

Minutes of the ASA Environment and Technology Business Meeting

**August 11, 2006
Montreal, Canada**

The Chair, Stella Capek, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. She highlighted her annual report, and commented on the excellent visit to the Akwesasne reservation organized by Ken Gould, and co-sponsored by the Section and Sociologists Without Borders. She also reported on the efforts to “Green” the ASA and recommended follow-up. Since Timmons Roberts was unable to attend the meeting, Stella Capek summarized his report, with an emphasis on the efforts this past year to gain media visibility for section members with expertise on disasters after Hurricane Katrina. She noted that he will be the organizer of the 2007 sessions and that she and Timmons are very interested in receiving input from members about the direction of the Section and its activities.

Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Brulle, reported on the Section’s budget, and noted that we should have a net worth of approximately \$7,000 by next years meeting. He noted that this was his last meeting as Secretary/Treasurer and wished David Sonnenfeld good luck with the job! Stella Capek thanked him for his excellent work during the past three years.

Bob Edwards then highlighted the elections of new officers and noted that elections will be needed for 3 new officers, including section Chair-Elect, and chairs of the Membership and Teaching and Training committees. Stella Capek then welcomed the new officers and thanked the departing officers for their service. She emphasized the importance of helping new Nominations Committee Chair Tom Rudel with suggestions for candidates.

Beth Caniglia summarized the Membership Committee report, and discussed the possibility to conducting a survey of members on ways to increase membership. Bill Freudenberg recommended that since we are so close to the 400 mark, all members should sponsor their students as members of the section as a way to get to 400 members.

Maurie Cohen summarized the Policy and Research Committee report, and discussed the upcoming symposium on the “Future of Environmental Sociology.” He then discussed developing responses to policy issues by the E & T section, and the response by the section to get a press release out on section expertise regarding environmental disasters following Hurricane Katrina. He also reported on the nominations and selection process for the Distinguished Contribution and Outstanding Student Paper awards.

Since Richard York, outgoing Publications Committee Chair, could not attend the meeting, Stella Capek commented on the positive state of the section’s publications, and commended Stephan Scholz for excellent work on the newsletter and Rob Gardner on his ongoing efforts to update the web page.

Stella Capek, acting for the chair-elect, Timmons Roberts, discussed the 2007 ASA meeting in New York. She noted that we will once again have two paper sessions based on membership, and will need to decide whether we like the format of one open topic session and one thematic session. She noted that in addition there will be four thematic ASA sessions for the 2007 meeting organized by E&T section members. She recommended a local field experience at next year’s meetings, the possibility of a roundtable session organized as an “Author meets the Critics” session, and co-sponsoring a session with the Community and Urban Sociology Section at the 2007 ASA convention. Section members made some suggestions about local possibilities in New

York. This year's roundtable panel organized by students was very successful, and may also be continued in the future. She also solicited volunteers to organize the round table sessions with Timmons Roberts.

Dana Fisher gave a report on the excellent meeting of RC24 at the ISA conference in Durban. She noted that U.S. sociologists are underrepresented in the section, and discussed ways in which individuals can join the section. As secretary/treasurer of RC24, she can assist members in joining this society. Riley Dunlap also commented on the importance of RC24, and discussed how this committee was one of the most exciting and vibrant in the entire ISA.

Stella Capek reported on the Council's discussion of possible gender bias in our sessions, an issue raised by ETS member Jan Buhrmann. In addition to the Membership Committee taking a look at the composition of our section, organizers of thematic sessions and other invited presentations will make a special effort to ensure a representative gender mix on their panels.

The presentation of awards for 2005 was then conducted. The Outstanding Publication Award was awarded to Peter Dickens. The Outstanding Student Paper Certificate was awarded to Jessica Crowe, and honorable mention was awarded to Lisa Asplen. The Distinguished Contribution Award was given to Phil Brown.

A number of announcements regarding upcoming job openings and publication opportunities were then made. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert J. Brulle
Secretary-Treasurer