

# Official Reports and Proceedings

## 1998-99 Council Minutes

February 1999

*February 5, 1999*

President Alejandro Portes convened the Council at 6:30 p.m. at the new ASA Executive Office. Council toured the new offices and then had dinner. Dr. John D'Arms, President of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), made a presentation about opportunities for sociological scholarship grounded in the humanities through ACLS.

Present were: Catherine White Berheide, William T. Bielby, Florence B. Bonner, Paul Burstein, Paula England, Joe R. Feagin, Michael Hout, Nan Lin, Carole C. Marks, Douglas S. Massey, Phyllis Moen, Melvin Oliver, Alejandro Portes, Jill Quadagno, Patricia A. Roos, Linda Waite, Robert Wuthnow

ASA Staff: Felice J. Levine, Carla B. Howery, Edward Murguia, Roberta Spalter-Roth

Absent: Cora Bagley Marrett, Ann Swidler

*Saturday, February 6 and Sunday, February 7*

### *1. Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes*

The agenda was approved as presented.

The Council approval of the August 1998 meeting minutes was reaffirmed, as per the prior mailed ballot.

### *2. Report of the President*

President Portes reported on the Annual Meeting program for 1999, noting that about 99 percent of the sessions and events are finalized. He described the two plenary sessions, one addressing the transition in world societies and the other on immigration and the remaking of the American mosaic. In addition, there will be a town meeting with Census Director Kenneth Prewitt on the 2000 Census.

He also indicated that plans are underway for a special session memorializing Past-president Mirra Komarovsky who died in January.

Portes thanked the Council and the staff for their preparatory work for this meeting, noting particularly the Subcommittee on ASA Policymaking and Resolutions and the Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring. He also noted his thanks to staff for working with him on exploring the possibility of a development campaign for sociology linking with the ASA centennial.

### *3. Report of the President-Elect*

President-elect Feagin noted that his major task is shaping the 2000 Annual Meeting Program. The Program Committee will meet for the third time following the Council meeting. The program is on target. Two plenaries are slated: one on gender and feminism for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the second on racism and anti-racism movements, with invitations out to Archbishop Desmond Tutu and South African President Nelson Mandela. The Committee is also planning a session on race in Washington, DC.

### *4. Report of the Secretary*

Secretary Florence Bonner commented on the success of the building sale and the move. The sale proceeds will be invested and should yield sufficient income to essentially bridge the gap between the long-term lease payments on the new space and what would have been operating costs under ownership. She and Executive Officer Levine will be meeting with an investment adviser to gain some independent guidance over the next several months.

Bonner summarized the reports on memberships and subscriptions, noting that the final membership total for 1998 was again over 13,000 members. The highest growth has been in Student and Associate memberships. Also, ASA shows high retention rates in the upper income category. ASA continues to encourage interdisciplinary memberships, although there were fewer interdisciplinary members in 1998 than in 1997.

Council discussed the Associate member category and how to encourage sociologists to select an appropriate dues category.

Bonner reviewed 1998 Section membership counts. About 60 percent of ASA members are also members of sections, somewhat better than two on average. She reported that overall 32 percent of section memberships are held by students, which mirrored the general membership where 31 percent are Student members. Many sections are actively engaged in promotional campaigns to attract new members.

Bonner also reported on the final 1998 institutional subscriptions to journals. She noted that there continues to be a slight downward trend that has been generally observable since 1996. In 1998, there was a small reduction of institutional subscriptions for all journals with the exception of *Contemporary Sociology*. The Executive Office is looking at new ways to track subscribers and work with the major subscription agencies. Bonner noted that *Employment Bulletin (EB)* revenue from

subscriptions has declined as expected, but that the primary revenue from *EB* was from listing fees, which have increased.

Bonner provided a brief overview of ASA's investment portfolio. She pointed Council to the favorable report that shows the excellent returns on ASA investments. Bonner also described the session with Fiduciary International (ASA's investment management firm) at the meeting of the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB). She concluded by reiterating that special attention was being devoted to the investment strategy for the proceeds of the Executive Office building sale.

### *5. Report of the Executive Officer*

Executive Officer Levine noted the recent grant from The Ford Foundation for \$485,000, in support of the Minority Opportunities Through School Transformation (MOST) Program. She also indicated that the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health was providing \$10,000 to defray the cost of the science writers workshop on families, youth, and children's well-being, jointly convened by ASA and OBSSR.

Levine gave the Council an update on the sale and relocation of the Executive Office. She noted how helpful it was to have Secretary Bonner in Washington, DC, and thanked Bonner for all her help. Levine also thanked Phoebe Stevenson for her outstanding work in coordinating the move and the financial analysis for this transition.

In reviewing the staff and year, Levine emphasized that the presence of Roberta Spalter-Roth and Edward Murguia has expanded ASA'S sociological capacity on staff and enhanced our programmatic work.

