

**2009-2010 ASA Council First Meeting
Final Minutes**

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 4:10 p.m.

Hilton San Francisco

Franciscan A-B

Officers Present: Margaret Andersen (Past Vice President), Catherine White Berheide (Secretary-Elect), Patricia Hill Collins (Past President), Randall Collins (President-Elect), Evelyn Nakano Glenn (President), John Logan (Vice President), David Snow (Vice President-Elect), Donald Tomaskovic-Devey (Secretary).

Members-at-Large Present: Marjorie DeVault, Sarah Fenstermaker, Rosanna Hertz, Jennifer Lee, Omar McRoberts, Debra Minkoff, Clara Rodriguez, Marc Schneiberg, Sandra Smith

Members-at-Large Absent: Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Sarah Soule, Robin Stryker

Staff Present: Janet Astner, Les Briggs, Karen Edwards, Lee Herring, Sally T. Hillsman, Michael Murphy, Jean Shin, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Margaret Weigers Vitullo.

1. Call to Order

President Glenn called the first meeting of the 2009-2010 Council to order at 8:36 am on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, in the Franciscan A-B Room at the Hilton San Francisco Hotel. A quorum of members was present for the conduct of business throughout the course of the meeting.

A. Approval of the Agenda

The Secretary proposed an item for the new business section of the agenda.

MOTION: Accept the agenda as amended. Carried.
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B. Conflict of Interest Statement

New Council members were reminded to sign and submit the conflict of interest statement.

2. Report of the Secretary

A. Summary Review of the 2009 Budget

The Secretary reported that, as discussed during the final meeting of the 2008-2009 Council, the Association's budget is currently in a reasonable place, though a modest deficit is expected at the end of the year.

B. Membership Dues for 2010

Three areas where Council has some control over revenue are membership dues, journal subscription rates for members, and meeting registration fees. The Secretary reminded Council that dues cannot be raised above the yearly COLA unless the change is approved by members. The Consumer Price Index did not increase over the 12 months ending in June 2009, and the recommendation from EOB is that there be no changes in dues for 2010. It was noted, however, that dues categories have not changed in recent years, and there has been a loss of progressivity over time.

The Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) is looking at revising the dues structure for 2012, incorporating due process for discussion and feedback. In addition to weathering the current economic situation, it will be important to have experience with the different revenue streams from the new publishing partnership. The Executive Office has started a modeling process for potential new ways to set dues to restore lost progressivity, and there will be several rounds of review and discussion with EOB and Council. Some preliminary information will be available for Council to discuss in February. There will be sufficient time for Council input, discussion, and due diligence before any changes are proposed to the membership in 2011.

In response to a query regarding what percentage of members are in the F category (the highest due level), and what percentage of dues are in that category, Executive Office staff responded that approximately twenty percent of members are in the highest dues category, which currently generates about half of the dues income.

MOTION: Council affirms no change in membership and section dues for 2010. Carried.

(1) Membership Report

As of June 15, 2009, ASA membership counts were about 1% below those from a year ago. There was cautious optimism that membership be regained by the end of the membership year as outreach efforts will continue through September.

C. Journal Subscription Rates for 2010

At its meeting in July, EOB voted to recommend that Council approve a \$5 increase in journal subscription rates to members as well as modest institutional increases. The subscription rates presented for Council's review were prepared in conjunction with the publishing partners (Sage Publications, Wiley-Blackwell, and University of California Press). The Committee on Publications noted that subscription rates for ASA journals are lower than rates in other social science disciplines. This association usually looks at whether members and libraries can afford the subscriptions rather than how much more revenue could be generated, and the Secretary indicated he was proud of the association's long-term position on this matter.

It was noted that libraries/universities are not aware of ASA's view that higher education institutions should not be excessively burdened in the matter of subscription pricing because ASA views itself as in partnership with universities to create and distribute high quality scholarship. Council members with experience serving on library committees commented that there is virtue in costing less. Discussion turned to the continuing decline in

institutional subscriptions and what relationship that might have to price increases. From ASA's viewpoint, much of the early decline in library subscriptions related to reduction of multiple copies and to materials becoming available online.

In the case of the *American Sociological Review* (ASR), for example, the current subscription level of 2,500 is considered to be at market saturation here in the US. According to Sage, it is reasonable to expect an additional 2,000 subscriptions to ASR by getting more penetration into the international and small college markets from participating in consortia deals which ASA has not had in the past. As for online impact, JSTOR and other sources house older content (3 years and older). ASA receives significant annual income for use of materials through JSTOR. The historical intellectual content in sociology is a rich body of knowledge that is in demand for a very long time.

