

Approved by Council August 12, 2020

MARCH 5-6, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

American Sociological Association
Washington, D.C.

Participants: Christine Williams (President), Aldon Morris (President-elect), Joya Misra (Vice President), Rhacel Salazar Parreñas (Vice President-elect), Grace Kao (Past Vice President), Nancy López (Secretary), Ruha Benjamin, Kelly H. Chong, Kimberly Ann Goyette, Laura Hamilton, Erin Kelly, Maria Krysan, Wendy Leo Moore, Jennifer Reich, Vincent Roscigno, Sara Shostak, Zulema Valdez, Rhys H. Williams; **Staff:** Nancy Kidd (Executive Officer), Les Briggs, Teresa Ciabattari, Karen Gray Edwards, Mark Fernando, Michelle Randall, Margaret Weigers Vitullo. **Absent:** Mary Romero (Past President)

President Williams called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. on March 5.

1. Agenda

A motion was made by Kelly to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Valdez. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Reports

Williams indicated that written reports were provided on Executive Office activity, membership, sections, department affiliates, journal subscriptions, the condominium sale, the Task Force on First Generation and Working- Class People in Sociology, and section session groupings. Some additional detail was provided by Roscigno on the Task Force on First Generation and Working-Class People in Sociology. Kidd shared with Council some preliminary planning considerations for the Annual Meeting in light of the coronavirus situation.

3. Consent Agenda

President Williams presented the consent agenda which included approval of the August 13-14, 2019 Council meeting minutes; the two-year Council meeting calendar; conflict of interest disclosures; continuation of *Socius* APC waivers; new *Sociological Methodology* format and mission statement; section bylaws amendment proposals for the ballot; section policies on addressing section disputes, resolving election ties, and partnerships; awards policies on letters of recommendation for nominations, Jessie Bernard Award amendments, and awards policy document updates; COPE policy and procedures revision on appointing a chair; the end date for working groups; amendment to the Annual Meeting participation policy; UN NGO consultative status and a statement on human rights.

A motion was made by Misra to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Investment review

Director of Finance Briggs directed the Council's attention to the most recent quarterly report from our investment manager and engaged the Council in a discussion of the performance of our portfolio.

5. Socially responsible investing

Director of Finance Briggs introduced a proposal from EOB for engaging in socially responsible investing. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Kelly to use the DFA Sustainability Funds in lieu of our current U.S. Core Stocks, International Core Stocks, and Emerging Market Stocks. Seconded by Valdez. Motion carried unanimously.

6. 2019 budget report

While the 2019 calendar year has ended, the 2019 books have not yet closed since several of our 2019 payments will not be received until later in the first quarter of 2020 and we may not yet have received all of our 2019 invoices. Kidd provided a summary of year-to-date revenue and expense through November 2019 as well as projections for the close of the year. Overall, we are on target to meet our budget projection and have a balanced budget for the third year in a row. Discussion ensued.

7. Proposed 2020 budget

Kidd explained that the meeting materials contain a spreadsheet with the proposed 2020 budget as well as a detailed narrative version of the proposed budget. Also described in the materials is a slightly different alternative proposal. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Goyette to approve "revised Budget Option A" as presented in the meeting materials. Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.

Council took a break at 9:36 a.m. and reconvened at 9:41 a.m.

8. Annual Meeting site selection policies

Council discussed the results of a member survey regarding preferences for site selection.

A motion was made by Shostak to retain our current site selection policy, which includes "extent of unionization and fair labor practices at facilities to be used for meeting space and guest rooms" as one of the criteria for consideration; to reaffirm a commitment to considering a broader range of sites, including second and third tier cities; and to reaffirm ASA's 2018 statement on fair labor practices. Seconded by Valdez. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Misra to amend the site selection criterion for facilities' recycling, compostable, and sustainability initiatives to the broader "environmental sustainability" to encompass the city and the facility. Seconded by Valdez. Motion carried with 17 for and 1 abstention.

9. Annual Meeting submission processes

Council discussed the results of a member survey regarding submission processes.

A motion was made by Moore that submissions to the 2021 and 2022 Annual Meeting may be either full papers (15-35 pages) or extended abstracts (3-5 pages). If participants submit an abstract and it is accepted, the full paper will be expected to be sent to the organizer by one month before the Annual Meeting. Council will revisit this submission process prior to the 2023 submission opening. Seconded by Krysan. Motion carried with 15 for, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

A motion was made by Moore that organizers of panels for annual meetings will be informed of the change to the model of submission and instructed to review abstracts and papers equally. Seconded by R. Williams. Motion failed with 3 for, 11 against, and 4 abstentions.

