1. Introductions and Orienting Documents

President Annette Lareau opened the final meeting of the 2013-14 Council at 2:36pm on Tuesday, August 19, 2014.

A. Introduction of New 2014-15 Council Members

The President welcomed the incoming officers (Ruth Milkman and Barbara Risman) and three of the incoming new Council members-at-large (Tanya Maria Golash-Boza, Margaret Hunter, Peter Kivisto) to the last meeting of the 2013-14 Council.

B. Approval of the Agenda

The President proposed one addition to the agenda.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as revised. Carried (none opposed).

C. Approval of the March 1-2, 2014 Minutes

No revisions were proposed.

MOTION: To approve the minutes for the second meeting of the 2013-2014 Council on March 1-2, 2014. Carried (none opposed).
D. Approval of the Minutes on the Submission of Amicus Briefs

No revisions to the minutes were proposed.

MOTION: To approve the minutes on the submission of amicus briefs. Carried (none opposed).

2. Report of the President

A. Reflections on the Year and the 2014 Annual Meeting

President Lareau indicated some worry about several issues on the table. These included the ultimate fate of 580 boxes of editorial office materials and a petition about the timing and cost of the Annual Meeting. Both topics will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

The 2014 Annual Meeting went well, and plenary sessions drew good audiences. Highlights of the program included Robert Reich, Sheryl Sandberg, and Malcolm Gladwell as featured speakers. Lareau expressed pleasure that the awards ceremony proceeded at a brisk pace. One element that contributed to this was having a timer on stage for reference by presenters and recipients. The improvements in the ceremony were cited as an example of Council having a subcommittee work with the Executive Office toward a good end.

On behalf of Council, President-Elect Paula England offered congratulations to President Lareau and the 2014 Program Committee on the success of the 2014 Annual Meeting.

3. Report of the Secretary

A. 2014 Election Report

Secretary Mary Romero reported that the 2014 election ran smoothly and came in under budget. A mistake by the vendor, which was caught quickly, yielded a $5,000 credit back to the Association. There were 9,146 members eligible to vote in the 2014 national election. Of these eligible voters, 4,147 members voted (45.3%). Section elections experience somewhat higher participation, which is important to note because members identify strongly with sections. Even though overall turnout declined slightly since last year, it was in line with other elections in the last decade. Congratulations were offered to the newly elected officers and Council members.

B. Year-End (2013) and Current (2014) Financials

The Secretary reported the 2013 operating budget ended with a positive balance of $138,000. The high attendance of 6,189 registrants for the 20213 Annual Meeting in New York City helped increase revenues. There was a drop of about 100 members in the mid-level categories of membership though, and members are purchasing fewer extra journals as expected with the return to including one journal as part of dues. Reprint permission revenue declined because that is now shared with SAGE. Even though revenues fell short of budget, containment of expenses across the board helped bring about positive operating results for 2013.
Projections for 2014 were not as positive. Membership revenue is projected to be down by around $40,000. Rental income is lower, due to loss of the tenant in March. A new tenant has been found and will be moving in after the Annual Meeting; rental income will begin showing up again in 2015. On the good news side, registration for the 2014 Annual Meeting was higher than the last time ASA met in San Francisco and also higher than budgeted.

Expenses rose in 2014 due to depreciation increases caused by the completion of several capital projects. Personnel costs are higher due to several staff turnovers, temp hires, and recruitment costs. The latest projections are that net operating results will yield a net loss of ($45,000) for 2014. The Executive Office is working to contain costs throughout the remainder of the year in an effort to reach at least a breakeven bottom line.

The President commented that the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB), comprised of the three presidents and three appointed members, had a long discussion in July about the projected deficit. Everyone is thinking about ways to improve membership retention while containing costs.

