

**American Society of Criminology  
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday May 2, 2026, 9:00-4:00pm  
Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL

**Participants:** Natasha Frost (President); Rod Brunson (President-Elect); Katheryn Russell-Brown (Past President); Anthony Peguero (Vice President); Executive Counselors: Jennifer Cobbina-Dungy, Chris Melde, Henrika McCoy (until 2pm), Marisa Omori, Vanessa Panfil, Jennifer Peck (until 3:45pm), Andres Rengifo, and Ebony Ruhland (until 3:20pm); Sheena Case (Interim Executive Director; until 3pm); Min Xie (Treasurer); Megan Denver (Interim Secretary).

**Absent:** Vice President-Elect Jean McGloin and Executive Counselor Stephanie DiPietro

**Guests:** Consultant Nancy Kidd (until 3:00pm)

The meeting was called to order by ASC President Natasha Frost at 9:10am (CST).

**1. Governance Review**

The Board began by taking the second required vote on the bylaws revisions approved in the March 2026 meeting.

***Motion:** A motion for a second vote to approve the proposed revisions to the bylaws, as recommended in the consultant's review, was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

The Board engaged in extensive discussion about the consultant's recommendations regarding committees, including some suggestions for committee consolidation. With nineteen standing committees, in addition to all of the award selection committees, committee management is a more extensive undertaking than is feasible for an organization of this size.

The Board agreed that the work currently being done by the Committee on Committee Reports and Recommendations should be transferred to the incoming full-time Executive Director, who will sit on every committee in an ex-officio capacity.

***Motion:** A motion to eliminate the Committee on Committee Reports and Recommendations was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

To ensure timely comprehensive review of the governing documents in addition to routine compliance checks by the Executive Director, the Board discussed replacing the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with an alternative approach.

***Motion:** A motion to eliminate the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and require a comprehensive review by an ad hoc committee, comprised of a subset of Board members,*

*to occur every five years beginning in 2031 was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

The board discussed continuing the work of the Local Arrangements Committee outside of the formal committee structure, as is current practice.

***Motion:*** *A motion to eliminate the Local Arrangements Committee and assign the tasks to the Program Committee was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

While not specified as an ad hoc committee, the charge for the Long-Range Planning Committee is tied to a specific time period and task. Now that the work has been completed, the Board discussed disbanding the committee.

***Motion:*** *A motion to eliminate the Long-Range Planning Committee was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

The board discussed the importance of focusing the Membership Committee's charge at a strategic level, rather than assigning to it specific tasks.

***Motion:*** *A motion to change the charge of the Membership Committee to: "The Membership Committee identifies strategies for recruitment and retention of members in the Society" was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

The Board discussed the continued importance of mentoring opportunities provided by the Society and identified many ways in which this programmatic priority is currently manifested through a variety of committees. It will also be among the areas of programmatic focus for the incoming Executive Director. Given this context, the Board agreed to eliminate the Mentoring Committee.

***Motion:*** *A motion to eliminate the Mentoring Committee was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

The board discussed ways in which the strategic goals of the Ruth D. Peterson Fellows' Development Committee might be elevated.

***Motion:*** *A motion to transition the work of the Ruth D. Peterson Fellows' Development Committee to a subcommittee of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

In the context of discussion about the role of the Publications Committee, the Board discussed the inherent conflict of interest held by editors on the committee who are currently deliberating policy that affects their journals. While recognizing the ongoing importance of ensuring opportunities for editors to share their insight and experience with the committee, the Board agreed to eliminate the possibility of real or perceived conflict of interest and instead encourage the publications committee to invite journal editors to attend on an as-needed basis.

**Motion:** A motion to remove the ASC journal editors as ex-officio members of the Publications Committee was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board discussed ways in which the work of several committees currently overlaps and identified the structural changes that could be made to ensure clear distribution of labor without losing any of the key areas of focus.

**Motion:** A motion to eliminate the Scientific Integrity Committee and transition their important work to the Ethics Committee and the Publications Committee was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board discussed current compensation (\$2,500 plus hotel for the meeting) for the Program Committee Co-Chairs in light of the evolution of the role and equity considerations.

**Motion:** A motion to compensate Program Committee Co-Chairs with hotel stays, and include up to \$2500 per person for reimbursement to attend the conference, starting with the 2028 conference was moved and seconded. The Motion was not approved.

**Motion:** A motion to eliminate stipends for the Program Committee Co-Chairs, but include hotel stays to attend the conference, starting with the 2028 conference was moved and seconded. The Motion was approved.

