Minutes of the Second Meeting of the 2002-2003 ASA Council
Radisson Barcelo Hotel
Washington, DC
February 1-2, 2003

Council Members Present: Elijah Anderson (Immediate Past Vice President), William T. Bielby (President), Michael Burawoy (President-Elect), Esther Chow (At Large), Robert Crutchfield (At Large), Jennifer Glass (At Large), David Grusky (At Large), Arne Kalleberg (Secretary), Deborah King (At Large), Rhonda Levine (At Large), Victor Nee (At Large), Bernice Pescosolido (Vice President-Elect), Barbara Reskin (Immediate Past President), Barbara Rismann (At Large), Lynn Smith-Lovin (At Large), Ivan Szelnyi (Vice President), Pam Walters (At Large).

Council Members Absent: Linda Burton, Craig Calhoun.

Staff Present: Janet Astner, Les Briggs, Kevin Brown, Karen Edwards, Kareen Jenkins, Lee Herring, Sally Hillsman, Carla Howery, Michael Murphy, Jean Shin, Roberta Spalter-Roth.

1. Call to Order

President William Bielby called the meeting to order at 9:10 am on Saturday, February 1, 2003 at the Radisson Barcelo Hotel in Washington, DC.

A. Grutter v. Bollinger

Members of Council met informally the evening prior to the start of the meeting (Friday, January 31) for a discussion of the ASA amicus brief in the case of Grutter v. Bollinger. No actions were taken during the Friday evening session. On Sunday morning, however, Council took the following action in follow-up to their discussion on Friday evening.

Having seen and discussed the current draft of the amicus brief, and understanding the timing constraints in filing the brief with the U.S. Supreme Court, Council voted unanimously to authorize the amicus sub-committee (composed of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, and Secretary) to approve the final draft with the understanding that updated drafts will be sent to Council members.

B. Approval of Agenda

The agenda and background materials for the meeting were distributed approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. President Bielby reported that there was one new item to be added to the agenda under New Business (a proposal to create a task force to review ASA area of interest codes).

Council voted unanimously to accept the agenda as modified to include the additional item under New Business.

C. Minutes of August 20, 2002 Council Meeting

Minutes of the August 20, 2002 meeting of Council were circulated with other meeting materials approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. President Bielby asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the draft minutes. Hearing none,

Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2002 Council meeting.

2. Report of the President

A. Overview of Year

President Bielby reported that he was very much enjoying his term as President of the American Sociological Association. The 2003 Program Committee is hard at work structuring the upcoming Annual Meeting. The meeting is coming together well and should include a large number of sessions and activities of interest to attendees. Bielby reported the he and the other officers were very pleased with the Executive Office under the direction of Sally Hillsman.

B. Appointment of Liaisons to Other Organizations

In follow-up to an item introduced during the August meeting, Bielby reported that he had received and followed-up on suggestions for appointments of ASA members to serve as liaisons to other organizations. He proposed the following additional appointments: Cecilia Ridgeway as liaison to AAAS Section K (Social, Economic and Political Sciences), Karl Ulrich Mayer as liaison to the AAAS International Section, Barbara Schneider as the ASA liaison to AAAS Section Q (Education), Paul Roman to the Decade of Behavior, and Charles Hirschman to COPFAS.

Council voted to approve the proposed liaison appointments of President Bielby to outside organizations.

3. Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect Michael Burawoy announced that he and his program committee would be proposing to the Awards Committee a new award for the promotion of sociology in the media. In 1995, at the suggestion of Herb Gans, ASA introduced a new award for the Public Understanding of Sociology to be given to a sociologist who has been especially active and effective in disseminating sociological ideas to a wider audience. Burawoy will be proposing a new award to honor journalists (not professional sociologists who are covered by the Public Understanding award) for outstanding reporting of sociological findings and otherwise encouraging a better understanding of sociology. The Committee on Awards will review this proposal at their next meeting in August. If the Committee on Awards accepts the proposal, it will be forwarded to the Council meeting at the end of the Annual Meeting in August for consideration and action.

4. Report of the Secretary

Secretary Arne Kalleberg reported that the state of the Association is strong. He noted that the transition in senior staff leadership had gone seamlessly, and thanked Felice Levine for her commitment to making the transition smooth. He reported that he and the other officers found it a real pleasure to work with the staff of the Executive Office.

A. Review of 2002 Membership

The 2002 membership year ended with a final count of 12,666 members, which was an increase of 298 members over the 2001 end of year total of 12,368 (2.41% increase). In 2002, the association saw growth in the regular, student, and emeritus categories, which offset losses in the associate category. This was the first time in four years that membership has not declined.

Prior year member renewal rates, however, are significantly below that of recent years. Of the 12,368 members in 2001, 77.7% renewed their membership for 2002, which is significantly below the 2001 retention rate of 82.48%. The non-renewal rate for 2001 members who were not journal subscribers was substantially responsible for this difference, reflecting an expected impact of the decoupling of dues and journal subscriptions in 2002. While the number of non-renewers was therefore high in 2002, it was offset by the return of lapsed members and the addition of new members.

The Executive Office is launching a major proactive membership outreach program in 2003. Part of that effort will involve learning more about who the non-renewing people are, which will strengthen our outreach efforts and our ability to craft services to keep them involved and committed to the association.

B. Review of 2002 Section Membership

Section memberships at the end of 2002 were 19,855, the highest section membership count ever achieved. The 2002 count was 1,078 members higher than the 2001 count of 18,777 (5.74% increase). These 19,855 section memberships were held by 8,333 members, which means that 65.8% of ASA members hold one or more section memberships; members who participated in sections held, on average, 2.38 section memberships.

Several sections have experienced very positive membership trends in recent years, including Teaching and Learning, which increased 19.79% from 2001 to 2002, Alcohol and Drugs, which increased 15.71% from 2001 to 2002, and Economic Sociology, which increased 15.03% from 2001 to 2002. That the same time, however, several sections are in trouble numerically. At the end of 2002, ten sections fell below the 300-member minimum required of all sections. Three of those sections experienced a dramatic decline from 2001 to 2002, including History of Sociology (15.9%), Rationality (14%), and Computers (26%). Council asked the Committee on Sections to monitor this situation and return to Council with any follow-up recommendations.

