

Chapter 2

The 1991–2002 Period: Transformations and Innovations

1. INTRODUCTION

Background and Context

The period from 1991 through 2002 was a time of major transformation at the American Sociological Association. During this period, ASA elaborated its mission as the national professional association for sociologists, honed its programmatic objectives, and clarified its organizational roles and structure. In large part, major changes emanated by design from strategic planning that took place at ASA in 1992 under the leadership of Felice J. Levine, the 11th Executive Officer. Both the changes that took place and the process that produced them reflected a shift in how the Association did business—with Council focusing on setting policy and broad oversight functions and the professional staff assuming greater responsibility for implementing and achieving Council goals and framing issues that required policy guidance. Over time, this shift produced changes not only in how Council and the Executive Officer worked in collaboration, but also in how staff, committees, and tasks evolved in their functions. During this period, the ASA Council also enacted significant changes in the governance structure of the Association. All of these activities affected and altered ASA in dramatic ways.

Executive Officer Levine led a review of ASA's operations and management in fall 1992, after a one-year period learning first-hand from staff and committees about priorities and challenges. During 1991 and 1992, Executive Office staff also completed a comprehensive Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new computer and software system based on considerable analysis of ASA's work and goals. This examination of technological needs provided the framework for the review of organizational functions and goals known as the strategic plan. The result of this exercise, as set forth below, was presented by Secretary Arlene Kaplan Daniels and Levine to the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) in December 1992, meeting with EOB's unanimous and enthusiastic approval. In January 1993, the strategic plan was presented to Council, which also affirmed its support overall and through a series of actions related to specific programs.

In a February 1994 article in *Footnotes*, "Moving Forward for Sociology," Levine summarized the results of the planning. She observed that, over its history, ASA had evolved from an association that, in addition to an annual meeting and a journal, performed secretariat functions (keeping records and sending out communications) to a complex organization that provided a wide range of services (a roster of journals, other publications, meetings, workshops, programs, representation of the discipline) to

the membership. Like other scientific and professional societies, ASA was faced with the challenge of defining common objectives, shifting to deliberative planning, articulating goals and operating plans, reorienting resources around key goals, creating an effective organizational structure within the Executive Office, and taking steps (including through the use of technology) to produce business efficiencies and practices. The key objectives for ASA and the Executive Office were defined as “serving sociologists in their work, advancing sociology as a science and profession, and promoting the contributions and use of sociology to society.” Ultimately embraced as the ASA mission statement, they provided the framework for defining priorities, annual planning, and specifying six core programs for ASA: Academic and Professional Affairs, Minority Affairs, Applied Social Research and Social Policy (the Sydney S. Spivack Program), Research on the Discipline and Profession, Public Affairs, and Public Information. They also led to other office improvements in the use of technology and the organization of human resources (e.g., establishment of a membership and customer service department).

As reflected in the mission statement, the ASA of the 1990s positioned itself for systemic change to advance the discipline to supplant case-by-case strategies. A fundamental aspect of these changes was the Executive Office staff becoming more proactive in achieving the Association’s goals. Testimonies, Congressional seminars, formal and informal meetings with research and science policy leaders, and the establishment of the Department Affiliates Program to facilitate work and communications with sociology department chairs were among the types of activities undertaken to help accomplish the objectives of ASA. The ASA homepage was initiated in 1995, and introduced significant new opportunities for publication, communication, and products and processes related to the Annual Meeting. Even the move of the ASA headquarters in 1998 from a four-story row house to one floor of a recently renovated office building enhanced the capacity of the Executive Office staff to work more efficiently and collaboratively on ASA functions and activities.

Other transformations to ASA systems and practices were guided or approved by Council: The role of the Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT) was substantially altered in 1994; section finances, administration, and governance were reformed in 1997; the committee structure was dramatically changed in 1998; and the system of dues was essentially decoupled from journal subscriptions in 2001. A major revision of the Code of Ethics took place from 1994 to 1996 and was overwhelmingly adopted by the ASA membership in 1997. In 1999, Council approved the *Guidelines for the ASA Publications Portfolio*, publishing was considerably enhanced by innovative electronic publishing techniques, and a new ASA-wide journal (*Contexts*) and a first-ever section journal (*City and Community*) were developed and launched.

Finally, although the goal of promoting diversity and inclusiveness in the profession and discipline had been key to ASA for many years, enhanced emphasis was placed on achieving diversity, especially for historically underrepresented groups. (For example, Minority Affairs became a designated programmatic area under the 1992 strategic plan.) In August 1995 and January 1996, Council reaffirmed through two resolutions its commitment to diversity and to the view that excellence and inclusiveness are complementary, not competitive goals. The two statements on diversity read as follows:

Much of the vitality of ASA flows from its diverse membership. With this in mind, it is the policy of the ASA to include people of color, women, sociologists from smaller institutions or who work in government, business, or other applied settings, and international scholars in all of its programmatic activities and in the business of the Association.” (Adopted by Council, August 23–24, 1995) (ASA homepage)

The American Sociological Association, in its policies and programs, is committed to achieving diversity in the discipline, especially for historically underrepresented groups. The Association encourages a continued commitment to activities—whether through the Minority Affairs Program, Annual Meetings, sections, committees, or other initiatives—that work to accomplish this goal. The Association further commends the principle of diversity across the profession and to the nation.” (Adopted by Council, January 1996)

Changes in the American Sociological Association took place in the context of a political, social, and economic climate that might best be described as variable in its receptivity to sociology and the social sciences. This period was marked on the one hand by rescinding of the American Teenage Study by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1991 and threatened consolidation of sociology departments in Kentucky-wide institutions of higher education in 1993 and 1994, to the establishment of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health in 1995, and a marked improvement in the academic job market for sociologists observable in the late 1990s. And, while Clinton-era politics were generally friendlier to the concerns of the social sciences (the administration was data oriented and interested in research on issues ranging from the environment to race), there were still considerable challenges in the form of policies that could erode the capacity to do quality research (e.g., the Contract with America included proposed legislation to limit research, challenges to funding of social science programs at NSF). During this time, ASA situated itself to address problems and promote opportunities as was appropriate to changing conditions and circumstances.

A pivotal event at the beginning of the new century and millennium was the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, and the rising threats of new forms of terrorism around the world. These events have challenged sociologists and other social scientists to contribute their knowledge and expertise to public understanding of the causes and consequences of such incidences. ASA took immediate steps in 2001 and 2002 to post relevant social science information on the ASA website and to cosponsor a briefing on responses to disasters, risk, and threat, and the Association continues to engage substantially in such efforts (see also Chapter 3).

Revisiting Strategic Planning in 1998

In the summer of 1998, EOB revisited the issue of strategic planning for the ASA. The discussion that ensued is important, both from the perspective of “taking stock” of the programmatic work of the 1990s, as well as for the insights on the future of sociology and the ASA in the short- and long-term. EOB identified a number of challenges to the profession (which could have either positive or negative consequences), including: “demographic shifts in the profession, electronic communication and delivery of our work, international leadership in sociology, funding for research, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary work, and deprofessionalization of the academic enterprise. EOB identified the important thrusts for the Association: attention to responsible use of sociology in public policy, to undergraduate and graduate students and their training, to sociologists who are in non-sociology departments.” (EOB Minutes June 30–July 1, 1998)

EOB affirmed the importance of ongoing programs and the priorities for future work emphasized by Executive Officer Levine. David Featherman noted positively the transformation and development of programmatic activities over time, and also the use of external funding to develop the most successful programmatic activities. (Excluding awards to the MFP program, about \$2 million in funding was awarded to ASA during the 1990s, including from the National Science Foundation, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and also smaller amounts from the MacArthur Foundation, the North-South Foundation, and the Soros Foundation.)

2. MEMBERSHIP AND FISCAL STATUS

ASA Membership in the 1990s

Overall membership levels were fairly steady around 13,000 members throughout the 1990s. The student membership category was the major growth category throughout the 1990s, although retention rates for students were lower from year-to-year than for the other membership categories. (Retention rates represent the percentage of members from year-to-year who chose to renew

membership.) Regular membership declined somewhat, but retention rates remained high (over 80 percent) during this period. Records show that this rate was considered high when benchmarked against other professional associations.

The ASA Executive Office mounted a vigorous campaign to attract new members to the Association, particularly at times when membership levels were low. Outreach efforts focused on members slow to renew, as well as to members of regional and aligned associations such as the American Association of University Professors, and sections of the American Public Health Association. Members who did not renew their membership were targeted in special personalized campaigns using emails, faxes, and phone calls.

Profile of ASA Members and Minority Participation in ASA

Membership in 2001

The Association began to collect demographic data systematically on its membership in the early 1980s (see Chapter 1). With the implementation of NOAH—a dedicated database management and information system—in the early 1990s, ASA's capacity to report on membership improved significantly, even though nonreporting of certain key information (e.g., race and ethnicity) still presented challenges in related analyses. Reporting up-to-date information on members became even more accessible on an ongoing basis (see following section on Information Technology) after the installation of the Windows based e-NOAH in 2001, but extracting information for research purposes from the NOAH database remained complex and required customized services. Such advances however, made possible generating reports of the membership along various dimensions for administrative and research purposes as required.

A report on ASA membership in 2001 was prepared under the direction of Roberta Spalter-Roth, Director of the Research Program on the Discipline and Profession, and published in *Footnotes* (January 2002:8–9) and on the ASA homepage. The report indicates that ASA had a total of 12,365 members at the end of the 2001 membership year (see Appendix 12 for membership counts by year). Counts in 2001 were overall lower than the years before or after due to an expected attrition in membership associated with the 2001 dues restructuring and due to the comparatively lower attendance at the Annual Meeting in Anaheim. In 2001, most members (53 percent) were in the regular membership category (i.e., those who have full voting rights), followed by student members (30 percent), associates (11 percent), and emeritus members (6 percent).

Although the demographic data (based on the Membership Application/Renewal forms) must be considered with some caution because many members do not provide information on key characteristics, they do provide some indication of the overall composition of the membership in 2001 (see Appendix 13, Tables 3 and 4). Data on the regular members category only show that men were still the majority (55 percent) of these members. Of regular members who reported race/ethnicity, about 80 percent were non-Hispanic white, 5 percent reported their race/ethnicity as African American, 5 percent as Asian American, 3 percent as Hispanic/Latino, and less than 1 percent as Native American. The average age for all regular members was 51 years, and the modal age was 54. For most regular members 85 percent reported a doctorate, 12 percent a master's-level degree, and only 3 percent a bachelors degree as their highest degree.

Most ASA regular members in 2001 who reported their employment status were employed and employed full-time (82 percent). Of these, 80 percent were employed in institutions of higher education; 14 percent worked in federal, state, or local governments, or not-for-profit organizations; and 3 percent either owned businesses that employed others or were independent consultants. The overwhelming majority reported an academic or teaching appointment (73 percent), about 13 percent had a research position and about 7 percent had an administrative position.

The remaining 7 percent were distributed among postdoctoral fellowships, applied, non-research positions, writing/editorial positions, and other work positions.

These data showed significant differences between men and women in income levels, with men earning more than women at the top income categories. Asian Americans, Hispanic/Latinos and Native Americans also were less likely to be in the top income categories and more likely to be in the bottom category.

Trends for the future demographic distribution of ASA members can be seen in looking at the student member category. Relatively large proportions of student members in 2001 were female (65 percent female, 35 percent male). Also, large proportions of non-whites in the total membership were students, although the large nonresponse rate on this data element suggests that these data should be viewed with caution.

ASA Membership Trends

Although there have been changes in definitions of membership and income categories over the past quarter century (and also fairly high rates of non-response on key items on each survey), some estimates of trends in membership on key demographic variables are possible. Comparison of breakdowns on gender and race/ethnicity show a significant increase in women members since 1981. Looking over all categories of membership, women were 33 percent of the members in 1982, 41 percent in 1992, and 52 percent in 2001. Minorities made up less than 10 percent of the membership in 1981, about 15 percent in 1991, and about 20 percent in 2001 (see Appendix 13).