Review of the 2010 institutional subscription rates needs to be reviewed earlier in the future because publisher price lists are distributed to libraries and printed in catalogs in June/July.

MOTION: Council approves 2010 subscription rates as shown below in Table 1. Carried

Table 1: Proposed 2010 Subscription Rates

Journal	2008	2009	2010 Proposed
<i>ASR and CS</i>			
Student Members	\$25	\$25	\$30
Members	\$40	\$40	\$45
Non-member	--	--	--
Institutions (print/online)	\$220	ASR:\$250 CS: \$240	\$288
Institutions (online only)	\$200	\$225 \$216	\$259
<i>Contexts</i>			
Student Members	\$25	\$25	\$30
Members	\$40	\$40	\$45
Non-member	\$50	\$50	\$50
Institutions (print/online)	\$176	\$192	\$205
Institutions (online only)	\$156	\$166	\$171
<i>ST</i>			
Student Members	\$25	\$25	\$30
Members	\$40	\$40	\$45
Non-member	--	--	--
Institutions (print/online)	\$262	\$299	\$317
Institutions (online only)	\$249	\$278	\$295
<i>Other quarterlies</i>			
Student Members	\$25	\$25	\$30
Members	\$35	\$40	\$45
Non-member	--	--	--
Institutions (print/online)	\$174	\$205	\$236
Institutions (online only)	\$160	\$185	\$212
<i>SM</i>			
Student Members	\$40	\$40	\$45
Members	\$50	\$50	\$55
Non-member	--	--	--
Institutions (print/online)	\$256	\$292	\$310
Institutions (online only)	\$243	\$271	\$288

C&C*			
Non-member	\$76	\$82	\$84
Non-member student	\$38	\$41	\$42
Institutions (print/online)	\$301	\$343	\$364
Institutions (online only)	\$276	\$308	\$327

*ASA members can only subscribe by joining the *Community and Urban Sociology* Section; no separate member subscription is available.

(1) Subscription Report

Most of the information contained in the subscription report arose during Council's discussion of subscriptions rates for 2010. As of June 15, 2009, institutional subscriptions have decreased by 2% compared to June 2008 figures, which is slightly less than last year's decrease of 2.5%. ASA continues to respond to annual attrition of library subscribers, but there has been significant growth in online-only subscriptions. The partnership with Sage should help increase both print and online subscriptions over the first few years.

Contexts continues to have an overall positive impact on total journal subscriptions but a negative impact on other ASA journals. There has been a decline in member subscriptions in general beyond what would be expected from the small decline in membership.

3. Committee, Advisory Panel, & Task Force Appointments

A. Nominations from the President, Secretary, and Executive Officer

The Secretary presented a short slate of nominees to serve on the Committee on Executive Office and Budget (EOB). One member-at-large is appointed annually.

MOTION: Approve the nominees in the order presented. Carried.

The Executive Officer presented nominees for the advisory panels that support the Minority Fellowship Program, the Spivack Program, and other ASA programs.

MOTION: Approve the nominees as presented for the ASA Advisory Committees. Carried.

B. Nominations from the Committee on Committees

The Director of Governance and Information Systems provided an overview of the Committee on Committees (COC) composition and work and submitted the rank-ordered lists of nominees prepared for Council review. Where nominees appeared on more than one list, a formal skip rule is invoked by Governance staff to prevent simultaneous service on multiple committees.

It was noted that several lists contained names of COC members, which raised some concern. There was some support for the viewpoint that if members want to work on committees, let them do so, but Council decided it was more important to avoid any appearance of impropriety with nominations for service on committees.

MOTION: To accept the entire slate, with the proviso that nominees who are COC members will be dropped. Carried.

4. Annual Meetings

A. President's Update on the 2010 Program

President Glenn reported that program planning was well underway, with presidential sessions on models of inclusion and a plenary on the financial crisis. The book review subcommittee has selected eight books to be featured in the Author Meets Critics sessions. Attention has also been given to looking at how to get more than 4,000 attendees to Atlanta. The Director of Meeting Services noted that a local arrangements committee was in place and actively working with the Executive Office to highlight benefits of the site and changes in the city since ASA was last there. For example, both the Marriott and the Hilton hotels have been renovated, and there is now a pedestrian skywalk that connects those two co-headquarters hotels. The President indicated that the local group would be organizing a guide of things to do and see by location and neighborhood, as well as preparing an interesting roster of local tours.