C. ASA Travel Policy

Airline policies regarding travel cancellation and change have changed considerably over the last year, with the airlines making it more difficult to change tickets without incurring additional costs and to obtain refunds for unused tickets. ASA has previously operated a centralized booking system with ASA purchasing travel tickets for members attending Committee, task force or related ASA meetings. Kalleberg reported that with the recent airline...
policy changes it now appears reasonable to consider changing the travel policy to have individuals purchase their own tickets and seek ASA reimbursement within pre-set guidelines. Janet Astner presented a written proposal for modifying the ASA Travel Policy that should alleviate some of the pressure on Association funds from cancellations. Council members asked detailed questions about the current practice versus the proposed policy noting that there are pros and cons to both. Astner assured members that the Executive Office is highly sensitive to the fact that members coming to meetings are volunteers, and that the Office would consider exceptions to the policy guidelines on a case-by-case basis to assure that no one was unfairly penalized for situations beyond their control. Council voted to adopt on a trial basis for one year (1) the proposed travel policy change to self-booking travel arrangements for ASA meetings in 2003, and (2) the proposed “Travel Policies for Self-Booking” with the understanding that maximum costs by region will be reviewed periodically and adjusted if necessary for specific meetings. (16 in favor, 2 opposed)

D. Free Section Membership for Students

Currently students pay a discounted rate of $5 to purchase a membership in a section. A suggestion was made at the Council meeting on August 20, 2002, that we should consider providing one free section membership for all new student members to encourage student participation in sections. Executive Office staff performed an analysis that examined revenue impact, costs to the Association to “re-tool” membership systems to accommodate this change, benefits of offering free memberships, and alternative approaches. In the end it appeared that the costs of this proposal were not matched by the outcomes that could be realized and an emphasis on alternatives was more effective. Rather than enact a new policy, it was agreed that a more effective approach would be to help sections strengthen their own recruitment and retention efforts by reviewing what sections are doing and publicizing the best of those efforts as models for other sections, and for the Executive Office to consider discounts for selected ASA publications for new student members.

Council voted to not offer free section memberships to new student members.

5. Report of the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman presented a report on operations and activities of the Executive Office. There was vigorous discussion as well.

A. Overview of the Year

Hillsman echoed Secretary Kalleberg’s comments earlier that the transition had proceeded smoothly. She thanked the officers and other Council members for their support and assistance over the last nine months.

B. Executive Office Staffing Realignment

Several changes have been made in Executive Office staffing to realign staff in more functional ways. Karen Edwards will now serve as Director of Publications and Membership, which will allow greater coordination of marketing efforts. Janet Astner will now serve as Director of Meetings Services and Operations, which will provide experienced oversight of Executive Office operations.

To relieve more senior staff of some tasks allowing them more time for their new responsibilities, two new middle level management positions have been created, a Meetings Coordinator and a Production Manager. In addition, a Customer Service Manager has been hired to manage member contact, fulfillment of orders, and response to questions. These two moves will free senior staff from some day-to-day administrative details and will allow them more time for executive level planning, development of outreach efforts, and re-engineering of business practices.

Recently a Research Associate has been added to the Executive Office replacing the former Post Doctoral researcher position. This person is a more experienced researcher who will be an asset to the department. In the Governance area a full time assistant will soon be appointed. This will allow the Director of ASA’s Governance activities to also take on the responsibility of ASA Archivist, and the work with Penn State to ensure the careful preservation of the Association’s historical records.

C. Contexts

When Contexts was launched in 2002, it was started with great expectations but also great risk — publishing ventures are among the more risky and costly business ventures. Contexts has exceeded expectations in response, subscriptions, and cost effectiveness. The Executive Office recently learned that Contexts has been named the best journal in the social sciences by the Association of American Publishers’ Professional and Scholarly Division annual awards competition. An award ceremony will be held next week in Washington, DC.

D. Member Contributions and Donations

Although there has not been a concerted effort in recent years to attract member contributions, 644 members made 907 contributions to six different ASA special funds in 2002. Contributions totaling $21,205 went to the American Sociological Fund ($4,201), Congressional Fellowship Fund ($546), Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline ($2,723), Minority Fellowship Program ($11,895), Soft Currency Fund ($739), and Teaching Enhancement Fund ($1,551). These funds are critical to supporting MFPfellows, providing matching funds for ASA programs, and assisting members from outside the U.S. For more information about the contributions, see the annual report on the Association website.

E. Human Subjects of Research Update

Council received a written update on Human Research Protection from former Executive Officer Felice Levine. Until last August, when the Bush Administration allowed it to expire, Levine had served on the National Human Research Protections Advisory Committee (NHRPAC). A NHRPAC sub-committee on behavioral and the social sciences, however, will continue to function with funding from HHS. That sub-committee will provide resources for a training workshop in the spring, which will bring together people from IRBs that are friendly to the social sciences in an effort to start developing standards and best practices outlines to help universities deal with IRBs and social science issues. The sub-committee has no official standing, so its effectiveness will be based on the quality of work it produces. Social and behavioral scientists will continue to have a voice in other arenas through the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP), which is continuing to work with research institutions on a voluntary basis to improve the IRB oversight system. Members of Council requested more information on AAHRPP and their activities, noting that this is a big issue for members since many universities require all research to be reviewed by IRBs.

The issue of a Researcher’s Bill of Rights was raised at the Business Meeting last August and was discussed by Council later that day. Members asked if recent developments in this arena had been shared with the member who raised the issue in August. Hillsman reported that she had spoken with the member to update him on Council’s actions on this issue.

6. Information Technology

Director of Information Technology and Services, Kevin Brown, provided Council with an update on ASA’s information technology abilities and plans.

A. Change in Approach to Systems

In many ways, ASA has been ahead of the technology curve in the early 1990’s by developing and using new technology before other Associations have. Many vendors are now offering systems and services similar to those created in earlier years. ASA is beginning to make the move to utilizing existing services rather than developing and maintaining its own systems. For example, ASA is utilizing the services of All Academic for paper submission session organizing, and abstract services for the 2003 Annual Meeting, a process that was previously handled with a “home grown” system.

The Executive Office is working with new and existing vendors to move them to a more formal relationship with detailed contracts, expectations, and deliverables. For some time ASA has been utilizing a powerful document management system to centralize documents and make them available to all users. The ASA system, however, is several versions behind the currently available software. ASA will be upgrading to the newer software sometime in 2003. In addition, upgrades to the Microsoft Office suite of software will be rolled out to users during 2003.

B. Long-Range Planning

Executive Officer Hillsman added that she has asked Brown for a long-range development plan in the technology area. Technology is very important to the association providing efficient services, Kevin Brown, provided Council with an update on ASA’s information technology abilities and plans.

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C. Web Users Group

In response to a request from Council, in November 2002, a web users group was created in November. Eleven ASA members with different backgrounds and levels of expertise were
recruited to participate; the group met initially by conference call in mid-November. The goal of the group is to provide feedback regarding the ASA web site. The users group will focus on such items as online services, functionality, web content, and the look and “feel” of the site. As their first task, members of the users group tested and provided feedback on the 2003 online membership renewal process. The group will test other applications as they become available (e.g., electronic elections).

7. Annual Meeting
Janet Astner, Director of Meeting Services and Operations, provided Council with a report on the 2002 Annual Meeting, as well as issues related to future meetings.

A. Security Issues at 2002 Meeting
Following the 2002 Annual Meeting in Chicago, the Executive Office learned by way of a listserv of some pickpocket incidents and theft of personal items that occurred during the meeting. The Office investigated those situations and reviewed with the hotel why there was a breakdown in reporting those incidences to the Association during the meeting. Meeting Services staff have also met at length about security issues with the Atlanta hotels, the Atlanta police, and business area security personnel in preparation for the 2003 Annual Meeting. Astner reported that the security arrangements appear very satisfactory both in the hotels and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Council noted while security is always a concern at meetings, hotels are public spaces with meeting as well as non-meeting people in the crowds. Council agreed ASA should circulate to all meeting attendees a safety pamphlet for each city in which ASA meets in an effort to increase attendees’ consciousness about personal security.