C. Report on ASA Investments and Reserves

While not quite as impressive as the strong performance of 2013, the investment markets in 2014 continued to pursue their uphill climb. Net gains through May 31, 2014 were $292,779 which put the account at an approximate 3.8% total gain for the five month period (9.1% annualized). The Secretary referred Council members to the report from Gordon Bernhardt, ASA’s investment advisor, which included the Callan periodic table of investment returns for 1984-2013. When EOB reviewed this, it was clear that ASA has benefitted from the significant diversification of its portfolio.

D. 2013 ASA Annual Report

Executive Officer Hillsman indicated that the 2013 Annual Report would be available in the fall of 2014.

4. Report of the Audit Committee

A. Approval of the 2013 Auditor’s Report

The Secretary reported that auditors found the financial statements for 2013 to present the ASA financial position fairly; change in net assets, and cash flows of the Association in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. At its July 24, 2014 meeting, EOB acted in its capacity as the ASA Audit Committee and voted unanimously to recommend that Council accept the 2013 audited financial statement.

MOTION: To accept the audited 2013 financial statement. Carried (none opposed).

B. Internal Control Policies

The Association’s Conflict of Interest (COI) policy currently requires that employees read and sign a conflict of agreement statement at the time they are hired. Members of Council and EOB sign a COI statement at the beginning of their terms of service. To ensure that conflicts do not exist, the
auditors have recommended that all employees sign and disclose any potential conflicts on an annual basis.

The Secretary reported that EOB’s discussion of this auditors’ note resulted in its recommendations to (1) add the Committee on Publications to the list of groups required to sign a COI statement, and (2) change the policy to require that all groups, including staff, sign the COI statement annually.

There was some discussion about whether other committees comprised of elected members, such as the Committee on Nominations (CON) and the Committee on Committees (COC), should be added to list of groups required to sign the COI statement. Neither group was added, however, due to their lack of intersection with the Association’s financial decisions. It was deemed that the general provisions of the ASA Code of Ethics were sufficient for the work done by CON and COC.

**MOTION:** That members of the Committee on Publications are to be added to the list of elected officers who must sign the ASA Conflict of Interest Policy; and that all elected members and staff who must sign the ASA Conflict of Interest Policy do so annually. Carried (none opposed).

### C. Auditor for 2014

The Secretary relayed EOB’s recommendation for the firm of Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman to be appointed as the auditor for 2014. In response to a question about how long ASA has used this company, Finance Director Les Briggs indicated that 2014 would be the third year, and that best practices in the accounting world are to rotate the auditing partner or get a new firm every five years.

**MOTION:** To approve Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman as the auditor for 2014. Carried (none opposed).

### 5. Reports of Council Subcommittees

#### A. Awards Ceremony

Council members discussed reactions to some of the changes made in the Awards Ceremony to speed things along. Some did not like the music, both the type of music used and the basic idea of a musical shutoff like that used for the Academy Awards. An alternative was suggested of having the presider walk to the podium when time limits are reached, but the idea met with little enthusiasm. It was noted that it can be problematic for both presenters and recipients to be on a huge stage with glaring lights, and it can take a little while to adjust. There was no doubt, however, that the President should not be put in the position of having to choose between cutting the Presidential Address short as it is delivered or causing the session to run longer than scheduled. Council affirmed support for keeping the musical cut off with the built-in delay of 30 seconds and re-evaluating its usage after next year’s ceremony.

#### B. Social Media Policies

The President reminded Council members about use of social media in Council meetings and referred them to the recently instated policy. During each Council meeting, it is the duty of the Secretary and
the Executive Officer to identify any issue(s) which have confidentiality concerns. Lareau also noted that the Final Program contained a disclaimer regarding privacy and social media use in sessions at the Annual Meeting.


President Lareau transferred the duty of chairing the meeting to Vice President Brian Powell so that she could present the task force report. Lareau recapped why she chose social media as her presidential initiative, which led to the appointment of a fairly large (20-person) task force last summer. The task force had its first meeting at the 2013 Annual Meeting in August, followed by meetings in February and again at this Annual Meeting. A number of subcommittees have been constituted to explore issues and develop strategies or recommendations.