Levine reviewed the participation of Department Affiliates. Currently 266 departments are affiliates, receiving *CHAIRLINK* and other publications, as part of this special relationship with ASA.

### *6. ASA Membership*

*Emeritus Membership Category.* Portes provided background on the Emeritus member category and Council's decision last August to reinstate the Emeritus category, in part based on the results of a survey of lapsed Emeritus members. Because the Emeritus category was eliminated through a referendum in the election ballot, Levine indicated that ASA legal counsel advised that the membership vote on a referendum to amend the ASA By-laws to reinstate this category. Levine reiterated the Motion that Council passed in August 1998: "To re-establish the Emeritus membership category for persons who have been ASA members for at least ten years and are retired from their primary employment, with such members receiving *Footnotes* but no journals as part of this membership."

**Motion:** To amend the ASA By-laws through a referendum in the 1999 ballot to permit reintroducing the Emeritus membership category. Carried.

*Membership Dues for Year 2000.* Secretary Bonner and Executive Officer Levine reported on the EOB discussion of membership dues for the year 2000. EOB believed that it would be useful to undertake a review of the dues structure and in particular the cafeteria plan option for selecting journals (which includes a no journal option). Since this review will be undertaken in 1999, EOB recommended to Council that the usual COLA increase not be assessed for 2000. Council discussed the pros and cons of raising dues, even by the cost of living adjustment, for the 2000 membership year. Council members concurred with EOB that holding the dues at the 1999 level for 2000 would signal to members an interest in keeping dues affordable.

**Motion:** To hold 2000 membership dues at the 1999 level in lieu of a COLA increase. Carried.

*Interdisciplinary Membership Initiatives.* The Section on Occupations, Organizations, and Work submitted a proposal to Council to consider an interdisciplinary membership arrangement with the Industrial Relations Research Association (IRRA). The Executive Office agreed to make the appropriate contacts.

#### ***7. Report from Subcommittee on ASA Policymaking and Member Resolutions***

Portes summarized the background that led to the appointment of a Council Subcommittee on ASA Policymaking and Member Resolutions. The Subcommittee was asked to review current policy on ASA policymaking and member resolutions; to potentially propose new guidelines to Council; and to identify a wide range of ways for the membership to express their views to Council outside of the resolution process.

Roos summarized the work of the Subcommittee. She emphasized that the Subcommittee sought to prepare a report and offer guidelines that would define the scope of ASA policymaking and help members know how to pursue their policy interests.

Council responded positively to the Subcommittee report and engaged in extensive discussion about the proposed guidelines and their merits. Council members emphasized the importance of feedback from members. They stressed the need for such feedback, noting that last year Council's review of committee restructuring suffered from moving along quickly without the benefit of an Annual Meeting to discuss the issue. There was consensus on having a lengthy comment period. Portes indicated that he planned to include the topic on the Annual Meeting Business Meeting agenda.

Overall, Council members were very enthusiastic about the report and recommended policy guidelines. They thought the report provided a solid analysis of the issues and

usefully addressed the range of ways members could link sociology to social policy in areas beyond the scope of ASA's policy pronouncements. Council members thought, however, that the document should be modified so that examples were only contained in the narrative and not in the specific guidelines for resolutions being proposed. They believed that the examples might be interpreted as exhaustive rather than as illustrative and, accordingly, they sought to modify the proposed language of the report.

**Motion:** To eliminate the examples from the guidelines and to change the language on "Guidelines from the Membership on Resolutions to ASA Council" to read: "Resolutions must pertain to (a) issues that advance and protect the discipline of sociology, or the larger scientific community, or (b) the ASA's internal operations as described in its Constitution and By-laws." Carried (15 yes; 1 no).

Council also discussed whether the report should more fully define the meaning of "internal operations." Council members believed that the scope and intent of the language was meant to include the work of the Association and activities the ASA embraced. There was a difference in view as to whether examples would be helpful.

**Motion:** To include examples of how ASA conducts its internal affairs involving matters such as personnel, finances, or contracting with vendors. Failed (4 yes; 8 no).

Council returned to the issue of feedback from members. They decided to frame a resolution that would fully convey to the members the status of adopting these guidelines and Council's interest in member input. The following resolution passed with overwhelming support.

**Motion:** To support the new guidelines for the scope of ASA policymaking and member resolutions as set forth in its Subcommittee report, as amended by Council; to call for a broad comment period from the membership through September 1999; and to reserve a final determination and formal adoption of any new guidelines until Council's winter 2000 meeting when member feedback can be fully discussed and considered. Carried (14 yes; 1 no).

