

Council Meeting Minutes

ASA Section on Environment and Technology

Boston, August 2, 2008

Present: J. Timmons Roberts, David Sonnenfeld, Thomas Rudel, Andrew Jorgenson, Bill Markham, Sherry Cable, Kari Marie Norgaard, Stephan Scholz. *Absent:* Robert Brulle, David Pellow, Rebecca Altman. *Other:* Beth Caniglia, Rachel Schwom-Evelich.

The Chair, J. Timmons Roberts, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The officers and council members presented their reports to the Council. The reports were accepted.

In new business:

1. *Upcoming Section Elections.* The large number (5) of Council positions that will be open for election in 2009 was noted. These include Chair-elect (for a term of one year, to be followed by a second year as Chair, and a third year as past-Chair, under our new Bylaws); Secretary (new position, 3 yrs.); Treasurer (new position, 2 yrs.); Membership Committee Chair; and Teaching and Training Committee Chair.
2. *Section Leadership.* It was also commented that the Section was likely approaching a demographic transition, with the 2nd generation of Section leaders getting closer to retirement age, and the need for continued/ renewed reinvigoration of new, younger leadership: in committees, as Council Members, and officers.
3. *Section Awards.* Chair Roberts commented, with additional input from Beth Caniglia, that efforts to find a new home (in the Section on Knowledge and Technology, SKAT) for the Boguslaw Award have not been successful. The suggestion was made that submissions for all Section awards could be much higher, and that the Council needs to make further efforts to broaden the call for submissions for the awards.
4. *Possible New Directions for Teaching and Training Committee.* It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Teaching and Training Committee be authorized to: (a) draft a revised, expanded mission statement for itself (in the form of a draft, proposed Bylaws change), to include also a focus on applied environmental sociology, government and community service, and outreach; and (b) draft a proposed new biannual award for Outstanding Service/ Outreach in Environmental Sociology, to be administered by the committee in alternate years from the newly authorized Teaching and Mentoring Award. These two proposals will be presented to the Council this autumn, for discussion, approval, and placing before the membership in the ASA spring elections. [Ed.: This process must be completed by early December to get on the ASA ballot.]
5. *Electronic Publications & Communications.* Bill Markham, outgoing Publications Committee Chair, proposed separating the current functions of that committee into two separate committees, each with its own chair, responsible respectively for textual publications (newsletter, brochure, policy briefs); and electronic communications (website, listserv, etc.). The decision was made to pass Bill's suggestions on to the incoming

- Publications Committee Chair, Michael Carolan, for further reflection, discussion, and possible action.
6. *Possible Mini-Conference at 2009 Meetings.* It was suggested that the Section sponsor/organize a "Session in Exile" at the forthcoming 2009 ASA meetings in San Francisco. Kari Marie Norgaard volunteered to contact Steve Zavestoski at Univ. San Francisco about possible interest/ willingness in hosting such a special session/ mini-conference.
 7. *Help Needed for Mid-Year E-Conference.* Timmons Roberts gave an update on his and Bob Brulle's ideas for a mid-year, online environmental sociology conference. Timmons requested suggestions and volunteers with the institutional capacity to host such an online conference.
 8. *Climate Change Teach-Ins.* Kari Marie Norgaard, Council Member-at-Large, was commended for her leadership in the in organizing the participation of sociologists across the country in the January 31, 2008, Focus the Nation national teach-in on global climate change. The E&T Council further resolved to support a similar, national global climate change teach-in by sociologists in 2009, with the Section play a leading role. Incoming Council Member-at-Large, Lee Clarke, will be asked to consider taking the lead in this initiative, both within the Section and ASA more broadly.
 9. *Environmental Sociology Policy Briefs.* The Council continued discussions initiated a year ago by Chair Roberts and Chair-elect Brulle on soliciting a series of short 'Policy Briefs' by environmental sociologists on relevant hot topics of the day. This will need to be a continued combined effort of the Chair, Chair-elect, Research and Policy Committee Chair (now Richard York), and Publications Committee Chair (now Michael Carolan).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Sonnenfeld
Secretary-Treasurer