

# Community and Urban Sociology Section Bylaws

(Revised 1988, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2024)

The goals of the Community and Urban Sociology Section are to encourage theory and empirical research to community and to urban settlements, to encourage sociological perspectives on urban policy and to encourage the interchange of ideas through organized meetings and conferences, newsletters, publications and other means deemed appropriate by the Council of the Section. The term community is understood to refer to organized social relations in a territorial context.

**Officers of the Section:** The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Chair shall serve for one year. The Chair-Elect shall serve for one year, after which he/she will assume the Chair. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for a period of three years. There shall be a Council consisting of six elected members, each serving staggered three year terms, with two Council seats being vacated each year. In addition there shall be one graduate student member on the council, to be elected annually for a one year term. Candidates for the position of graduate student member will be nominated by the nominations committee. No member can hold two elective offices simultaneously. A Newsletter Editor will be appointed by the Council for a term of three years, with the possibility of successive terms subject to Council approval. If an elected officer is elected to another office, his/her prior office shall be declared vacant. If an elected office is vacated before the term is completed, it shall be filled through appointment by the Chair for the un-expired term, but this appointment must be confirmed by the Council for a term of three years. The Editor will serve as an ex-officio members of the Council.

Terms of office shall begin and end at the Annual Business Meeting of the Section during the Meetings of the American Sociological Association.

**Expectations of CUSS Council Members.** Accepting membership on the CUSS Council means a three-year commitment to do the following:

- Perform agreed upon tasks as decided through committee
- Communicate and follow up regularly with committee chair regarding specific tasks, needs and requests
- Report progress of tasks as requested
- Assist in recruiting new committee members and CUSS members generally
- Attend annual ASA meeting each year of the three-year term
- Attend CUSS Council, CUSS Business Meeting, and other CUSS events, especially CUSS reception each year of the three-year term

**Powers of the Officers: The Chair** is responsible for: organizing the CUSS sessions and Council and Business Meetings concurrent with the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association; conducting those Council and Business Meetings; organizing the CUSS Reception during the Annual Meetings; appointing members to the four award committees; keeping CUSS members abreast of section and ASA deadlines and events; writing a column in the newsletter; and discharging whatever other duties are assigned to section chairs by the ASA.

**The Chair-elect** is an ex-officio member of the Council. He/she will organize the CUSS sessions and assume the duties of the Chair should the Chair be unable to do so.

**The Secretary-Treasurer** is responsible for: monitoring and reporting on the section's budget and financial situation; and taking the minutes of the Council and Business Meetings

**The Council** is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section. The Council shall make decisions by majority rule of its attending members. Any action of the Section, including changes of the by-laws, may be brought to the vote of the Section by the Council, by a petition of 10 percent of the members of the Section or by twenty-five members of the Section, whichever is less. Since the Council generally has little business to conduct between meetings, the Council will function as the section's nomination committee, selecting at least two section members to stand for election for the section's elected positions.

**Elections and Voting:** The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to their schedule.

**Committees:** There shall be a Committee on Publications (formerly Journal Oversight Committee) to oversee the operation and functioning of the section journal, City and Community. (see Committee By-laws). The Committee will have six elected members, who serve staggered, 3-year terms. Except when an unexpected vacancy occurs, two will be elected by the section membership every year. The elected members may not concurrently serve as members of the section Council, nor be other officers of the section. (see Committee By-laws).

There shall be five annual award committees, consisting of three to five members each, appointed by the Chair and approved by the Council: (1) in alternating years, a) an Early Career Award, recognizing members for interdisciplinary contributions, innovation and creativity, and mentorship and b) the Robert and Helen Lynd Award recognizing distinguished career achievement in community and urban sociology; (2) the Jane Addams Award (formerly the Park Article Award) given to authors of the best scholarly article in community and urban sociology published in the past two years; (3) the Outstanding Book Award in Community and Urban Sociology, given to the author(s) of the best book published in the past two years; (4) the CUSS Student Paper Award given to the student author of the paper the award committee regards as the best graduate student paper in community and urban sociology; and (5) in alternating years, a) the CUSS Publicly Engaged Research Award recognizing community and urban sociologists who use their research to make significant and meaningful contributions to public debates, public policy, and/or communities, and b) an Excellence in Teaching in Community & Urban Sociology award that recognizes members who are outstanding teachers in the field.

There shall be a **Membership Committee** to identify strategies to retain current members and recruit new members. The Membership Committee will have three members. The chair of the Membership Committee will be elected for a three-year term. The other two members will be appointed by the CUSS Section Chair with input from the CUSS Council and the chair of the Membership Committee. The two appointed members will serve a one-year term, renewable annually. The elected chair member may not concurrently serve as a member of the CUSS Council, nor be another officer of the section.

There shall be a **Mentorship Committee** to promote and support fellow scholars working in areas of community and urban sociology. The Committee will primarily organize mentorship activities during the ASA's annual meeting, but also identify potential opportunities for mentorship throughout the year, which may include (but are not limited to) a pre-conference, webinars, or workshops that support junior scholars. The Committee will have one elected Chair, serving a three-year term. The Mentorship Committee will have a minimum of three and maximum of five members appointed by the CUSS Section Chair with input from the CUSS Council, the chair of the Mentorship Committee, and taking into account volunteers for the positions. The appointed members will serve a one-year term, renewable annually, for a maximum of three years.

There shall be a **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee** to monitor, support, and advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in CUSS, including but not limited to the composition of leadership, and committee, council, and journal decisions. This work involves coordinating specific actions and initiatives that address inequities in the section and in community and urban sociology-related research, teaching, and service, such as combating anti-Black racism and addressing urban and community sociology's role in perpetuating forms of exclusion. The Committee will have one elected Chair serving a three-year term. The elected Chair is also an ex-officio member of the Council. The DEI Committee will have a minimum of three and maximum of five members appointed by the CUSS Section Chair with input from the CUSS Council, the DEI Committee Chair, and taking into account volunteers for the positions. The DEI appointed committee members will serve a one-year term, renewable annually, for a maximum of three years.

**Expectations of CUSS Committee Members.** Accepting membership on a CUSS Committee means a full-year commitment to do the following:

- Perform agreed upon tasks as decided through committee
- Communicate and follow up regularly with committee chair regarding specific tasks, needs and requests
- Report progress of tasks as requested
- Assist in recruiting new committee members and CUSS members generally
- Attend ASA meeting and CUSS Business Meeting
- Attend CUSS events, especially CUSS reception

**Activities:** There shall be one council meeting, one business meeting and at least one substantive session to be held for members of the Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

**Membership:** The membership of the Section is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of his/her membership, who has expressed an interest in the community. Elected officers and committee members shall be drawn from the members of the American Sociological Association who have voting privileges. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls.

**Dues:** Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association and the operation of the section journal, *City and Community*.

**Amendment of By-Laws:** By-laws may be amended by a vote of the membership in a mail ballot. To pass, an amendment must be approved by a plurality of those voting.