The first subcommittee, headed by Doug Hartmann, is looking at sociological blogs and how best to promote these member activities. An idea to have a page on the ASA website to list blogs has yielded some concerns and raised awareness that decision-making regarding blogs is complicated. The subcommittee is expected to have a report at a later date.

Lareau paused in her task force report to note that Doug Hartmann is also a member of the Committee on Publications, and that committee has been in discussion about social media and ASA journals due to dissatisfaction expressed by some editors about the social media efforts by ASA and SAGE. The committee will be making a recommendation that ASA hire a full-time social media person to promote journals.

The second subcommittee of the Social Media Task Force was tasked with developing a white paper to help departments think through issues arising from inclusion and/or exclusion of social media activities on resumes. Subcommittee members include Arne Kalleberg, Michele Lamont, Jessie Daniels, and Phil Cohen.

The third subcommittee is focusing on outlining improvements for the Annual Meeting app. Input from members was collected via online and hard copy surveys during this year’s Annual Meeting, with the expectation of producing recommendations by October for consideration by the Executive Office and EOB. This timing permits appropriate vendor investigation to precede the year-end budget building for 2015. One clear issue is that the current app is a web-based app, not a mobile app. Council member Tina Fetner, who is chairing this subcommittee, invited all Council members to give their feedback; the online survey will remain open until mid-September.

The fourth subcommittee worked on developing materials about best practices for using social media. The documents created are currently available on the JustPublics site supported by New York University.

The fifth subcommittee is advising the Executive Office about changes to the ASA website. The aim is to refresh the look of the site and bring content of interest to members to the forefront. (Council allocated $10,000 for some interim updates to the website at its meeting in March.) Another goal is to improve the functionality of the website for users. This subcommittee is DC-based, with Bashir Mohamed serving as chair. Feedback from members is playing a strong role in developing recommendations for the Executive Office to consider.
In terms of the presidential initiative on social media, Lareau indicated there was an addition idea on which she was working: how to increase exponentially the number of sociology articles that get the attention of journalists. A big-tent approach is desired, one that includes non-ASA sources of articles. At issue is the “golden moment in time” after an article has been accepted and before it is published. Matt Wray (Temple University) is serving as co-chair of the task force, and he will be working with the task force on possible plans during the coming year.

At the conclusion of the task force report, Vice President Powell returned the chairmanship to President Lareau.

7. Committee on Awards

Council Member Amanda Lewis, chair of the Committee on Awards (COA), noted that the committee met twice during the Annual Meeting, first with heads of all the award selection committees, then by itself. Selection committees for two awards—excellence in reporting, and contributions to teaching—felt that there is misunderstanding about what each award is for, which affects the number of nominations. Both awards also require large dossiers of information, which is daunting to nominators. As one way to deal with insufficient nominations, the selection committees are asking that committee members be permitted to make nominations.

Questions were asked about the amount of material needed to support nominations for the two awards and whether nominations can be made online. The Excellence in Reporting Award requires a detailed nomination letter explaining why the individual should win the award, evidence supporting the claims made (or a detailed explanation of where the committee can easily find the supporting evidence), and 3-4 letters supporting the nomination. The Teaching Award asks that nominations include the name of the nominee, a 1-2 page statement explaining the basis of the nomination, a full CV, and 3-5 nomination letters.

Lewis commented that nominators for both awards are not delivering fully developed nominations, and the quantity of nominations is low. For the reporting award, motivation can be low to go through all the work necessary to support the nomination; it is not like members are honoring a well-known colleague. For the teaching award, the inherent problem is that faculty members often know very little about the teaching skills of those outside their own institutions.

Discussion waffled about the advisability of letting committee members make nominations for awards over which they have decision-making authority. There was also some disagreement about committee members asking colleagues to send in the desired nomination(s). A suggestion was made to deal with each award separately.

Motions were proposed to permit committee members to nominate candidates for awards, and to accept nominations without supporting materials. Council opted to act on the latter.