Feagin asked about the final section of the Subcommittee report ("VI. Final Thoughts") which noted that Council is not absolutely foreclosed from taking policy positions outside of the Association's province "on an issue of grave and compelling importance to society." The final paragraph of the proposed draft leaves open the possibility of responding under exceptional circumstances. Council discussed whether this statement should be left as is or whether it should be formalized as part of the "Proposed scope of Council policy pronouncements" (as section IV, 1[c]).

Several Council members spoke against changing the report to explicitly allow for ASA policy on "grave and compelling issues" because it would essentially return ASA to the original challenge of deciding on which issues to speak. They noted that, as

individuals, sociologists have the opportunity to express their concerns in other ways or to voice these concerns through advocacy organizations related to an issue.

**Motion:** When an issue of grave and compelling importance to society arises, the Council may make a policy pronouncement if it determines this is in the public's best interest and in the best interests of the discipline. This resolution would include deletion of the final two sentences in the Subcommittee document and the addition of this language as item 1(c) in Section IV of the report. Failed (2 yes; 11 no; 1 abstain).

President Portes thanked the Subcommittee and especially Chair Patricia Roos for this work.

### *8. ASA's Role in Advocacy Research*

Portes summarized the background of the petition signed by 38 sociologists expressing concern that ASA was taking an advocacy position in publishing the book, *The Realities of Affirmative Action in Employment*, or in the Executive Officer's *Footnotes* editorial about the book project. Levine described the Spivack Program's initiative on affirmative action, which began with a research workshop of experts examining the empirical work on the topic. Barbara Reskin was the leader of this project. After the workshop and drawing on its findings, Reskin wrote the monograph that ASA published.

There was extensive discussion of the petition. Council members observed that many of the petition signatories were not ASA members and that they did not seem well informed about the contents of the book or the nature of Spivack projects. Council member Bielby emphasized that the Spivack workshop on this subject brought together social scientists with substantial peer-reviewed and published work on the topic, and that the goal of the project was to assess this knowledge, not to advocate for one point of view or another.

Council thought it was important for ASA members to understand the distinction between products of the Spivack Program or other ASA programs and the Association's official position on specific issues as determined by Council.

Council member Waite suggested that *Footnotes* might include a summary of Spivack goals and procedures, publications, and so forth so that members can have a context to evaluate this letter.

Portes emphasized that part of the misunderstanding is that ASA Council did not make a policy pronouncement about affirmative action in the workplace and that Council is the only body that can make such a statement on behalf of the Association. The Spivack-sponsored publications do not reflect Association policy. Levine emphasized that decisions on publishing products of the Spivack Program are based on reviews by

the Advisory Panel and by external peer reviewers and that Council is not involved in endorsing these works.

Council reaffirmed that it has been impressed with the work of the Spivack Program over the years. Council members supported the Association's continuing to undertake workshops, briefings, and other initiatives on issues of social importance where there is substantial social science research.

**Motion:** To acknowledge receipt of the materials from Professor Tomasson, to recommend the petition be published in *Footnotes*, and to ask the Executive Officer and the author of the Spivack report on *The Realities of Affirmative Action in Employment* to prepare a response for publication in *Footnotes*, including a description of the Spivack Program and how it operates. Carried.

Executive Officer Levine and President Portes indicated to Council that future publications of the ASA would make clear that these products do not reflect the official position of the Association. This is a practice followed by other associations and organizations such as the Russell Sage Foundation.

## **9. ASA Sections**

*Update on Committee on Section Activities.* Levine summarized the current activities of the Committee on Sections (COS). She emphasized that COS is responsible for guiding the Association on the administration of sections to include the creation and continuation of sections, advising Council on section policies and procedures, and serving as liaison between sections and Council. COS held its winter meeting by conference call and advanced a number of pieces of business for Council consideration.

*Section Membership Discount.* The Mathematical Sociology Section has requested discounted dues structure for members of multiple sections. EOB and COS recommended against offering such a plan, as it might adversely affect the finances of the Association and sections themselves. While the gain to the member is clear, it is hard to see how multiple memberships are financially beneficial to the Association and how the discount could be absorbed.

**Motion:** To support the recommendation of EOB and COS to maintain the current section dues structure and not to introduce discount features. Carried.

*Proposed Change in Fiscal Year Cycle by Section Officers.* Several sections suggested that section budgets should change to operate on a Fall-to-Fall fiscal year. The rationale for the proposed change links to the change of section officers at the Annual Meeting. Bonner summarized the difficulties of having sections operate on such a fiscal year and noted that EOB did not support a change.

One issue is how to get members to join in August so that they will be "counted" as part of the current year for purposes of the next year's session allocation for sections. One strategy discussed by EOB is to introduce a pro-rated dues amount at the Annual Meeting to encourage new members to join for the remainder of the current year (August-December).

**Motion:** To support EOB's and COS's recommendation to retain the Association's fiscal year on a calendar year basis. Carried.