B. Site Selection for 2006 Annual Meeting
An extensive written report on site selection for future annual meetings was provided to Council members. This report outlined existing association policy on site selection, an historical summary of meeting locations and participation, and a review of options available for the 2006 meeting.

Council reviewed the pros and cons of several possible hosts for the 2006 Annual Meeting, including Dallas, Toronto, Nashville, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York City, and Boston. Council discussed the various factors involved, including which city would be the most popular with members, cost of hotel rooms, availability and accessibility of meeting space, date options, ease of airline access, climate, among others. Following an extensive discussion,

Council voted to approve New York City as the first choice for the 2006 ASA Annual Meeting, with Boston as the second choice.

A. ASA Investments

Secretary Kalleberg provided an extensive written report on ASA’s long-term investments.

A. ASA Investments
The U.S. and international stock markets have not done well over the last three years. Consequently, stock funds are down from where they were three or more years ago. ASA is no exception. The six funds that ASA owns had a total value of $6.1 million at the end of 2002. The ASA has a balanced approach to investing (e.g., each fund has a target allocation between stocks, bonds, and cash based on the fund’s purpose).

In 2002, ASA investments declined 10.5% in value from a year earlier. Kalleberg reported that EOB discussed ASA’s relationship with Fiduciary, ASA’s financial advisor, but agreed that this was not a good time to make a major change in course. Stock markets have historically seen both increases and decreases, increasing on average over the long-term. The early 1990’s were a time of great growth in markets, but the late 1990’s and early years of the new decade have been a time of decline. Since their inception, all ASA funds have grown on average 8-10%, including recent losses. Council agreed with EOB to stay the course and make no significant change in investments at this time.

B. Review of Rose Fund Performance and Income Projections
The Rose Fund has had substantial income demands placed upon it in the last two years, due to the launching Contexts in 2002. ASA’s financial adviser has notified ASA that with the current balance and allocation of funds, the fund is at risk of not being able to meet cash demands at the end of the seven-year period Council committed to Contexts. Currently the fund has 43% of its funds in stocks. The financial advisor recommended increasing the stock portion of the fund to 55% because bonds will no longer provide the high rates of return they have been experiencing in the past two years. Additional investments in stocks could provide greater fund value if the market increases in 2003.
Members of Council considered the financial adviser’s recommendation but expressed reservations about the riskiness of the move. EOB will continue to work with Fiduciary on the investment allocation for this fund during 2003. Since its inception, the Rose Fund investments have returned 9.76% annually on average. Council agreed that if the Rose Fund were not able to produce enough income to support the Rose series as well as Contexts, the Association would have to seek other assets to support Contexts, leaving the Rose Fund to support the Rose series. Earlier Council action called for an EOB and Council review of Contexts in 2004.

Investment performance might change in that time frame, but Council agreed that since Contexts had not even been in production for one year yet, it was hard to determine trends and make any projections.

Arne Kalleberg briefed members of Council on the status of ASA publications.

A. Journal Subscriptions
Institutional subscriptions are a major revenue source for the ASA. In 2002, ASA experienced a 3.2% decline in institutional subscriptions. While the decrease causes concern, it is lower than the 5-10% decrease reported by other associations and scholarly publishers, and lower than the decrease experienced from 2000 to 2001. Kalleberg noted that the problem is not a decline in the number of institutions purchasing subscriptions to ASA journals, but is instead a decline in the number of copies those institutions are purchasing.

Non-member subscriptions declined approximately 3% in 2002 from 461 to 334, but given the small base this issue is of less concern. Also, EOB believes that it is possible that some of this decline may be attributable to non-members becoming members in 2002.

Overall, the 12,666 ASA members purchased a total of 18,341 subscriptions in 2002, or an average of 1,448 journals per member.

The cost of editorial office support for the American Sociological Review (ASR) has increased over time yet, it was hard to determine trends and make any projections.

B. Proposal for Online Journal Publications
Members of Council were in general agreement that ASA journals needed to be available online.

Three primary options for achieving this goal were discussed: moving the six ASA self-published journals online in the same searchable database. Costs for the first year with Ingenta are a flat fee of $36,000, with subsequent years costing $22,000.

While the proposal was not without risk, there was an overwhelming agreement by Council that the time was upon us for ASA journals to move online. Council agreed that since there was strong intellectual rationale for making the move in addition to the financial considerations.

Council voted unanimously to (1) proceed with a contract with Ingenta for online journals beginning in 2004; (2) approve inclusion of online access with the purchase of all print subscriptions; (3) approve enhanced online/print product at no additional cost to ASA members; and (4) approve the modest increases in non-member institutional subscription rates ($10 increase per subscription) and institutional subscription rates ($20 increase per subscription) in 2004.

C. Window with JSTOR
Lynn Smith-Lovin commented that ASA, at 5years, has a longer window with JSTOR than some other journals. Other associations and publishers have 2-year windows or shorter, with some working with only one issue window.

Members debated the virtues of various possible windows, ultimately deciding to shorten the current 5-year window to a 2-year window in light of ASA’s intention to go online with all ASA journals in 2004.

Council voted unanimously to adjust JSTOR from a 5-year window to a 2-year window.

D. ASR Editorial Office
The cost of editorial office support for the American Sociological Review (ASR) has increased over time yet, it was hard to determine trends and make any projections.

This unique arrangement has had two cost consequences over time. Despite the cost-neutral intent, the incorporation of typesetting into the editorial office structure of ASR has resulted in expanding editorial office staff and costs. With 2003 being a year in which there will be a change in ASR editor and a move of the editorial office from Madison, the Executive Office considered future possibilities for ASR editorial support.

After a careful analysis of the options and costs of each possibility, the best option was to move all editorial office tasks to the incoming editor starting in 2004 and to return the typesetting functions to the ASA Executive Office. This brings ASR editorial and production functions into the same configuration of all other ASA journals.

Council voted to direct the Executive Office to work with the outgoing ASR editor and managing editor to prepare a revised budget that assumes the return of typesetting to the ASA Executive Office and moves all editorial office tasks to the incoming editor’s office by January 1, 2004, with a phasing out of the Wisconsin office in its entirety.

E. Request for Additional Pages for Sociology of Education
The incoming editor of Sociology of Education submitted a request to the Committee on Publications for a one-time allocation of an additional 60 pages to handle the backlog of articles in the production queue. The Committee on Publications reviewed this request and voted to approve 30 additional pages for the journal in 2003.

Council voted unanimously to approve an additional allocation of 30 pages for Sociology of Education in 2003 at a cost of $3,120.

F. Report of Council Sub-Committee on Electronic Publication
Last October Bill Bielby, following ASA Council’s vote, formed a subcommittee composed of Bob Crutchfield, Bernice Pesкосoldo, Arne Kalleberg, and Carol Heimer to look at a variety of questions about electronic dissemination of intellectual material. Among the issues to be investigated: prevalence of posting of ASA copyright material on individual websites; how such posting might affect both access to scholarly work and ASA income streams; difficulties that might be created about the integrity of intellectual material; and issues related to JSTOR and other arrangements that ASA enters into that create electronic access to ASA journals. The initial meeting of the sub-committee was held on December 14.

The sub-committee reviewed the existing 1997 ASA policy statement on this subject as well as e-mail from Barrie Thorne about whether publication in online working paper series should be considered “publication” thereby making a paper ineligible for submission to an ASA journal.

