The purpose of the section on sociology of the body and embodiment is to encourage and enhance theory, research, teaching, and other professional aspects in the study of sociology and body/embodiment. This section seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars in the interdisciplinary study of the body and embodiment, as well as with other sections of the ASA.* The aim of the Section on the Sociology of the Body and Embodiment is to support and encourage sociological scholarship on a wide range of embodied dynamics including human and non-human bodies, morphology, human reproduction, anatomy, body fluids, biotechnology, genetics; but also theories of embodiment, virtual bodies, productivity of bodies, changing bodies, life course and the body, body and spirit/soul, unequal bodies, micro and macro sociological analysis of the political, and social and individual bodies.

OFFICERS OF THE SECTION

The officers of the section shall include past, present and future Chairpersons, a Secretary-Treasurer, and seven-member Council, including a student representative. There shall be a Past Chair, Chair Elect, and Chair, all of which will serve for a period of three years: one year each as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair (for the 2010 year, the section-in-formation liaison can serve as Past Chair for the various Committee roles demanding the Past Chair’s participation). The Chair-Elect will automatically become Chair of the section in the year following her/his service as Chair-Elect. The Secretary-Treasurer will be elected for a term of three years.

The Chair-Elect will work with the Chair of the Section to ensure a smooth transition between Chairs. The Chair-Elect of the Section will also serve as chair of the Nominations Committee. The first time elections are conducted, the first Chair will become Chair-Elect and Chair (serving for a total of two years) while the cycle of Chair elections is completed. After the first year of elections, each new Chair-Elect will be in charge of the programming of the section’s panels, successfully completing his/her term at the ASA meetings where his/her conference programming is implemented.

The Chair of the section will preside at business meetings and council meetings, and ensure that the section's committees are staffed and aware of any relevant deadlines. Most importantly, the Chair is responsible for planning, submitting, and overseeing the section’s program for the Annual Meeting of the ASA, with the advice of Council. The Chair may also plan programs for special conferences, and approve disbursements on behalf of the section, with the consent of Council. In addition, the Chair will work with the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster to ensure effective communication with section members. Finally, outgoing chairs will submit an Annual Report of the section’s activities to the ASA.

The Past Chair is responsible for the Awards Committee, which shall be comprised of a total of three members, including the Past Chair.

* Work about bodies has been scattered among the Medical Sociology, Sexualities, Sex and Gender and Science, Knowledge, and Technology Sections (and most likely, Disabilities, in formation). This section brings together researchers across these fields and moves beyond a focus on the biological being, or gender and sexual identities, and places the body and embodiment at the center of sociological study and theorizing.
The Secretary-Treasurer will be elected every 3 years. The secretary-treasurer supplies minutes of meetings, collects and reports on financial statements, and communicates, along with the Chair, with the ASA offices for any matters related to awards.

There shall be a Council of six elected Members, each serving a three-year term, plus a seventh Council member, the graduate student representative. The student representative’s term will last one year. Three new Council Members will be elected each year: two three-year term Council members will be selected, as two seats are vacated, plus a yearly rotation of a graduate student. (Unless ratified by a majority of the Section’s membership, all three-year terms are to be occupied by Section members holding a Doctoral degree.) In the first election all seven Council seats will be filled by election; candidates will be given the choice of running for a 1-, 2- or 3-year commitment.

The Council will carry out all necessary operations for the section, acting as the representatives of the membership of the Section. Council members will also serve on one of three committees: Nominations, Awards (TBD), or the Publications committee (which oversees the newsletter, webpage, and listserv). Council Members are expected to attend regularly the annual Council and Business meetings.

The Council shall make decisions at its scheduled meetings by a majority vote of its attending members and between meetings by mail, e-mail, conference phone call or any similar method designed to allow all Council Members a chance to register their votes. An action to be made on behalf of the Section may be brought to the next Section Business Meeting for a vote by the request of three or more Council Members or a petition signed by 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members, whichever is less.

ELECTION/VOTING

The elections of the Section shall be carried out by e-ballots in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to its schedule (in past years, paper ballots were mailed, but those might be discontinued as these by-laws are ratified). In exception to this rule the first election will be held by e-mail ballot as soon as is feasible. Officers and Council elected in the first election will serve through the first year the Section is accepted into the Association.

Newly-elected officers shall assume office immediately after the adjournment of the Business Meeting of the Section at the Annual Meeting of the ASA. A simple majority of the members voting for Chair-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer shall determine the outcome, as it shall for all referenda or revisions of by-laws as may be submitted for vote. Otherwise, in the elections for seats on the Council, the two candidates having the largest number of votes shall be elected. In the case of a tie vote for any of the elected offices, the tie will be broken by a run-off vote.

COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise provided in these by-laws, all appointments to Committees shall be made by the Chair with the concurrence of the Council.

The Committee on Nominations shall consist of the Chair-Elect plus two additional members appointed by the Past-Chair. The Committee on Nominations each year shall solicit suggestions for nominations from the members; it shall name two candidates who are Section members in
good standing for each office to be filled. These candidates shall not be announced until they have consented to serve. The Committee on Nominations shall also submit to the Council the names of persons to be considered for appointment to the other regular committees.

There shall be a Program Committee consisting of at least three members appointed for one-year terms by the Program Committee Chair with the concurrence of the Council. The Chair of the Section shall serve as Chair of the Program Committee. Other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Program Committee Chair. The Program Committee shall develop sessions of interest to the Section at each annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in cooperation with the Program Committee of the Association. The Program Committee may also develop programs outside of this framework with the consent of the Council.

A Committee on Awards shall consist of at least three members appointed for one-year terms by the Award Committee Chair, with concurrence of the council. The Chair of the Award committee shall be the Section Past-Chair. The Committee on Awards will determine section awards and award process during the inaugural year. In following years the committee shall solicit nominations, evaluate, and confer awards according to policies established by the Section Council.

Other committees may be established by the Chair of the Section on an ad hoc basis, subject to approval by the Council.

AWARDS

A Committee on Awards shall be appointed during the first year of formal Section business. The Awards Committee is charged with assessing the work on awards provided by other Sections and establishing Section Awards policies and procedures. Awards to be considered include: a student paper competition, a rotating best book or best article, a junior scholar achievements award, and a lifetime achievement award.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Section on the Sociology of the Body and Embodiment is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of the membership. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended, and dropped from the rolls after two years.

DUES

Dues shall be set by the Council in accordance with the requirement of the American Sociological Association and in order to cover the costs of the section.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended through a favorable majority vote of those voting at a Business Meeting, provided this action is subsequently confirmed through a favorable majority vote of those voting by a mail ballot to the Section membership.