10. Bylaws and articles of incorporation revision

Council has discussed details of a Bylaws revision proposal over the course of several meetings. At the last meeting, Council supported the proposed revisions in concept and appointed an oversight committee to vet the final proposal. The final proposal was provided to Council members in their meeting materials, and discussion about it ensued.

A motion was made by Moore to approve the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation revision as presented for distribution on the next election ballot, with one grammatical amendment. Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Executive session

Council moved into executive session at 11:16 a.m.

Council moved out of executive session at 11:28 a.m.

Council asked that a vote taken during executive session be reflected in the minutes. *Council voted unanimously not to confer the 2018 Jessie Bernard Award on Michael Kimmel.*

12. Awards revocation and removal from leadership positions

Council discussed a series of policy proposals.

A motion was made by R. Williams to approve the revisions to the policies on disclosures for awards and leadership positions as presented. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Morris to approve the awards revocation policy as presented. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kelly to approve the policy for removing people from leadership positions as presented. Seconded by R. Williams. Motion carried with 17 for and one abstention.

A motion was made by Krysan to approve the revision to the COPE Policies and Procedures as presented. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kelly to remove the five-year statute of limitations from the COPE policies and procedures for harassment. Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Executive session

Council moved into executive session at 11:49 a.m. to discuss a confidential topic.
Council took a break at 12:12 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

14. Editor selections

Council continued meeting in executive session.
Council moved out of executive session at 1:13 p.m.

15. Possible executive order on 12-month embargo

Council discussed a recent decision of ASA's authorized leadership to sign a letter expressing concern about an executive order related to scientific publishing rumored to be coming out with almost no notice or consultation with the scientific community.

A motion was made by Kelly to affirm ASA's policy for making time sensitive decisions about public statements and to confirm that the process was properly followed in this instance. Seconded by Misra. Motion carried with 16 for and 2 abstentions.

A motion was made by Kelly to remove the 12-month embargo on posting accepted manuscripts in repositories beyond personal websites and institutional repositories. Seconded by Shostak. Motion carried with 12 for, 3 against, and 3 abstentions.

16. Section journal policies

In collaboration with the four ASA sections that have journals, a review of our section journal policies has been undertaken. Council discussed the proposed changes.

A motion was made by Krysan to approve the section journal policies as presented. Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Statement on scholarly freedom

Council discussed a proposed statement reaffirming the ASA's commitment to scholarly freedom.

A motion was made by Valdez to approve the proposed statement as presented. Seconded by Shostak. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Animals and Society section statement

Council discussed a request from the Animals and Society section. Council determined that the statement on scholarly freedom is aligned with the spirit of the request.

19. Visa issues

Council discussed how ASA can best continue to advocate for the free movement of scholars.

20. Relationship of ASA to Native Nations

Council continued its discussion about developing a productive relationship with Indigenous sociologists.

A motion was made by Shostak to enthusiastically grant section-in-formation status for the Section on Sociology of Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations and waive the numerical requirements. The section will receive comparable resources to other sections. Should the section-in-formation wish to discuss alternate approaches, Council would welcome that discussion. Seconded by López. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Williams to commit to mentoring and teaching resources and curriculum development related to Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations. Seconded by Krysan. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Moore to leave the Indigenous Peoples/Native Nations topic on the every-year list for annual program committee consideration. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Moore that because of the severe underrepresentation of Indigenous scholars and Indigenous scholarship in sociology, ASA commits to always having a Native MFP advisory panel member. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shostak to request a more detailed proposal for a task force on the status of Indigenous peoples in the US and within the discipline for future Council consideration. Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.

Council took a break at 2:58 p.m. and reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

21. Communities implementation

In August, Council approved the Task Force on Membership's recommendation to form professional communities and identity-based communities. Staff was charged with developing a detailed proposal regarding formation and support of communities. Council discussed that proposal and made several recommendations for reconceptualizing the approach. Council will discuss this again in August.

22. Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues Award

Council considered a proposal from the Committee on Awards to no longer offer the Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues Award.

A motion was made by Hamilton to approve no longer offering the excellence in reporting award. Seconded by Goyette. Motion carried unanimously.

23. Presidential biographies

The ASA presidential biographies on our website are inconsistent in format and content and they have not been reviewed in some time. Council discussed a proposal from the History of Sociology section to revise the biographies.

A motion was made by Hamilton to approve the presidential biographies proposal with the removal of point 3 under guidelines. Seconded by Parreñas. Motion carried with 16 for and 2 abstentions.

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.