MOTION: The Selection Committee for the Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues Award may (1) accept nominations without supporting materials from members, and (2) help develop full nomination packets. Carried (16 yes, 1 – no).
Deliberations paused for Council to take a short break at 4:14 – 4:29pm.

Discussion resumed with a clarification that the Teaching Award is not given for being a good teacher, it is given to recognize developments in teaching on a national level. ASA staff indicated that an ad or announcement of the call for nominations could be included in the journal Teaching Sociology and posted in ChairLink, the electronic newsletter sent to all Department Affiliates.

**MOTION:** The Selection Committee for the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award may (1) accept nominations without supporting materials from members, and (2) help develop nomination portfolios collaboratively with nominators. Carried (15 yes, 2 – no).

There was consensus to defer action on letting committee members make nominations and see how the above changes affected nomination processes for these two awards in the next round.

The next item in the COA report was the matter of having an Honorable Mention designation for awards. It has been the understanding by ASA staff that Council had a long-standing policy that there should be only one winner for each award and that there are no “honorable mentions.” However, it has found that no such policy is recorded in the minutes of Council. Lewis reported that the COA stance was that it was not necessary to create a policy on this. Honorable Mentions are more appropriate for some awards than others, and decisions about this should left to the selection committees.

Acknowledging that time was short in this last Council meeting, Lewis mentioned two concerns with the Dissertation Award process—the issue of citing co-winners and the problem of the award being on a different calendar than all the other ASA awards. Past Vice President Jennifer Glass commented that being co-winner of an award is a different qualitative experience than being sole recipient. One co-winner indicated that it was rather a letdown; it did not feel like the award had actually been won. The COA did not want to mistake symptoms for causes, so it is moving to create guidelines for best practices by award selection committees, including strong advice about avoiding co-winners. These guidelines could also be given to sections to help with their award processes. The incoming COA chair, Council member Jane Sell, affirmed a commitment to have COA make progress on this task.

When the Dissertation Award was established, nominations were due in the same year the award was given. All other ASA award decisions are now made a year in advance. For the 2014 awards, for example, recipients for non-dissertation awards were determined when selection committees met in August 2013, whereas the recipient of the dissertation award was decided in the summer of 2014. The COA recommended that the dissertation award be moved onto the same calendar as the other ASA awards. Council members expressed no concerns about this recommendation.

**MOTION:** To move the Dissertation Award processes onto the same calendar as the other major ASA awards. Carried (none opposed).
8. Report of the Executive Officer

A. New SAGE Contract

In May/June 2014, the ASA Committee on Publications, EOB, and Council approved the negotiated financial terms for renewal of ASA’s major contract with SAGE to publish eight ASA journals. Hillsman reported that a five-year contract with SAGE had been signed. The Secretary expressed appreciation for the contract-negotiating skills of the Executive Office staff.

B. Preservation of 1990-2010 Editorial Office Records Update

At its March 2014 meeting, Council approved the Executive Office preparing a grant application to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to transform the stored paper records of ASA editorial offices from 1991 to 2010 into a researchable electronic data archive that would be made available to scholars for research. The proposal was submitted via Fastrack, NSF’s online application submission system, on Tuesday, July 22. If the proposal is fully funded, it should be possible to accomplish the project without using additional ASA resources (other than staff time). Hillsman expressed thanks to Roberta Spalter-Roth, who will be Co-PI on the grant, and the George Mason research center that will do a major portion of the work. At this time, the understanding is that a funding decision should be made sometime in December.

Council also encouraged members and other interested intellectuals to raise money to support digitization of the editorial records. The opportunity to contribute was announced in Footnotes and the monthly Member News & Notes, and a flyer was included in the Final Program packet. Over $20,000 has been raised so far; the deadline to complete the fundraising process is October 2015.

Past President Cecilia Ridgeway commended the work done on the proposal, pronouncing it first-rate and thoughtfully designed. The work will not only preserve coding content and make it searchable; it will create dummy files with anonymous keyword information on submissions where permission has not been granted to use the material. Serious thought was given about how to transform the records into a usable database.

