

ASC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 31, 2006
Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel

MINUTES

Attending: Robert Agnew, Donna Bishop, Chris Eskridge, Denise Gottfredson, Julie Horney, Gary LaFree, Janet Lauritsen, Alan Lizotte, Jim Lynch, Doris Mackenzie, Lauren O'Neill, Alex Piquero, Michael Tonry, Chris Uggen, Pat Van Voorhis, David Weisburd, John Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm

1. President's Report – Gary LaFree

Gary LaFree described preparations and plans for the 2006 meeting and updated the Board on some of the new equipment for the Columbus office. He thanked outgoing Board members for their service. The two didactic workshop sessions were characterized as successful, with the *Beyond OLS* methods session filling to capacity and the *Data Mining* session also getting good attendance.

2. Executive Director's Report

Chris Eskridge noted that the Society is on firm financial footing. He updated the Board on staffing in the Columbus office, changes to the ASC website, relationships with our publisher and banks. Susan Case is now administering the ASC office, with Nicole Coldiron managing the website in *Dreamweaver*. Chris described recent interactions with the Internal Revenue Service regarding tax reporting. The Society had been assessed a \$34,000 penalty but this has been reduced to \$5,000. To ensure that such situations are avoided in the future, the Society hired a new certified public accountant with expertise in non-profit organizations. He noted some minor budget adjustments for the annual meeting, reflecting changes in the cost of certain food items and receptions. Costs for the Los Angeles meetings are partially offset by payments from the Convention Center (approximately \$26,000) and hotels (approximately \$20,000). Blackwell publishing informs us that sales of *Criminology* are increasing rapidly, which will benefit the Society financially. McGraw-Hill has also agreed to sponsor the ASC student paper competition at a cost of \$1,500 per year. The cost of *Criminology & Public Policy* increased during the editorial transition. Michael Tonry had requested information regarding a \$5,867 printing cost item for *Criminology and Public Policy*. This money has been used for disseminating the journal.

3. Treasurer's Report – Postponed until Saturday

4. ASC Committee Reports

- A. Los Angeles Program Committee – Doris Mackenzie, Alex Piquero, Lauren O'Neill
 - a. There were 2,191 final submissions for the 2006 meetings, including 150 posters,

1,071 papers, and 40 roundtables. 1,614 people pre-registered, and about 400 walk-ins expected. There are 9 professional development sessions scheduled, 10 author meets critics sessions, 2 presidential plenaries, 4 disciplinary panels, several division sessions, 15 movie sessions, 2 ASC training seminars, a searchable preliminary program, and a Saturday closing brunch. The organizers were pleased with All Academic and the conference software they provided. The Board discussed the possibility of assigning a unique identification number to all members to eliminate some of the problems caused by individuals creating multiple identification numbers. Some members complained about the brunch overlapping with Saturday sessions. Because many convention center rooms are large, a schoolroom setup rather than a table setup will be adopted for some sessions. The organizers attempted to provide a large number of tables and chairs for members outside the meeting rooms, but could only provide a limited number of couches. The convention center's food court and nearby dining options were discussed, as well as transportation between conference hotels and the convention center. We arranged for up to six designated buses to run from 6 am to 7 pm to the convention center, and then run between the hotels until 1 am. Gary Lafree thanked the program committee for their great work, and Lauren O'Neill for her service.

B. COSSA – Jim Lynch

- a. The Board discussed the costs and benefits of the Society's membership in the Consortium of Social Sciences Associations or COSSA. It costs the ASC approximately \$8,000 annually for membership in COSSA, which helps to preserve the scientific infrastructure needed to conduct criminological research. COSSA provides us with information and monitors activities that affect the concerns of our members, while offering advocacy and assistance when these interests are threatened. COSSA has been helpful in addressing potential crises, such as threats to the budgets of the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. COSSA also advocates to protect funding streams, peer review processes, science education, and other activities. Much of their activity is geared to monitoring funding for the National Science Foundation and the Bureau of the Census. They also offer seminars, occasionally focusing on crime issues. COSSA is additionally involved in teaching initiatives and grass-roots organizing to lobby congress. The Board affirmed our continuing involvement with COSSA but discussed ways of better utilizing the organization to serve the Society's interests.

C. Nominations Committee – Rick Rosenfeld

- a. The Board approved the slate of candidates, including Todd Clear and Frank Zimring for President and Barry Feld and Wayne Osgood for Vice President, by unanimous vote. To improve the participation rate of the membership, Michael Tonry suggested charging the Membership Committee with the task of investigating the feasibility and desirability of emails to the ASC membership and online notifications of elections. The Committee could also investigate whether online voting is a viable option for the 2008 elections.

