

## **BYLAWS RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES**

Revised August 1992, 1994, 1997

The purpose of this section is to promote the study of racial and ethnic minorities. We encourage research, theory and teaching concerning the relation between socially defined racial and ethnic groups as they change through time and across cultures. Therefore, any member of the American Sociological Association who shares these research and teaching interests is encouraged to become affiliated with this section. The fostering of scholarship which will contribute to welfare of all rather than the promotion of the social or political interests of any particular group is a paramount goal of the section.

**Officers of the Section:** The officers of the section shall be a Chairperson, a Chairperson-Elect, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Chairperson-Elect will become Chairperson after one year of office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years. There shall be a Council consisting of seven members. Six of these members will serve for three years, with two council seats being vacated each year. The seventh seat, to be filled by a graduate student, will have a term of one year. Officers shall not succeed themselves. No member of the Section shall serve as Chair or Chair-elect while holding the office of chair in another section. The Chairperson, the Chairperson-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and the student member, shall serve as members of the Council, with the Chairperson presiding as Council meetings.

**Powers of the Officers:** The Council is vested with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. Any action of the Council may be brought to a vote of the Section by a petition signed by ten percent of the members or by 25 members of the Section, whichever is less. The Council may decide by majority vote to put to a vote by the membership any question it chooses.

**Elections and Voting:** The elections of the Section shall be carried out in accordance with the American Sociological Association guidelines and coordinated with the schedule of the American Sociological Association.

**Committees:** There shall be a Committee of Nominations selected each year by Council when it convenes at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall be designated by the Council as Chairperson of that Committee, and the Chairperson each year shall be a member (but not Chairperson) in the following year.

There shall be a Committee on Publications, appointed by the Council of the Section. Members will serve for three years, with the term of one member expiring each year. The purpose of this committee shall be to recommend to the Council candidates for Section Newsletter Editor, to serve as consultants to the editor and to keep the editor and the Council apprised of needs in the areas of dissemination and publication.

There shall be a Program Committee charged with developing sessions on racial and ethnic minorities at each annual meeting, in cooperation with the Program Committee of the American Sociological Association. It shall also plan programs for such special conferences as may be decided by the Council. The Chairperson-Elect shall serve as Chairperson of this committee. It shall have at least three members, those other than the Chairperson being appointed by the Council.

Other Committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Section with the approval of the Council, or by the Council, on an as hoc basis.

**Membership:** Membership in the Section is open to all members of the American Sociological Association. Elected officers and committee members shall be drawn from members of the American

Sociological Association who have voting privileges. Members who do not pay their section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls at the end of the year.

**Dues:** Dues shall be sent by the Council to cover the operation of the Section accordance with the requirements of the American Sociological Association. In addition, members of the Section shall be assessed as necessary to carry out any programs undertaken by the Section.

**Awards:** The Section shall give three awards annually: one for faculty, that may be either for a book or article; one to honor a member's outstanding contribution in the form of practice; and, one for graduate students to honor a paper of dissertation.

**Amendment of Bylaws:** These bylaws can be amended by mail ballot of the Section membership. A majority vote will be required for any amendment.