

**American Sociological Association  
Council  
August 24, 2016  
Seattle, Washington**

**Members:** Michèle Lamont (President), Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (President-elect), Ruth Milkman (Past President), Kathleen Gerson (Vice President), Christopher Uggen (Vice President-elect), Barbara Risman (Past Vice President), David Takeuchi (Secretary), Nina Bandelj, Mabel Berezin, Daniel Chambliss, Cynthia Feliciano, Tanya Golash-Boza, Adia M. Harvey Wingfield, Peter Kivisto (a.m. only), Monica McDermott, Mignon Moore (a.m. only), Wendy Ng, Andrew J. Perrin; **Absent:** Margaret Hunter

**Staff Present:** Sally Hillsman (Executive Officer), Jamie Arca, Janet L. Astner, Deborah K. Brandt, Les Briggs, John Curtis, Karen Gray Edwards, Justin Lini, Michael Murphy, Jordan Robison, Jean Shin, Bradley Smith, Margaret Weigers Vitullo

**Guests Present:** Nancy Kidd

President Michèle Lamont called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

## **1. Introductions and Orienting Documents**

### **A. Conflict of Interest (COI) Statement**

The new officers and members-at-large were asked to sign the COI statement.

### **B. Approval of the Agenda**

Because the Council did not finish discussion about establishing a task force on membership on August 23, the item was added to the agenda for this meeting under Updates from Task Forces.

MOTION: Approve the agenda as revised. Carried (unanimous).
---

## **2. Report of the Secretary**

### **A. Summary Review of the 2016 Budget**

Secretary Romero noted that the budget was discussed during the August 23 meeting. Romero directed Council members to review the FAQ document about the operating budget and the technology report, both of which are part of the meeting materials.

### **B. Membership Report**

Secretary Romero reported that ASA membership is slightly lower than it was at this time last year, primarily due to a drop in student membership. Regular membership has increased, as has associate membership and emeritus/retired membership. The decline in student members is hypothesized to be connected with the meeting location, as student registration is also down. Graduate student enrollments are also down, so that might be tied to the pattern as well. There was some discussion about trends in membership by self-reported income.

#### D. JSTOR as a Member Benefit

EOB brought a recommendation to Council that JSTOR access be added to the package of membership benefits for a trial period. The cost to ASA is very modest, and the benefit to sociologists who do not otherwise have institutional access to JSTOR could be important. This will be instead of offering JSTOR access as a separate paid service to members.

MOTION: Approve JSTOR access as a free member benefit for a trial period of three years (2017-2019). Carried (unanimous).

#### E. ASA Retirement Plan

Based on a legal requirement, EOB brought a recommendation to Council regarding the funds in ASA's TIAA retirement plan.

MOTION: Approve addition of TIAA's Lifecycle Funds to the selection of funds within ASA's retirement plan and changing the default fund from the money market to the appropriate Lifecycle Fund. Carried (unanimous).

### 3. Committee, Advisory Panel, and Task Force Appointments (Executive Session)

#### A. President, Secretary, and Executive Officer Nominations

MOTION: Approve the Council Liaison assignments. Carried (unanimous).

MOTION: Approve the slate of nominees to fill the vacancy on the Committee on Executive Office and Budget, effective January 2017. Carried (unanimous).

MOTION: Approve the lists of nominees for appointment to the advisory board for the Minority Fellowship Program. (unanimous).

MOTION: Approve the lists of nominees for appointment to the advisory board for the Spivack Program for Applied Research and Social Policy. Carried (unanimous).

MOTION: Approve the lists of nominees for appointment to the advisory board for the Honors Program. Carried (unanimous).

#### B. President-Elect Nominations for 2018 Program Committee

The President-Elect Bonilla-Silva requested permission to appoint an extra member to the committee given the need for diverse representation across the discipline. Bonilla-Silva also presented the proposed committee composition.

MOTION: Approve the addition of one member to the usual program committee size for the 2018 Program Committee. Carried (unanimous).

MOTION: Approve the proposed membership of the 2018 Program Committee. Carried (unanimous).

#### C. Committee on Committees Nominations

MOTION: Approve the Committee on Committees nominations. Carried (16 for, 1 abstention).

#### D. Proposed Changes in the Selection Process and Term Length for Status Committees

Given the different nature of status committees from other committees on which the Committee on Committees (CoC) focuses its attention, a bylaws change to remove status committees from the CoC workload was proposed. This would permit Council to define a different appointment process and longer membership terms for those committees which might align better with their work. An alternative could be similar to the process currently used for task forces. There was agreement to vote on the issue in principle and give status committees the opportunity to respond to the proposed change before the next Council meeting.

MOTION: Approve amending the ASA Bylaws by removing “and Status Committees” from Article V, section 8 in principle, provided there is support from the status committees. Carried (unanimous).

#### E. Status Committees

Two of the status committees were slated for review in 2016 and one in 2017. Neither of the two scheduled for 2016 was ready to provide a report to Council. Given the proposed changes in the appointment process, it was recommended that review of the three status committees be deferred to 2017.