There was discussion about scheduling constraints and the challenges of having sessions on the afternoon of the last day. However, given the quantity of sessions and the importance of having good sessions throughout the program, it is not possible to avoid having Thematic Sessions on the last afternoon. The President ended her report with a rousing "Go Atlanta!" cheer.

B. President-Elect's Report on the 2011 Program Committee

President-Elect Randall Collins announced the theme for the 2011 Annual Meeting, "Social Conflict", and indicated that many good ideas were already on deck. He commented that what sociologists do that is unique is inequalities, and inequality is tightly entwined with conflict. The topic thus encompasses fairly broadly what sociologists do. The 2011 meeting is located in Chicago, a city with well-known links to the origins of American sociology, which is a happy correlation between site and program theme.

The list of nominees to serve on the 2011 Program Committee was presented: New appointees – Elijah Anderson, Elizabeth A. Armstrong, Elizabeth Bernstein, Daniel F. Chambliss, Jerry A. Jacobs, Erika Summer-Effler; Carryover members – Mercedes Rubio, Myra Marx Ferree; Officers – Randall Collins, David Snow, Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Catherine White Berheide, Sally Hillsman.

MOTION: Council approves the proposed membership of the 2011 Program Committee. Carried.

C. Registration and Other Fees for 2010

The Secretary presented a recommendation from the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) to raise fees for general registration and several events/services for the 2010 meeting. The report included a table comparing ASA's current registration rates to those of seven other social science organizations and showing that only one association (American Historical Association) has lower rates. It was noted that expenses for attendees to go to

Atlanta, and stay in Atlanta, will be lower than for other cities, and the registration fee is a small part of the cost to attend the meeting. So far, the data show that registration fees are not price sensitive.

In looking at the events/services where no fee increases were proposed, Council members had several questions about the subsidy required to have the Child Care Service and the declining participation in the Department Alumni Night (DAN) party. The Child Care Service had \$3,015 in revenues in 2008, which did not come close to offsetting the \$12,700 in expenses. There was some question about continuing the heavy subsidization of this service, but proponents pointed out that this service is something that members need at a particular point in their careers and lives, and enabling junior scholars to attend the convention is a service to the discipline. There was consensus to remain as child/family-friendly as possible, especially during this time of economic stress. It was suggested that an article be written for *Footnotes* describing what the service does and the importance of this support for attendees.

The fee for participating in the DAN night has not been raised since 2005. Expenses for the event are low and relatively static as costs are incurred primarily for signage, setup/dismantling, and beverage service. A quick survey of Council members yielded information that only two had attended the DAN party at this meeting. Some factors contributing to low attendance included the small number of departments that participate, the late night time of the event and, for some, a preference to attend section receptions and then go out for dinner. Departments facing budget constraints find it easy to cut this small item, and rich departments host their own events at the Annual Meeting. The original concept for DAN limited participation to PhD-granting institutions, and it may be time to rethink the intent of the event and possibly rename it too. ASA's Chairlink could be used to get feedback from department chairs about the timing and focus of DAN.

Council members asked how often meeting attendees are surveyed to find out what services they use, need, want, etc. The Executive Officer indicated that ASA has not tended to survey its membership very often about the Annual Meeting; the last survey was done six years ago. Low response levels is one of the reasons. The Meeting Services Department would be like to have a short survey conducted after each meeting perhaps about specific issues.

Some concern was voiced about raising registration rates by \$15 two years in a row, but it was pointed out that the pace of registration in 2009 remained the same as in prior years, despite the increase. Council leaned toward accepting EOB's recommendations but note for the record its concern about doing this during the current economic climate. Academics are feeling economic pressures as much as other folks because many universities/colleges have instituted salary freezes and, in some cases, pay cuts.

MOTION: ASA Council approves the recommended increases of general registration fees for 2010 for full member/non-member categories by \$15, for student and related categories (retired/emeritus, unemployed, secondary school teacher) by \$5, for guests by \$10. Carried.

MOTION: ASA Council approves the fee increases of \$5 for Seminars, Courses, Employment Service Candidate (members) and Employers, and \$10 for non-member Employment Service Candidates. Carried.

5. Publications

A. Sage Publishing Contract

In late June 2009, the 5-year contract with ASA's new publishing partner, Sage Publications, was signed. The Association continues to have control over editorial offices and responsibility for covering editorial office costs. ASA owns its journals and copyrights, sets editorial policies, and ASA editors make acceptance decisions. All in all, things will change very little for most members. Authors submitting manuscripts will use Sage's online system which has received high marks from authors in other sociology journals published by Sage.