*Section Awards.* Council considered the requests from section officers to be able to confer "Honorable Mentions" for section awards and to confer as many awards as they wished. From the agenda materials, Council was aware that both the Committee on Sections and the Committee on Awards believed that sections should be able to confer as many "Honorable Mentions" as they wished, though they thought sections should be cautious not to overuse this designation. Council agreed that sections should continue using this designation, but that names should not be published in *Footnotes*, as is current policy. On the issue of sections conferring more than three awards, Council concurred with the reasoning of the Awards Committee that the current policy of a maximum of three awards (with one being for students) was sound and maximized the value of these honors.

**Motion:** To continue current policy on section awards. Carried.

*Holding of Multiple Section Offices.* COS reported on the concern of some sections that individuals were holding offices in several sections, or running for office in several sections. COS concurred that this practice did not spread around the honor and opportunity to serve and put substantial work on a few individuals.

**Motion:** To support the Committee on Section's recommendation that a member can only stand for election for the chair-elect position in one section in any given year. Carried.

**Motion:** To support the Committee on Section's recommendation that a member can only serve as chair of one section in any given year. Carried.

Council raised concerns about communicating these decisions and the rationale to the section officers, especially because of the annual turnover in section leadership. Secretary Bonner and President Portes indicated that they would be attending the COS meeting with section officers and would aim to do so.

*Composition of the Committee on Sections.* At the COS meeting with section officers, section representatives recommended that the COS be increased from six to nine members, with the three additional members elected from among section chairs. All members of COS would have staggered three-year terms.

Council affirmed the importance of COS members having demonstrable section leadership experience, but thought that designating slots might create false distinctions between COS members. Also Council members thought that the specific proposal would be difficult to implement. Council decided to first vote on the Motion proposed by the section officers and, if defeated, to introduce a subsequent Motion that addressed what seemed to be at the heart of their proposal.

**Motion:** To have the Committee on Sections composed of nine members, three ASA Council Members-at-large, three appointed by the President, and three elected among section chairs. The three elected members from section chairs would represent sections of different size. It is understood that persons will be section chairs when they begin their term. Defeated (5 yes; 10 no).

**Motion:** To retain that the current configuration of the COS and to instruct the President to nominate members to the COS who have had active section experience, and, whenever possible, are former section officers. Carried.

Council concluded its discussion by returning to the issue of size of sections, especially small sections where the minimum requirement was increasing from 200 to 300 members in the fall of 1999. Council members thought that it was important to reassure the smaller sections of the centrality of section vitality in any determination about the future of a section. They noted that membership numbers below 300 would not *per se* jeopardize the status of a section that was otherwise engaged in important work.

*Proposed Section-in-formation on Economic Sociology.* Council discussed the proposal for a new section on Economic Sociology and the recommendation of COS that the section be approved.

**Motion:** To approve Economic Sociology as a section-in-formation. Carried.

Quadagno asked for an update on the proposed section on Society and Animals. Portes reported that he received a request for a session at the 1999 meeting and has approved this session.

Council member Waite, who is incoming section chair for the Family Section, raised an issue of new business pertaining to the Annual Meeting program of sections. She described a situation, where papers were submitted under the open call for both the regular family session and for a section session, but the regular session organizer proceeded with asking for additional sessions without checking with the section session organizer. Additional sessions were added to the program, when papers might have been first considered by the section session organizer. Levine indicated that this situation needs to be coordinated and watched.

#### *10. Report from ASA's Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring*

Waite summarized the work of the Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring undertaken this fall. She noted that the Subcommittee reviewed reports from the former standing committees and considered their recommendations for task forces. Pursuant to Council's charge, the Subcommittee report focuses on recommendations for the first set of task forces and also sets forth recommended work plans and charges for the status committees.

Waite briefly noted that the report recommended that Council establish five task forces. She indicated that other ideas might merit task forces at some future point, but that these five constituted a substantial agenda and seemed to reflect themes that cut across a number of committee reports and recommendations. The following five Task Forces were proposed: Task Force on The Implications of Assessing Faculty Productivity

Task Force on the Articulation of Sociology in Two-Year and Four-Year Sociology Programs

Task Force on Current Knowledge on Hate/Bias Acts on College and University Campuses

Task Force on the International Focus of American Sociology

Task Force on ASA/AAAS Relations

Waite also reminded Council that the four "status committees" were being continued, but with the aspiration that they would have a more specific charge relating to the Association or the discipline and that these committees and Council should work more closely. She noted that the status committees would be reviewed in five years to evaluate how they fit in relation to the Association's goals in these areas. She indicated that the Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring sought to identify an initial charge and tasks for the status committees that built upon the committees' reports and yet could yield a tangible product after two years.