MOTION: Authorize continuation of the membership and work of all ASA Status Committees through 2017, and review the Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology, the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology, and the Committee on the Status of People with Disabilities in Sociology at the summer 2017 Council meeting. Carried (unanimous).

### **4. Annual Meetings**

#### A. President’s Update on the 2017 Program

President Lamont provided a report on programming plans for the 2017 Annual Meeting.

#### B. Registration and Other Fees for 2017

EOB recommended three annual meeting registration rate proposals for Council consideration. A \$5 increase for all registration categories was proposed to address the projected rise in operational expenses for successfully conducting the 2017 Annual Meeting. An adjustment to the non-member student registration rate was also proposed to make it higher than the cost of combined student membership and registration. A member student attending the 2016 annual meeting paid \$110 for

membership and \$50 for the preregistration fee for a total of \$160, while a non-member student paid a \$145 preregistration fee. Finally, a proposal was made to continue using the non-member outside the U.S. rate, which is set to match the discounted member rate. Anyone who resides outside the U.S. is eligible to use this special category. EOB did not recommend an increase in fees for events and services for 2017. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Approve (1) a \$5 increase for all registration categories, (2) an adjustment of the non-member student registration rates to \$170 for preregistration and \$210 for on-site registration, and (3) continuation of offering a “non-member outside the U.S.” rate equal to the member rate. Carried (16 for, 1 abstention).

MOTION: approve 2017 course, employment service candidate (member and non-member, and employment service employer fees at the 2016 level. Carried (16 for, 1 abstention).

### C. Site Selection for 2021

Executive Office staff presented four central location possibilities for Council consideration: Chicago (2 sites), Detroit, and Nashville. Discussion regarding the pros and cons of each option ensued.

Council took a break at 10:23 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

MOTION: Authorize the Executive Office to negotiate the most favorable contract possible with a Chicago property, privileging meeting dates in the second week weekend over the choice of facilities should other terms be equal. Carried (15 for, 1 against, 1 abstention).

## 5. Committee on Publications

Secretary Takeuchi provided an overview of the last Committee on Publications meeting.

## 6. Committee on Awards (COA)

The COA reports that several award selection committees indicate they have insufficient nominations. Discussion ensued about ways to address this problem.

MOTION: Amend the current policy to allow any member of an award selection committee to broadly encourage nominations and disseminate information about the award. Carried (unanimous).

## 7. Committee on Sections

### A. Report on Sections

Sections Coordinator Justin Lini provided an overview of section membership and governance.

## B. Committee on Sections (COS) Report

COS brought two issues to Council for consideration: section probation and gift section memberships. Section probation discussion was postponed until after lunch when copies of COS' recommendation could be distributed.

COS reports that there is a problem with gift section memberships being used to inflate section numbers in the final weeks of the membership year. Ninety percent of such memberships in 2015 were purchased in September, which means members are not getting much from the short membership. Discussion ensued about possible approaches for addressing this problem.

MOTION: Allow gift section memberships to be purchased only through July 31 of each year. Carried (16 for, 1 abstention).

## 8. Updates from Status Committees

### A. Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology

The committee has been working on a project involving research of past Annual Meeting programs to see how disability has been discussed over the years. An article covering the first 15 years of programs has been submitted to the *Research on Social Science and Disability* journal.

The committee has a dual mission to oversee accessibility of Annual Meetings and to promote research on disabilities. The latter goal overlaps with the recently established Section on Disability and Society, so it may be useful to reconsider the mission and focus of the committee.

One accessibility incident was reported at this year's meeting, involving an off-site section reception.

### B. Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) People in Sociology

This committee is functioning but not overly active between meetings. It was noted that there was a big improvement in the gender-inclusive restrooms at this year's meeting. ASA's efforts were aided by the fact that Seattle has passed an ordinance about inclusive restrooms.

Council was reminded that its decision yesterday about offering members an option to self-identify as LGBTQ needed to be communicated to the LGBTQ status committee.

### C. Committee on Nominations (CON) Materials

Historical information provided for CON deliberations includes everyone who has been nominated for office since 1984. A recommendation was made to limit the history to last three years, and then have the data for those three years include the ASA service done by those nominees. This would provide more in-depth information for CON use and facilitate due diligence in the nominating processes. Discussion amended the proposed time limit to the prior four years.

Council took a break at 12:00 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:32 p.m.

## 7B. Committee on Sections (continued)

The COS reported concern about receiving requests for new sections while some existing sections are struggling to have enough members. COS distributed a proposal for stipulating parameters for putting sections on probation

MOTION: Approve the proposal distributed to Council regarding sections being considered for probationary status. Carried (15 for, 2 abstentions).

COS reports that they are in the midst of evaluating ASA's current policy for forming new sections in light of concerns about the small size of several current sections.

MOTION: Place a one year moratorium on establishing new sections in order for the Committee on Sections to complete its work on evaluating policy for establishment of sections. Carried (16 for, 1 abstention).