Council was sympathetic to Thorne’s concern — centers and departments strongly urge posting of papers, including in electronic paper series, and it would not be reasonable to prohibit ASA publication of those papers. ASA’s current policy would not re-
ward these working papers as prior publication if they are removed from the website as soon as they are accepted for publication by an ASA journal.

Recognizing that they did not have much information about what people are actually doing (e.g., if a journal gives authors a PDF file of the publication, do people tend to circulate the file? what kinds of pressures do people face to post or circulate materials which are in the process of being published? what are other issues of concern to our members?), the sub-committee thought it wise to have an open discussion of the issues among the membership before recommending any alteration of policy.

The main decision was to organize an open session at the 2003 ASA annual meeting on the issues of electronic publication with a format much like the open forum held by the Task Force on Journal Diversity several years ago.

The sub-committee envisions a series of short presentations to discuss ASA policies, practical concerns such as pressures from other institutions to post material, how ASA’s situation fits in the more general context of intellectual property law, and the perennial tension between wide distribution of intellectual material and creation of important public goods (journals) supported by the income stream associated with ownership rights to this intellectual material. About half of the time would be allocated for these presentations, half for open discussion.

The sub-committee suggested that it continue in operation for a while as a recipient of information and a forum to discuss these important issues.

G. Contexts

Last August Council requested an analysis of the impact of Contexts on the other ASA journals. Executive Office staff reported that Contexts has done very well in its first year of publication. However, ASA member Contexts subscribers this year were more likely than subscribers to other ASA journals to drop a journal and were less likely to purchase additional journal subscriptions. This is likely to be a phenomenon of Contexts’ initial year. Nevertheless, the Executive Office and the Publications Committee will carefully monitor the performance of Contexts and the other ASA journals and will provide regular updates to EOB and Council.

As discussed earlier in the Secretary’s report, Council is very pleased with the initial success of Contexts. Members of Council recognize that this success if due to the hard work of a number of individuals, especially Claude Fischer. To recognize his effort, Council adopted the following resolution for publication in Footnotes:

“The ASA Council congratulates Claude Fischer for the successful launch of Contexts and for the recognition it has received, within the discipline and without. Claude has shown extraordinary vision, leadership, dedication and sociological insight, and we deeply appreciate his efforts.”

Council also wished to formally record its recognition of the major contributions of former Executive Officer Felice Levine to the concept and development of Contexts.

Council voted unanimously to record in the minutes of this meeting its appreciation of former Executive Officer Felice J. Levine for her vision and leadership in the successful launch of Contexts as an important vehicle to convey the uses and contributions of sociology within the discipline and beyond.

10. Committee on Publications

A. Cost of ASA Journals to Members

At its August 19, 2002 meeting, ASA Council asked that the Committee on Publications review current member subscription rates with particular attention to whether those rates adhere to the long-term policy of providing journals at cost to members. Council also raised the question of whether economies of scale are such that $35 costs less to produce than other ASA journals, even though it publishes more issues each year than quarterly journals and has an annual page allocation of twice that of most ASA quarters.

Executive Office staff prepared an analysis of this issue, which included examination of expenses and per-subscriber costs for ASA journals for the 2001 volume year (the last year for which there is complete information). This eliminates the possibility that factors unrelated to subscriber totals that change over time and across journals (e.g., more financially supportive institutions hosting editorial offices) can have a significant but temporary effect on a particular journal’s cost per subscriber.

Karen Edwards reported that ASA quarters vary from $25.08 (Teaching Sociology) to $34.21 (Sociology of Education). This variance shows that neither the number of subscribers nor the average number of pages printed per volume year has a pure correlation to per-subscriber cost. While TS prints the fewest copies, it also has the largest annual page allocation of any ASA quarterly. SOE, on the other hand, with the highest per-subscriber cost, has the lowest page allocation (at 350 per year). The average per-subscriber cost for the quarterlies is $30.69, quite close to the annual subscription rate to members ($30).

ASA’s bi-monthly journals, American Sociological Review and Contemporary Sociology, have per-subscriber costs of $32.07 and $35.10, respectively. This is an average of $33.58 per-subscriber, or about $1.50 less than the $35 member subscription rate for each. While AR publishes two more issues per year and more than twice as many pages than any ASA quarterly (except for TS), it is nonetheless less expensive per subscriber than two of the quarterlies.

The Committee on Publications reported to Council that there was no significant variance in the per-issue cost of journals and that the current practice of pricing types of journals at the same rate is appropriate and correct. A member subscription structure that ties rates to specific journals (as opposed to specific types of journals) is not recommended because of the effects of single-year factors on per-subscriber rates. Members of Council reviewed this report considering several possible changes. However, it was agreed that with the pending change in three editors, the launch of online journals and the lack of long-term Contexts data, it was best to monitor this issue in the future rather than make any changes at this time.

B. Selection of Editors for Journals

Council met in Executive Session on Saturday afternoon and again briefly on Sunday morning to select editors for Teaching Sociology, American Sociological Review, and Social Psychology Quarterly. No actions were reported out of those sessions pending discussions with candidates.

11. Sections

A. Interest Groups Proposal

In follow-up to an item briefly discussed at the August 20, 2002 Council meeting, Executive Office staff reviewed a proposal to establish interest groups as an alternative to small sections. The costs of several technical issues related to implementation of the idea were assessed, but there were also several policy questions that needed Council clarification before the implementation issue could be examined. The original Committee on Sections concept suggested that interest groups could be established upon securing 100 member signatures, and would have one session at the Annual Meeting, but would otherwise not receive any of the services that sections receive (e.g., no elections, newsletters, listservs, rates, dues).

Members of Council were initially divided on the issue of interest groups with some seeing it as a mechanism to stop the proliferation of sections and a way to discontinue small sections, and others seeing this suggestion as an added layer of organizational complexity and possibly, intellectual fragmentation. Given the many options members already have to participate in the program at the Annual Meeting, and with procedures already in place for discontinuing small sections, Council opted not to move forward with the interest group proposal.

Council voted against moving forward with an interest group structure within ASA. (8 in favor 2, opposed, 3 abstentions)

B. Three-Year Moving Average for Section Allocations

At the August 20, 2002 meeting of Section Chairs with the Committee on Sections, the suggestion was made that ASA consider a three-year moving average rather than an annual count of section membership to determine section allocations. At Council’s request, Executive Office staff analyzed this proposal and how it would impact each section in terms of session and financial allocations. Under a three-year moving average system, sections that are growing would be penalized. Council agreed that a three-year average was an appealing concept, but felt that penalizing growing sections was wrong. Following discussion, Council decided on a compromise approach.

Council voted to adopt a three-year moving average beginning with 2004 to determine section session and financial allocations, with the provision that no section will be disadvantaged by the loss of sessions or budget allocations for a period of three years. (9 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention)

12. Bylaws Amendments

In follow-up to a request from Council at the August 20, 2002 meeting, Executive Office staff
conferred with ASA Legal Counsel on Bylaws amendments to clarify election procedures. At the same time, a list of inconsistencies or other technical problems were identified and provided to Legal Counsel for review and recommended amendments.

