

ASC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, November 20, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Lynn Addington, Elsa Chen, Meda Chesney-Lind, Laura Dugan, Bonnie Fisher, Lori Hughes, Brian Johnson, Aaron Kupchick, Vera Lopez, Cynthia Lum, Jean McGloin, OJ Mitchell, Dan Nagin, Sally Simpson, Emily Wright, Chris Eskridge (reporter)

The Zoom meeting was called to order by ASC President Sally Simpson at 1:00 pm Eastern time on Friday, November 20, 2020.

1. Sally welcomed the attendees and presented a review of actions and activities undertaken in the past six months with respect to the Meeting Quality report recommendations.
2. The Board approved the statement pasted in below to be given to the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding upgrades in their Uniform Crime Report Program.
3. The Publications Committee will communicate with the membership regarding issues of data disclosure and availability. The issues will be discussed at Town Hall Meetings to be held in the coming months.
4. The Publications Committee will communicate with the ASC members per the details regarding open access dynamics of Criminology and CPP. This same information will be posted on the ASC webpage. A letter will be sent to the leaders of the open access petition movement, sharing this same open access detail information.
5. The Board approved the establishment of the Division of Queer Criminology.
6. The Board approved the charge and structure of the Scientific Integrity Committee, as follows:

Structure: The scientific integrity committee will consist of five (5) members who will serve staggered three (3) year terms. The Committee will include a current or recent member of the Ethics Committee, a current or recent member of the Publications Committee, and three members of the Society-at-large.

Charge:

- To formulate and recommend principles and procedures to the Board to guide the Society in a continuing review of issues that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, and to search for means that will effectively bring these issues to the attention of Society members.
- To collect information on restrictions of scientific freedom and of the ability of scientists to carry out their responsibilities, and to make such information

available to scientists, scientific societies, and others who may be interested in taking action to counter these restrictions.

- To develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to recommend policies, procedures, and educational activities to the Board designed to encourage scientists to accept their professional responsibilities both with regard to safeguarding the integrity of science and with regard to the application of science in the promotion of general welfare.
- To conduct an analytic review of emerging situations, cases, and circumstances where scientific integrity concerns are especially significant for the Society.
- To report annually to the Society the activities of the Committee and its general assessment of significant developments during the year that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility and that call for examination, discussion and possible action.
- To coordinate with the Publications, Ethics, Student Affairs, and Mentoring committees to identify workshops or sponsored forums on emerging issues in scientific freedom and responsibility for the annual meeting.

6. The Board approved an amended Appendix T.

7. The Board established an 8,000 word limit, excluding tables and references, for the Carte Student Paper submissions.

8. The Board voted that all Fellow nominations will be for two-years, going forward.

9. The Board retained the standard of awarding four Fellows per year, but voted to allow the Fellows Committee to advance additional exceptionally strong candidates to the Board for consideration. This language will be added to the Fellows Committee charge.

10. The Board approved in principle the plan to give a student poster award, with operational details to be presented by an Ad Hoc Committee to the Board. The Board will review the future of this award after the Chicago Annual meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm Eastern on Friday, November 20, 2020.

To: Amy Blasher, Federal Bureau of Investigation UCR Program Manager
From: Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology
Date: November 20, 2020

We are writing to applaud the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for investing in the improvement of the Uniform Crime Report Program (UCR). The shift from a summary system to an incident-based system will provide massive increases in the ability of the UCR data to illuminate the crime problem. The Supplementary Homicide Statistics (SHR) are perhaps the most used and influential component of the Summary System, in large part because it is incident based and affords greater flexibility for analysis purposes. With the full implementation of the National Incident Based System (NIBRS), this flexibility and increased detail will be available for the full range of crimes available in the UCR. There is no question this was the right thing to do.

As January 2021 approaches, however, the leadership and membership of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) are becoming increasingly concerned about the potential disruption of the UCR Program as the system moves from aggregate to incident-based reporting. As you know, the data from the UCR Summary System are one of the most important sources of information on crime used by criminologists and policy makers throughout the nation. Our concern is that transition to the incident-based system will result in a large number of localities not contributing data or contributing incomplete information for some unknown period of time. This will result in disruption in the times series at the national, state and local levels and with the absence of data for many jurisdictions. These gaps in the data could seriously diminish the ability of our members to conduct research for building theory and developing policy at the national, state and local levels.

With such a sweeping change in such a broad-based system (over 18,000 contributing agencies), there is bound to be a temporary loss of some functionality. For this reason, improvements in any statistical system are typically accompanied by steps to minimize or compensate for these losses in functionality. Our concern is heightened by the fact that we do not know what these losses will be and what steps are being considered to ameliorate them. The FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistic's (BJS) NCS-X program have done a good job encouraging the participation of local police agencies who provide the data and preparing them for the transition. We ask that, in keeping with the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), you do the same for constituencies that are loyal consumers and users of this information. ASC, as the largest membership association of criminologists in the world, is one of those constituencies.

We hope that in early 2021, when the extent of missing data and irregularities in the new system becomes apparent, you will communicate that to us and other user groups. We also hope that you will share with us your plans for estimation during the transition, as well as, planned imputation and other amelioration strategies to help us through the implementation period. We know that the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) division of the FBI and BJS have been working on these problems and it will help to

know what they are planning. With this information in hand, we can reach out to our membership, perhaps in collaboration with the FBI and BJS, to provide a much more informed picture of the transition that will reduce the anxiety that our members feel about potentially losing this valued source of information on crime and justice.

We wish you continued success in the transition to incident-based reporting in the UCR and look forward to conversations about how we can support those efforts, while ensuring continuity in the UCR data series that our membership has used for so long.

ASC Board Meeting Agenda
November 20, 2020
1:00 - 5:00 pm Eastern Time (via Zoom)

1. President's Welcome
2. Director and Treasurer's Report
3. Submitted Committee and Liaison Reports:
 - a. Oral History Project report
 - b. Policy Committee (draft statement)
 - c. Publications Committee report
 - d. UN Liaison report
4. Submitted Division Reports:
 - a. Petition to establish a Division on Queer Criminology
5. New Business:
 - a. Scientific Integrity Committee (proposed charge and structure)
 - b. Appendix T (revised)
 - c. Carte Award Committee recommendation (word count)
 - d. Fellows Committee recommendation (more than 4/year)
 - e. Mentoring Award Committee recommendation (mid-career award)
6. Thanks to the Board Members who are completing their terms (Aaron, Elsa, Laura, Meda, Vera)
7. Future Meetings of the ASC Board:
 - a. Saturday, November 21, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm (Eastern time)
 - b. Friday and Saturday, April 30 - May 1, 2021 (in Chicago?)