

Business Meeting Minutes

ASA Section on Environment and Technology

New York, NY, August 12, 2007

1. Stella Čapek, Chair, called the Section Business Meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The meeting began with the Chair's report. Stella summarized the Section's efforts to work more closely with other sections, including Community and Urban Sociology, and the Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology; as well as with the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). She reported also on the Section's partnership with the ASA Executive Office to undertake measures to "green" the organization and its annual meetings.
2. David Sonnenfeld, Secretary-Treasurer, presented his report on the section's finances, noting that the Section began the year with a little over \$5000, had revenue from dues of a little over \$2000, and expenditures of a bit over \$3000, for a projected calendar year-end balance of approximately \$4000. The largest single expenditure was the (shared) Section reception at the conference hotel. He called for volunteers of local hosts in the greater Boston area to assist with locating an off-site location for next year's Section reception.
3. Tom Rudel, Nominations Committee Chair, reported on the results of this year's Section elections: Chair-Elect (Bob Brulle), Membership Committee Chair (Andrew Jorgenson), and Teaching and Training Committee Chair (Sherry Cable). He informed the Section that in 2008, five offices will be up for election, including Nominations Committee Chair, Policy and Research Committee Chair, Publications Committee Chair, Council Member-at-Large, and Student Council Member. Tom solicited nominations for those positions from attendees at the Business Meeting.
4. In other Committee Reports and Announcements, David Pellow gave a brief report of the activities of the Policy and Research Committee, focused on the Section's co-sponsorship of the filmmaker's showing of *Green, Green Water*; and Outstanding Publication and Student Paper Awards (see below). Membership Committee Chair, Beth Caniglia, reported on Section membership as of May 2007, at 393 members, 30% of whom are student members. Bill Markham, Publications Committee Chair, reported that Stephan Scholz' has agreed to continue to edit the Section Newsletter for another year at least. He stated that in coming months he would be working with incoming Section Chair, Timmons Roberts, and others in strengthening the Section's website and other online presence. Teaching and Training Committee Member, Michael Agliardo, reported on the committees' efforts to publish teaching-related articles in the section newsletter and to continue to publicize environmental sociology graduate programs. And Student Member of the Council, Rebecca Altman, reviewed her contributions to the Section Newsletter, efforts to contact graduate student members of the Section, and her successful work with the Membership Committee in student memberships – now at 30% of total Section members.
5. Incoming Section Chair, Timmons Roberts, spoke briefly about plans Section Sessions at the 2008 and 2009 ASA meetings in Boston and San Francisco, respectively. He encouraged Section members to think long-term to 2009 to propose further environment-related Thematic Sessions, Author-Meets-Critics sessions, etc. ASA's call for such proposals for 2009 will come out this fall.
6. In other business, following up on discussions in last year's and this year's Section Council meetings, outgoing Membership Committee Chair, Beth Caniglia, moved, and it was seconded that

"It shall be the policy of the ASA Section on Environment and Technology to encourage session organizers to actively seek diversity of panel participants based on race and gender." The voice and hand vote was overwhelmingly in favor of this motion, with a few abstentions.

Additionally, it was moved and seconded that the Section poll its membership to change the By-Laws to make the Chair and Chair-elect positions one year each in duration, consistent with practice of most other ASA sections. This motion passed overwhelmingly by voice and hand vote, with three abstentions. The Ad Hoc Committee to Review Section Awards and By-laws, established the day before by the Section Council, will include this in the By-law proposals it puts before Section membership in coming months.

7. In arguably the highlight of the Section Business Meeting, the annual Section Awards were presented. David Pellow, as Chair of the Policy and Research Committee, presented the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award to Norah MacKendrick, University of Toronto; and the Outstanding Publication Award to Brett Clark and Richard York, University of Oregon, for a series of articles. Last but not least, Craig Humphrey, Chair of this year's Distinguished Contribution Award Committee, introduced in turn, Beth Caniglia, nominator of Penelope Canan; and Bill Freudenberg, nominator of Bob Gramling. In an unprecedented action, the committee decided to name two award winners this year, Canan, and Gramling, respectively, for their outstanding contributions to the sociology of environment and technology.

The Section Business Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Sonnenfeld
Secretary-Treasurer