C. Interfolio Update

In March, Council approved approaching Interfolio to create a partnership that would provide significant benefits for both individual ASA members as well as ASA Department Affiliates. The Executive Officer reported that consensus was reached on the terms of a five-year partnership agreement for access to Interfolio’s two major products: Dossier (for ASA members), and ByCommittee (for Department Affiliates). All ASA members will receive free access to the Dossier service, provided their membership is current in the year they want to use the service. ASA Department Affiliates will receive free access to the full version of ByCommittee to manage unlimited job applicant searches for their department. These provisions represent annual benefits of $19 to members and $500 to ASA Department Affiliates.

In exchange for provision of these services to ASA members and Department Affiliates, ASA will promote Interfolio in its membership and Department Affiliate materials and, by building in customized fields (at minimal cost) in the ASA Job Bank for departments using Interfolio, will encourage member users of the Job Bank to use Dossier for their job searches.
In response to questions about fees for students to apply for jobs, it was clarified that job seekers who are ASA members will be able to use Interfolio’s Dossier for free, unless they are applying to jobs that are not in Interfolio. There will be a $6 fee to apply for jobs that are outside Interfolio. Some Council members were not pleased about this fee, but ASA staff confirmed that Interfolio could not agree to waive the fee to send application materials to jobs that are not in its database.

D. Council Resolution on the MFP 40th Anniversary

Council was asked to recognize the achievement of the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) and the contributions to the discipline made by those the program has supported by issuing a resolution regarding the 40th Anniversary Year for the Minority Fellowship Program, as follows.

We, the Council of the American Sociological Association, congratulate the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), its current and past MFP awardees, mentors and staff, and other members of the MFP national community on the MFP’s 40th anniversary.

MFP has been a constant and integral part of both the ASA as a scholarly and professional society and of many institutions of higher education in diversifying the discipline of sociology over the past four decades. MFP alumni have distinguished themselves in research, scholarship, teaching, leadership, and advocacy across sociological communities in many sectors. Collectively and individually MFP alumni have contributed to the depth of the knowledge built by our discipline and its benefits to the communities we serve.

We look forward to supporting MFP in the years ahead and remain grateful for the partnership of sister sociology organizations as well as the generous contributions of many individual ASA members.

MOTION: To approve the resolution. Carried (none opposed).

Council was informed that Dr. Cora Marrett was stepping down as the Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation, and a resolution of appreciation was presented to acknowledge and honor Marrett’s service.

WHEREAS, Cora B. Marrett has served as Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) since 2011 with great distinction, protecting the integrity of the agency and retaining the trust of the scientific community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrett served as NSF Acting Director (June-October 2010 and March 2013-March 2014), Acting Deputy Director (January 2009-January 2011), and Senior Advisor with commitment and transparency, for which the science community and the nation is in her debt; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrett served as the first NSF Assistant Director of the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) from 1992 to 1996, earning NSF’s Distinguished Service Award for her groundbreaking leadership of the new directorate; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrett also served as NSF Assistant Director of the Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR) before 2009, leading NSF in enhancing U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels, in both informal and formal settings, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrett steadfastly worked to connect the natural sciences and engineering communities with the social sciences, raising awareness that each of the world’s greatest
scientific challenges, from global climate change to energy production and finding a cure for cancer, depend upon the seamless integration of the physical and social sciences, thereby enhancing the discipline of sociology within the NSF and the larger federal science community as well as in Executive Branch mission agencies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrett’s approach to management, applying her knowledge of academic governance and research infrastructure along with her wit, wisdom, and patience, has pushed NSF forward in the agency’s mission to explore the “frontiers of scientific knowledge”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrett’s unflagging support for NSF’s mission and the scientific and public value of the social sciences will be a lasting legacy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Council of the American Sociological Association gives its most sincere thanks to its colleague Cora B. Marrett for her outstanding service over many decades to our discipline of sociology, the social science community, and the National Science Foundation, and extends its best wishes to her as she begins the next stage in her distinguished career.