A. Formal Council Actions Between Meetings

There is conflict between the ASA Constitution Article IV, Section 5 and Bylaws Article III, Section 6, and both are in conflict with the District of Columbia Code which ASA operates under as a corporation. The ASA Constitution permits questions to be submitted to Council by mail only and the Bylaws permit any means to be used. The Constitution does not indicate how a decision is made, and the Bylaws require a majority of a quorum.

Legal Counsel advised that DC statutes require either unanimous written consent of Council (although the question can be delivered via any means including email) or a teleconference call in which members can hear one another and a vote can be taken in the same manner as if the meeting was in person. Counsel is re-searching whether an email reply to a question constitutes “written consent.” However, even so, the vote must be unanimous for it to be an official action.

Legal Counsel proposed three amendments to the current Bylaws language to address this issue. These would allow Council to receive notification of a question by any means (including email) but require a unanimous vote that must be in writing (whether this includes an email reply is to be determined), or a teleconference call requiring majority vote of a quorum.

Council voted to submit to the membership changes in the Bylaws suggested by ASA’s Legal Counsel to permit Council action between face-to-face meetings either by teleconference or by unanimous written vote after requests for actions are submitted by mail, electronic mail, fax or by other means.

B. Nominations of Members to Award Selection Committees

There are inconsistencies between Sections 7(a) and 8(a) of Article V of the Bylaws regarding who provides Council with the nominations for the Awards Selection Committees. Council voted to re-establish the Committee on Committees effective 2002 and the Bylaws were changed accordingly. With this change, responsibility for making recommendations of members to serve on the ASA Awards Selection Committees shifted to the Committee on Committees. However, Bylaws Article V Section 7(a) was never changed and it still gives this responsibility to the Committee on Awards.

Another consistent regarding nominations for the Awards Committee. With the reinstatement of the Committee on Committees, responsibility for nominating members to serve on the Awards Committee shifted from the President to the Committee on Committees. Bylaws Article V Section 7(b) needs to be amended to use the word “President” and replace it with “Committee on Committees”.

Council voted to submit to the membership changes in the Bylaws suggested by ASA’s Legal Counsel and the Executive Office to ensure the Committee on Committees provides the nominations to Council for the membership of all Award Selection Committees and the Committee on Awards.

C. Method of Annual Election

At the August 20, 2002 meeting, Council voted to allow members to vote for officers on the Bylaws by electronic means as well as by paper ballot in the 2003 election. Council also asked Legal Counsel to propose amendments to the Bylaws to make the method of voting more flexible. Because the means of communication are constantly changing, Council felt it was not wise to have one specific method of voting specified in the Bylaws. Legal Counsel reviewed this request and proposed ten technical amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, removing all references to “mail ballot” and “by mail” for all membership votes, and giving the Executive Office authority to determine the procedures to be followed in conducting elections and other ballot measures, provided that such procedures protect the privacy of members and ensure an accurate and fair count. Council substituted the word “Council” in place of “Executive Office” but otherwise accepted Legal Counsel’s recommendation.

Council voted to submit to the membership changes in the Bylaws suggested by ASA’s Legal Counsel to remove all references to a specific method of membership voting (mailed ballots) and give Council the authority to determine the procedures to be followed provided that such procedures protect the privacy of members and ensure an accurate and fair count.

D. When the President-Elect Assumes the Presidency

ASA Bylaws (Article II, Section 1) state that the incoming officers assume office “one day prior to the date announced for the close of the Annual Meeting.” Under the old five-day meeting schedule, this allowed the outgoing President to preside at the Annual Business meeting and pass the gavel to the incoming President at that time. However, the move to a four-day Annual Meeting meant that the Business Meeting now occurs on the last day of the meeting. Legal Counsel proposed an amendment to change the term of office to begin on the last date of the Annual Meeting.

Council voted to submit to the membership changes in the Bylaws suggested by ASA’s Legal Counsel to change the term of office for officers on the last day of the Annual Meeting in the year during which they are elected.

E. Clarification of Emeritus Membership Status

When and Council and the membership voted to re-instate the Emeritus membership category in 1999, the following language was added to the Bylaws in Article I, Section 1: “Persons are eligible for Emeritus membership at retirement from their primary employment as sociologists, providing that they have been members of the Association for at least ten years.” At this meeting, Council considered amending this language to require individuals to have been members for at least ten consecutive years to be eligible for emeritus status.

The Executive Office asked Council to consider another more substantive change in the criteria for Emeritus Status. Currently, anyone who has been a member for ten years in any membership category can move into emeritus status at retirement with its current $37 annual dues and no journal purchase requirement. The Emeritus membership category is currently growing, and Associate Members are moving in increasing numbers into the emeritus category.

Council debated amending the current language to make Emeritus status a reward for long-term membership as full voting members of the association. Members of Council considered the proposed amendment and the possible impact on each group of members. Council rejected the concept of ten consecutive years and accepted the concept of full voting members as criteria for emeritus status.

Council unanimously voted to submit to the membership changes in the Bylaws suggested by ASA’s Legal Counsel to make persons eligible for emeritus membership at retirement from their primary employment as sociologists, providing that they have been full voting members of the Association for at least ten years.

F. Publication of Annual Financial Audit

Each year an extensive report of the Association’s financial audit is printed in Footnotes to inform the membership on the financial status of the organization. Legal Counsel recommended that Bylaws should be general and not restrict an association to only one particular method of communication (e.g., in this case the Bylaws specifically direct that audits be published in Footnotes). Since the current Bylaws were adopted, electronic media have developed and become a viable alternative to print publication for communicating with the membership.

Legal Counsel provided language for the Bylaws that would permit distribution of this financial information by any means deemed appropriate or necessary by Council. For example, with this change in the Bylaws, the Executive Office could request Council’s agreement to placing the full audit report on the ASA website, while having a briefer summary in Footnotes and referencing the website. Legal Counsel also suggested a parallel change in Article II Section 8(e) regarding the method of reporting Members’ Resolutions.

Council voted to submit to the membership changes in the Bylaws suggested by ASA’s Legal Counsel to make the report of the audit, and the reporting of members’ resolutions, available in an appropriate Association publication or by other means as deemed necessary by the Council.

G. Publication of Council Meeting Minutes

It is vitally important for members of ASA to have access to information on the discussions, decisions and priorities of Council. To that end, minutes of Council meetings have been published for members to review for most of the life of the organization, first in ASR, then in The
American Sociologist, and most recently in Footnotes since its inauguration in 1972. Council discussed whether print distribution of Council minutes is the most effective way to convey this information to members. Print distribution of Council minutes is cumbersome, overwhelming to most people at first glance, and increasingly expensive.

Legal Counsel indicated that the current Bylaws (Article III, Section 5(e)) permit ASA Council Minutes to be published in Footnotes in their entirety, as is done now, placed on ASA’s website, or “by other means as deemed necessary by the Council” to fulfill the Bylaws requirement that “(a)ll actions take by the Council...be communicated to the membership promptly...”

A trial was launched recently to make minutes of several recent Council meetings available online at http://www.asanet.org/governance/minutes.html for member review. Members of Council were unanimous in supporting the proposal that full Council minutes should be available on the ASA website and that a summary of each Council meeting should be published in Footnotes to provide highlights of the meeting major decisions, directing members to the website for the full text of the meeting minutes.

