

**American Society of Criminology
Board Meeting Minutes**

Friday August 28, 2026, 1:00-4:00pm
Virtual (Zoom)

Participants: Natasha Frost (President); Rod Brunson (President-Elect); Katheryn Russell-Brown (Past President); Anthony Peguero (Vice President); Jean McGloin (Vice President-Elect); Min Xie (Treasurer); Megan Denver (Interim Secretary); Executive Counselors: Henrika McCoy (joined at 1:40pm), Chris Melde, Marisa Omori (joined at 1:19pm), Vanessa Panfil, Jennifer Peck (joined at 2:40pm), Andres Rengifo, and Ebony Ruhland; Emily Backes (Executive Director). Staff: Sheena Case and Nicole Coldiron.

Absent: Executive Counselors Stephanie DiPietro, Jennifer Dungy.

Guests: Consultant Nancy Kidd (joined at 2:30pm).

The meeting was called to order by ASC President Natasha Frost at 1:03pm (ET).

1. Introducing ASC Executive Director Emily Backes

President Frost welcomed Emily Backes as the new ASC Executive Director, and Emily introduced herself to the Board. President Frost also discussed how ASC staff will be regularly invited to Board meetings going forward.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: *A motion to approve the minutes from the July 24th Board meeting was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

Motion: *A motion to append the minutes of the March, June and July meetings with the individual motions from the consent agendas moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

3. ASC President's Update

President Frost shared updates that will appear in her fall essay for The Criminologist. A Notice will circulate to the ASC membership about the September member vote to amend ASC governing documents. This includes amending the Articles of Incorporation; amending, restating, and replacing the current ASC Constitution and Bylaws with a presented new consolidated Bylaws document; implementation and transition plans; and proposed extended terms to assist with a smooth transition.

President Frost also provided an update on the Executive Committee's meeting with the Oral History Project's director. The July vote, for which with several abstained, was unclear given prior FY26 budget approval for \$5000 to the Oral History of Criminology project. The board should have only been considering the additional \$5,000 requested.

Motion: A motion to rescind the vote from the July 24th meeting related to the Oral History of Criminology Project was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to provide an additional \$5,000 that the Oral History of Criminology Project requested for FY26 was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously not approved.

President Frost then discussed the scheduled Board member training with Consultant Nancy Kidd this year. The Executive Director will provide training on an annual basis moving forward.

4. Consent Agenda

The Board moved into Executive Session to discuss Award Committee Reports.

Motion: A motion to accept the nominees as named in the reports of the Carte Award, Hindelang Award, Mentor Award, Petersilia Award, Poster Award, and Teaching Award Committees was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board discussed considering the Nominations Committee's initial report with recommended nominees before the slate of nominees is approved and nominees are notified. Report recommendations were also discussed. While there is a newly created Awards Committee, this committee will only be constituted and begin its work under President-Elect Brunson's term as President. As such, President Frost discussed developing guidelines for Nominations and several awards committees with the Executive Director for the Board's consideration at the September Board meeting.

[The Board took a 10-minute break from 2:20-2:30]

5. Governance Discussions

The Board voted on two items at the July 2026 meeting that require a second vote. The first is to move a clause that is required to appear (per the IRS) from the Bylaws to the Articles of Incorporation, following standard practice. The second involves decoupling the annual business meeting from the Annual Meeting.

Motion: A motion to move the dissolution clause from Bylaws to Articles of Incorporation was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to decouple the annual business meeting from the Annual Meeting was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board also took a second vote on three additional governance motions.

Motion: A motion to amend the Articles of Incorporation and submit to the State of California a Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of ASC as presented was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to amend, restate and replace the current ASC Constitution and Bylaws with the presented new consolidated Bylaws document was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to present the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution and Bylaws, signed by all Executive Board members, to the Executive Director, and directing the Executive Director to notify the membership of the pending vote and to arrange for the ballot was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Next, the Board discussed several topics surrounding divisions, leading to a series of motions that were discussed one at a time.

Motion: A motion to require divisions to submit annual budget proposals to the board, and require staff to provide routine division spending reports to the Board. Specify in policy that staff will disburse funds only in accordance with approved budgets. This motion was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to charge the executive director with developing a proposal around a potential dues structure to use across divisions was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to charge the executive director with developing a division fundraising and gift acceptance policy was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to adopt policy requiring approval of division journals and guiding division journal activities was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to require annual review of division journals was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: A motion to adopt policy governing division awards was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Next, the following seven motions related to divisions were discussed together:

Motion to revise the language disallowing divisions from making public statements independent of ASC for clarity.

Motion to specify the process for a division bringing a public statement proposal to the Society.

Motion to specify the process for a division to easily get contracts reviewed and signed by those with signature authority.

Motion to charge the new executive director with developing an implementation plan to incorporate division elections into the ASC election process. This plan should be in place in time for the 2028 ASC election.

Motion to adopt the policy for election procedures proposed by the ad hoc committee on divisions.

Motion to ask the new executive director to develop a transition and communications plan for divisions-related policy changes in time to be considered at the September board meeting.

Motion to amend the requirement for division governing documents to focus only on a set of specified policies.

Motion: *A motion to approve the seven motions related to divisions was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

Finally, the Board discussed several issues that would benefit from input from divisions before proceeding.

Motion: *A motion to charge the executive director to work with the divisions around proposed policies related leadership positions, leadership vacancies, and nomination committees was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

The Board turned to procedures and policies related to ethics, and held a discussion on the following previously drafted motions:

Motion to ask the new executive director to draft a detailed ethics disclosure process for award nominees and leadership candidates for board consideration.

Motion to adopt a new Code of Conduct that incorporates some of the elements from the current code and some of the elements of the Professional Conduct Policy proposed by the Ethics Committee.

Motion to require members and attendees to agree to follow the Code of Conduct.

Motion to create a Conduct Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Board, to support the Executive Director's efforts to respond to complaints of violations of the Code of Conduct.

If the new code of conduct is approved, Motion to cut standalone policy stipulating that the executive director can remove attendees from participation in the Annual Meeting.

If the new code of conduct is approved, Motion to change the Executive Committee to the Conduct Committee in the Awards Revocation and Removal from Leadership policies.

Motion to adjust the existing policy on adjudication of violations to reflect clarity around the various ethics-related policies.

Motion: *A motion to adopt the seven motions related to ethics was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

A remaining subset of motions for the Board's consideration, Committee Charges, and discussion of Executive Counselor Peck's report were held for the next Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm.

AGENDA
ASC Executive Board Meeting (Zoom meeting)
August 28, 2026
1:00pm – 4:00pm (E.S.T.)

1. Call to Order
 - a. Introducing ASC Executive Director Emily Backes (Frost)
 - b. Approval of July 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes (Denver)
2. ASC President's Update (Frost)
 - a. Essay for The Criminologist (September/October)
 - b. ASC Governance – Member Ballot
 - c. Executive Committee Update
 - d. Board Training & Board Meeting Schedule
3. Consent Agenda (Vote)
 - a. Committee Charges (Vote)
 - b. Award Committee Reports (Vote)
 - i. Nominations Committee
 - ii. Carte Award
 - iii. Hindelang Award
 - iv. Mentor Award
 - v. Petersilia Award
 - vi. Poster Award
 - vii. Teaching Award
 - viii. President's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Justice
4. Governance Discussions (Guest: Nancy Kidd)
 - a. Bylaws Revisions (2nd Vote)
 - b. Divisions (Peck)
 - c. Ethics
 - d. Awards
5. Adjournment