

Approved by Council March 7, 2024

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

American Sociological Association

August 21-22, 2023

Via Zoom

Participants August 21: Prudence Carter (President), Cecilia Menjívar (Immediate Past President), Joya Misra (President-elect), Mignon Moore (Vice President), Nina Bandelj (Immediate Past Vice President), Jennifer Reich (Vice President-elect), Monica McDermott (Secretary-Treasurer), Jessica Calarco, Cedric de Leon, Crystal Marie Fleming, Lorena Garcia, Neda Maghbouleh, Gilda L. Ochoa, Victor Ray, Daisy Reyes, Alyasah “Ali” Sewell, Van Tran, Nancy Kidd (executive director, non-voting); **Staff:** Les Briggs, Karen Gray Edwards, Mark Fernando, Jeannie Haubert, Michelle Randall, Hedy Ross, Preeti Vasishta, Valerie Wright. **Guests:** Adia Harvey Wingfield (Incoming President), Allison Pugh (Incoming Vice President-elect), Katy M. Pinto, Wendy Roth, Earl Wright II.

President Carter called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. on August 21.

1. Agenda

A motion was made by Misra to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Menjívar. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Consent agenda

President Carter presented the consent agenda which included approval of March 2-3, 2023 Council meeting minutes; June 19, 2023 Council report of ballot vote; date and place of next annual meeting of Regular Members; two-year Council meeting calendar; Sociology Action Network goal statement; and conflict of interest disclosures as unproblematic and not requiring any special action.

An amendment to the March minutes was added to the initial document.

A motion was made by McDermott to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Tran. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Executive session

Council moved into executive session at 3:53 p.m. to discuss the recommendations of the COPE subcommittee. Council moved out of executive session at 4:45 p.m.

4. Report from the Annual Meeting Redesign Committee

Nina Bandelj, Joya Misra, and Mignon Moore presented recommendations from the Annual Meeting Redesign Committee. They served on the committee that was chaired by Diogo Pinheiro

and Juliet Schor. The Committee was tasked with reimagining the Annual meeting with respect to distribution of time and space and meeting delivery, with consideration of environmental impact, accessibility and affordability. The Committee worked for two years, collected original data, and did extensive analysis of existing data. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Fleming to move governance meetings for ASA-wide committees out of the Annual Meeting. Seconded by V. Reyes. Motion carried with 14 for and 4 against.

A motion as made by Ray that after careful evaluation of labor requirements, we continue to offer some programming related to job market events, workshops, book forums, and formal networking/mentoring at the Annual Meeting and move some programming to other times throughout the year. Seconded by Menjivar. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ray to continue expanding professional development opportunities outside of the Annual Meeting. Seconded by Ochoa. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Sewell to encourage session organizers to include five presentations in a paper session, if possible. Seconded by Fleming. Motion carried with 13 for, 3 against, and 2 abstentions.

A motion was made by de Leon to give Sections more sessions by eliminating some of the regular paper sessions that correspond with existing Sections and/or that are not receiving many submissions and to ask Sections to set aside one or more sessions to be open calls. Seconded by Sewell. Motion carried with 17 for and 1 abstention.

A motion was made by Sewell to, when possible, continue to offer opportunities for remote presentation, with paid registration, for people who have a disability and people who have a medical condition for which a medical professional would advise against in-person attendance. Seconded by Garcia. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Garcia to continue to livestream the four plenary sessions, including the awards ceremony/presidential address, and make them available via video. Seconded by V. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Sewell to continue to evaluate hybrid meeting options over time and reconsider them if cost becomes less prohibitive and approaches become more satisfactory to participants. Seconded by Tran. Motion carried with 15 for and 3 against.

A motion was made by Fleming to alternate between virtual and in-person meetings, initially with a one virtual/two in-person pattern. We are currently contracted for in-person meetings through 2027, so this would mean planning virtual meetings for 2028 and 2031. Do an evaluation after 2028 to consider whether to increase or decrease the frequency of virtual meetings after 2031. Seconded by Menjivar. Motion carried with 12 for, 5 against, and 1 abstention.

A motion was made by Tran to amend our regional rotation (currently East/Central/West) to a lower carbon configuration such as Central, East, Central, West, Central, East, Central, West,

with virtual inserted according to the in-person/virtual pattern. Seconded by de Leon. Motion carried with 13 for and 5 against.

A motion was made by Tran to pilot test a virtual mini-conference we might offer as both an independent event and as an add-on to the in-person conference. Seconded by Sewell. Motion carried with 15 for and 3 against.