The Secretary indicated that Sage is very interested in further collaborations with the Association. The Publications Committee requested that Sage send a representative to the committee meetings, which Sage will gladly do, and there have been monthly meetings of ASA and Sage staff about the transition. It will be important to keep the communication loop open between journal editors, Sage, and the Executive Office.

The fact that Sage Publications is not a publicly traded private company was emphasized, as was Sage's core commitment to sociology. In response to questions about changes in journal appearance and quality, Council members were advised that Sage has been printing ASA journals since March, due to the bankruptcy of Boyd Printing. *Gender & Society* has been published by Sage for a number of years, and SWS is happy with both the product and the process.

It was noted that two publications, *Sociological Theory (ST)* and *Sociological Methodology (SM)* must fulfill ASA's current publishing agreements with Wiley-Blackwell before moving to Sage. The SM/ST transition will occur at the end of 2011.

B. Report of the Publications Committee

The Secretary reported that the Committee on Publications had a similar discussion of the Sage contract and the related transition, and he moved on to other matters from that committee. Regarding the contingency budget cuts for 2009, the committee was reluctant on substantive grounds to reduce editors' attendance at the winter meeting. There are five new incoming editors this year, so editorial office transitions are occurring in conjunction with the transition to Sage. The Secretary informed Council that he would work with the committee chair and the Executive Office to achieve workable compromise.

The Committee on Publications spent considerable time discussing the parameters for ASA sections to sponsor journals. Current guidelines for Section sponsorship of publications are specific about conditions for journal proposals, including a requirement that the subscription cost be included in the section's dues. The Secretary relayed a recommendation from the committee for adding a requirement stipulating a minimum section membership of 500 in order for a section to propose a financially sustainable journal.

Ensuing discussion considered what it means for ASA policies to require a section be financially liable for the support of a publication. Sections are not autonomous, and they cannot legally enter into contractual obligations, and costs of launching a new journal are significant. In the case of the first section journal, *City & Community*, the only way that ASA could get a publisher interested in covering those development costs at that time was to

package the new journal with two existing publications (*Sociological Methodology* and *Sociological Theory*) in a ten-year agreement with Wiley-Blackwell. Estimated costs for launching the journal are around \$200,000, and the contract requires that Wiley-Blackwell to be reimbursed for those development costs if the journal is transferred to another publisher before the contract ends. However, the Section is large and has grown since launching C&C so its members annual subscriptions are a sufficient base upon which to build.

The costs of journal production that are a section's responsibility are primarily the editorial office functions (submission handling, review, formatting, etc.) These tasks and expenses exist whether the publication is printed or only available online. It was noted that the Section on Political Economy of the World System has a journal that is online only and open access, so there is no subscription income to offset production costs. The section has had to increase its dues to cover the costs; this may become problematic for the section. In the case of the forthcoming new journal on mental health, it appears that a substantial support base already exists, both for subscriptions and for submissions.

Another reason to set a membership floor for sections that want to submit proposals for new publications is that the organizational capacity of sections is spread more thinly in smaller sections. The question was raised whether setting a minimum membership level would work better than providing advice to section about conditions for feasibility, which the Executive Office and the Publications Committee are currently doing. It was understood that efforts to define additional parameters, such as a minimum number of section members, are aimed toward ensuring that new journals will be successful when they do launch. However, requiring a sponsoring section to have a financially feasible model for supporting the production costs seemed more to the point than meeting a membership requirement.

MOTION: Amend the rules for section journals to require a sponsoring Section to have a minimum of 500 members. Defeated.
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C. Continuation of Contexts

The report of the Joint Committee on the Future of *Contexts* was given by Past Vice President Douglas McAdam at the Council meeting on August 11, 2009. Using this report and the memorandum on the Financial Review of *Contexts* prepared by Karen Gray Edwards, ASA Publications & Membership Director, the Secretary opened discussion about the continuation of *Contexts*.

The magazine is nearing the end of the original ten-year business plan, and Council must decide whether to continue the magazine. If the decision is to continue, consideration can be given to what changes might be made. Renewing under current arrangements means that the Association may be underwriting a yearly deficit of around \$30,000. The core audience for *Contexts* seems to be sociologists and sociology students. However, with the new website supported by the University of Minnesota, *Contexts* is getting a high volume of hits and as much journalistic coverage as ASR.