Council voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Office to place of copy of the full, approved Minutes of Council meetings on the ASA website, and to place a summary of selected actions and discussions in Footnotes.

13. Review of 2002 Finances

Secretary Kalleberg, chair of the Executive Office and Budget Committee, reported that the association was projected to end 2002 with a $118,000 deficit. While 2002 was originally planned to have a balanced budget, there have been several unexpected challenges. First, revenues have been down, primarily due to the declining number of institutional subscriptions. Second, expenses were up due to filling all existing, authorized staff positions and to overlap in personnel during the Executive Officer transition. Also, audio-visual services at the annual meeting were significantly more expensive than originally projected.

Kalleberg reported that EOB will monitor the situation in 2003 to determine if there are structural issues with the Association’s budget that need to be addressed. He added that if the only way to produce a balanced budget is to operate the Association at less than full staff and reduce member services, then this may signal the presence of a structural issue that requires attention. One solution to such a structural problem may be to generate additional revenue.

14. Proposed Budget for 2003

Secretary Kalleberg, joined by Comptroller Les Briggs and Executive Officer Sally Hillsman, presented the proposed 2003 budget as reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Office and Budget committee.

A. Operating Budget

Executive Office staff originally presented EOB with a balanced budget proposal for 2003. EOB, however, decided to take a more conservative approach regarding revenue projections and expenses and to recommend to Council a budget with a deficit of $76,015 (1.71%). EOB has assumed that membership will hold constant. While there are plans to launch a membership marketing campaign, there is no way to forecast how successful that effort will be and whether its effects will be felt in 2003. Budgeted amounts for some lines have increased at a greater than inflationary amount. As most organizations have found, the cost of health care benefits has increased sharply from 2002 to 2003. ASA’s health insurance will cost 30% more in 2003 than it did in 2002. Also, EOB adjusted the budget for audio-visual equipment at the annual meeting to anticipate higher demand by members. Members of Council agreed with the conservative approach adopted by EOB in preparation of the 2003 budget.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the 2003 budget as presented.

B. Spivack Budget

The proposed programmatic budget for the Spivack Program for 2003 is $89,870. This budget includes a small amount for personnel expenses, publication expenses (e.g., the race statement), fellowships, overhead, investment expenses, and some support for the amicus brief task force. There were no questions or objections from members of Council.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the 2003 budget for the Spivack Program as presented.

C. Rose Fund and Contexts Budgets

For 2003, a budget of $32,949 was proposed for the Rose Series editorial office. This proposal represented a 12.63% increase over the 2002 budget.

Council voted unanimously to approve the 2003 budget for the Rose Series and Contexts as presented.

D. Review of Membership Dues Categories and Rates

Periodically EOB reviews membership income categories and dues amounts. Over time, the distribution of ASA’s membership has crept upward on the dues income categories income scale. Currently the highest income category available is $70,001 and above; 25% of ASA members are in this category. Current Sociology department faculty income data suggest that the Association should consider adding another higher income category. Also, as the proportion of the membership in lower end income categories declines, the question of combining, or at least adjusting, those categories is also raised.

Kalleberg reported that EOB will continue to review models developed by the Executive Office staff that are both revenue neutral and revenue enhancing and will develop a recommendation for Council consideration in January 2004. Any change that increases the dues of members will require a vote of the membership.

15. Task Force Reports

There are currently several task forces at work on a variety of projects. Some of those groups provided reports to Council at this meeting.

A. Task Force on Articulation

The Task Force on Articulation submitted a substantial final report to Council in August 19, 2002. At that time Council asked that key recommendations and action items be highlighted for Council discussion and vote. The Task Force did not present a set of specific recommendations in the original report, partly because articulation is a complex and context-bound set of decisions, not easily addressed with “one size fits all” recommendations. However, Deputy Executive Officer Howery prepared the following action items for disseminating the work of this Task Force:

• Ask the Task Force on the Advanced Placement Course in Sociology to share course objectives for the introductory course as one way to clarify standards for that introductory course (these objectives would be purely advisory).
• Ask the Task Force on the Major to identify learning objectives for lower division sociology courses – especially the introductory course, social problems, and family – that are relevant across institutional types and for diverse students;
• Ask the Task Force on the Major to develop guidelines about how learning objectives and goals differ, or should differ, between upper and lower division courses (this work is consistent with that Task Force’s efforts to advise sociology departments about course sequencing and curriculum);
• Encourage the Task Force on the Major, in their revision of the Liberal Learning document, to cover multiple kinds of sociology curricula – majors and minors – tailored to different institutional and student characteristics;
• Sponsor workshops where faculty members from diverse institutions can work together to achieve standards and consistency in instruction, curricular structure, and so on (such a workshop is proposed for 2004);
• Post the Task Force report on the ASA homepage;
• Hold a session on articulation issues at the 2003 Chairs conference.

Council voted unanimously to approve the recommended activities to disseminate the work of the Task Force on Articulation.

In the course of its work, the task force found that a compounding factor is the number of “out of field” faculty who teach sociology. This is more acute in lower division courses, that are most relevant to articulation. In addition, differing systems of giving credit for such courses can make it difficult for students who want to transfer. In recognition of the need for quality instruction of the discipline, Council voted that the American Sociological Association is committed to quality instruction of the discipline. To that end, ASA recommends that any faculty member teaching a course in sociology, at the college level, have at least MA-level (or equivalent) preparation in sociology.

B. Task Force on the Implications of the Evaluation of Faculty Productivity and Teaching Effectiveness
The Task Force on the Implications of the Evaluation of Faculty Productivity and Teaching Effectiveness was extended for one additional year by Council action in August 2002. As requested, the task force provided a preliminary report at this meeting to give Council a sense of the direction of the report and to allow for comments and feedback before the final report is submitted in August 2003. An extensive written report was provided.

C. Task Force on Journal Diversity

In the summer of 2000, then President Joe Feagin recommended, and with the support of Council, established a 14-member Task Force on Journal Diversity to examine issues of diversity in ASA journals. Bernice Pescosolido, chair, reported that the task force examination included the relevance of ASA publications to members’ interests, whether ASA publications are too narrow in focus, whether certain methodological approaches and substantive areas are under-represented among published articles, and whether certain kinds of individuals are under-represented among the ranks of authors, editorial boards, and editors. In addition to a call for comments published in Footnotes, the Task Force conducted an Open Forum to solicit input from membership. The Task Force also reviewed a 1996 report on articles published in ASR and AJ, extensive data on ASA publications, and a content analysis of articles published in ASR and AJ. The Task Force identified four areas for more in-depth study: (1) journal content, (2) the publication process, (3) outreach strategies, and (4) career placement of authors.

The Task Force reported that ASA members have a persistent set of perceptions about the journals. Particular concerns noted by members included (1) a perceived exclusion of articles by sociologists conducting multi-disciplinary, policy-based, or practice-oriented research, and (2) a perceived limitation to qualitative approaches and substantive areas in ASR publications, and a lack of recognition of the expertise of those perceived to be “pure theory.” The number of members subscribing to ASR has dropped from a high of about 80% to about 50% currently. Most ASA journals have experienced a downward trend in subscriptions. Sociological Methodology and Sociological Theory have remained stable; only Teaching Sociology has experienced an increase.