Participation Trends by Women and Minorities, 1982–2002

Following directives of the ASA Council in the early 1980s, the Association also began to collect data on participation of minorities and women in certain areas of its governance (i.e., ASA Council/elected positions, committees, presidential appointments, section councils, journal editorial boards). Appendix 13, Table 5 contains summary data of trends in participation by minorities and women in these areas since 1982. Data for these analyses were compiled from 1982 data presented by Paul Williams in a December 1982 *Footnotes* article, and from the NOAH database for 1992 and 2002 governance activities (prepared for this report). ASA members who serve on councils, editorial boards, in committees, and task forces generally report their race and ethnicity on their membership forms (nonreporting rates on any relevant data element was seven percent or less).

Overall women and minorities have increased their share of positions in all areas of ASA governance over the past quarter century. Minorities comprised 6 percent of Council in 1982, 25 percent in 1992, and 32 percent in 2002. Similar patterns occurred for minorities with respect to representation on constitutional/elected committees (no representation in 1982, 21 percent in 1992, and 35 percent in 2002); in Council, presidential appointments (20 percent in 1982, 21 percent in 1992, and 31 percent in 2002); on editorial boards (6 percent in 1982, 7 percent in 1992, and 23 percent in 2002); and elected section officers (6 percent in 1982, 13 percent in 1992, and 18 percent in 2002).

The analysis of data at these points in time show that women also have increased their representation in all areas, except on Council in 2002. Women, however, made up more than half of all ASA Councils each year from 1991 to 1999. Women now comprise more than one-half of all elected/constitutional committees, and elected section councils, and nearly half of editorial boards and presidential/Council appointments. The Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology presented detailed findings on these and related issues in its 2004 *Final Report* to Council (2004 Report of the American Sociological Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology, *Final Report*, October 22, 2004:24–27).

Budgets and Finances

Audit reports indicate that ASA was financially solid during the 1990s, generally running budget surpluses each year. Investment portfolios reflected the overall market trends, and showed healthy growth throughout the period, with a slight decline as the markets turned downward in the late 1990s. At year end 2000, the revenue of the ASA was \$5,134,720 and expenditures \$4,891,431. Net assets stood at \$8,912,764 (2000 Audit in *Footnotes*, September 2001:16–17).

Investment Portfolio and ASA Reserve Funds

In August 1992, based on a review of the investment strategy over recent years and an examination of a number of investment firms, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB) under Secretary Beth Hess decided to change from the Seattle Office of Oppenheimer & Co. to Fiduciary Trust International, Inc. as the manager of ASA accounts. Premised on the value of periodic reexamination of investment management and accordingly based on a resolution of EOB in June 1996, a Subcommittee (consisting of Secretary Teresa Sullivan, Chair, Neil Smelser, David Featherman, and Felice Levine, ex officio) reviewed long-term financial management and investment firms, including Fiduciary International. The EOB Subcommittee scheduled meetings with four firms on December 9, 1996. After the interviews, EOB concluded that Fiduciary Trust International provided a better understanding of how ASA guidelines were being used in handling the ASA portfolio, and that ASA should continue with the current investment firm, but closely monitor the firm's performance and strategy.

A further review of investment policy, asset allocation strategy, and investment management firms was undertaken by Secretary Florence Bonner, Executive Officer Felice Levine, and Deputy Executive Officer Phoebe Stevenson on behalf of EOB in 1999. One impetus was an interest in determining how best to handle the net revenue from sale of the headquarters building on 1722 N Street. Given the shakier state of the economy and the passage of years since the last review, EOB sought this review, which included an independent assessment of the ASA investment portfolio and investment strategies by Robert W. Everett, an investment advisor and Assistant Professor of Finance at the Johns Hopkins University.

At its July 1999 meeting, EOB considered the performance of Fiduciary International, the investment strategy for each of the ASA funds, and the wisdom of a value versus growth investment strategy—the latter being ASA's long-term approach. Everett joined the EOB for this discussion. As set forth in the July 1999 minutes, in January 2000, EOB identified a set of guidelines relating to the Building Fund, decided to continue to purchase only investment grade bonds, clarified policies related to fair labor practices, and specified general parameters for asset allocation. The EOB recognized that the use of a value investment strategy might provide ASA with possible diversification. EOB urged the ASA Secretary and the Executive Officer to interview value managers and potentially solicit proposals that might apply to the Building Fund only. In January 2000, EOB considered value versus growth strategies and proposals for each. EOB concluded that the Building Fund should remain with Fiduciary International and selected an asset allocation that EOB thought would maximize the opportunity for necessary growth in this Fund.

Socially Responsible Investments

An investment policy was defined by Council in 1987 and is monitored by EOB. Two sets of guidelines were articulated at that time (see Chapter 1). During the 1990s several modifications were made to the 1987 policy, such that social responsibility guidelines were further specified as: (1) No funds shall be invested in companies whose economic activity is primarily engaged in defense contracting; and (2) No funds shall be invested in companies with 'notorious' anti-labor policies, deficient records on worker health and safety, or firms whose policies have been preju-

dicial to minorities. The ban on investing in companies directly involved in or doing business in South Africa was lifted in November 1993. Guidelines were also established for allocation, divestiture, and monitoring of ASA's portfolio.

In December 1997, Council member Joe Feagin raised the issue of proactively pursuing socially responsible investments, but Council members noted that it is easier to craft policies on what not to invest in as opposed to what to invest in. Council also pointed out that ASA would need to decide whether to have categories of industries which to avoid. This issue was raised again in June 1998, but the consensus reached in EOB was that ASA "should not go further down the path to more restrictive (socially responsible) guidelines. Other than the steps already taken (e.g., vote proxies for the companies where ASA owns stock), EOB recommended no further changes in ASA's investment policy." (EOB Minutes, June 1998 and January 1999)

Development Campaign

In 1998, when he was President-Elect of the ASA, Alejandro Portes convened a committee to explore the possibilities of a long-range development campaign for the Association. The goal of such an effort as envisioned by Portes was to "put in place a long-term fundraising effort that would enable the Association to undertake important programmatic work on behalf of the discipline. He thought that a fundraising strategy [planned as part of the Centennial commemoration in 2005] to promote and advance 'Sociology for the New Century' would be the right legacy to leave for sociology and for ASA." (Council Minutes, February 2001)

Council supported Portes' interests in moving in this direction and the initial explorations being pursued. Other issues, in particular the controversy about the *ASR* editorship (see later discussion in chapter), deferred moving ahead on a campaign in 1999. Though Council took several subsequent actions to activate such a Campaign through 2001 and Executive Officer Levine signaled an interest in working on building such a reservoir of resources to advance the discipline, this activity was not a priority in the way that it was for Portes. Council tabled the idea on August 20, 2002 on the recommendation of EOB due to the weak state of the economy as well as consideration that such a campaign linked "to the centennial might not be the best approach."

3. EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive Office Staffing

The ASA Executive Office evolved through two major changes over the past two decades: (1) The reorganization of 1984 created a managerial structure which shaped functionality and created the base for professionalizing services offered by ASA (Chapter 1); and (2) As noted in the introduction to this chapter, the realignment of professional functions in the Executive Office resulting from the strategic planning of 1992 further defined staff roles and responsibilities. An aspect of the strategic plan was to create more symmetry and synergism across significant activities within ASA. Thus, in 1993 in addition to articulating six programs, the Annual Meeting and publications activities were more formally featured as central program emphases. In 1993, sociologists who previously were considered Assistant Directors became Program Directors. By 1996, job titles changed from Manager to Director for Janet L. Astner (Meeting Services) and Karen G. Edwards (Publications), thus completing the transformation to creating a tier of senior director-level staff.

The enormous changes in information technologies and their application in almost all areas of Association activity since 1980 also dramatically altered how the ASA does its work. As part of implementing the strategic plan, for example, the integration of technology in membership services (membership, order fulfillment, benefits and other queries) made possible a Membership and Customer Services unit under a single umbrella. While this transformation began in 1990 with a

program assistant with computer-based skills being promoted to Membership Manager, by 1994 staffing further altered to hire a manager with database management skills. Other administrative and operational functions were also enhanced. For example, the financial operations of ASA became professionalized by upgrading the position of Bookkeeper to Controller, also in 1994. Similarly, efforts were made to enhance the operations of and support to committees and sections by clearer demarcation of a Governance Coordinator position.

Most significantly, while the Association has substantially increased its services and professional activities, the number of staff persons has held fairly steady since the early 1990s: At the end of 2000, the ASA Executive Office staff consisted of 23 persons compared with 22 persons at the end of 1990. (The Executive Office Staff as of January 1, 2005 is listed in Appendix 30.)

Felice J. Levine served as the 11th Executive Officer of the Association from August 1, 1991 to May 15, 2002. She succeeded William V. D'Antonio and was appointed Executive Officer-designate in May 1990 until she joined the ASA staff in August 1991. Levine was Director of the Law and Social Science Program at the National Science Foundation before becoming Executive Director of the ASA. In the fall of 2001, Levine announced her resignation as Executive Officer to become the Executive Director of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Washington, DC. She was succeeded by Sally T. Hillsman in May 2002 (Chapter 3).

During the 1990s, three new professional positions were created:

- Phoebe H. Stevenson was appointed Deputy Executive Officer for finance, administration, and planning effective August 1, 1994. (She remained in that position until 2002.) In this restructuring, Deputy Executive Officer Carla B. Howery was to focus on programs and program planning. Howery was appointed Deputy Executive Officer in the fall of 1990 to succeed Lionel Maldonado by Executive Officer William D'Antonio in consultation with Executive Officer-designate Felice Levine.
- Along with establishing program emphases in Public Affairs and Public Information in 1993 came an alignment of duties and ultimately staffing. In 1995, Edward Hatcher was hired as the first Director of Public Affairs and Public Information and held this position from 1995 to 1997. Executive Officer Levine, who had led these functions from 1993 to 1995 with a special assistant, resumed doing so in 1997 without director-level staff, though a Program Assistant was hired in June 2000, and independent consultant Katherine Rosich coordinated public information functions from 1998 to 2001. Lee Herring was hired as Director commencing employment in April 2002.
- The position of Director of the Research Program on the Discipline and Profession was held by Carla Howery up to 1995, by Cynthia Costello in 1995 and 1996; and Roberta Spalter-Roth, 1997 to the present (2005).

Other professional staff during the 1990s included:

- The Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP), established in 1993 on the foundations of the Teaching Services Program and the Professional Development Program of the 1980s, was directed by Janet Mancini Billson in 1993 and 1994 and by Carla Howery since 1995.
- The Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, a new program element established in 1992, was co-directed by Carla Howery and Executive Officer Levine from 1992 to 2002, with a special assistant from 1993 to 1996 and other program assistants providing support thereafter.
- The Minority Fellowship Program and the Minority Opportunities through Summer Training Program (MOST) was directed by Tahi Mottl (1991–92) and Lionel Maldonado (Interim Director in 1992 from California State University-San Marcos). By 1993, these initiatives were

grouped into the broader program rubric entitled the Minority Affairs Program (MAP). The MAP Directors were Florence Bonner (Interim Director in 1993 from Howard University); Ramon Torrecilha (1993–94, Torrecilha from the Social Science Research Council through the 1994–95 academic year); Havidán Rodríguez (1995–97; Rodríguez from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez through the 1997–98 academic year); Edward Murguía (1998–2000); and Alfonso R. Latoni-Rodríguez (2000–2). Jean Shin served as Acting Director in 2002 and 2003, and Mercedes Rubio was appointed Director in August 2003. (Appendix 9 contains a list of all Directors of the Minority Fellowship Program from 1974 to the present.)

ASA also had two visiting sociologists on staff in the late 1990s. Patricia White, Program Director in Sociology at the National Science Foundation, spent a year at ASA (1997) under an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) arrangement to work in areas relating to the advancement of the discipline. John Kennedy, Director of the Center for Survey Research at the University of Indiana also spent 1997 working on a number of governance and policy issues key to ASA (e.g., examination of the certification program, on committee restructuring). In addition, between 1999 and 2002, the staff included three postdoctoral fellows: Jan Thomas (1999–2001), Sunhwa Lee (2000), and Stacey Merola (2001–2).

Information Technology (IT)

A defining issue of the 1990s was the dramatic and rapid change in the area of information technology (IT). ASA built capacity in IT applications by appointing professionals to plan and develop IT functions, implementing new technologies and systems to improve delivery of services, and adapting these systems to improve communications among sociologists and others.