The recommendation from EOB is to continue the magazine because it is successful and contributes to the discipline but to begin an immediate search for a publishing partner that (1) can cover these small deficits while developing the magazine to attain a break-even financial position and (2) has the organizational capacity for market analysis and effective marketing efforts, including efforts to expand beyond the current audience. If such a publishing partner

cannot be found for Volume Year 2012, Council would revisit the matter. The Committee on Publications agreed with the EOB recommendation.

EOB also recommended that financial support for *Contexts* be allocated from the Spivack Program fund rather than the general operating/reserve fund. The Spivack fund is intended to support social policy efforts, and current projects include the Congressional Fellowship, CARI grants, etc. There was some concern among Council members about drawing heavily on the Spivack Fund to support *Contexts*, but the Secretary and Executive Officer provided assurances that supporting *Contexts* until 2012 would not reduce the funding for current Spivack programs nor would it block consideration of increases for those programs.

Discussion turned to the format of the magazine and other issues. The success of the *Contexts Reader* has played an important part in producing revenues in the recent past, but royalties will decline unless a new edition is produced. The popularity of the website indicates that having content available online is also important, so consideration needs to be given to whether to continue to produce a print version. Any communication and marketing strategies need to have experts involved. There was consensus that the magazine's content in general was good, and having sociologists write that content is better than going the route of professional editors.

Council commended the evaluation work done by the joint committee and concluded that continuing the magazine for a three-year period was desirable. Writing for *Contexts* teaches sociologists to write in a different way, and at the moment graduate students are more interested in that kind of writing than are older researchers. As evidenced by the recent award from the *Utne Reader*, the magazine provides the opportunity to present sociological concepts in a different way.

MOTION: Council approves the continuation of *Contexts* for an additional three years, through 2013; and directs that the Executive Office immediately begin a competitive search for a publishing partner, with the goal of eliminating *Contexts*' financial deficit as soon as possible; and that current and future *Contexts*-generated deficits be covered from the Spivack Fund. Carried.

6. Committee on Sections

The Council Liaison to the Committee on Sections (COS), Omar McRoberts, outlined three items for Council's consideration.

A. Section Name Change

The Section on Evolution and Sociology submitted a request to change its name to the Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society. The Committee on Sections recommended that this request be approved.

MOTION: Council approves the proposed section name change. Carried.

B. New Section

Council members reacted positively to the COS recommendation to approve the proposal for initiating a new section on Global and Transnational Sociology.

MOTION: Council approves Global and Transnational Sociology as a new section-in-formation. Carried

C. Resolution on the Employee Free Choice Act

A resolution from the Labor & Labor Movements Section was relayed to Council as a procedural matter. The Section did not bring the resolution to the ASA Business Meeting, so there were concerns about precedents for getting on Council's agenda. The ASA Secretary agreed to sponsor the item, which was then placed at the end of the agenda under New Business.

Council then recessed for a lunch break at 11:55am – 12:40pm.

7. Reports and Updates from Task Forces & Status Committees

A. Final Report: Standing Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology

The chair of the Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology (CSWS), Paula England, presented the report. Recommendations were to (1) continue the committee for the foreseeable future and charged it to issue a report every five years to Council that—at a minimum—updates the indicators in the current report; (2) appoint committee members as a cohort for a term of five years so that they collectively can produce the mandated reports; (3) support two specific data collection efforts: (a) a second longitudinal study of the career trajectories of PhDs modeled on the ASA's previous 10 year panel survey of the PhD cohort who received their degrees between June 1996 and August 1997 and (b) a survey of the number of years in rank such as the one done by the Modern Languages Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology; (4) have the Chair of the CSWS maintain a page on the ASA Website that hosts surveys and reports on the status of women from regional societies and individual institutions; and (5) consider qualitative expertise when appointing members to the committee.

England highlighted one of the report's finding. In comparing the available data, there was disparity between the number of women receiving PhDs and those obtaining first-time jobs. This is essentially a leak in the academic pipeline and one reason for the recommendation to commission another longitudinal study.

England explained that the proposed restructuring of the committee was based in the experience that three-year terms and the resulting rotation of 1-2 new members every year did not work well with concentrated effort to produce the five-year report cycle to Council. Over a five year span, the only consistent person on the committee is the Executive Office liaison. In addition to adjusting the term of appointments, the composition of the committee should be drawn from members who have this area as a research interest so that the committee work starts with a base of knowing where the data are and what issues are involved.