Waite briefly overviewed the Subcommittee's recommendations for status committee activities. The Subcommittee recommends that the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology and the Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology collaborate on an "analysis of leadership opportunities for minorities and women in the ASA." The Subcommittee also recommended that these two committees (possibly also jointly) undertake a "report on the presence and roles of women and racial and ethnic minorities in sociology." In addition, the Subcommittee recommended that the Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology undertake two activities: "a report on the status of disability scholarship in the discipline" and a "review of ASA accessibility issues." Finally, the Subcommittee recommended that the Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People in Sociology also undertake an assessment of the scholarship on gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues.

Although some status committees asked for budgets, Waite indicated that the Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring recommended that only modest administrative budgets be provided with no midyear meetings. The budget might be about \$1500 per group for the two-year period. Were a status committee to identify work that requires a large allocation, a budget request and substantive justification should be reviewed and approved by Council.

Council member Berheide asked how new task forces get proposed. Levine noted that any member or group (e.g, section) can propose a task force. The process for doing so will be made clear in *Footnotes*. Moen urged extensive publicity efforts to enable members to become involved under this new structure. Council members agreed that it was important to reach out to sociologists across academic and other work settings. Council noted that four of the proposed task forces focused on academic concerns and urged the Subcommittee to consider issues that might be germane across occupational and work spheres of sociology.

**Motion:** To ask the Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring to consider the possibility of fora for occupational and professional areas of sociology and to report back at the next Council meeting. Carried.

Council discussion focused on the proposed Task Force on the Implications of Assessing Faculty Productivity. Some Council members wondered if the Subcommittee was recommending this Task Force because of a potential threat to academic autonomy. The Subcommittee clarified that, while there have been challenges to the academic workplace in recent years, there were also opportunities for creative rethinking in higher education, and this Task Force could play such a role. Council was drawn to this Task Force but believed its scope should also include teaching effectiveness as part of examining workload and performance. The Subcommittee concurred and modified the title to include "Teaching Effectiveness."

**Motion:** To approve the task forces as outlined in the Report of the Council Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring and to approve the charges specified for the status committees in the Report of the Council Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring. Carried.

Portes thanked the Subcommittee especially chair Linda Waite for the hard work.

Portes asked about the process of constituting the task forces. Levine indicated that there would be a broad open call to the membership through such means as *Footnotes* and the ASA homepage. Nominations, including self-nominations, would be considered by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will prepare a slate of nominees for each task force to be reviewed and voted on by Council in June. Members of Council can also make recommendations to the Subcommittee.

## ***11. Annual Meeting Preliminary Program***

Secretary Bonner reviewed the increasing costs of the Annual Meeting and ways to achieve efficiency and economy, particularly with Annual Meeting-related publications. In particular, she asked for feedback about the *Preliminary Program* and how it might be "delivered" differently. Not only could information be placed on the homepage, but perhaps parts of the *Preliminary Program* could be put in *Footnotes* or as fax-on-demand, and so forth. Some Council members expressed concern about members having access to electronic sources and about getting the registration, hotel, and transit information in a timely way. Others commented that by the time the *Preliminary Program* appears, most members know whether they are coming to the meeting and thus that it is not a promotional piece. Council thought that perhaps preliminary information could be less detailed and noted that currently the *Preliminary Program* is so similar to the Final Program. EOB will address the issue in June and report to Council at its August meeting.

## **12. ASA Committee on Publications**

Bonner reported that Committee on Publications (COP) meeting was very effective, including a joint session with the editors. The main item of business was to review editor candidates for three ASA journals: *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Theory*, and *Teaching Sociology*.

**Motion:** To consider separately the ranked lists of journal editor candidates for each journal. Carried.

Council began with a review of the candidates for *Teaching Sociology*.

**Motion:** To approve the ranked list of editor candidates for *Teaching Sociology*. Carried.

Council then discussed the candidates for *Sociological Theory*. Council was briefed on the Committee on Publications discussion about the journal and concerns about its focus. In addition to having articles about theory, the new editor will be encouraged to solicit theory articles, including theory in a number of sociological specialties.

**Motion:** To approve the ranked list of editor candidates for *Sociological Theory*. Carried (14 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain).

The final editorship appointment was for the *American Sociological Review*. (*ASR*). After extensive discussion of the qualities sought in the *ASR* editor, and the place of the journal in the ASA publications portfolio, some Council members recommended returning the list of candidates to the Committee on Publications. Other Council members thought that Council should proceed, as specified in the ASA By-laws which charges Council with the responsibility of electing an editor from a list of nominees to which Council may add or delete names. Council continued to deliberate about the process, with some members maintaining that there was insufficient time for adequate consideration of the candidates and the issues.

**Motion:** To approve the ranked list of the editor candidates for the *American Sociological Review*. Failed (6 yes; 7 no; 2 abstain).