Phoebe Stevenson brought background and expertise to this function throughout much of the 1990s—first as a consultant, and from 1994 to 2002 as a Deputy Executive Officer. In addition, external consultants, especially those from Computer Strategies Inc., and contractual arrangements with JL Systems, Inc., Association Links (the latter led by the primary technology staff from the American Psychological Association), and Spectrum Systems (for email support and innovations) enabled ASA to build on substantial experience relating to membership associations and to create new systems. Over time, staff skills were enhanced and staff was hired with computer-based skills and responsibilities. By winter 2002, ASA hired its first Director of Information Technology.

1993–94: NOAH, LAN, and Email service

The first major technology-related transformations of the 1990s took place in 1993. This installation included faster and more powerful computers with all workstations in the Executive Office linked in a local area network (LAN). Key to the new office automated technology was the installation of NOAH, a specialized association database and management software system developed by JL Systems in Annandale, VA. For the first time, ASA had a system specifically designed for the activities and functions of membership associations—including a link to financial record keeping and reporting through Open System. The installation also included a powerful document organizer called PCDOCS that permitted sharing documents easily and a search facility and backup system for archiving documents.

The cost of the full system including hardware, training, and consultancies was approximately \$300,000. In 1992, ASA retained Computer Strategies, Inc. led by Fran Craig to assist staff in writing the RFP and selecting the firm to provide the hardware, service, and support. In 1993, Phoebe Stevenson, then with Computer Strategies, provided management and oversight of the installation of the full project.

Other innovations followed rapidly. Council approved the development of an electronic bulletin board for sociology department chairs (Chairlink), which was launched in May 1994. Also, ASA

made a transition to have email through Microsoft mail at all work stations. And, the introduction of a FAX server also allowed receipt of faxes at staff workstations. In January 1995, Council moved to establish committees that would further explore issues such as electronic publishing and to advise ASA on the use of high technology for professional communications more generally. Barry Wellman was appointed Chair of the Advisory Group on Electronic Networking (also included Earl Babbie, Howard Becker, Kathleen Carley, Roxanne Hiltz, Rob Kling, Marc Smith, Lee Sproull, John Walsh, and Phoebe Stevenson). The Subcommittee on Electronic Publishing was comprised of Dan Clawson, Adrian Rafferty, Teresa Sullivan, Barry Wellman, and Felice Levine.

1995–96: ASA Homepage and Electronic Publishing

A major new phase of technological innovation began in 1995 with the launching of the ASA website. President Hallinan encouraged the Executive Office “to continue working with aligned associations in their experiences with technology and to continue to explore an even wider range of electronic communications.” (Council Minutes, August 23, 1995)

In April 1996, the *Employment Bulletin* (EB) was published online with print copies available to members and subscribers. In early 1996, the Advisory Committee on Electronic Networking and the Committee on Publication’s Committee on Electronic Publications met and discussed goals and objectives, which (for both groups) generally were to: encourage informal electronic scholarly discussion among sociologists, facilitate discussion among interest groups, enhance the ASA’s dissemination of information, develop sociologists’ ability to participate electronically, develop electronic means of publication, develop digital sociological libraries, develop standard forms of referencing online “publications,” and ascertain members’ capabilities and desires (*Footnotes*, March 1996:10).

The report of the Advisory Group on Electronic Communications, chaired by Barry Wellman, was presented to Council in January 1996. Council discussed guidelines for access to ASA members’ electronic addresses, and concluded that members should be given the option to indicate their willingness to have their email addresses published or released to inquirers. Council also discussed the possibilities for electronic and Internet access at the Annual Meeting, but considered it not feasible. At its August 19, 1996 Meeting, Council also asked the Executive Office to contact all sections offering them the opportunity to have a homepage and listservs related to their area of interest. Council encouraged the Advisory Group to continue to bring forward ideas.

Major changes were also occurring in electronic publishing. At the January 1996 Meeting, Council approved a move to explore and negotiate an agreement with the Mellon Foundation for the electronic delivery of ASA journals. The delivery system, eventually known as JSTOR (Journal Storage), initially included back issues of all ASA journals, except *Teaching Sociology*, with a moving five-year wall to become accessible. *ASR*, *CS*, and *JHSB* were the first journals to be digitized and released (see Publications for further discussion)

By the summer of 1996, the ASA homepage was updated and expanded to include information on the Annual Meeting, important initiatives (e.g., the revision of the Code of Ethics), membership information, briefings on important legislative matters (e.g., The Family Privacy Protection Act known as H.R. 1271), links with section homepages, announcements of new ASA publications, the online version of the *Employment Bulletin*, and forms to which members could respond (e.g., call for nominations to ASA committees). The fax-on-demand capability was also well received and utilized by the membership.

1997–2000: Systems Upgrades and Web Enhancement

As information and computer applications grew in number and complexity (and the existing system approached the end of its usefulness), it became clear that enhancements and upgrades would be needed to the overall system in order to continue to operate efficiently. Based on recom-

mendations of EOB and a budgetary allocation by ASA Council in January 1997, new computer equipment was purchased and the transition to an upgraded system was made in the spring of 1997. The equipment was purchased through ASA's operating revenues, from which \$110,000 was approved for this transition.

By June 1998, ASA entered into an agreement with the APA in which the APA would act as an "invisible" host for the ASA website through which it would provide journal management software and secure online financial transactions where individuals could join, renew membership, purchase publications, register for the Annual Meeting, and so forth. The enhanced website also included a secure member-only restricted area with member emails, department directories, and abstracts of the articles from ASA journals with keyword and text-search capacity.

Throughout 1999, enhancements continued to be made to the homepage and other information systems. By January 2000, the Great Plains Dynamics, a new accounting system that was Y2K compliant was installed and the website redesign was completed, with the member-only area of the website launched that month. By January 2000, listservs for all sections were operating effectively; officers were communicating by email on closed announcement lists, and section members were receiving regular electronic communications. Sections also had the option of operating open discussion listservs; and ASA members could verify and update their own membership information online.

During 2000, a secure server was installed to facilitate online membership applications and renewals and registration for the Annual Meeting. As recommended by EOB and approved by Council in August 1999, the online *Preliminary Program* became the primary source of detailed information for the 2000 Annual Meeting. A program summary was published as an insert in the May 2000 edition of *Footnotes* (with print copies available on request from the Executive office). Starting in 2000, members no longer received a printed copy of the Preliminary Program.

2001–2: Major Enhancements to NOAH and the ASA Homepage

Throughout 2001, ASA introduced other major improvements in its information technology systems. An upgraded e-NOAH membership and contact database system was installed in the Executive Office in the spring of 2001. This new Windows-based version of the now-familiar database offered major enhancements—including the use of Internet portals to support e-commerce online, which also gave members the capacity to view and change information on their records. The upgrades included new desktop PCs to use the new system (the last round of hardware update was in the spring of 1997).

Major enhancements also occurred on the ASA homepage, which in some areas complemented the upgrades in the NOAH membership database. In January 2001, Hal Warren, Chief Executive Officer of Association Links (and also on the senior technology staff at APA), reported to Council on ASA website innovations and short- and long-term plans for the ASA website development. The major website developments included: (1) Windows web-based version of *Tracker*, an annual meeting organizer/proceedings applications that could receive online submission of abstracts and papers; (2) an electronic member announcement system, tables of contents and abstracts for ASA journals; and (3) a web-based annual meeting program backed by a robust search engine that would permit many different types of searches and sorts, and would have the capacity (among other innovations) to produce personal schedules.

By the summer of 2001, most of the systems enhancements were fully installed: The conversion of the new membership database and management system was completed, and the refinement of the systems was in progress. In 2001, Deputy Executive Officer Stevenson reported on the steady increases in the utilization of the ASA website: In the fourth quarter of 1999, there were 131 unique visitors per day; this rose to 486 per day in the same period in 2000, and to 565 per

day in the second quarter of 2001. ASA also continued to expand Internet-based applications on the website across most programmatic areas and in functions related to the Annual Meeting. EOB members commented on the positive improvements of the online *Preliminary Program* for the Annual Meeting—most thought it more user-friendly to read and to search, and found the personal scheduler a welcome new feature.

The ASA leadership demonstrated both a willingness to expand the use of the new technologies for enhancing communications and increasing productivity, as well as a sensitivity to those who might be adverse to or intimidated by these innovations. In January 2000, based on an initiative arising from President Feagin's concerns about a segment of members feeling alienated, and his expressed interest in utilizing the Internet to enhance communication among sociologists, EOB approved launching an ASA Member Forum on the ASA website in the member-only restricted space to encourage members to discuss issues of importance to the discipline and Association. While these fora did not engage much member participation, they signaled ASA's interest in stimulating such exchange. The topics for Member Forum discussion included:

- Where is sociology headed in the 21st century?
- The challenges of feminist thought for sociology
- The challenge of race and racism for a sociology of U.S. society
- Thinking ahead about "Cities of the Future" (2001 Annual Meeting Theme)

Sale of the 1722 N Street NW Building

In the summer of 1998, ASA sold the rowhouse on 1722 N Street NW in downtown Washington, DC, which it owned and which had been its headquarters since 1970. This possibility had come up in 1981 and again in 1993 as other social science associations along with ASA considered collaborating on the lease or purchase of office space. Based on EOB and Council analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of relocation, in January 1994, Council approved putting the Executive Office building on sale and relocating to new quarters. The presence of a strong offer and a growing sense of the wisdom of the Executive Office relocation in Washington, DC led to the sale of the property in the summer of 1998. After design and remodeling of the new space, the Executive Office moved to the 7th Floor of the 1307 New York Avenue NW Building in December 1998.

The 1722 N Street NW building had many charming features, but was generally ineffective as office space. Originally built at the turn of the 19th century as a residence, the building was becoming increasingly costly to secure and operate. The ASA staff was spread out over five floors (with no elevator), making interoffice communication difficult. Also, there was no accessibility for persons with mobile disabilities. The costs for remodeling the building were assessed to be considerable.

ASA sold the 1722 N Street building to the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET), a smaller non-profit organization. Since ASA owned the building free and clear, all net proceeds from the \$1.275 million sale could be placed in the House Fund. (Although these resources were not formally restricted for only housing use, it was assumed that the primary purpose for these funds was to ensure support for necessary office costs, including to allow reentry into the sales market if that seemed wise toward the expiration of the lease.) EOB authorized the Executive Officer to proceed with a long-term, 10-year lease arrangement in the 1307 New York Avenue building, which was purchased by four higher education groups—National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). The expectation was that the anticipated operating costs and essential improvements on the 1722 N Street NW building and interest income and growth from the House Fund beyond inflation would essentially cover the annual lease cost.

4. GOVERNANCE: BYLAWS, ETHICAL STANDARDS, AND POLICY CHANGES

As noted in Chapter 1, ASA Council has the authority to set policies for the Association within the framework established by the ASA Constitution and Bylaws. The Bylaws also allow for the membership to act on behalf of the Association by bringing resolutions in the form of referenda to the membership (see Article II, Section 8). From 1991 to 2002, ASA Council took a number of steps to clarify policies and the policymaking process and also brought issues to the membership for their vote, several of which involved Bylaws changes. During this period, no matters were brought directly to a vote of the membership through a referendum process.

ASA Bylaws Changes

According to the ASA Constitution, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association may be proposed by Council or by a petition of at least three percent of the voting members of the Association; amendments to the Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of voting members of the Association in a referendum (Article IX), and amendments to the Bylaws by a majority affirmative vote, also submitted to the voting members of the Association (Article VIII).

Several important changes were made to the Bylaws of the American Sociological Association from 1992 to 2001. All such changes were made following Council resolutions and recommendations, and, with one exception noted below, all were approved by the membership in referenda held for this purpose. Appendix 15 contains a detailed summary of all modifications to the Bylaws made since 1980, including a definition of each amendment, dates and nature of Council action, and dates and outcomes of membership referenda.