Council's standing charge to CSWS is to monitor the status of women in the discipline and report back every five years. It was noted that the Committee on Committees is open to self-nominations as well as nominations that come with recommendations from committees. There was some concern that changing terms to create a set cohort of committee members would not permit new ideas to arise. One suggestion was to think about status committees as touchstones that report annually on the issues that are problems/questions in the discipline. For example, in some program sessions there was discussion about a backlash on gender studies. Establishing or revisiting committee priorities on an annual basis might be useful.

The Secretary indicated there were two sets of issues under discussion—the recommendations from the report and how to organize the status committee (this one and potentially the others). The latter issue would be better addressed during the winter meeting so that appropriate instructions can be supplied to the Committee on Committees for its work next summer. There was a recommendation to accept the CSWS report and ask the Executive Office to report back on its capacity to support the research-related recommendations.

Regarding the request for a webpage, it was noted that committees are not permitted to post content directly as there has to be some legal oversight on behalf of the organization by the Executive Office. The CSWS chair pointed out that one useful function for the webpage would be to obtain some of the climate surveys being used by universities and make those questionnaires available via the website. Such resources would help other departments/schools to avoid reinventing the wheel. With applause for the staff liaison to CSWS, Roberta Spalter-Roth, for her essential support of the committee's work, Council moved to accept the CSWS report.

MOTION: Council accepts the CSWS report and thanks the standing committee for its diligence and stamina. Council will consider the recommendations during the coming year and toward that end directs ASA Executive Office staff to post the committee's report on the website and prepare a progress report for the February meeting of Council. Carried.

B. Final Report: Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons in Sociology (CSGLBTS)

The committee chair, Betsy Lucal, presented the report to Council. Over the past three years, the committee investigated two major aspects: experiences of GLBT scholars in the profession, and their representation in the discipline. These scholars desire a higher profile within the association and have been disappointed by ASA's responses to GLBT issues. Much is still the same as when the committee last reported to Council. For example, there has been little change in the number of Annual Meeting program sessions on GLBT topics—0-2% for 2000–2008.

Lucal indicated that it was very important for Council to review the charge to the committee and the process of replenishing its membership. In two of the past 4 years, no new members were appointed. Nominees should be sought from committee members, and consideration should be given to changing the committee's structure so that a cohort is appointed to work together for five years (similar to the request from CSWS).

Recommendations from the committee were for ASA Council to: (1) renew the charge to the committee for another five years and ensure that new members are appropriately appointed; (2) appoint members of the committee as a 5-year cohort so they can work together to plan and implement activities and prepare the next report; (3) encourage Annual Meeting program sessions focusing on GLBT issues; (4) provide support for junior GLBT sociologists who are interested in organizing GLBT-related sessions; (5) provide additional discussion forums and workshops on the Annual Meeting program to address specific challenges faced by GLBT sociologists; (6) improve accommodations for GLBT sociologists at the Annual Meeting, such as designating a unisex/ family bathroom at each facility; (7) develop strong collaboration among CSGLBTS, the ASA Section on Sociology of Sexualities, and the GLBTQ Caucus; (8) give attention to ways to improve the representation of GLBT scholarship published in journals, presented at the Annual Meeting, and reviewed in *Contemporary Sociology*; (9) take more public stands on GLBT issues; and (10) develop space for status committees on the ASA website.

In response to questions about committee appointments and structure, Lucal again emphasized the importance of getting people appointed to fill vacancies. Rotation does introduce new people and allow more members to serve, but a five-year cohort ensures that the work will be done. If Council insists on rotating membership in three-year terms, it should consider appointing the chair for five years.

Lucal noted that the committee held a forum during the 2009 Annual Meeting, and it was somewhat surprising how profound the sense of exclusion was among the forum attendees. For example, AAA and APA make public statements relative to GLBT issues, but ASA has not.

The issues of exclusion raised by the report clearly affected Council members. Given the broad scope of the report, it was suggested that Council devote sufficient time at its next meeting to look at the entire list of recommendations. However, there was reluctance to defer everything until February. In terms of practical actions, it was suggested that there were areas where the Executive Office could be authorized to move ahead. Council also needs to consider how it can better address the impression of inclusion and openness within the Association.

There was agreement to direct the Executive Office to review the recommendations and report back in detail to Council in February; to ask the Program Committee to give consideration to these matters while working on the Annual Meeting program; to express the intent of Council to look at statements that should/could be made for the public record; and to encourage the Status Committee to bring potential issues to the attention of Council. One possibility would be to review the existing diversity statement for possible amendment.