MOTION: To approve the resolution. Carried unanimously with acclamation.

E. ASA ORN Update

At its meeting in March 2014, Council approved a member-generated proposal to establish the ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network (ORN), a program focused on the needs and interests of sociologists at or near the retirement stage of their careers. The ASA ORN has now established a discussion listserv (with both the initial list of individuals interested in the initiative as well as all ASA emeritus/retired members having access) and published the first issue of ORNNotes, a semi-annual newsletter that will be e-mailed to all emeritus/retired members as well as eventually posted online for access by other interested individuals.

Membership Director Karen Gray Edwards reported that the ASA ORN had a good business meeting at this year’s Annual Meeting, and plans are underway for a paper session and workshop for next year’s program. The group is working on obtaining funding for a reception; TIAA-CREF has been identified as a possible sponsor.

F. First Generation College Sociologists Update

The ASA Research Department received IRB approval for the planned survey of ASA graduate students to explore the experiences of those who are the first in their families to attend college. The survey will launch after the close of the 2014 membership year, using the membership files from 2014 as the basis for selecting a sample. Hillsman indicated an intention to keep outgoing Council Member Monica Prasad informed on the progress and results of the survey, due to her special interest in and strong support of this project.

G. NSF Travel Grants to 2014 ISA Congress Update

ASA was awarded a block grant of $63,250 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in January 2014 in support of travel by U.S. sociologists to the 2014 World Congress of the International Sociological Association (ISA). Of this amount, $61,500 was expended for support of travel to the Congress, and $1,750 was allocated for administrative costs permitted under the program.
At the close of the competition on March 15th, 123 individuals had applied for travel support. The applicants were a diverse group, representing individuals from all career stages, types of institutions, and geographic locations across the nation. The Executive Officer reported that 47 applicants (or 38 percent of the applicant pool) received travel support awards.

Hillsman expressed gratitude to NSF for once again providing travel support for US scholars to attend the ISA meeting. American sociologists remain a strong influence in ISA; Michael Burawoy (UC-Berkeley) just completed a term as ISA president, and the incoming ISA president is Margaret Abraham (Hofstra University). The new ASA representative to the ISA is Bandana Purkayastha (University of Connecticut).

**H. Press Results from the 2014 Annual Meeting**

ASA Public Affairs and Public Information Director Brad Smith was pleased to report that this year’s Annual Meeting received the most press attention since his arrival at ASA in 2010, even though there were fewer reporters on-site. Both national and international news outlets featured articles about research presented at the meeting. Some universities also issued press releases about research being presented by their faculty. Smith recommended that Council members Google “American Sociological Association news” to see the extent of the coverage for the 2014 Annual Meeting.

**I. NSF Budget and Responses to Congressional Attacks Update**

Director Smith reported that the outlook for further action on NSF reauthorization legislation this year remained unknown. The FIRST Act had not yet received a vote by the full House, although a number of noncontroversial components of the bill were stripped out and passed as standalone bills earlier this month (*STEM Education Act* [H.R. 5031], *Research and Development Efficiency Act* [H.R. 5056], and *International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014* [H.R. 5029]). It is likely that nothing further will happen until after the election season this fall.

The update from the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is that the “Engage” package is now in use, which lets members know when grassroots support is needed to contact legislators. Council members were encouraged to sign up for the COSSA Washington Update to keep abreast of developments affecting social science funding.

**Adjournment**

Before adjourning, President Lareau thanked outgoing Council members David Brunsma, Amanda Lewis, Monica Prasad, and Laurel Smith-Doerr for their service. Past President Cecilia Ridgeway and Past Vice President Jennifer Glass were also rotating off Council, and appreciation was expressed for their wise judgment and efforts to lead the Association.

With thanks to all remaining Council members and the ASA staff in attendance, President Lareau adjourned the final meeting of the 2013-2014 ASA Council at 5:50 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2014.