**Motion:** To table the recommendations of the Committee on Publications for the editorship of the *American Sociological Review*. Carried (10 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain).

Secretary Bonner provided further information about the Committee on Publication's discussion of *ASR* and the many strong candidates who applied. Council discussed the candidates, criteria for the editor role, the focus of *ASR* and the new "perspectives" journal, and the merits and strengths of candidates.

**Motion:** To approve a Council-recommended choice for editor of *ASR* from among the candidates considered by the Publications Committee. Carried (8 yes; 5 no; 1 abstain).

**Motion:** To approve an alternate candidate for editor of *ASR* from the Publications Committee's ranked list. Carried (9 yes; 3 no; 1 abstain).

After these actions, Council returned to a general discussion of relevant information for the selection of editors, and asked that this topic be placed on a future agenda for additional discussion.

*Update on New Journal and Editor.* Bonner indicated that the open call and solicitation for editors for the "New Perspectives" journal had generated a pool of possible candidates. COP felt that it needed to extend the deadline for the submission of proposals for the editorship. The expectation is that the editor candidates will be reviewed by COP in August, with recommendations presented to Council at its August meeting.

*Committee on Publications' Report on the Publications Portfolio.* Council responded favorably to the Committee on Publications' Report on the Publications Portfolio and discussed in detail the proposed new guidelines and the criteria for launching new publications, including those sponsored by sections. While Council members thought that the criteria were valuable, they wished to ensure that the criteria be viewed as necessary but not sufficient for establishing a new journal. Levine indicated that the intent was to review new journal proposals, whether ASA-wide or section-proposed, in light of the entire publication portfolio and how a proposal fit into the mix.

Council considered intellectual viability in the mix of ASA journals to be key. Vice-president Roos suggested adding to the preamble language that would send a signal that proposals would be assessed in terms of the overall mix of journals as well as intellectual strengths and financial capacity of any one journal. There was strong support for making this clear at the outset.

Council drafted the following language to add to the preamble of the document:

. . [the guidelines] are designed to guarantee the ongoing vitality of ASA's publications program by ensuring that the range and mix of journals that the Association owns and supports over time are publications of the highest quality and cover the full intellectual range of the discipline. In considering the establishment of new journals or the retirement of ongoing journals, the Publications Committee and Council anticipates giving careful attention to the role of each journal in the Association's publications portfolio.

**Motion:** To add language to the preamble of the Publications Portfolio Report, as presented. Carried.

Council also addressed the criterion of financial viability. If ASA received a number of very strong proposals, some Council members were concerned that it would be difficult to choose among them, taking into account the financial and organizational implications. Others noted that section journals have to operate at no net cost to the Association, and thus few sections would likely advance such a proposal because it would need to be an add-on to section dues. Levine agreed that section-sponsored journals would not be included as a journal choice with dues. Yet, she noted that the proposal is consistent with overall ASA policy designed to give sections more autonomy and guidance.

**Motion:** It is assumed that any section-sponsored journal would operate at no net cost to the Association. Carried.

With respect to section-sponsored journals, Council members raised the concern about start up costs and when the "no net cost" requirement would apply. They noted that the Association has appropriated considerable funds and time for the "New Perspectives" journal. Levine indicated that, while ASA would own all journals, unless ASA were the journal publisher for a new journal, ASA would not bear the start up costs.

The final issue for discussion centered on a possible additional criterion of scholarly use and demand as part of the formal procedure for evaluating the viability of ASA-wide and section-sponsored journals.

**Motion:** To add language related to scholarly use and demand so that the evaluation included measures of the number and pattern of citations, scholarly use, and demand. Carried.

**Motion:** To accept the Publication Portfolio Report as amended. Carried.

### ***13. Financial Guidelines for ASA Journals***

Secretary Bonner continued the discussion of the financial viability of both present and any future journals by reporting on EOB's discussion of the Association's journal portfolio. She indicated that, at its January meeting, EOB had passed a resolution

reaffirming the guideline that journals should be self-supporting (for new journals after a reasonable period of time). EOB recommended that Council adopt the following: "ASA journals are expected to operate at least on a break even financial basis. New journals will be expected to meet this standard after a period to be determined by the Committee on Publications and Council (typically five years)."

**Motion:** To support EOB's recommended resolution on the financial guidelines for all ASA journals. Carried.

#### *14. Long-term Fund Raising*

President Portes raised the possibility of a long-term fundraising strategy (tentatively titled "Sociology for the New Century") for the Association that would go beyond the celebration of the centennial (in 2005). Portes discussed the value of developing a sizeable reservoir of resources that would enable the Association to undertake important programmatic work. He cited the example of the Spivack Program that was able to be established by virtue of a substantial gift. Responding to the materials provided in the agenda book, Council discussed the kinds of initiatives that could be pursued or enhanced with substantially more funding. Council noted that priorities such as the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline could be extended in scope and size of support with higher levels of funding. Council members were positive about the illustrative idea in the agenda materials of creating a new Center for Sociological Research at the Executive Office, that would bring fellows to Washington to work on their own research and on ASA programs linking sociology to science or social policy and that would yield products publishable by ASA.