The Board discussed a series of recommendations in the consultant's report and decided to vote on them as a bloc. Most of the recommendations have to do with clarifying language, amending text to align with practice, and developing policy language on topics for later board consideration. Also included in the bloc are reducing the size of the Policy Committee and making the terms for student members of the Student Affairs Committee one year.

**Motion:** A motion to approve #2-5, 7-9, and 11 from the recommended committee policy changes was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board continued conversation about ASC's role in public affairs and agreed to read some relevant materials before continuing the discussion at the next meeting.

The Board discussed an existing policy that allows the President to expend funds on an ad hoc basis for "requests from third world nations seeking expert assistance" and decided that such a spending decision should go through normal budgetary channels.

**Motion:** A motion to eliminate the policy related to requests for expert assistance was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board then considered another set of recommendations as a bloc. Most of these are instructions to move forward with developing language for the governing documents and policy manual around several topics. For example, there is a recommendation to develop an indemnification clause and another to adopt a solicitation and gift acceptance policy. There are instructions to clearly articulate in the governing documents how each Board

position is filled, the associated terms, and whether reelection or reappointment is permitted. These things will come back to the Board for consideration once they are drafted.

The Board also discussed revising the purpose of the Finance committee with a more strategic lens and adopting a policy requiring an annual formal presentation of audit results to the Finance Committee by the auditor.

***Motion:*** *A motion to accept recommendations 29-36 and 39-40 in the consultant's report was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

Executive Counselor Jennifer Peck, the chair of the Committee on Divisions, provided a summary of the committee's mid-year report. The Committee has several preliminary recommendations which align well with the Board's ongoing conversation about ensuring that division activity is aligned across the Society. The Board discussed the important role that divisions have in the association, that they are not separate or independent entities, and that divisions are therefore bound to the same rules, policies and procedures as the ASC. The Board encouraged the committee to move forward with next steps and is looking forward to reviewing the final report.

The Board created an ad hoc committee, comprised of Natasha Frost, Marisa Omori, and Ebony Ruhland, to revise descriptions and charges for Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Publications Committee, Membership Committee, and Divisions Committee.

## **2. Strategic Planning**

The Board engaged in a series of small group exercises, moderated by the consultant, to support proactive, deep thinking about ASC's mission and mission-driven programmatic priorities.

## **3. Proposals, Divisions, and Initiatives**

This Board meeting was Consultant Nancy Kidd's last contractual day, and after the consultant left the meeting, the Board discussed additional costs to complete key components of the governance work before the new Executive Director comes in.

***Motion:*** *A motion to retain Nancy Kidd Consulting, LLC for the proposed additional consulting services to complete the governance work was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.*

Next, the Board discussed a proposal for a new Division on Courts and Pretrial Justice.

The Board decided to facilitate communication between leadership of existing, related divisions and leadership of the proposed division to better understand if partnership is a more viable option than a new division.

The Oral History Project (OHP) requested that ASC double the annual funding amount provided (from \$5,000 to \$10,000) to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in OHP interviewees, but did not provide the requested budget justification in their response. The Board expressed an interest in continuing to support the initiative, but without a submitted

budget, it was unable to make a funding determination. The Board plans to invite the OHP to a future meeting to better understand the funding request.

The Board also discussed a funding request from the National Academies Committee on Law and Justice.

***Motion:*** *A motion to offer a one-time gift of \$25,000 to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Committee on Law and Justice was moved and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved, with one abstention.*

The President reported that, while ASC had been asked to develop a mechanism for updating the former Crime and Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) expert directory, the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) is currently seeking funding to maintain the directory internally.

The President-Elect reported on an upcoming national research conference on firearm related harms and preliminary discussions he is having about donating in-kind tables for materials at each conference. The Board encouraged continued conversations on this initiative.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.

## **AGENDA**

### **ASC Executive Board Mid-Year Meeting**

Friday May 1, 2026, 3:00pm – 7:00pm CST

Saturday May 2, 2026, 9:00am – 4:00pm

CST

Palmer House Hilton, Chicago: Crystal Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Saturday May 2, 2026

9am – 4pm

#### **1. Governance Review (Guest: Nancy Kidd)**

- a. Bylaws Revisions (2<sup>nd</sup> Vote)
- b. Phase Two Implementation
  - i. Committees
  - ii. Divisions
  - iii. Bylaws
  - iv. Policies and Procedures

#### **2. Strategic Planning (Guest: Nancy Kidd)**

#### **3. Divisions Proposals and Initiatives**

- a. Proposed Divisions on Courts and Pretrial Justice
- b. Nancy Kidd Consulting, Inc.
- c. CLAJ
- d. CJRA