Elected members present were Catherine White Berheide (ASA Secretary), Karen Cerulo (Chair), James Jasper, Erin Kelly, Peggy Levitt, Mary Romero (ASA Secretary-Elect), Vincent Roscigno, and Steven Vallas. Past President Erik Olin Wright and incoming elected member Jennifer Barber also attended as observers.


Present from the Executive Office were Sally T. Hillsman (Executive Officer), Karen Gray Edwards (Director of Publications and Membership), and Janine Chiappa McKenna (Journals and Publications Manager). Erica Howard, Thomas Mankowski, and Eric Moran from SAGE were also present.

The Committee voted to:

• Approve the meeting agenda. Carried unanimously.
• Support the open access journal proposal with the following changes: the intellectual focus needs to be more clearly stated; the specifics of the review process need to be better articulated; and it should be described as a top-tier premier open access journal with a rigorous review process. Carried unanimously.
• Ask the Executive Office to provide information to editors on how the editorial office funding model was created and to request their input on its potential effect on budgets and core activities. This information will be provided to the Committee for further discussion in December. Carried unanimously.
• Recommend to Council to approve the request from Sociological Methodology to allow color figures if it is determined that concepts are not clear when an image is converted to grayscale. The cost of color printing will be paid by the author, not the journal. Carried unanimously.
• Recommend to Council a change in the term of editorship for the American Sociological Review to a maximum of four years (the same three-year initial term with an extension of no more than one additional year). Carried, four in favor, three opposed.
• Recommend to Council continuing the 30-page increase for Social Psychology Quarterly through Hegtvedt’s term (2014). Carried unanimously.
• Recommend to Council to continue Sociology of Education’s 30-page increase for 2014. A permanent increase will require data showing an increased and appropriate backlog. Carried unanimously.
• Forward to Council the recommendation from the archive subcommittee to conduct a membership survey to determine the potential impact on submissions and reviews should ASA decide to maintain an archive of manuscripts and reviews for future use. Carried unanimously.
• Approve nominations for new editorial board members. Carried unanimously.
• Create subcommittee on ethics with Kelly, Liao (chair), and McCammon as members. Carried unanimously.
Proposed Open Access Journal.

The Committee discussed a proposal to create an open access general sociology journal to be published in collaboration with SAGE. The Committee discussed possible options of who will pay for publication (e.g., government, foundations, universities) and it was noted that the author-pay model appears to be the future of open access. There was also discussion on post-publication review and making a requirement for authors to submit their data for replication. The Committee was asked to create a list of questions regarding the new journal that the Executive Office could address, such as the language on the mission of the journal (e.g., make it the top tier in open access), the peer review language (i.e., “light” peer review), and the financial plan.

Proposed Editorial Office Restructuring.

A brief summary of the proposal to restructure editorial office funding was provided. The underlying issues are: How much staff does each journal need? How much funding does it need? There is a huge disparity in how much staffing the journals get. The editors were reminded that the goal is not to save money by standardizing journal budgets, instead the plan is to make it more equitable across all journals.

SAGE Production Issues.

Liao led the discussion on issues he experienced in working with SAGE on the 2012 and 2013 issues of *Sociological Methodology*, bringing up points he mentioned in the December 2012 meeting (e.g., lack of substantive copyediting). Liao also noted that converting figures from color to grayscale causes information to be lost. There is only about one paper (with multiple color figures) every two years that would need to be published in color and the author could pay for it. The Committee discussed other ways authors could pay for color figures if institutional funding is an issue.

Report from the Archives Subcommittee.

Cerulo discussed the questionnaire that the subcommittee created at Council’s request regarding retaining rejected manuscript and review files for archiving. They recommended taking a sample of membership (10-20 percent of authors and reviewers) and working with the ASA Research Department to survey members.


The Committee discussed offering a three-year term plus a one-year extension rather than changing the term to a flat four-year term. However, it was noted that it could be cumbersome to change the standards for just *ASR* and why term limits would not change for all of the journals.

Temporary Page Allocation Increases for *Sociology of Education* and *Social Psychology Quarterly*.

In 2011, the Committee recommended and Council approved 30-page increases for *Sociology of Education* and *Social Psychology Quarterly* for two years (2012 and 2013) to help alleviate manuscript
backlogs. The Committee discussed if these should be made permanent or if the temporary increase helped eliminate some of the backlog.

**Proposal for ASA Blog(s).**

The proposal suggested that ASA could partner with an existing blog or create something in conjunction with the ASA Sections. The subcommittee wants guidance from the Committee and the ASA Executive Office to figure out how to make a presence with a plan to make a proposal in December.

**New Business.**

The Committee decided to form a subcommittee to work on standards for manuscript submission principles after discussing two problematic submissions (one appeared to be submitted elsewhere, another appeared to be plagiarized). The Committee discussed updating the *Code of Ethics* and working with COPE to create standards.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The Committee will meet next on December 14-15, 2013, in Washington, DC.