Portes stressed that he wants to launch a credible and compelling campaign to form an endowment for important work in sociology. He asked for Council feedback on fundamental idea as well as specific details. Portes proposed the following steps: identify visible, impressive, and committed chairs for the campaign; convene a small meeting to design its organizational structure and initial strategies; identify concrete initiatives to which members might donate funds; and connect some of the initiatives to current ASA projects, such as the Minority Fellowship Program or the Congressional Fellowship.

Council provided generally positive feedback about the ideas presented. The consensus was that it is important to learn from universities' fundraising experiences, including the value of a "general fund" as well as specific funds. Further, Council members noted that campaigns often have very large sums of money committed before public announcement of such a campaign. Levine described the American Political Science Association centennial campaign as one model.

Council member Oliver mentioned the opportunities to approach foundations. He thought that ASA has a strong reputation with training minorities scholars. He believed that international work would be another option to attract foundation

money. He suggested developing three or four themes to leverage in the foundation world.

Vice President Roos added the importance of getting individual faculty members committed to the initiatives. Council discussed the possibilities for wealth transfer through wills, insurance beneficiaries, and so forth. Council also emphasized the importance of reaching out to members for good ideas for themes for fundraising. The consensus was that, while most gifts will come from a small group of members, it is important to involve a wider group, to engage in outreach to non-elite members, and to show the benefit of the campaign to all members of the Association.

**Motion:** To endorse the general principle of the long-term fundraising campaign for the Association and to ask for the appointment of a planning group to identify initiatives and themes for an effective fundraising effort. Carried.

### *15. Report from the Task Force on Community College Sociology*

Levine reviewed the history of the Task Force on Community College Sociology, which submitted a report to Council in January 1998. Council asked the Task Force to prioritize its recommendations and report back in February 1999. Council discussed the report and recommendations. One recommendation asked for a more permanent committee or caucus on community college sociology. Because Council has transformed standing committees into a task force system, this recommendation did not advance. Council members, however, noted that they had in earlier business approved one of the recommended task forces that deals with the articulation between two- and four-year programs.

The five recommendations from the Task Force are: (1) to have a permanent structure to address the concerns of community college sociologists; (2) to diversify ASA leadership to include more community college representation; (3) to support the professional work of community college sociologists in continuing education and conferences; (4) to promote a positive image of community colleges as a place of employment and education; and (5) to award certificates of completion to community colleges sociologists for attendance at ASA workshops and sessions.

Several Council members felt that a number of the recommendations were currently in place in the Executive Office, or that they easily could be implemented. For example, Howery indicated that certificates are provided by ASA for workshop attendance, upon request. She noted, however, that the availability of such certificates could be announced more prominently.

Council member Hout noted that there might be some important data gathering needs on issues that especially affect community college settings, e.g., faculty teaching out of field; itinerant teaching (adjunct and part-time); transfer of credits.

Berheide suggested that one way to continue to be attentive to the needs of colleagues in the community college setting is to ask the "status committees" to look at workplace location. She also encouraged future ASA Presidents to appoint a community college sociologist to the Program Committee and to involve other community college sociologists in all areas of Association governance.

**Motion:** To expand the charge to the status committees to include data collection on the leadership roles in the Association to include information on the workplace location (e.g., sociologists at two- and four-year colleges, sociologists employed outside the academic workplace). Carried.

Howery reported on the substantial efforts by ASA made at the Annual Meeting to faculty and chairs from community colleges. Over the past five years, since the inception of a separate chair conference at the ASA Annual Meeting, targeted efforts have been directed to community college chairs.

Council asked that the Executive Office communicate Council's appreciation to the Task Force, noting that some of these recommendations are being pursued and that Council is interested in encouraging sociology and sociologists at community colleges. Council thought both the new Task Force and explicitly indicating that the status committees should focus on sociology in *all* work settings were further indicators of Council's commitment.

## *16. Executive Office Program Reports*

*Minority Affairs Program.* Edward Murguia, Director of Minority Affairs, summarized the highlights of the Program. He noted that this year the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Under the program, 208 Fellows have completed their PhDs and 62 Fellows are currently enrolled in graduate work in sociology. The stipend level for Fellows will increase by about \$3,200 a year beginning in the 1999-2000 academic year (to \$14,689). The deadline for the NIMH grant renewal is expected to be in the spring, with likely an application for five more years of funding.

