

BY-LAWS
SECTION INFORMATION: DISABILITY IN SOCIETY
2009

Article 1 Purpose

The goal of the Section on Disability In Society is to foster the development of the sociology of disability through the organized interchange of ideas, teaching experiences, research programs, and results. Encouragement shall be given to the achievement of this general purpose through organized meetings and conferences, publication, and such other means as are deemed appropriate by the Section Officers and Members of Council.

Article 2 Officers

The officers of the Section shall be as follows: Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, immediate Past Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer and Secretary-Treasurer Elect.

Article 3 Council

The members of Council shall be composed of the Officers, the five committee chairs, and two additional members chosen at-large by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Section members and shall conduct the Section's affairs subject to approval of Section's Annual Meeting.

Only members of the American Sociological Association who are members of the Disability In Society Section shall be eligible to hold office. A student holding a position on Council (as a Council Member-at-Large or member of the Nominations Committee) shall be a student member of the ASA, a student member of the Section, and currently enrolled as student at the time the election is held.

The following persons shall have voting privileges at Council meetings: Section Officers, Chairpersons of the five standing committees, and Council Members-at-Large one of which shall be a student with a student membership in ASA. At the Council Meeting held in conjunction with the ASA annual meetings, current Council members are eligible to vote; incoming officers and committee Chairpersons will have voice but not vote.

Article 4. Standing Committees

The standing committees represented on the Council by their Chairpersons shall be as follows: Nominations, Program, Public Relations (including any newsletter), Award(s), and Membership.

Article 5. Powers of Decision Making

The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representative of the membership. It shall conduct at least one business meeting of the Council and one general business meeting for the Section membership annually, to take place at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

The Council meeting shall be restricted to the Council members and invited guests. The general business meeting is open to all Section members and shall be devoted to discussion of issues presented by Council or by the membership. Any Section member can place an item on the agenda of the general business meeting by notifying the Chairperson of the Section prior to the announced deadline published in the Section Newsletter. The business meeting votes on recommendations of the Council.

The Council vote is decisive on all issues except those which involve the bylaws of the Section and changes in Section policies. These issues, or others which the Council deems appropriate, are submitted to the membership by a mail or electronic ballot. A majority of votes is decisive. The Council will not conduct action in conflict with ASA bylaws.

Article 6. Council Members and terms of Office

Chairperson and Chairperson-Elect

The Chairperson-Elect shall be elected annually and have a term of office of one year, at the end of which he/she will become Chairperson. The Chairperson shall have a term of office of one year at the end of which he/she shall become Immediate Past Chairperson. The Immediate Past Chairperson shall have a term of office of one year.

Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer-Elect shall be elected and take office in even numbered years, so that his/her term of office shall coincide with the second year of office of the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer-Elect shall have a term of office of one year, at the end of which he/she will become Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have a term of office of two years.

Committees

Chairpersons of Standing Committees shall have terms of office of two years. The elected heads of five standing committees shall appoint members of his/her committee and present this list of committee members to Council. The Council may add additional members to any standing committee.

The Nominations Committee shall consist of a committee Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, two members chosen by the Section Chair in consultation with the Council, and the student member. The term of office shall be one year.

Council Members-at-Large

Council Member-at-Large shall include one regular and one student member. The term of office shall be two years. One regular member and one student member shall be elected at alternative years, so that the terms of office shall be staggered.

Student Council Member-at-Large shall be responsible for recruitment of graduate and undergraduate students into the Section, maintenance of a list of students interested in the study of disability and society, student activities at the annual meetings, liaison to any section Newsletter, liaison to standing and ad hoc committees, and the involvement of students in section activities.

Article 7. Succession

Officers of the Section and the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee shall not serve as candidates for the same office or the Elect position of that office immediately after termination of their term of office. Members-at-large of the Council and Chairpersons of the five Standing Committees may succeed themselves for one additional two year term.

Article 8. Nominations and Elections

Nominations shall be made by the Nominations Committee and at the initiative of the Section members. Prior to the preparation of its slate, the Nominations Committee shall call for suggested nominations from the Section membership in the Section Newsletter and at the Annual Section Business Meeting. Two candidates for each elective office shall be proposed by the Nominations Committee. Candidates nominated by valid petitions shall be added to the election slate. A valid petition is signed by at least 25 members of the section.

Following the close of nominations, the Nominations Committee will submit the slate of candidates along with a short biographical sketch of each candidate for elective office. No person can be a candidate for more than one office. The members of the Nominations Committee are not eligible to be candidates for any office. The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to its schedule. Candidates shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast for respective offices.

Article 9. Taking of Office

Each Council Member shall take office immediately following the close of the first business meeting of the Disability and Society Section at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association which follows his/her election.

Article 10. Vacancies

Any office holder may resign as such at any time by giving written notice to the Chairperson or the Secretary-Treasurer of the Section.

Any vacancies in the Council caused by death or resignation shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Council members. If a vacancy occurs in a position for which there is an officer-elect, the officer-elect shall assume office for the remainder of the term as well as for the following term to which he/she has been duly elected. If a vacancy occurs in the position of Chairperson-Elect of the Section, a special election will be held and the entire Section membership will elect a new officer for that position.

Article 11. Removal From Office

The occupant of any elected office who in the judgment of the Council is not able to perform his/her duty can be removed from office by 2/3rds vote of the council. Provisions of Article 10 on vacancies shall then prevail.

Article 12. Functions of Standing Committees

The Membership Committee shall have the functions of recruitment and retention of members, and socialization of new members. In addition, the committee shall take on other such duties as may be assigned to it by the Council.

The Program Committee shall be responsible for organizing the sessions of the ASA annual meeting assigned to the section.

The Public Relations Committee shall promote the work of the section, including oversight of any newsletter or other communication media.

The Awards Committee shall be responsible determining annual awards winners for authorship of articles and books which best represent the goals of the section in a given year.

The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for selection of candidates for section offices in accordance with ASA policies guaranteeing participation by various minority groups.

Article 13. Committee on Special Topics

Any group of 25 or more members of the section may petition the Council to form a committee on a special topic. The Section, by a majority vote of those voting in a mail (by e-mail or USPS) ballot, may approve the formation of such a committee for an initial two year term. Subsequent two year terms may be approved or disapproved by a vote of the Council.

Article 14. Ad Hoc Committees

Other committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the approval of the Council on an ad hoc basis. The tenure of an ad hoc committee shall be determined by

Council. The Chairperson of the ad hoc committee shall have voice but no vote at meetings of the Council.

Article 15. Membership

The membership of the Section shall be drawn from members of the American Sociological Association. Members who do not pay their section dues shall be suspended, and dropped from the rolls after two years.

Article 16. Changes In Bylaws

These bylaws and any amendments thereto can be changed by a majority of section members voting on a mail ballot. Proposals for changes or amendments may originate with the Council or with a petition signed by not less than 50 members of the Section or 20 percent of the Section, whichever is less. Such petitions shall be directed to the Chairperson of the Section.