Council took a break at 5:58 p.m. and reconvened at 6:04 p.m.

5. Executive session

Council moved into executive session to discuss partnership with the Publications Committee. Two committee members recused themselves from the discussion.

6. Outgoing member appreciation

Council extended gratitude to Cecilia Menjivar for her service as President of the Association, Nina Bandelj for her service as Vice President, and Jessica Calarco, Gilda Ochoa, Daisy Reyes, and Van Tran for their service on Council.

President Carter adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Participants August 22: Joya Misra (President), Prudence Carter (Immediate Past President), Adia Harvey Wingfield (President-elect), Jennifer Reich (Vice President), Mignon Moore (Immediate Past Vice President), Allison Pugh (Vice President-elect), Monica McDermott (Secretary-Treasurer), Cedric de Leon, Crystal Marie Fleming, Lorena Garcia, Neda Maghbouleh, Katy M. Pinto, Victor Ray, Wendy Roth, Alyasah “Ali” Sewell, Frederick Wherry, Earl Wright II, Nancy Kidd (executive director, non-voting); **Staff:** Les Briggs, Karen Gray Edwards, Mark Fernando, Jeannie Haubert, Michelle Randall, Hedy Ross, Preeti Vasishtha, Valerie Wright. **Guest:** Eric Moran (for organizational sustainability part 1 only).

President Misra called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. on August 22.

1. Organizational sustainability part 1

Council was joined by our publishing partner, Eric Moran, Vice President, Research at SAGE to talk about the changing landscape of academic publishing.

2. Organizational sustainability part 2

Council spent time thinking strategically about prospects for diversification of revenue streams.

Council took a break at 9:36 a.m. and reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

3. Executive session

Council moved into executive session to discuss condominium ownership. Council moved out of executive session at 10:16 a.m.

4. Report of the Independent Auditor

ASA hires an outside accounting firm to perform an audit of our financial statements at the end of each fiscal year. Council was provided with the written report of the independent auditor, and Secretary-Treasurer McDermott shared what Finance Committee learned during its discussion with the auditor in June. The auditor's opinion states that ASA's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as of December 31, 2022, and the change in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. We had a clean audit with no management letter.

5. 2022 year-end budget report

Secretary-Treasurer McDermott indicated that a detailed year-end budget versus actual revenue and expense report for 2022 was provided in the meeting materials. ASA ended the year with a balanced budget despite considerable upheaval due to the pandemic.

6. Year-to-date 2023 budget report

Executive Director Kidd provided a summary of year-to-date revenue and expense for 2023. Discussion ensued.

7. Investment review

Council was provided with a recent report from our investment adviser, and Director of Finance Les Briggs presented an overview of the results. Discussion ensued.

8. 2024 membership dues

Council discussed the Finance Committee's recommendation to implement an inflationary increase on our current dues for 2024 and extend the Pick Your Own Sponsorship initiative into 2024.

A motion was made by Ray to approve the 2024 dues as presented. Seconded by McDermott. Motion carried with 17 for and one abstention.

9. 2024 Annual Meeting fees

Council discussed two models for 2024 Annual Meeting fees, including Finance Committee's recommendation to increase Annual Meeting fees by a cost-of-living inflationary percentage.

A motion was made by Ray to adjust Annual Meeting fees with an inflationary increase. Seconded by Roth. Motion carried with 16 for and 1 against.

Council took a break at 11:22 a.m. and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

10. Job bank fees

Council discussed a proposal to better align job bank fees with those of other associations and with inflationary increases. Council also discussed a fees proposal to generate interest in our job bank from nonacademic employers.

A motion was made by Wingfield to approve the job bank fees proposal as presented. Seconded by Roth. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Content editors

Council discussed policy related to honoraria for content editors for ASA journals.

12. Extended abstracts

We have been piloting allowing extended abstract submissions for the Annual Meeting in addition to full papers. Council reviewed outcomes data from 2022 and 2023 to consider whether to continue allowing extended abstract submissions.

A motion was made by McDermott to continue accepting both full paper and extended abstract submissions. Seconded by Sewell. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Executive session

Council moved into executive session at 12:49 p.m. to discuss nominations for leadership positions. Council moved out of executive session at 12:55 p.m.

14. Updates on current activities

Nancy Kidd updated the Council on the Making a Difference Today for Tomorrow Campaign for the MFP. Misra updated the Council on a new initiative related to ensuring sociology is central to conversations about equity in classrooms.

President Misra adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.