Several types of actions and events resulted in changes to the Bylaws. In two cases, alterations were made to bring provisions of the Bylaws into conformity with changes made to other institutional policies: (1) In February 1992, Council made changes to the *Organizer's Manual* aimed at promoting diversity in nominating Program Committee members. A Council subcommittee was also appointed at the time to recommend alterations in the minor inconsistencies that had emerged between the ASA Bylaws and the *Organizer's Manual*. (2) In January 1997, following the revision of the Code of Ethics, Council recommended a number of changes in the ASA Bylaws based on suggested alterations from the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), the Executive Office, and ASA legal counsel. Proposed changes included, for example, the inclusion of the Committee on Professional Ethics as a constitutional committee and clearer definition of conditions of membership (including the requirement to comply with the provisions of the Code of Ethics). Also, at that time, members voted on a Bylaws change to eliminate the emeritus membership category and clarified guidelines for section formation and operations.

Based on a January 1996 Council resolution, the membership voted in the spring 1996 referendum to eliminate the emeritus membership category and to incorporate those members in the regular income categories (the change to the Bylaws on this point was approved by the membership in the spring 1997 referendum referred to above). However, following a survey of lapsed emeritus members in 1998, ASA Council voted in February 1999 to reestablish the emeritus category. The measure to reinstate the emeritus membership was approved by the members in a Bylaws change in spring 1999, and became effective in the 2000 membership year.

The most sweeping Bylaws changes took place beginning in 1998 with Council action taken to restructure ASA Committees (see discussion below). Based on Council resolutions passed at the January 1998 meeting, nine amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws required to accomplish the restructuring were submitted to the membership for a vote in the spring of 1998. These included proposed actions such as to eliminate the Committee on Committees (COC), to reduce the Com-

mittee on Nominations to 11 members and eliminate elections by districts, to change the status of the Committee on Sections and the Committee on Awards to Constitutional committees, and to remove ASA journal editors as members of the Committee on Publications. All proposed amendments (see Appendix 15) except one were approved by the membership (the proposal that the Committee on Publications be appointed by Council on recommendations of the President rather than elected by the voting members of the Association failed in the membership referendum). Subsequently, based on a resolution brought forward at the 1999 Business Meeting, Council appointed a subcommittee to examine the discontinuation of COC, which ultimately recommended that COC be reinstated. A special member referendum in October 2001 to reinstate the COC and so alter the Bylaws was passed, and, in 2002, the COC was again elected by the membership.

The final Bylaws change through 2002, related to section governance. In January 2000, Council approved a change to the composition of the Committee on Sections by increasing its membership to nine members to also include “three members elected for three-year terms by current section chairs from among current section chairs according to section membership size. All terms will be staggered.” This change to Article V of the Bylaws was approved by the membership as part of the spring ballot. (*Footnotes*, September/October 2000:15)

ASA Code of Ethics

A major revision of the ASA Code of Ethics was undertaken from 1994 to 1996. During that time Council reviewed several draft versions, and in January 1997, endorsed the revised Code of Ethics. The ASA membership approved the revised Code in the spring of 1997.

The Committee on Ethics, consisting of John Kennedy (Chair), Sue Hoppe, Anthony Cortese, Joyce Miller Iutovich, Barbara Melber, Eleanor M. Miller, Helen Moore, Bernice Pescosolido, and Bette Woody as well as Council Liaisons, Cheryl Townsend Gilkes and Ida Harper Simpson, and staff liaisons, Felice J. Levine and Cynthia B. Costello worked intensively for more than two years to produce a revised Code. The membership was kept informed of revisions through articles in *Footnotes* and on the ASA homepage; and members, section officers, committees and other groups (e.g., department chairs at the Chairs Conference) were afforded extensive opportunity to provide input, comment, and feedback in the summer and fall of 1996. The 1997 Council scheduled time to review the revisions at its August 1996 Meeting, and ASA President Neil Smelser also reported that he and Vice President Charles Willie had served as commentators at a special session on the Code during the 1996 Annual Meeting.

The goal in undertaking the revision was to make for a more informative and useful Code of Ethics by fleshing out key components and addressing issues heretofore unaddressed. For example, more systematic attention was paid to research, teaching, service, and practice; new material was added on conflicts of interest, data sharing, and the issue of confidentiality was broadened to cover sociologists in all facets of professional work as well as limitations on confidentiality guarantees. Also, the enforcement procedures were revised to improve and better specify the processes as well as the steps involved in filing and handling a complaint. ASA legal counsel, who brought interest and expertise in professional ethics, provided useful guidance in revising the Code and the enforcement procedures.

Amicus Briefs

Over the years, the Association has joined in legal actions in cases of significance to sociology and the profession. As noted in the previous chapter, in January 1991, based on a report prepared by Executive Officer D’Antonio and Executive Officer-designate Levine, Council affirmed a process for determining whether to participate in filing an amicus brief. As with policymaking more generally, and as stipulated in the Bylaws, the Executive Officer consults with the President and Secretary

on matters of policy and may jointly act on behalf of the Association, conduct a ballot by mail, or defer action to the next Council meeting. Councils were reflective in making determinations about whether to participate in amicus briefs. In 1991, in the *Exxon Valdez Case*, the Committee on Sociological Practice urged ASA President Stanley Lieberman to write to the presiding judge to express ASA opinion in this case involving a suit filed by Exxon against Impact Assessment Inc. (IAI), a private social research firm hired to poll Alaskan citizens on oil spill damages. Exxon and the owners of the Valdez had asked for a court order to impound all of IAI's research instruments and data. The issue of participating in amicus briefs was referred by Council to a Subcommittee chaired by Wendy Baldwin to examine the issue more fully. At the January 1992 Council meeting, the Subcommittee recommended that no further action was needed by Council at that time.

Throughout the years, the Association was strong in its support of the ethical standard of confidentiality of research information. For example, as described in Chapter 1, ASA filed a brief in the case of Mario Brajuha, a graduate student in sociology whose field notes were subpoenaed in 1984 by a federal court. In 1993, another case emerged involving scholar's privilege and a potential conflict with ASA's Code of Ethics. Richard (Rik) Scarce, a doctoral student in sociology at Washington State University, who was conducting a long-term study of animal rights activists, was held in contempt of court and jailed on May 14, 1993 when he refused to reveal confidential information about his sources to a federal court. (See: *James Richard Scarce v. United States of America* 5 F.3d 39 [1993]). He remained incarcerated until October 18, 1993. Scarce cited the ASA Code of Ethics, which affirms the obligation of confidentiality. After a mailed ballot of Council, ASA filed an amicus curie brief in April 1993 when the case went up on appeal to the Ninth Circuit. The ASA argued that, "social science inquiry is dependent upon guarantees of privacy and confidentiality and that the ethical and societal values underlying social science standards support recognition of a qualified privilege from disclosure." (Levine, *Footnotes*, August 1993:2)

In considering the *Scarce Case*, Council again raised the issue of the need to develop a policy to guide the Association in determining how to respond when members request support involving legal action. A Subcommittee of Council consisting of Barrie Thorne (Chair), Ida Simpson, and Janet Chafetz was appointed to consider the need for a legal defense fund, and if appropriate, a guiding policy. Thorne "later reported a committee consensus that the emphasis of the Association's position should be on the importance of and adherence to ethical guidelines. ASA should continue to take an active interest in ethical and legal issues involving human subjects and should periodically review its ethical guidelines. However, ASA cannot be responsible for either the informal or formal contracts and arrangements made between researchers and their subjects or clients. The Committee also did not think it would be wise to set up general guidelines or a standing committee to review specific legal cases. It did recommend that a general statement be written that might apply to all cases, although each case brought to the ASA would, of necessity, be handled in an ad hoc way. A concern was also expressed that an ASA legal defense fund would encourage frivolous law suits." (Council Minutes, January 1993)

ASA Policy Statements

In 1993, Council decided to reexamine the process by which it took policy positions. In January 1993, Myra Marx Ferree, Chair of the Council Subcommittee on the Business Meeting, reported that there needed to be greater clarity regarding the consideration and disposition of resolutions adopted at the Annual Business Meeting. Two issues were key in leading to this reexamination: First, Council sought to specify a process that would allow for issues coming before it to be based on a deliberative process, not just flowing from issues that surfaced at the Annual Business Meeting. Second, Council sought clearer articulation of what resolutions should entail. In August 1993, the Subcommittee further reported back to Council, leading Council to adopt a new policy on a two-year trial basis. The key elements of this policy include:

- Resolutions can arrive via the Business Meeting, from ASA sections and committees, or from individual ASA members who solicit 50 signatures to accompany their requests.
- Resolutions can come any time during the year.
- Resolutions should show direct relevance to sociology as a discipline or profession or be grounded in the substantive expertise or knowledge of the discipline.
- Resolutions must include documentation to guide Council's understanding.
- The proposed resolution must include specific suggestions about what Council action is requested.

The goal was to have in place a process that would support the possibility of the Association taking policy positions, but only those that build on sociological knowledge and expertise. The policy was officially adopted in 1996. From 1993 to 1998, only a few resolutions were submitted to Council.

In August 1998, Council temporarily suspended the use of the guidelines in place for ASA taking positions on public policy matters. Council also appointed a Subcommittee on ASA Policymaking and Resolutions chaired by Patricia Roos, to review ASA policymaking. In January 1999, Council provisionally accepted the Subcommittee's report and recommendations, which concluded that the Association should only take policy positions on issues related to ASA's mission as a learned society or pertaining to how ASA operates as an organization. In advancing this policy, Council emphasized that the Association offers members many vehicles for connecting sociology to public policy in their work from the ASA Annual Meeting Program and the Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy to the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline. Along with provisionally adopting this policy, Council called for a comment period with a final policy to be adopted in winter 2000.

In January 2000, Council asked the Subcommittee to continue its work for another year. Since Past Vice President Roos would leave Council by August, Richard Alba was asked to chair the Subcommittee and report back in winter 2001. Council hoped the additional period would give members the opportunity to express themselves on this issue. In February 2001, the Alba Subcommittee agreed with the Roos Subcommittee on all but one point: The Alba Subcommittee recommended that no limits should be placed *a priori* on Council's taking policy positions. Consistent with the policy officially adopted in 1996, the Subcommittee recommended that Council should have the latitude to take positions on issues beyond the Association's mission as a learned society, and should do so based on sound and sufficient sociological knowledge. Furthermore, the Subcommittee recommended a procedure whereby Council would appoint an expert subcommittee to provide advice on how to proceed with an issue.

ASA Council adopted the Report and its recommendations. The language of the Report reads as follows:

In the past, Council has considered member resolutions and other proposed policy statements during its regular working sessions. These discussions have at times generated a sense of uneasiness among Council members who felt that they lacked the expertise to assess the theoretical and evidentiary basis behind various proposals. The subcommittee suggests that, in such cases, the Council employ the model of a review panel in order to develop recommendations for a course of action.

It is especially resolutions pertaining to public policy issues where the credibility of the discipline and the Association is placed on the line and where, therefore, Council needs to be confident that its decisions are made on the basis of solidly grounded knowledge. We recommend that, in such cases, Council appoint a subcommittee from its members to evaluate the scientific basis and the appropriateness of any proposed resolution. Such a subcommittee should be empowered to consult with any non-Council members it deems as having expertise bearing on a resolution. It should also

consider the appropriateness of a resolution for a learned society, to screen out, to take an extreme example, any resolution that takes a politically partisan stance. The subcommittee need not be placed in the position [of] making a simple up-or-down recommendation to Council. Since resolutions that come to Council are advisory, Council may, as appropriate, charge the subcommittee with considering revisions to a motion that might make it more likely to pass scrutiny. Alternatively, it could recommend that a particular topic is better suited to one of the other mechanisms for ASA members to address policy issues, such as the Spivack [Program] series, because, say, the sociological base of knowledge is not sufficiently developed to support a pronouncement from the ASA; a Spivack series report would be an appropriate way to summarize what is and what is not known in a given policy domain. Needless to say, the subcommittee cannot act in Council's stead; only the full Council has the power to pass a resolution on behalf of the Association.

Not every resolution will require the review panel model. It is particularly well tailored to issues where taking a position on public policy issue depends on clear and convincing sociological knowledge or expertise. (Report by Alba Subcommittee to ASA Council, Council Agenda Book, 2001).

5. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURAL CHANGES

During the 1990s, ASA Council modified its award policies and enacted major changes to its governance system by (1) restructuring ASA committees, (2) establishing guidelines for section operations, (3) restructuring dues, (4) decoupling dues from journals, and (5) changing the legal status of the American Sociological Foundation (ASF). Council also made changes to the Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT) and dissolved the Certification Program.

Awards Policy

During the 1990s, Council undertook several major efforts to examine and adjust Association policies on awards. Major initiatives included:

- In 1992, Council adopted a revision to awards policies relating to the procedures for acceptance of and establishment of new awards. Earlier, in 1991, Council considered the need to: (1) devise a policy for responding to potential donors who would like to establish named awards or grants under the aegis of the ASA, (2) clarify the difference between grants and honorific awards (and in the case of grants, the nature of ASA liabilities), and (3) determine the most appropriate ASA vehicle for reviewing gift offers, since the Award Policy Committee met only once a year. Guidelines were proposed (e.g., to accept "named awards" only if the gift is of \$100,000 or more and to accept no gift that entails the expenditure of ASA funds, unless specifically approved by Council). Both the Section Board and the Committee on Sections viewed these revisions favorably and they were adopted in Council on August 24–25, 1992.
- In 1995, Council approved the establishment of an annual Award on Public Understanding of Sociology.
- On August 20–21, 1996, Council modified the timing, nature, and name of certain awards: The Jessie Bernard Award was to be conferred on an annual rather than biennial basis. Council explicitly discouraged conferring two awards, but stipulated that the award could be conferred for a lifetime achievement or a major work. The DuBois-Johnson-Frazier Award would be an annual award, rather than a biennial one.
- In 1997, Council adopted a new awards cycle on a two-year trial basis. On recommendation from the Awards Policy Committee, Council approved changing the cycle for conferring awards (from nomination through selection) so that the process occurred during the year immediately leading up to the conferral of awards, instead of a year in advance. Under the new system, awards committees worked between Annual Meetings, calling for nominations in the

fall of each year and making selections no later than June 1. It was anticipated that effective use of electronic mail, conference calls, and other means of communication that became available would support committee work. Yet, some members of Council expressed concerns about the absence of face-to-face deliberation, or the attendant costs to the Association were some committees to request an additional meeting separate from the Annual Meeting. The experiment was ended after one year, because selection committees preferred the practice of meeting face-to-face to discuss candidates and make a selection a year in advance. To phase back to the prior system, two award committees for each year were needed for each award in 1999 (one to select a 1999 winner and one to select a 2000 winner).

- How best to structure the Awards Ceremony was a recurrent concern of both Council and the Committee on Awards. Various strategies to honor awardees, yet limit the amount of time for presentations and acceptance speeches were tried, and despite guidelines set by Council (such as specification of word and time limit), a number of people involved in the Awards Ceremony still exceeded these formats. Council discussed various approaches for improvements, and in 2000 recommended that the Committee on Awards continue to address this issue.

Restructuring of ASA Committees

In January 1998, Council approved a major change in the ASA committee structure by creating a more streamlined system with five components: (1) Constitutional Committees (those that are central to ASA governance operations and functions; in the initial reports and Council recommendations, these Committees were termed “Constitutional”—even though the actual modification was to the Bylaws and not to the Constitution), (2) Awards Selection Committees, (3) Status Committees, (4) Advisory Panels, and (5) Task Forces. Under this new model, ASA Councils could create task forces to address specific issues that require the attention of the Association. (See Appendix 16 for specific committees and task forces.) This restructuring had the greatest effect on entities that previously were standing committees but were not reclassified as (1) through (4) above. Those standing committees that could identify issues or activities under their aegis appropriate to a task force could request of Council to be reconstituted as a task force.

The reorganization was intended by Council to create a more dynamic and flexible committee structure that was better aligned with the work of Council, that was more responsive to the changing needs and demands of the discipline and Association, and that used the volunteer talent of the membership in a more optimal way. This effort created long-term committees specified in the Bylaws only for the essential governance functions of the Association. For all other entities, Council would specify the charge; specify how it served the Association; and the process for reviewing its charge, activities, and continuation.

Background

In January 1998, then Past-President Neil Smelser noted that there had been a “proliferation of committees in ASA without clear guidelines as to their mission and charge as well as to when committees and task forces should be formed and discontinued . . . [and he] believed it would be worthwhile to initiate a review of the committee structure of the Association.” Indeed, concerns had been expressed for years about certain aspects of the committee structure. Some committees met regularly and performed vital tasks, while others met infrequently or were poorly attended. The committee structure had evolved into a complex organization that was seen by Council as “rigid, bureaucratic and costly to administer.” Members also found it frustrating to join committees for which there was no meaningful work (*Footnotes*, March 1998:1).

In January 1997, Council decided to conduct a comprehensive review of the committee structure and process, and appointed a Subcommittee of Council for this purpose consisting of Linda Waite

(Chair), David Snow, Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, and Neil Smelser. The Subcommittee worked intensively from August 1997 to January 1998 to study the committee structure and to obtain comments and input from existing ASA committees and members.

Restructuring of Committees, January 1998

In January 1998, the Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring presented its recommendations, and Council approved the proposed system of five types of committees: Constitutional Committees, Awards Selection Committees, Status Committees, Advisory Panels, and Task Forces. As noted above, the most significant change in the reorganization took place with respect to certain standing committees, a number of which were eliminated without further activity and four requested spin-off Task Forces.

Task Forces are to be established and appointed by Council for specific tasks and fixed terms (generally no more than two years) based on advice from the membership, sections, officers, staff, or Council itself. All existing committees not identified in the revised committee structure were eligible to become task forces—which, at the time of the reorganization included Committees on: Sociological Practice, Sociologists in Government and International Agencies, Employment, Sociology in Elementary and Secondary Schools, Teaching, Hate Bias on Campus, National Statistics, International Sociology, COFRAT, ASA/AAAS Relations, and Archives. Council asked these Committees to review their work and submit recommendations by September 15, 1998 for Task Forces. Council was to then make a determination as to whether these Committees had viable proposals for Task Forces.

Overall, the net effect of the committee restructuring in 1998 resulted in the following changes (specific changes to the Constitution and Bylaws required by the restructuring are summarized in Appendix 15):

- The Constitutional Committees were expanded to include the Committee on Sections and the Committee on Awards. The Committee on Membership and the Committee on Committees (COC) were eliminated as Constitutional Committees in 1998, but, as noted below, COC was subsequently reinstated.
- The Constitutional Committees, Awards Committees, and the Status Committees, were to have vacancies appointed by the President and reviewed and approved by Council. The shift to the ASA President for appointments was planned to substitute for the role of the Committee on Committees.

Elimination of the Committee on Committees was only temporary. Based on a resolution brought by the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) at the 1999 Business Meeting, Council appointed a Task Force on the Reexamination of the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Nominations. The purpose of the Task Force was to examine the decision (approved in the spring ballot) to discontinue COC and to modify the Committee on Nominations (CON) to reduce its size and eliminate regional representation. The Task Force recommended that the COC be reinstated in altered form (defined set of committees to recommend to Council) and with a specified composition to diversify CON. A special member referendum in September 2001 reinstated a modified COC, and in 2002, the COC was again elected by the membership.

- The Committee on Nominations (CON) was reduced in size from 16 to 11 members and elections would no longer be held by districts. This change reflected Council's belief that a smaller committee could be more thoughtful about nominations and that at-large elections would allow the members more voting choices. After review by the Task Force on the Reexamination of the COC and the CON, no recommendation was advanced to further alter the Committee. Strategies were outlined to strengthen diversity on the CON and to improve the procedures by which they worked.

- The ASA journal editors would no longer be non-voting members of the Committee on Publications. This change was brought about by a concern that the number of journal editors was much larger than the number of elected members and that their service on the Committee, even without vote, conflicted with the Committee's independent oversight function of the ASA journals.
- Starting in five years, Council was to review the Status Committees to determine if this structure was the most effective method of achieving the ASA's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness in the Association and the discipline. (See Chapter 3 for summary of reviews submitted by the Status Committees.)
- With reporting to Council, the Executive Officer was authorized to establish and appoint members of advisory panels as needed to provide advice and guidance to Executive Office programs and related activities.

Formation of the First Task Forces

In February 1999, speaking for the Subcommittee on Committee Restructuring, Chair Linda Waite summarized the work undertaken during the fall of 1998, and especially the review of reports of committees that were invited to propose Task Forces as part of the transition from their continuing work. The Subcommittee ultimately recommended, and Council approved, the formation of five Task Forces. These five Task Forces had their first organizational meetings at the 1999 Annual Meeting. (Appendix 16 contains a list of Task Forces created from 1999 through 2004.)

Strengthening the Work of CON

In August 2001, the Task Force on the Reexamination of the COC and CON reported that the Task Force considered a number of possibilities regarding the nomination process and the Committee on Nominations (CON), including "(1) that Council members receive a more extensive statement on diversity guidelines; (2) that a task force be reconstituted in four years to review the guidelines and results of implementation; (3) that ASA move forward as soon as possible, to create a relational database so that information about persons who can be potential nominees can be easily created; and (4) that there be some tracking of networks for names, where nominations come from (e.g., *Footnotes*), and any patterns in declination of candidates who are asked to run." (Council Minutes, August 21, 2001) The Task Force recommended (and Council supported these steps) as well as leaving in place the altered structure, previously approved as a Bylaws change by the membership.

Status Committees

Over the past several decades, the Status Committees, including the Status of Women in Sociology (CSWS); Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology (CSREMS), Society of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology; and Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons in Sociology (CSGLBT) have played a vital and dynamic role in advocating for the presence of minorities in the Association and the discipline. Since the early 1980s, a series of Biennial Reports have been produced by the Executive Office under the guidance of the CSWS and CSREMS reflecting analysis of data and trends on the participation and representation of women and minorities in all aspects of the Association and the discipline (see Appendix 13). The CSGLBT and the Society of Persons with Disabilities also had a strong voice in shaping ASA policies in a number of ways, including, for example, decisions relating to site locations for and services at ASA Annual Meetings. All four of these Status Committees have also strongly advocated for an increase in efforts to include women and minorities on the editorial boards of the major ASA journals, as well as on committees, sections, and other governance entities of the ASA.

ASA Sections during the 1990s

ASA sections continued to be a vital part of the Association during the 1990s, and were generally regarded as “an important vehicle for member participation as well as taking on leadership positions.” (Council Minutes, August 22, 2001) Many of the same themes that shaped the discussion of sections in the 1980s also existed in the 1990s (e.g., concerns about section role and growth in ASA, their role in the Annual Meeting, their taking policy positions, fragmentation, and internal governance issues). Sections continued to press for more flexibility in setting dues, newsletter allocations, and awards policies. Some sections however, had weak governance structures (e.g., no election of officers) and communications systems (e.g., no newsletters). Council took several initiatives from 1996 to 2000 to set guidelines for section operations and activities in order to clarify some of these issues and to enhance the role and participation of sections within the Association, including clarifying the role and responsibilities of the Committee on Sections (COS).

The discussions on sections also reflected differing views of the role of sections in the Association. On the one hand, there was the model of sections as independent groups; on the other, sections were perceived as a benefit of membership in the parent organization to facilitate interaction in specialty areas. In order to avoid fragmentation, ASA had always operated on the latter model (EOB Minutes, June 1996). The January 1996 Council meeting reached a “consensus that, through sections, the Association has been able to accommodate diverse lines of work and give members an intellectual home. Council affirmed the importance of having a governance structure that is ‘of the whole’ and not based on representation of interest groups.” (Council Minutes, January 1996).