Analysis of data on editors indicate that across the entire set of ASA journal editors, about one-quarter have been women, with two-thirds of those editors being appointed on or after 1990. Diversity on race/ethnicity falls far behind that of gender. There have been 2 African-American editors, 3 Asian-American editors, and 1 Hispanic editor. The proportion of editorial board members who are members of minority groups increased from the 8-10% range in the early 1990s to nearly 30% by the end of the decade. The Task Force made two broad classes of recommendations: (1) that ASA evaluate current data collection efforts on journals and reconfigure reporting requirements so that the association can better track over time information on journal submissions and acceptances, and (2) that ASA require the Publications Committee to add considerations of diversity, broadly defined, to editor selection. The Task Force further recommended that the Publications Committee and journal editors consider the feasibility of new formats, increases in page allotments for select journals, and activities at the annual meeting that will increase the accessibility of journal submission and publication to a broad spectrum of its membership and be attuned to different career stages.

Council noted that all efforts to date have examined inputs and outputs of the publications process but have not examined the mechanism of publication and that the review process itself requires further attention. Council decided that the report was of such quality and usefulness that it needed more time than the current meeting agenda permitted to discuss the report fully. Therefore, it would continue its discussion at its August meeting. Members of Council expressed sincere appreciation to Bernice Pescosolido, members of the Task Force, and members of the Publications Committee for this very detailed report.

D. Task Force on the AP Course in Sociology

The Task Force on the Advanced Placement Course in Sociology has been working to make linkages with teachers currently teaching sociology in high schools. A High School Affiliate arrangement was launched in 2002 for teachers to link with ASA. Those teachers interested will receive Contexts and enjoy member-prices on other publications. ASA plans to offer a daylong workshop at the Annual Meeting for teachers, as well as a workshop at the spring meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society.

16. Creation of New Task Forces

President Bielby introduced several proposals that called for the creation of new task forces. He reminded Council that existing guidelines call for new task forces to be announced in Footnotes along with their mission and a call for volunteers and suggestions from the members for appointments. All nominations and suggestions would be collected and a three-member council-appointed sub-committee would review the names in June to select the membership of each new task force. Appointment by June would allow a new task force to begin organizing immediately and hold its first meeting in August at the annual meeting.

A. Task Force on Assessment of the Undergraduate Major

Increasingly, departments are being asked to assess their impact on graduating majors. Many departments are unsure of how to proceed with such assessment. Deputy Executive Officer Howery reported that this is her most frequently asked question, with many people asking for model or sample tests to review and consider. Council agreed that there was a real need for this information and agreed to create a task force to work on this issue.

Council voted to create a new Task Force on the Assessment of the Undergraduate Major which will undertake the research, deliberation, and writing to produce a report to (1) describe the “landscape” of undergraduate assessment as it pertains to sociology; (2) identify promising practices in sociology departments, including examining all, portfolios, assessment embedded in courses; (3) explore the possibility of and pluses and minuses of a standardized exam and any role ASA might play in its preparation and in keeping norming information; (4) suggest means to help departments consider these options and learn more about them, including events at the Annual Meeting; and (5) create model materials that departments could use to undertake useful assessments.

B. Task Force on Bridges to the Real World

In August 19, 2002, Council heard an oral presentation requesting a new Task Force on Bridges to the Real World. In follow-up to that discussion, Barbara Reskin was asked to prepare a one-page mission statement for the proposed task force.

Reskin reported that many people are drawn to sociology in the hope that they can use their skills to advance social justice at home or abroad. However, neither the training nor the jobs of many sociologists provide the tools or paths to use their sociological expertise to further community-service goals. ASA Council addressed this issue in 1989-91 when Edna Bonacich proposed a Blue Ribbon Task Force to provide sociological expertise to poor and excluded groups through community action research. The task force made several recommendations to Council, including “Sociological Aid” (analogous to Legal Aid), summer training programs, internships, and annual meeting events.

Reskin proposed a Task Force for Bridges to the Real World, which would seek additional ways to provide opportunities for more sociologists to develop the relevant skills and create mechanisms to bring those skills to arenas in which they can make a difference. The task force will consider the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon task force, but will not be limited to those possibilities. The task force is asked to try to develop ways to institutionalize ties between academic sociologists and the public, especially community- and social-change organizations and the media. The task force is asked to meet at the Annual Meeting and make recommendations to the winter 2004 Council. Currently, the Spivack Program funds a small grants program for community action research projects. This task force would consider complementary approaches.

Council voted to create a new Task Force for Bridges to the Real World with charge as outlined by Immediate Past President Barbara Reskin.

C. Task Force to Review the ASA Areas of Interest

For some time ASA has had an “areas of interest” check-off on the membership application and renewal forms. Each member is asked to select up to four areas of interest and rank them. This information is used to monitor trends in the specialties and to provide members with appropriate information based on their interests.

Over the years a few new categories have been added, particularly ones that correspond to sections where there is a critical mass of people with that specialty interest. Otherwise, how-
ever, the Executive Office has avoided making changes. Clearly there are new areas in the field of sociology and new language for longstanding areas. Recognizing the value of having constant appellations so researchers can study trends longitudinally, it is also recognized that members prefer terminology that fits their identities and interests.

Council voted to form a Task Force to Review the ASA Areas of Specialty with a final report to be delivered to Council in January 2004.

17. Follow-up on Report from the Status Committee on LGBT Persons in Sociology

In follow-up to an extensive, multi-year committee report presented in August, Council asked the Executive Office to review the large document and summarize the recommendations to Council made by the committee. Roberta Spalter-Roth, Staff Liaison to the Status Committee, provided a summary, which included eight recommendations for Council. Council members acknowledged the Status Committee’s report as extremely solid and well formulated. Council asked the Council Liaison, Pam Walters, to relay back to the Status Committee the general support of Council and appreciation for their hard work in preparation of this report.

The report recommended that, given the marginalization of LGBT persons, ASA should facilitate the creation and maintenance of a mentoring program that links faculty trained in gender and sexuality (and LGBT studies in particular) with graduate students interested in doing research in this area. Council was supportive of this idea and recognized that several successful mentoring programs were already in place in other structures (some ASA sections and SWS, for example) providing models upon which such an effort could be based. Members of Council urged the Status Committee to work with other groups that had already established mentoring programs and build a similar program for the LGBT group.

Council voted to endorse the creation of a mentoring program to support sociologists who identify as LGBT or who want to focus on LGBT scholarship. The Council encourages the Committee on the Status of LGBT Persons in Sociology to consult with SWS, ABS, the ASA Executive Office, various sections of the ASA, and other professional groups who have effective mentoring structures in place toward the goal of developing such a program for LGBTs, which would be established by the Status Committee, perhaps in association with the ASA Section on Sexualities or other entities as they find appropriate.

Also, Council voted unanimously to ask that mentoring and marginality become a regular part of the agenda for the Department Chairs conference at the Annual Meeting. Council also discussed the possibility of adding a field to the annual membership renewal form and the membership application asking for each individual’s sexual orientation. Noting some inherent problems with seeking this type of information, Council did not reach a conclusion on this question, but asked the committee to consider the pros and cons.