D. United Nations – Ineke Marshall

- a. Ineke Marshall submitted her report as United Nations Coordinator, as well as the Quadrennial Report of May 29, 2006 for the American Society of Criminology NGO in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
 - b. After thanking Ineke Marshall for her work as liaison, the Board discussed the most appropriate role for the Society in relation to the United Nations and considered whether a new status is needed. Ineke Marshall and Chris Eskridge explained that there is some pressure on the ASC NGO to take policy positions, appoint formal representatives, and to provide in-kind assistance. Board members discussed how other organizations have structured their relationships with the United Nations, including the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the National Institute of Justice, which has been a part of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, and the European Society of Criminology, which recently decided against becoming an NGO.
 - c. The Society could seek an “observer” status rather than NGO status, but this restricted status would not permit access to the crime commission meetings. Our NGO status currently provides entrée for our individual members who wish to do international work. As an NGO, the Society can also provide service and expertise at crime congresses, as well as unbiased scholarly products and expertise to the UN on targeted issues. For example, the ASC NGO has compiled 50 years of documents from crime congresses online and disseminated them in a compact disc format. Because the Division of International Criminology spearheaded efforts to attain NGO status, the DIC should play a role in the Society’s future involvement with the United Nations. Ineke Marshall recommended retaining the Society’s NGO status, in keeping with recent movements in the field. She offered to gather information and provide a conduit to allow members to attend various sessions.
 - d. After further discussion, the Board considered the following motion: *(1) that the ASC abandon its NGO status with the UN; and (2) a committee be appointed with some representation from the Division of International Criminology to consider over the next 6 months whether there are other roles for participation with the UN.* This motion failed, with 6 votes in favor and 7 opposed. Some on the Board wished to maintain NGO status while the Society explores alternative roles. The Board next considered the following motion: *(1) that the ASC abandon its NGO status with the UN effective May 1, 2007; and (2) a committee be appointed with some representation from the Division of International Criminology to consider over the next 6 months whether there are other roles for participation with the UN.* This motion passed, with 11 votes in favor and 2 opposed.
- E. Publications Committee (book reviews) – Denise Gottfredson
- a. Denise Gottfredson reported on the possibility of adding book reviews to *Criminology*. She described the difficulties in providing and obtaining quality reviews, their negative impact on journal citation rankings, and potential logistical problems. Although the Board did not recommend incorporating book reviews in *Criminology* at this time, future editors of *Criminology* may consider adding a book review section at a later date.

5. Criminology – Denise Gottfredson

- a. Denise Gottfredson announced that *Criminology* has now been accepted for indexing at PsychINFO. The journal's new copy editor is Sheree Van Vreede, who also serves as copy editor for *Criminology & Public Policy*. The flow of manuscripts has risen approximately 20 percent over last year, to 233 manuscripts. The average time to decision is 63 days. About 70 percent of manuscripts are rejected at the initial review.

6. *The Criminologist*

- a. Bob Agnew discussed his proposal for updating and strengthening *The Criminologist*. Under the proposed new model, an editor would be appointed for a three-year term and paid a yearly stipend, with current staff in the Columbus office performing the functions of a managing editor. The Board considered issues such as the format, costs, features, and frequency of publication for *The Criminologist*.
- b. A motion to charge an expanded publications committee to consider proposed changes to *The Criminologist* was passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The expanded committee, which will include ex-officio members with knowledge of *The Criminologist*, will consider the suggested changes to *The Criminologist* in Bob Agnew's memorandum and report back in April with a proposal and budget details.
- c. Chris Eskridge updated the Board on progress in scanning the Society's documents. An electronic archive is being created that dates from the 1950s to present.

7. New Business

- a. Bonnie Berry reports that the new Ad Hoc Teaching Award committee is moving forward.
- b. John Laub brought an issue to the Board's attention regarding letters submitted in support of nominees for ASC awards. In response to concern that awards were becoming "letter-writing campaigns," the Board considered a proposal to limit the nomination materials to a single letter of support and a curriculum vita. After some discussion, the Board took no action, concluding that the number of letters has had little effect on the likelihood that a candidate will receive an award. Nevertheless, award committee chairs will be instructed that the sheer number of letters should affect neither the deliberation process nor the outcome of the deliberations.
- c. Chris Eskridge alerted the Board to issues regarding the wheelchair accessibility of ASC conference space and hotels. The Board discussed whether it was appropriate to expend ASC funds to reimburse members who require motorized scooters as a travel expense. The cost is approximately \$40 per day.
- d. No other new business.

8. Future Board Meetings

- a. Saturday November 4, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Biltmore Boardroom
- b. Friday/Saturday, April 27-28, Atlanta Marriott