## 9. Updates on Task Forces

### A. Task Force on Membership

Council continued discussion from the previous day about establishing a task force on membership. There was discussion about various possible components of a charge. There was agreement that the following issues should be mentioned: current decline in membership, cost of membership, benchmarking against other scholarly societies, desire to reach groups of sociologists who are not currently heavily represented in the membership,

MOTION: Establish a Task Force on Membership with a charge to be crafted by the President and Executive Officer that is informed by the Council's discussion. Carried (unanimous).

### B. Task Force on Community College Faculty

Director of Academic and Professional Affairs Margaret Weigers Vitullo reported that in the past year Task Force members have had three peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication in a special issue of *Teaching Sociology*. The Task Force will submit a final report to Council for the winter meeting in which there will be a set of recommendations for how ASA could more effectively respond to the needs and concerns of community college sociology faculty.

### C. Task Force on *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major*

Director of Academic and Professional Affairs Margaret Weigers Vitullo reported that the charge for this task force is to revise the *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major* material in light of three major pushes in higher education: core curriculum, proliferation of online courses, and funding outcomes. The final document, which will be brought to Council at its next meeting, will be titled *The Sociology Major in the Changing Landscape of Higher Education: Curriculum, Careers, Online Learning*. The task force will be recommending that sociology departments adopt the sociological literacy framework. The related Measuring College Learning project is

evolving into a grant proposal which will be submitted to NSF in January to support development of a 21<sup>st</sup> century assessment tool for sociology.

#### D. Task Force on Contingent Faculty in Sociology

Past President Milkman reported that the task force has met several times and is planning to submit a report within a year. They are planning to organize an open forum on this topic at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

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

#### A. Executive Office Staffing

Hillsman reported that there were some changes in staffing for the Meeting Services department.

#### B. COPE Revision of the ASA Code of Ethics

Hillsman reported that a committee is working on a proposal for revision of the Code of Professional Ethics that will ultimately be brought to the Council for consideration.

#### C. Public Affairs and Public Information

Hillsman reported that the PAPI team has been promoting the research published in ASA journals and sharing the expertise of ASA members with the media. Several press releases have been written and we have responded to many media inquiries. Hillsman described the lengthy process of preparing for public relations activity associated with the Annual Meeting.

#### E. Minority Fellowship Program

MFP Director Jean Shin reported that Cohort 43 was announced in July with five new Fellows.

#### F. TRAILS and *Teaching Sociology*

An innovative collaboration between *Teaching Sociology* and TRAILS resulted in defining and implementing a process for adding “Teaching Sociology Related Citations” to TRAILS. There are now 250 such citations (for articles published in *Teaching Sociology* since 2010), each coded with appropriate metadata that allow them to appear along with other TRAILS resources in search results. Usage of TRAILS is also increasing now that all members have free access as a benefit of membership.

### **11. New Business**

#### A. Date for Winter 2017 Council Meeting

Date possibilities for the next Council meeting were discussed, and March 4-5, 2017 was chosen.

#### B. New Award of the Section on Mathematical Sociology

The Executive Office was approached by the ASA Section on Mathematical Sociology about a proposed new award that would be monetary as well as honorific. Support for the award would be provided by an endowment from a committed member of the section. However, there is a

long-standing policy that prohibits sections from making cash awards for non-students. EOB recommended that Council amend the policy, provided that external contributions for award support are clearly separate from a section's general fund and that the Committee on Awards (COA) raised no objection to the proposed change. The COA liaison to Council reported no concerns.

**MOTION:** Amend the policy on section awards to say: Only student awards may be cash awards using general section funds; however, sections may choose to reimburse travel expenses for any award recipient if general section funds permit. Remaining section award(s) may not be cash awards unless the section receives specific contributions to support such an award that are not comingled with general section funds. Carried (16 for, 1 abstention).

#### D. Campus Carry

Barbara Risman brought a proposal to the Council from a member to consider addressing the issue of campus carry.

**MOTION:** Appoint a subcommittee of Council to propose some means by which ASA might deal with issues of guns in college classrooms and report back to Council as soon as possible. Carried (unanimous).

Past Vice President Barbara Risman was designated to serve on the subcommittee and assist the President in identifying other members.

#### E. Town Hall Meeting

Council spent some time continuing the discussion from the previous day about the Town Hall meeting that had taken place a few days earlier. Council members who attended shared additional details about the event and said there were many groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, community college faculty, low income sociologists, and others, who expressed having feelings of exclusion, both within ASA and on campuses. There was agreement that a full discussion should be postponed until the winter meeting when there would be adequate time to address this complex and important set of issues. However, there was desire to take some initial immediate steps that could help inform the winter discussion. The Executive Office as asked to collect data on diversity in association leadership, and Council Member Tanya Golash-Boza was tasked with hosting a series of Twitter chats, #inclusiveASA.

#### **Adjournment**

A formal motion thanking Executive Officer Sally Hillsman for 14 years of exceptional service to the association was approved by acclamation.

The Council meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.