MOTION: Council accepts the report and expresses its gratitude to the committee for bringing forth the important concerns of GLBT scholars about the status of GLBT research and researchers in the discipline, profession, and academia at large. Council will consider the recommendations during the coming year and directs the ASA Executive Office staff to post the committee's report on the ASA website and prepare a progress report for the February meeting. Carried.

C. Update: Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology (CSREMS)

The CSREMS has been working on a survey project of graduate students supported by funding from the research center at the University of California at Santa Barbara. The pilot web survey became a national web survey with the baseline coming from MFP applicants over a three year period. The project is now nearing the end of the data collection phase, and there are plans to move ahead in the fall with analysis and qualitative follow-up. CSREMS will complete its final report in 2010.

D. Update: Task Force on Sociology and Criminology Programs

Council appointed this task force to examine the relationship between sociology and criminology at the departmental level. The Executive Office staff liaison to the Task Force reported that the task force conducted a quantitative and qualitative survey of department chairs and expects to present a substantial report to Council in February. It was noted that there were different senses of disciplinary loyalty within the task force, as some of its members were also members of ACJS and ASC, and this correlated to the struggles that departments experience when programs are combined. Council members commented that it would be good for the task force to do some thinking about best practices, as departments need that kind of help.

8. Report of the Executive Officer (Hillsman)

A. Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)

The most significant component of the MFP has been managing the fourth year of the current National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Minority Fellowship T-32 competitive grant renewal, which funds the 35th cohort of Fellows. The fifth and final year of the NIMH T-32 grant runs from August 2009-July 2010, and a new cohort of MFP Fellows (all on one-year awards) was selected this past March.

In addition to the primary support from NIMH, MFP has also received a year-by-year commitment of co-funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) since 2004. In late May, after receiving encouragement and feedback from various program contacts at NIDA, a new T-32 grant application was submitted to NIDA via their Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research. A decision is expected in the fall or winter.

The 35th anniversary celebration of the MFP concluded at the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, where a wrap-up session featured a special panel of MFP alumni/ae from different cohorts over the 35 years, who spoke about the scholarly contributions of MFP Fellows and the impact of the program on the discipline and on the Fellows themselves.

B. Science Policy Issues

A major highlight of the year is that the new Census Director, Robert Groves, is a sociologist.

(1) Follow-up on the Collaborative on Enhancing Diversity in Science.

In 2008, ASA engaged with 36 other social and behavioral science societies, called the Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in Science (CEDS), as a primary organizer of a

policymaker leadership retreat, which occurred in February of that year. The purpose was to instill collaboration among professional associations, scientific societies, federal agencies, and private foundations to explore ways to improve ethnic and racial diversity in the sciences. ASA staff has been working intensively with the National Science Foundation to broaden this effort and keep it moving, perhaps by organizing additional NSF-sponsored leadership retreats.

(2) OSTP report: Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences in the Federal Context
ASA co-sponsored a congressional briefing with COSSA and the Federation of Associations of Behavioral and Brain Sciences in July to distribute the National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC) report, *Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research in the Federal Context*. Representatives Brian Baird (D-WA) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) attended and spoke at the well-attended event in the Rayburn House Office Building.

(3) Scholar and Researcher Visas
In June, ASA was among 31 scientific societies issuing a formal statement urging prompt action by the U.S. State Department to vastly improve the processing of visas of visiting scientists and scholars.

C. Technology Update

This year the Directory of Members was produced for the first time as searchable electronic media (CD), and the listings for the Guide to Graduate Departments were done online. The new server and L-Soft software to support the sections' listserv activities were installed and have been operating with very few problems. Content migration for the new ASA website is underway, and development of the digital teaching library is in progress. The Deputy Executive Officer noted that the major IT project on the horizon is the search for a new Association Management System/Solution (AMS).

D. External Grants

Since February 2009, the ASA Research and Development Department—in collaboration with ASA's Minority Affairs Program (MFP) and Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) and outside organizations—has received two new grants. The \$119,9000 EAGER (Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research) grant from NSF is for a two-year exploratory study of the productivity and retention of under-represented minority scientists who are alumni of the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). The other new grant is Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI), a \$155,760 two-year grant from NSF to support the first phase of a two-part empirical study that will test the impact of digitizing teaching and learning materials on the production, diffusion, and usage of innovative pedagogical resources that synthesize cutting-edge scientific knowledge.