Sections played a key and direct role in a number of ASA initiatives during the 1990s. In 1996 for example, the Section on Sociology of Education organized a series of education policy conferences, and with funding from the U.S. Department of Education, produced a special issue of *Sociology of Education*, “Sociology and Educational Policy: Bringing Scholarship and Practice Together” (1996). In March 2000, Executive Officer Levine along with Pamela Barnhouse Walters and Michael Hout assisted the Spencer Foundation in convening a small research conference on future research directions in the sociology of education that involved leading members of the Education Section. Similarly, Executive Officer Levine and William Avison, Chair of the Section on Mental Health, met with the leadership of the National Institute of Mental Health and prepared a submission on translational research for the NIMH Advisory Committee “on the value of investments in sociology of mental health and how basic science in this area translates into applications.” (Council Minutes, August 10, 1999)

Section Growth in the 1990s

At the end of the 1990 membership year, section memberships stood at 13,263 in 27 sections (ASA membership was 12,841). By the end of the 2000 membership year, section memberships had grown to 19,223 in 40 sections (ASA membership was 12,854) (Appendix 14). In 2000, more than 60 percent of ASA members belonged to at least one section, and many belonged to at least two sections. Throughout the 1990s, the sections with the largest number of members were: Medical Sociology, Organizations/Occupations, and Sex and Gender. At its January 2000 meeting, EOB noted that sections were experiencing a generally upward trend, while ASA membership was holding steady around 13,000 members. Appendix 17 contains an outline on Section Formation History, including those sections that were formed and attained full section status during the 1990s.

Significant Events Relating to Sections in the 1990s

Council approved several major reports produced by committees established to study various aspects of section activities during the 1990s: (1) A 1996 subcommittee chaired by Patricia Hill

Collins, explored issues pertaining to the role of and proliferation of sections; (2) A joint EOB-COS (Committee on Sections) Report on Section Finances, Administration, and Governance established guidelines for section operations (giving sections more flexibility with their funds and activities, but making them more accountable), and (3) A 2000 report defined a strategy for section budget allocation.

Council also considered issues pertaining to section formation, continuation, and termination, particularly if section membership dropped below the required number (200) to maintain sections. Council was guided in these areas by the COS, which had the responsibility for advising the ASA on the administration of sections—including on creating and continuing sections, advising Council on section policies and procedures, and serving as liaison between sections and Council.

In August 1996, ASA Vice President Charles Willie, Chair of the Council Subcommittee on Sections, presented the Report on section growth and its implications for existing sections and the Association. The Report noted (among other conclusions) that section growth “since 1992 seems to abide by requirements of the *Section Manual* that ‘sections should encompass a reasonably broad area of specified interests’ and that the ‘overlap’ if any, has not been harmful to existing and older sections.” (Council Minutes, August 19, 1996) The Willie Subcommittee also recommended several options for controlling the growth of sections, including, that the number of Association members required to form a new section should be increased from 200 to 300.

In January 1997, Council approved the Report on Section Finances, Administration, and Governance that was the result of a joint effort by the COS and EOB. The process involved extensive input from section officers and members, recommendations from Vice President Willie’s Council Subcommittee Report, and Council discussion from August 1996. In the summer meeting of 1997, EOB approved a plan to give sections an operating base-budget, but sections were required to prepare a budget and track spending. The more controversial change was perceived to be the guidelines for section formation and continuation, with some sections close to 200 finding it hard to meet the 300-member requirement. The use of qualitative criteria would ensure that sections operate under the guidelines (such as holding business and Council meetings), and would provide some flexibility in determining continuation irrespective of absolute numbers. On EOB’s recommendation, in January 1998, Council approved an operating base-budget of \$1,000, plus \$2 per capita amount. This change became effective in 1999, to be reevaluated after a two-year period. This formula for basic budget allocations was reaffirmed by Council in January 2000, which also specified criteria for adjusting budgets in cases where membership drops below 300 members.

Another important event pertaining to ASA sections occurred in January 2000, when Council approved a resolution to expand the COS to nine members. Council member Paula England, a member of COS, indicated that section officers were committed to this proposed structure because it would place section officers in leadership positions on COS. The resolution, which required a Bylaws change, stated: “Six members shall be appointed by Council for three-year terms based on the recommendation of the President. Three of these members shall be appointed from among the Association membership and three shall be appointed from among the Council members-at-large. Three members shall also be elected for three-year terms by current section chairs from among current section chairs according to section membership size.” The change was approved by the membership in a referendum in the ASA 2000 election.

Certification

The certification program at the ASA evolved through several phases over a 40-year history. Interest first surfaced in the 1950s, largely in reaction to the certification programs of the American Psychological Association (APA), but the ASA programs were discontinued in the 1960s. In the

late 1970s, a revived interest led to Council's approval of a certification program in 1984 and creation of a Committee on Certification, which devised the procedures for PhD level certification in six areas and a MA level certification for social research.

The Certification Program, launched in 1986 generated little interest, and ultimately only 62 people completed the certification process—nearly half of whom were members of the certification committees themselves (64 other members inquired about certification, but never completed the process). (See Chapter 1 discussion of Certification.)

In 1991, Council decided to continue monitoring the program, and in 1992, the Master's Certification Program Committee was also placed under the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee (as the PhD Certification Committee had been earlier) due to low demand. The MA Certification Committee had concluded, "certification as a sociologist is being handled by the receipt of an MA or PhD. There may be value in certification of Practical Specialties, however the Sociological Practice Association is doing a good job of that for clinical practitioners." (Kennedy, *Footnotes*, November 1994:4) Eventually the combined committee became the Committee on Certification and Licensure, which undertook a review of both certification programs in 1994. (The Sociological Practice Association [SPA] offers the Certified Clinical Sociologist [CCS], which provides an important credential to practicing sociologists.)

Council voted to suspend the Certification Program on August 24, 1992 because of low interest. In 1998, visiting sociologist John Kennedy undertook a review of the programs, including of its state-level monitoring program, and found that it operated at a minimal level for a number of years as well. Council officially terminated the Certification Program on August 25, 1998.

Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT)

Created by Council in 1968 to handle complaints involving infringement of academic freedoms by institutions, the Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT) continued to handle individual cases in the early 1990s. The debate that ensued over the mission, mandate, activities, and goals of COFRAT over much of its 25-year history, however, also followed it into the 1990s.

COFRAT's mandates were quite general, its written guidelines for procedures few in number, and its work largely conducted by volunteer Committee members. Although COFRAT undertook studies (e.g., on initial appointments in the 1970s and on part-time faculty in the 1980s), for the most part, it saw itself in a factfinding role on individuals' complaints against institutions, then making a judgment on cases, and recommending possible sanctions to Council. In a few cases, COFRAT took on a mediation or arbitration role, but these were exceptions. Increasingly, throughout the 1980s, COFRAT found itself in contentious relations with institutions under investigation, at times with the potential of placing ASA at legal risk. Tensions between COFRAT, COPE, and other ASA committees also complicated its work.

With the support of ASA President William Gamson, Vice President Barrie Thorne, and COFRAT senior Co-chair Essie Rutledge, Executive Officer Felice Levine undertook a comprehensive review of COFRAT in the fall of 1993, which resulted in a detailed and extensive report on the origins, history, procedures, and caseload of COFRAT ("The American Sociological Association: The Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching [COFRAT], December 15, 1993).

On the basis of a discussion of the December 1993 Report, COFRAT recommended that President Gamson appoint a Task Force to address what ASA's role should be on issues of academic freedom. The Ad Hoc Committee was composed of President William Gamson (Chair), Margaret Andersen, Barrie Thorne, Peter Meiksins, John Kennedy, John McCarthy, and Executive Officer Felice Levine.

The Ad Hoc Committee recommended to the 1994 Council that, “COFRAT’s mandate should be directed to dealing with systematic violations, rather than individual cases. COFRAT should seek to identify patterns in violations, and no longer adjudicate or act as a fact finding body on specific individual complaints about a department or institution.” (Council Minutes, August 8, 1994) The Executive Office was to work with COFRAT and other ASA committees to identify patterns, which required the attention of COFRAT.

Subsequently, COFRAT’s monitoring role on issues of academic freedom included situations such as those reported to the 1996 Council on sexual harassment of faculty and on H.R. 2202, “The Immigration in the National Interest Act” of 1995. No action was taken on the sexual harassment issue, but Council adopted a resolution deploring certain provisions of H.R. 2202 “as potentially detrimental to the future of science including the social sciences.” (Council Minutes, August 24, 1995) The Association was aggressive in opposing these provisions, including in the pages of *Footnotes* (see Levine, *Footnotes*, January 1996:2) and in a guest editorial written by Executive Officer Levine in *Science*.

COFRAT, however, remained largely inactive. In 1998, as part of the overall restructuring of Committees of ASA, COFRAT, along with several other committees, was asked by Council to review its work and to submit recommendations by September 15, 1998 as to whether it wished to continue as a Task Force. In February 1999, Council did not reconstitute COFRAT as a Task Force.

Dues Restructuring

A major restructuring of the dues was approved by Council at its January 1996 meeting, and subsequently approved by the membership in the spring of 1996. The revision was designed to make the membership dues structure more progressive, to reduce the incentive for the no-journal dues categories, and to “be revenue neutral, meaning that the income to ASA will be no greater or lower than the income generated by the current dues structure.” (*Footnotes*, July/August 1996:3)

In the restructuring, the income categories of \$40,000–49,999 and \$50,000 and higher were subdivided into additional income categories: \$40,000–\$54,999, \$55,000–\$69,999 and \$70,000 and over. Under the new structure, the lowest income category also changed from “under \$15,000” to “under \$20,000.”

The January 1996, Council also passed a resolution (which the members approved in the 1996 ballot) to eliminate the emeritus category membership. Council had recommended integrating emeritus membership into the regular income-based membership structure because of the varied income levels of retired colleagues. However, in August 1998, after a review of lapsed emeritus members, Council moved to “re-establish the Emeritus membership category for persons who have been ASA members for at least ten years and are retired from their primary employment, with such members receiving *Footnotes* but no journals as part of this membership.” (Council Minutes, August 25, 1998) In February 1999, Council voted “[t]o amend the ASA By-laws through a referendum in the 1999 ballot to permit reintroducing the Emeritus membership category.” (Council Minutes)

In the late 1990s, EOB also revisited the issue of embedding journal subscriptions into the dues structure, which had first been raised in the early 1990s. This “cafeteria plan” offered options ranging from no journals to two selections for dues at most income levels, but evaluations of this system indicated that it was complex and costly to operate and placed limits on “development of a dynamic publications program.” A document entitled, “Discussion Points: Decoupling Journals from Dues” was presented to Council at the August 2000 meeting to highlight key issues and stimulate further discussion. Further data gathering took place in the fall of 2000, and Executive Officer Levine retained Fran Marchbank, a consultant with expertise in publishing and membership in scholarly societies, to advise on this issue.

In February 2001, Council approved recommending to the membership a resolution “decoupling of journals from dues as recommended by EOB such that all ASA members (except Emeritus Members) be required to subscribe to one journal, that the cost to students be further subsidized, and that members be consulted on this change with their approval being sought through a member referendum following the Annual Meeting.” Better than 90 percent of voting members approved of this change. Council also urged a periodic review of the progressive dues structure, and asked EOB to conduct such a review over the coming year.

American Sociological Foundation (ASF)

In January 1997, at the request of the Board of Trustees of the American Sociological Foundation (ASF) and with the concurrence of ASA Council, the ASF was dissolved as a separate entity of the ASA. The portfolio of funds, valued at about \$450,000 was transferred in the summer of 1997 to two restricted accounts to be used “solely for the purposes that had guided the ASF.”

The ASF was created in 1985 to fund projects that supported long-range needs of sociology as a profession and as a discipline (see Chapter 1). Funds were used for minority fellowships, a variety of public outreach projects, and from 1992, a Congressional Fellowship Program.

In 1995, ASF President William Julius Wilson appointed a Subcommittee chaired by Charles Bonjean to review the ASF due to the high costs of maintaining its status as a 501(c)(3) entity. The Subcommittee concluded that the goals of the ASF could be fully realized as a restricted fund within the ASA without the high administrative costs of maintaining a separate 501(c)(3).

In 1996, the ASF Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee agreed unanimously that ASF funds be transferred to two restricted funds: an American Sociological Fund, which would continue the goals of “‘improving and promoting sociology’s scholarship, teaching and public-service on the long-term basis’ and would respond to opportunities to advance the discipline. The Board stipulated that income from ASA investments could be used as ‘venture capital’ to initiate programs or other innovative activities but not for on-going operational purposes. The Board also stipulated that Council create a second fund to ensure continued support for the Congressional Fellowship.” Council unanimously approved the conditions for transferring the funds to restricted accounts, thus assuring that ASF’s mission would continue, while the restricted nature of the funds would ensure that the donors’ original intent is maintained (*Footnotes*, July 1997:3,6).

6. PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM OF THE ASA

During the 1990s, the Association and its Executive Office worked to strengthen the capacity of the ASA to produce high quality publications and products in the context of a rapidly changing publishing environment. The evolution of the Internet, the launching of the ASA homepage in 1995 (and its subsequent enhancements), advances in information technologies related to publishing, and electronic archiving and retrieval of journals dramatically affected how learned societies such as the ASA publish and disseminate research. The Association continued to place a high priority on publishing materials that set standards for and foster excellence in sociology, to find new ways of marketing and disseminating works to raise the visibility of sociology, and to think creatively about the implications for the future of the new technologies for publishers such as the ASA.

Publication Guidelines

In February 1999, Council approved the *Guidelines for the ASA Publications Portfolio* recommended by the Committee on Publications, thus representing a major shift in publications philosophy for the Association. At that same time, Council also approved a resolution from EOB that

journals must operate at least on a break-even basis to be financially viable. In the mid-1990s, the consideration of a journal that might reach larger audiences, and questions from ASA sections of the existing policy disallowing section journals led the Publications Committee under the leadership of its Chair Michael Schwartz and Executive Officer Felice Levine to propose guidelines that could facilitate a dynamic and well-planned publications program.

The *Guidelines* articulated a vision for the publications program and set forth criteria for the periodic reviews of journals and for the introduction of new publications—including for the first time, the possibility of section-sponsored journals. The view of Council was that the language of the *Guidelines* should be clear from the outset that, “the intent was to review new journal proposals, whether ASA-wide or section-proposed, in light of the entire publication portfolio and how a proposal fit into the mix. Council considered intellectual viability in the mix of ASA journals to be key.” (Council Minutes, February 1999) Council Members strongly believed that these points should be specifically included in the preamble, and voted its approval for the Report based on these modifications.

Scope of Publication

At the end of 2000, in addition to its flagship journal, the *American Sociological Review* (ASR), the ASA published seven other journals: *Contemporary Sociology* (CS), *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (JHSB), *Social Psychology Quarterly* (SPQ), *Sociology of Education* (SOE), *Teaching Sociology* (TS), *Sociological Theory* (ST), *Sociological Methodology* (SM), and the *Rose Series in Sociology* (which until 1995 was titled the *Rose Monograph Series in Sociology*). The ASA also published guides and directories as well as a variety of other research, teaching, and professional materials (Appendix 18). Throughout the 1990s, ASA journals, except the *Rose Series* (see below) and *ST* and *SM*, were published by Boyd Printing Company of Albany NY. *ST* and *SM* continued to be published by Basil Blackwell.

Two special issues of journals were also published in 2000. These included an ASR volume on “Looking Forward, Looking Back: Continuity and Change at the Turn of the Millennium,” and a CS volume on “Utopian Visions from America’s Leading Social Scientists.” During the 1990s, *SPQ* also published two special issues (1996, 1999), and *JHSB* and *SOE* published extra issues.

The Association also published three books and several reports on social policy issues that emanated from various ASA programmatic activities. An objective of the Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy was to undertake activities that could yield book products for wide dissemination linking sociological research to social policy. The ASA published *Social Causes of Violence: Crafting a Science Agenda* by Felice J. Levine and Katherine J. Rosich in 1996, based on an ASA-sponsored conference on “Research Challenges on the Social Causes of Violence,” held in June 1993. A conference of social scientists was also convened by ASA in June 1996 on “Social Science Perspectives on Affirmative Action in Employment,” leading to the volume on *The Realities of Affirmative Action in Employment* (1997), authored by Barbara F. Reskin. In addition, ASA published six volumes in the *Issue Series in Social Research and Social Policy* (Appendix 25 contains a complete list of Spivack Program publications). Finally, the ASA published the report on the MOST Program entitled, *Promoting Diversity and Excellence in Higher Education Through Department Change*, by Felice J. Levine, Hávidan Rodríguez, Carla B. Howery, and Alfonso R. Latoni-Rodríguez in 2002.

The Social Cause of Violence: Crafting a Science Agenda, and the 1981 *History of the American Sociological Association* were also made available in pdf form on the ASA homepage in 2002.

Journals

Several major decisions relating to the establishment or continuation of journals were made during the 1990s: (1) *The Sociological Practice Review* (SPR) was discontinued by Council on August

23, 1992 meeting after publication of 10 issues from 1990 to 1992 due to low interest as measured by membership and institutional subscriptions and low submissions, (2) The *Rose Monograph Series in Sociology* was reconceptualized (see below) based in part on the availability of research monographs and the unique niche of ASA publishing them, (3) In 2000, ASA officially launched *Contexts*, a general perspectives journal in a magazine format aimed at wide audiences, and (4) In January 2000, Council approved publication of *City and Community*, an official journal of the ASA Section on Community and Urban Sociology.

The Rose Series in Sociology

The *Rose Series in Sociology* consists of volumes published on sociological issues with support from the Rose Fund, which was established in 1967 through a bequest to the ASA from Arnold and Caroline Rose (Appendix 18 contains a list of all volumes published in the *ASA Rose Monograph Series* and the *Rose Series in Sociology*).

In 1994, on the recommendation of the Committee on Publications, Council decided to reexamine the scope and definition of the *ASA Rose Monograph Series*. In January 1995, Council endorsed a change in the *Rose Monograph Series* to shift from publishing single-study research monographs to “short books that are integrative, accessible overviews of a topic. The intended audience would be all sociologists, across all subspecialties, and a broader audience of other social scientists, policymakers, and others. The *Series* would encourage sociologists as public intellectuals to write lively, professional, state of the art short monographs.” (Council Minutes) The first editor of the newly revamped *Rose Series in Sociology* was George Farkas. The *Series* is edited under the ASA aegis, and the Russell Sage Foundation serves as publisher (since 1996), with ASA continuing to hold the copyright on all published works.

Contexts and City and Community

On August 21, 1998, after a one-year period to develop a prospectus and business plan, ASA Council approved launching a new journal to be published in a magazine format, which was aimed at sharing sociological research with a wide audience. Also, Council authorized the Publications Committee to commence a search for an inaugural editor and, in 1999, appointed Claude Fischer to this post. Fischer and Executive Officer Levine launched an extensive effort to examine publishing options and Levine worked through operational issues involved in the launch, including use of and impact on the Rose Fund. At its August 15, 2000 meeting, Council approved naming the new journal, *Contexts*, which was strongly recommended by the Publications Committee. In consultation with editor-designee Fischer, Executive Officer Levine selected the University of California Press as publisher in winter 2001 with official celebration of this partnership held at the Annual Meeting in August in Anaheim. The first issue of *Contexts* was published in the winter of 2002.

City and Community, a journal of the Community and Urban Sociology Section (CUSS), was also introduced in March 2002—the first, and to date, the only section journal approved for publication by the Committee on Publications and ASA Council. Anthony M. Orum (University of Illinois at Chicago) was the first editor of the new journal, which was published by Basil Blackwell. The journal had been in development for more than a decade, with considerable involvement by the Section membership.

Other Publications

The ASA published a number of volumes each year on curriculum development, departmental leadership, and graduate education, as well as teaching resources materials and guides for the Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) (see Appendix 22 for a complete list of cur-

rent publications). ASA also continued to publish directories, guides, and reference materials (see Appendix 18), and by 2001, some of these materials were also made available on the ASA homepage (e.g., the *Guide to Graduate Departments*). The *Employment Bulletin* has been published electronically on the ASA homepage since 1996. The Association Newsletter, *Footnotes* was published in at least eight monthly issues each year; issues five years back are also available in electronic format on the ASA homepage.

ASA's Association with Boyd Printing Company

ASA marked an important milestone in its history in 2001 by commemorating 50 years of association with Boyd Printing Company of Albany, NY—a “business relationship nearly unheard of in the often-transitory world of journal printing.” (*Footnotes*, May 2001)

In 1951, on the recommendation of the SSRC, Executive Officer Matilda White Riley met with Henry Quellmalz, the President of Boyd to discuss the possibilities for publication of the *American Sociological Review* (ASR). In February 1951, Boyd published the first issue of ASR. At the 45th anniversary of the ASA-Boyd relationship in 1996, Matilda Riley recalled, “When I took over in 1949, our organization faced financial ruin. Not the least of the problems confronting us was ASR, the major item in the budget that cost far more than we could afford. But a fortunate event saved the day—the discovery of the Boyd Printing Company and its president, Henry Quellmalz.” (*Footnotes*, May 2001) Thus began a long and extraordinary partnership between the ASA and Boyd, which currently prints six of ASA's journals, *Footnotes*, Annual Meeting program materials, and various other ASA publications.

On January 1985, Quellmalz turned over chief operating responsibilities to his daughter Jane Quellmalz Carey, and became Chairman of the Board. Boyd is a family- and female-owned business (Marion Quellmalz, Henry's wife and Jane's mother, owns Boyd Printing Company; and other family members run other parts of the business). ASA's successful partnership with Boyd continues to thrive with Jane Carey as President.

At the celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the ASA-Boyd partnership, Executive Officer Levine, noted, “For a half century, Boyd Printing Company has provided quality printing and service to the ASA. During that time, the printing business has changed dramatically, but Boyd and ASA have continued to produce journals that set standards of excellence.” (*Footnotes*, May 2001)

Electronic Publishing and Access

Beginning in the 1980s, computerized word processing, electronic transfer of data and manuscripts, and other systems and technologies for facilitating publishing were introduced into ASA's publications program. By the mid-1990s, rapid advances in the technologies themselves revolutionized the process for publishing, storing, disseminating, and providing access to “printed materials.” These changes also brought more efficient systems for advertising and marketing products and offering related services (e.g., online ordering of books and other items). The following are some highlights of ASA's progress in this area (see also section on Information Technology):

- In January 1995, on the recommendation of the Committee on Publications (COP), Council voted: (1) to request COP to establish a subcommittee to explore issues relating to electronic publishing, and (2) to create a second committee to advise ASA on the use of high technology for professional communications more generally. Barry Wellman was appointed chair of this committee (Council Minutes, January 1995).
- In January 1996, Council approved a recommendation from Executive Officer Levine to explore and negotiate an agreement with the Mellon Foundation for the electronic delivery of

ASA journals on the JSTOR system—starting with *ASR*, *CS*, *SOE*, and to the extent possible, additional journals in the future. Executive Officer Levine also chaired an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) committee on electronic publishing, which was working on a report on delivery options for scholarly journals.

- The *ASA Employment Bulletin* was published online on the ASA homepage beginning in April 1996 as a free service.
- In April 1998, the NeXT typesetting system software, which had been used by ASA since 1992 was replaced by the Pagemaker software. Beginning with the May/June 1998 issue of *Footnotes* and the June issue of *EB*, these publications have since then been produced within the ASA computer environment.
- After 2000, the enhanced website made possible more advanced applications, including publication of documents, data tables, and graphics on the ASA homepage. Quality scanning made possible the reproduction of previously published and printed material into graphic files for publication on the homepage; and the vastly increased storage space on ASA servers made possible the storage, for example, of several years of editions of *Footnotes*, articles from *ASR*, chapters of books, and so forth.
- By 2001, direct online submission of orders for publications became possible through the ASA homepage. Moreover, these were linked to the newly installed upgraded version of the e-NOAH membership database so that order information could be updated immediately on members' records. Members also had direct access to their own records in member-only restricted areas of the homepage.
- Improved communications systems made possible the posting of press releases, "fax-blasting" or mass emailing of announcements, and increased efficiencies of submissions of manuscripts and articles for publication (e.g., through FTP lines).

Controversy over *ASR*

Flagship journals and whom they serve can become areas of debate within scholarly societies. The issue of representativeness and inclusivity of the *ASR*, which had been debated intermittently since at least the early 1970s, emerged as a major topic for discussion in Council during the 1990s. ASA President Amitai Etzioni noted on August 9, 1994 that, "some ASA members feel that *ASR* has not been representative of the discipline . . . [and he invited incoming *ASR* editor Paula England] to address Council about ideas to diversify content, expand the network of people who submit, and change the look of *ASR*." In 1996, Council Member Feagin, "thought there were concerns about *ASR* among qualitative researchers, theorists, African American and Latino/a sociologists, and some of the quantitative sociologists who do policy analysis." (Council Minutes, January 1996) While he noted that progress had been made, Feagin stressed the need "to move ahead aggressively in opening up *ASR* to more diverse work [and he] advocated for greater representation in deputy editors, editors, and reviewers. He recommended that Council create a committee to develop 'diversity of research' guidelines that would become part of the Association's rules for selection of editors." Council asked the Publications Committee at that meeting "to examine the inclusivity of *ASR* and procedures to enhance a broader representation of work and to report back to Council." Over the next several years, considerable discussion on this topic ensued in Council with a subcommittee and eventually a Task Force established to examine its implications and present recommendations.