18. Centennial Planning

During the August 2002 meeting, Council discussed at length the 2005 Centennial of the Association. At that time, several members were assigned responsibility for developing possible ideas for discussion at the February meeting.

A. Publications

In August President Bielby appointed a Centennial Publications Committee to discuss ideas raised at Council regarding possible ASA publications related to the centennial celebration in 2005. The committee, chaired by Michael Burawoy, included James Blackwell, Barbara Laslett, Douglas McAdam, and Beth Schneider. Burawoy reported that the committee considered several possible activities before ultimately recommending the following:

Bring out a volume of the last 100 years of American Sociology. Burawoy reported that Craig Calhoun has agreed to assume the role of chief editor, supported by Troy Duster and Barbara Laslett and potentially others. The volume would focus on the two-way relation between sociology and American society over the last 100 years. Individual chapters, solicited by the editors, will deal with different periods and issues.

Members of Council were in agreement with the proposed volume on the last 100 years of American Sociology, but were concerned about the tight timeframe and questioned whether it was feasible to undertake such a project. Burawoy indicated that the project was feasible but only if approval was secured at this meeting.

Council voted unanimously in principle to move ahead with the editorial project proposed by the Centennial Publications Committee to produce a volume on the last 100 years of American Sociology. [See 18.E below for funding of this and other Centennial items]

B. Outreach

A Centennial Outreach Committee composed of Robert Crutchfield, Victor Nee, Pamela Walters, and Roberta Spalter-Roth, updated Council on their main project: production of a documentary-style film focused on the ways in which sociological ideas and/or research have affected public policy in the U.S., with attention to significant public debates or social controversies in American society over the last century.

Walters reported that following discussion with experts in the area of documentary production it was the consensus of the committee that it is feasible to produce a documentary and get it aired on television, probably public television. While appealing, the idea is also costly. The committee indicated that outside support could be necessary for the actual products. However, seed money is necessary to hire a professional to undertake development with ASA Council, the Executive Office, and members. The committee indicated that some seed money could likely be obtained from donations by individual sociology departments. Walters proposed that ASA Council provide $20,000 as start-up money to allow the committee to go to the next step of hiring a professional production manager.

In addition, the Committee will identify a small number of sociologists to work with the production manager, and also have a backup plan for what to do instead of a documentary if they are unable in the end to attract sufficient funding to produce the film.

Members of Council were excited about the possibility of a documentary film, but at the same time were concerned about the riskiness and costliness of the venture. The members of the committee identified a number of possible outside sources of funding and reiterated to Council that they were seeking only seed money to take the concept to the next level. The committee requested for $20,000 was to provide matching funds of a $2 for $1 basis to match funds secured from outside sources such as sociology departments.

Bielby indicated that the funds of the American Sociological Fund have been given with the intention of having them used, and suggested that some of these funds would be appropriate for this and other centennial projects.

Council voted in principle in favor of moving ahead with planning for a possible documentary to present sociological accomplishments to the American public. [See 18.E below for funding of this and other Centennial items]

C. International

In August, Council asked Douglas Kincaid, ASA’s liaison to the International Sociological Association, to work with the ISA leadership to determine options for ISA and other international participation in the ASA Centennial in 2005. Kincaid provided a written follow-up report to Council outlining proposed activities for an international component of the 2005 meeting. Kincaid requested assistance from ASA Council in exploring these ideas through the establishment of a sub-committee.

Council voted to create a three-person sub-committee of Council members composed of Esther Chow, Victor Nee, and Ivan Szelényi to work with Douglas Kincaid on possible international activities in conjunction with the ASA Centennial.

D. Executive Office

Executive Officer Hillsman presented a series of possible centennial activities, including commissioning a centennial logo, updating the Rhoades history of ASA, and collection of historical information for publication on the ASA website.
A long-term consultant has indicated availability of the necessary documents in ASA files and the Archive at Penn State. Members of Council were in agreement with updating this largely descriptive document. Hillsman indicated that a small sub-committee of Council members would be needed to work with the consultant.

The ASA website contains a list of past Presidents. Executive Office staff proposed adding to the website additional information on the Association Presidents, including their Presidential photos, biographical information, published obituaries, Presidential addresses, and other useful information. A sample for ASA’s first President, Lester Ward, was recently published on the website and was provided as an example.

In addition to information of past Presidents, Executive Office staff proposed creating a living history on the ASA website (e.g., a published document must be stopped at one point in time, but a web document can continue to grow with additions over time). Hillsman indicated that the Executive Office would need to hire a professional Webmaster to help design a quality site (and ultimately to bring the rest of the ASA website up to the quality of the Centennial site). Additional assistance would also be needed in the Executive Office to reach out to the ASA membership, related sociological associations, and sociology departments to assemble the material and ready it for the website.

E. Funding

After considering the various suggestions for centennial activities,

**Council voted to commit up to a total of $75,000 from the American Sociological Fund as follows:** $20,000 seed money for the proposed documentary, $25,000 for the proposed volume on 100 years of American Sociology, and $30,000 for other Centennial events.

[10 in favor, 2 abstentions]

19. Executive Office Reports

Time did not permit an in-depth review and discussion of ASA Executive Office reports. Members of Council received extensive written reports on the following areas: Academic and Professional Affairs Program, Minority Affairs Program, Research Program on the Discipline, Public Affairs and Public Information Programs, Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, and Spivack Fund Initiatives. Staff offered to answer any questions individually with members following the meeting.

20. Resolution in Support of Lynn Weber

Council member Barbara Risman reported that during the fall of 2002 a controversy had arisen from conservative students over a set of guidelines sociologist Lynn Weber has used for many years to create open and civil dialogue in her classroom, especially when there were sociological topics being discussed that tend to generate controversy. She added that there was even a threat of a lawsuit from a conservative group in South Carolina, a move that could have a chilling effect on faculty’s willingness to teach controversial subjects with open class-

Council voted to (1) affirm the academic freedom of all faculty to develop strategies or guidelines to encourage open and civil classroom debate; (2) support the discussion and dialogue of controversial issues that are inherent to the study of inequality and other core subjects; and (3) request that the ASA President write a letter containing this motion to be sent to the Dean of College of Liberal Arts and the Chair of the Sociology Department of the University of South Carolina as well as to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

21. ASA and the Racial Privacy Initiative

President Bielby announced that a racial privacy initiative is likely to be on the ballot in California in 2004 under the name Initiative on Classification by Race, Ethnicity and National Origins (CRENO). The focus of this initiative would be to request that State agencies in California cease to collect any official data on race, ethnicity, or national origin. This referendum would be a serious blow to the ability of researchers to study the impact of race and ethnicity in education, health, welfare, and other areas of sociological interest and public policy concern. He reported that he planned to have something that touches on this issue in one of his plenary sessions at the August Annual Meeting.

Reskin noted that Council has already taken a stand on this issue with its release in August 2002 of the Statement on the Importance of Collecting Data and Doing Social Scientific Research on Race. Council discussed various ways of publicizing the Association’s statement.

22. Adjournment

Members of Council thanked Executive Office staff for their hard work in preparation for the meeting and for their assistance throughout the meeting. Members complimented the clarity and thoroughness of the written reports, which aided in Council decision-making. With no further business for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm on Sunday, February 2, 2003.