Decisions are pending on two other grant applications, and work is continuing on a number of projects funded by the National Science Foundation, including the Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE) project, Group Travel for U.S. Participants in the XVII World Congress of Sociology, and a Supplemental Grant for "What Can I Do with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology?".

9. New Business

A. ASA Business Meeting Resolutions

The following resolution was approved by ASA members who attended the ASA Business Meeting on August 11, 2009.

Resolution: The American Sociological Association recognizes the full equality and dignity of all peoples, and recognizes their rights to social and personal security; health care; food and water; gender equality; education; a decent job and a just wage; freedom to join trade unions and other assemble; freedom from discrimination; the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons; the rights of the disabled and other vulnerable individuals; an adequate standard of living; a sustainable environment; and the freedom to participate in and benefit from scientific advancement. Furthermore, this resolution affirms the freedoms of sociologists, as laid out in the 2005 ASA Statement on Human Rights.

Following discussion, the following statement affirming and expanding the commitment of the ASA to human rights was approved by Council.

Human rights and the violation of human rights are embedded in societies and communities which are fundamental to sociological study. Sociological research includes the study of human rights achievements (such as women's equality and racial justice) and human rights violations (such as homelessness and racial profiling) as well as the concept of human rights and freedoms that is socially evolving both nationally and internationally. This statement affirms and expands the commitment of the American Sociological Association to human rights and freedoms as laid out in the 2005 ASA statement on human rights issued on the occasion of the Association's Centenary.

The American Sociological Association recognizes the full equality and dignity of all peoples and supports the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, people with disabilities, and vulnerable children and adults.

It recognizes the rights of all peoples to social and personal security; to gender equality; to freedom from discrimination; to join trade unions and otherwise assemble; to an adequate standard of living, a decent job and a just wage, health care, housing, food and water, education, and to a sustainable environment.

The American Sociological Association recognizes the freedom of all peoples to participate in and to benefit from scientific advancement and reaffirms the principles of scientific conduct embodied in the Association's Code of Ethics. These include sociologists respecting the rights, dignity, and worth of all peoples and striving to serve the public good, including the advancement of human rights and freedoms.

B. Date for Winter 2010 Council Meeting

Consideration was given to meeting on the first or second weekend in February. SWS planned to hold its winter meeting on the first weekend however, and the second weekend encompassed Valentine's Day. Council decided to shift its meeting pattern slightly and selected dates of Friday-Saturday, February 12-13, 2010.

C. Proposed Council Statement on Laptop Searches at the US Border

Consideration of this issue was deferred.

D. Other New Business

A resolution on the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) of 2009 was brought to Council's attention. The Executive Officer indicated that Council should recognize that issuing a statement in support of a piece of legislation is lobbying, of which ASA can do only a very small amount without endangering its 501(c)3 status. Council affirmed the following statement on the Employee Free Choice Act.

The freedom to form or join a union is internationally recognized by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a fundamental human right, and the internationally respected organization Human Rights Watch has identified the proposed *Employee Free Choice Act* (EFCA) as a human rights imperative. Federal labor laws established in the United States in 1935 protecting workers' rights to unionize, however, have eroded over the years and are poorly enforced.

Union membership provides workers with better wages and benefits and protection from discrimination and unsafe workplaces, while also benefiting whole communities by strengthening tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation. Public opinion polls indicate that a majority of U.S. workers say they would join a union now if they had an opportunity. Employers across the nation have been shown to routinely violate workers' rights to unionize through surveillance, interrogation, harassment, intimidation, coercion, harassment and discharge of workers exercising this fundamental freedom. When employers violate the rights of workers to form a union, everyone suffers: wages fall, race and gender pay gaps widen, workplace discrimination increases and job safety standards disappear.

Nothing in the proposed EFCA alters the rights of employers to provide information on unionization to their employees. However, a worker's fundamental right to choose a union must be guaranteed by law.

The Council of the American Sociological Association (ASA) supports bipartisan legislation introduced in Congress that will give employees the choice to form a union by majority sign-up (commonly known as "card check") or secret ballot, provide for first contract mediation and arbitration, and establish meaningful penalties when employers violate workers' rights to join a union. The ASA Council urges Congress to pass the *Employee Free Choice Act* to help rebuild the middle class and invigorate an ailing economy by protecting America's employees' freedom to choose whether or not to form a union and providing them with the opportunity to improve their economic situation.

Adjournment

Having completed the scheduled business, ASA President Glenn adjourned the Council meeting at 4:10pm on Wednesday, August 12, 2009.