Murguia also summarized the current activities of the Minority Opportunities through School Transformation (MOST) Program, a joint effort of the Minority Affairs and Academic Affairs Programs. Especially with the enhanced support from The Ford Foundation, the MOST effort is moving forward productively. Eighteen departments are involved, eleven of which are more progressed in their planning and will be participating in the coordinators conference in late February. Each has submitted an action plan to implement the five core MOST goals, and will be eligible for direct support from the recent Ford funding.

*Academic and Professional Affairs Program.* Carla Howery presented the highlights of the Academic and Professional Affairs Program. She noted four key initiatives: collaboration with the Minority Affairs Program on MOST; a book on the peer review of

teaching; activities on preparing future faculty; and review and improvement of the ASA's career and teaching publications. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chair Conference will focus on evaluation of faculty, students, and programs. In terms of preparing future faculty, the American Association of Colleges and Universities has a pending proposal for a national project that would include sociology as one of the target disciplines; if funded, ASA would select departments with which to work on graduate student preparation in teaching and awareness of faculty opportunities in two- and four-year institutions.

*Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy.* Howerly continued with a current update on the Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy. The key project underway is the Race Initiative where analysis and writing are well underway. The Spivack Program will also hold several briefings in the next year, likely on social security, homelessness, and community building. The Issues Series now has three volumes based on three Spivack events. A fourth volume, on immigration, will be published in the spring. The monograph *The Realities of Affirmative Action in Employment*, continues to be well received. In response to Council questions, Howerly noted that the Spivack Advisory Panel helps identify topics for briefings and reviews the publications of the Program. The Committee also assists with the selection of the Community Action Research Initiative grants and the Congressional Fellow.

*Research Program on the Discipline and Profession.* Roberta Spalter-Roth summarized key activities in the Research Program on the Discipline and Profession. The data from the PhD Tracking Survey are being analyzed to examine the early career paths of the 1996-7 cohort of PhDs. A preliminary report on some of these data will be ready by the Annual Meeting. Also Spalter-Roth noted that the data from the surveys of graduate departments (done in tandem with the production of the *Guide to Graduate Departments*) continues to be used for research briefs on various issues relating to the academic workplace. These research brief reports have been published in *Footnotes* and are also disseminated as reprints to departments and to others interested in higher education trends. Also, the Program continues to analyze secondary data, e.g., National Research Council degree production data, and to respond to requests from members and other groups. Lastly, she noted that the Program will be assessing the design, sequencing, collection, analysis, and dissemination of research with benefit of an Advisory Panel.

*Public Affairs and Public Information.* Levine described ongoing activities in Public Affairs and Public Information. A significant amount of effort has focused on Census 2000, where Levine is a member of the Advisory Committee as well as the subcommittee drafting the report. Other key projects include final input to the NSF Data Infrastructure Initiative, extensive comment on the restructuring of peer review at the National Institutes of Health, and work on potential challenges to data sharing policies on Federal grants (by making accessible all forms of federally-funded data through the Freedom of Information Act). She noted that Census Director Kenneth Prewitt would be featured at a town meeting on the Census at the 1999 Annual Meeting.

### *17. 1998 Budget Reports, Analysis, and Review*

Bonner provided an overview of 1998 revenue and expenditures, noting the projected small surplus instead of the deficit originally budgeted. Council reviewed the 1998 report, and affirmed that the budget was on target.

### *18. 1999 Proposed Budget*

Bonner provided a brief summary of the 1999 budget, as recommended by EOB, and indicated her interest in entertaining questions. Levine noted that, with the building sale, expenditures changed from maintaining buildings and grounds to covering office lease payments. She also noted that the budget covered those relocation and furniture expenditures that would be incurred in 1999. Council members asked about journal editorial office costs and differences among the various editorial offices. They asked that the next budget report include detailed information on the costs of each of the editorial offices.

**Motion:** To approve the 1999 budget. Carried.

**Motion:** To approve the 1999 Spivack operating budget from the Spivack restricted fund. Carried.

**Motion:** To amend the Spivack budget to increase the Congressional Fellowship stipend to \$15,000. Carried.

**Motion:** To authorize Secretary Bonner to allocate resources from the Rose Fund restricted account up to the amount requested by the Rose editor. Carried.

### *19. Follow up Business*

*Student Forum.* Council received an update on the progress of the Student Forum, which was approved in August 1998 to enhance the professional life of students in the Association and the discipline. The Forum has transitional officers in place, will be holding a travel award competition in the Spring to fund travel to the Annual Meeting, and will convene a business meeting at the Annual Meeting.

*Report from the Advisory Panel on the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD).* The Subcommittee of Council that comprises the Advisory Panel for FAD reviewed 29 proposals. Four projects and three research conference proposals are being recommended for funding.

### *20. Adjournment*

The Council adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 7.

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