Press as an ASA Centennial publication.

The Council of the ASA, meeting in New York City in August of 2007, expresses by acclamation its great appreciation to Dr. Craig Calhoun for the excellent history of our discipline in the United States that he has organized and edited.

The Executive Officer was instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Calhoun reporting this action.

E. Date for Winter 2008 Council Meeting

Two options for winter meeting dates were proposed and voted upon.

Council voted to select February 1-3, 2008 as the date of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

F. Proposal for Experimental Change in Council Meeting Format

The Executive Officer introduced a discussion of possible modifications of the current Council meeting structure. Twenty years ago, each ASA Council met four times during the year. For fiscal and time reasons, the number of meetings was reduced to the current semi-annual structure. The format of meetings has been modified recently to organize reports by topical area rather than the Association officer presenting the report. This appears to have expedited business, giving more time for discussion of significant topics. In addition, the Executive Office proposed moving reports on the core ASA programs to once a year, rather than having the reports at both the summer and winter Council meetings

Council also considered the possibility of changing the timeframe for future August Council meetings. Members were against adding any additional time to the Annual Meeting Council meetings and more favorable to experimenting with ways of using the available time more efficiently. For example, the Publications Committee is planning to experiment with placing meeting materials on a secure website for committee members to access and/or download, rather than printing and mailing paper copies of the reports. If it is successful, Council could consider experimenting with this

Members expressed appreciation for the utility of the current Council book structure and reports, and noted strong reluctance about changing something that is working well. There was agreement that the Council books are organized and thoughtfully constructed, providing a valuable way to organize Council meetings. They viewed the agenda books as increasingly focused and concise. Some suggested that perhaps large reports could be posted on a secure website prior to the meeting, but were in general agreement that printed books would need to be available to Council members on site at the meeting.

Several members also suggested adding projected time allocated to each agenda item at the start of the meeting to help the President guide the course of the meeting.

G. Other New Business

There was no other new business for consideration at this meeting.

14. Adjournment

With no additional business for consideration, the President adjourned the first meeting of the 2007-2008 ASA Council at 3:30 pm. The President thanked members of Council for their thoughtful consideration of all items throughout the agenda. The next scheduled meeting of Council will be held on February 1-3, 2008 in Washington, DC.