A major public controversy emerged in 1999 over the *ASR* editor selection process (see details on the specific dispute below), which had always been accomplished as a confidential act of the Council, based on ranked order recommendations of the Committee on Publications (COP). The

situation arose after the Council Meeting in February 1999, when Council rejected the top-ranked candidate recommended by COP for *ASR* editor and instead appointed two other co-editors considered qualified by COP.

The COP expressed strong objections to Council's decision not to support its choice of *ASR* editors, and in June 1999, Michael Burawoy, a member of the Publications Committee, made public a letter of resignation from the Committee in protest of the Council's decision to override COP's selection of editors. In a letter published at the same time, ASA President Portes noted that, "in violation of the existing bylaws of the American Sociological Association, the letter divulges details of the selection process that were meant to be confidential for the protection of colleagues who have advanced their candidacies for editorial positions." (*Footnotes*, July 1999:6)

During the spring and summer of 1999, numerous email messages and listserv commentaries, as well as articles in *Footnotes* were circulated on this topic. At issue were debates on (1) Council's treatment of COP, a democratically elected body, and one of ASA's most important committees, (2) whether Council was invoking the principle of confidentiality appropriately or in such a way that limited membership information about processes underlying Council and COP decision making in this area, and (3) whether Council was less committed than COP to promoting diversity and inclusivity in the *ASR*. Comments in the Business Meeting of the 1999 Annual Meeting regarding the issues of confidentiality and democracy were raised and a resolution was passed to ask the immediate past-editor of *ASR* to continue to serve as editor.

Council took up the issue extensively at its August 9, 1999 meeting. By a narrow vote, Council tabled the motion to ask the immediate past-editor to continue to serve, and instead appointed a joint Subcommittee of Publications and Council to articulate a policy regarding confidentiality and accountability that addressed the interests of candidates as well as the ASA membership. A Subcommittee appointed by President Joe Feagin consisting of Nan Lin (Chair), Michael Hout, John Logan, and Guillermina Jasso was charged with considering the editorial selection process and reporting back to Council.

At the invitation of President Feagin, Professor Eduardo Bonilla-Silva of Texas A&M University and Chair of the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, joined the January 2000 Council meeting to present a statement on behalf of the Section Council regarding the 1999 ASA editor selection process. Bonilla-Silva raised questions about the process, and noted that a petition drive (led by Bonnie Thornton Dill) was in process to have Walter Allen installed as editor of *ASR* when the Camic-Wilson editorship was completed. In the ensuing discussion, Council members emphasized confidentiality in selecting editors, and Bonilla-Silva "suggested that perhaps the whole editor selection process should be more open and not confined only to Council." (Council, January 2000)

Ultimately, in January 2000, the Lin Subcommittee recommended to Council that the principle of confidentiality be maintained in the editor selection process, and Council adopted these principles specified in a four-point set of recommendations. Council's action was consistent with the position of the COP, which had reaffirmed its fundamental commitment to principles of confidentiality for the editor selection process at its meeting several weeks earlier on December 12, 1999.

The debate on the editor selection process generated considerable anger and hostility among some members of ASA. Some of the tensions grew out of methodological and theoretical conflicts. Because Walter Allen, the editor who was originally rejected by Council was African American, charges were made of racism behind the February 1999 decision, despite the fact that one of the two co-editors was also African American. These charges were especially leveled against President-Elect Douglas Massey, who read a letter in Council explaining his position. ASA Vice President Patricia Roos, among other members, decried the demonizing of Massey, the author of a number of important works on race relations in contemporary America.

In the summer of 2000, in response to the controversy over the appointment of a new editor for the *ASR*, ASA Council established a 14-member ASA Task Force on Journal Diversity (TFJD) to examine issues of diversity, broadly defined, in ASA journals. “Major issues examined by the TFJD included the relevance of ASA publications to members’ interests, whether ASA publications are too narrow in focus, whether certain methodological approaches and substantive areas are under-represented among published articles, and whether certain kinds of individuals are under-represented among the ranks of authors, editorial boards and editors.” (ASA homepage) The Task Force presented its Report to Council in January 2003.

7. CORE PROGRAMS OF THE ASA

As noted in the Introduction to this chapter, strategic planning in 1992 provided a comprehensive framework for delivery of services (portfolio of journals, annual meeting, and programs) by the Association to its membership. The role and responsibilities of the Association for an effective publishing program and highly successful annual meetings were conceptualized as vital to promoting how sociologists do their work. In addition, however, Executive Officer Levine noted that, “national associations like [ASA] have perhaps the unique responsibility of promoting the vitality, visibility, and diversity of the discipline. It is here that our programmatic activities are key.” (*Footnotes*, February, 1994:2) The ASA objectives during the 1990s were focused in six core programmatic areas: Academic and Professional Affairs, Minority Affairs, the Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, Research on the Discipline and Profession, Public Affairs, and Public Information.

Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP)

The Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) was established during 1993 to signal ASA’s commitment to advancing sociology and the development of sociologists across academic settings. Janet Mancini Billson, who had been directing the Professional Development Program, led APAP from 1993 to 1995. She also directed the Government Network Project, an experimental effort that operated from 1992 to 1995 to strengthen the links between sociologists and federal employment opportunities. Carla Howery has been Director of APAP since 1995.

The APAP Program integrated key elements of the prior Teaching Services Program (TSP) and the Professional Development Program (PDP). APAP continued to publish syllabi sets and materials on teaching and careers through the Teaching Resources Center (TRC) and to sponsor workshops, consultations, and department reviews through the Teaching Resources Group—with a name change to the Departmental Resources Group (DRG) to underscore APAP’s commitment to strengthening sociology departments. (See also Chapter 1 and Appendices 20–22.) Jeanne Ballantine served as Field Coordinator of the DRG from 1991 to 1994; Edward Kain served as Field Coordinator from 1995 to 1997; and Carla Howery assumed these duties thereafter.

APAP sought to provide important services, but more importantly to undertake initiatives to advance sociology in the academy at all levels of the education process and in all types of institutions. In particular, emphasis was placed on strengthening departments of sociology as the key organizational units engaged in the production of sociological knowledge and in the teaching of and training for sociology. Reflecting this ambition, APAP worked more proactively and directly with sociology departmental chairs and others in academic leadership roles.

This objective for systemic change received the strong support of Council. *Footnotes* articles as early as October 1992 (“Enhancing the Stature of Sociology in the Academy”), March 1993 (“ASA Meets with CSU Chairs”), and December 1993 (“ASA Focuses on the Academy”) by Executive Officer Levine reported to the membership on the foundations of the APAP Program. The aim was to expand from primarily individual case delivery of services and problem solving to define a new

role for ASA in relation to sociology departments (especially chairs and directors of graduate study) aimed at promoting the health and well-being of the discipline. The establishment of a Department Affiliates Program and Chairlink to facilitate routine communications with chairs; an Annual Chairs Conference for two-year, four-year and graduate degree conferring institutions with agendas directed to short- and long-term issues; and data collection about sociology departments, training, students, and graduates to enhance planning were all initiated or in place by mid-1994.

Other specific APAP initiatives during the 1990s contributed to this fundamental agenda. These include the following:

- A key APAP activity was close collaboration with the Minority Affairs Program (MAP) Program on ASA's Minority Opportunities Through School Transformation (MOST) Program aimed at advancing excellence and inclusiveness through curriculum and climate change, research-based training, mentoring, and outreach (see MOST Program).
- In 2001, Council established the Task Force on the Advanced Placement (AP) Course in Sociology, which has created guidelines and curriculum materials for an Advanced Placement high school course and has also assembled other teaching materials. With Caroline Hodges Persell, (Chair), the Task Force has worked to encourage the College Board to develop an AP exam, course, and teacher training. The Task Force has also worked closely with the National Council on Social Studies on these projects. Since August 2002, the ASA has also offered a High School Affiliates Program to link ASA with social studies departments.
- ASA developed a project with Professor William Frey of the University of Michigan to work with departments on Integrating Data Analysis (IDA) into the sociology curriculum. Executive Officer Levine and Frey were Co-Principal Investigators on this Social Science Data Analysis (SSDAN) project designed to build research-based skills "early and often" in sociology students with an emphasis on Census data. ASA received \$417,241 from NSF for a three-year award for this project. In 2003, upon Levine's departure, Howery assumed responsibility as Principal Investigator of the ASA team.
- The Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) collaborated with ASA to identify scholars in teaching and learning in sociology. The Carnegie Academy "works with disciplinary associations to maximize the impact of the scholar's work, to disseminate scholarship on teaching and learning, and to identify disciplinary culture that pertains to this work." (Council, February 2001) Nine sociologists were selected from 1999 to 2001 to conduct projects on various issues relating to teaching and learning as part of this venture.
- A workshop on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Sociology was held from July 20–23, 2000 at James Madison University. With support from CASTL and James Madison University, "48 sociologists met to discuss 'what we know' and 'what we need to know' on six topics: on teaching and learning styles, assessment of faculty, use of technology in teaching, curriculum, community academic partnerships, and the institutional context." (Council Minutes, February 2001)
- ASA worked with the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) to include more sociologists as members and more sociological research in their publications and meetings. With ASA's encouragement, CUR expanded its programs to include memberships for sociology and other social sciences.
- ASA participated in a project with the American Association for Higher Education on use of peer review in teaching sociology. Initially supported from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, this effort involved synthesis of "empirical work and useful advice" by a team of sociologists.

- In 1998, a report was prepared on part-time work as an outgrowth of a conference on “The Growing Use of Part-time and Adjunct Faculty,” held in September 1997.
- With five other disciplines and with funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies, ASA took part in the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) project to develop models for preparing future faculty. Four sociology departments (competitively selected) participated in the project: North Carolina State University, Texas A&M University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Indiana University. The project concluded in December 2002 with a Capstone Conference.
- At the K-12 level: Based on a review by APAP of practices in nine states, the ASA Council in January 1995 passed a resolution (supported by ASA’s Committee on Sociology in Elementary and Secondary Schools) recommending that, “secondary teachers must have nine credit hours of sociology course work in order to be fully qualified to teach courses called ‘sociology . . .’” Council at this time also approved initiation of discussions on an Advanced Placement exam in sociology, and on development of course standards for the 12th grade elective in sociology (Council Minutes, January 1995). ASA continued to work with the Educational Testing Service and the College Board in developing a model course for a Grade 12 elective that could serve as the basis for an AP course.
- In 1994, a Task Force on Campus Hate Crimes and Bias-Related Incidents was established by Council to reduce hate-motivated or bias ‘crimes’ on college campuses. This committee produced a hate crimes resource book and a list of actions which faculty can use to intervene in a campus crisis. This Task Force working with the Committee on Teaching compiled materials illustrative of what sociologists can use to prevent or de-escalate acts of bias and bigotry. A report *Teaching About Ethnoviolence and Hate Crimes* (Second Edition), was compiled by Howard J. Ehrlich and Regina Fidazzo (2000). In 1999, Council created a Task Force on Current Knowledge on Hate/Bias Acts on College and University Campuses with Leonard Gordon, Chair, that presented its final report to Council in January 2002.
- Stimulated by Ernest Boyer’s book, *Scholarship Reconsidered*, ASA appointed a Task Force on Scholarly Dimensions of the Professional Work of Sociologists to participate in a national project on “Defining Scholarly Knowledge.” (The Task force later became known as the Task Force on “Recognizing and Rewarding the Scholarly and Professional Work of Sociologists.”) Funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Lilly Endowment, the project involved about forty disciplines. The objective was for each discipline to produce a set of guidelines for evaluating a broader set of professional activities. ASA’s Report, prepared by a Task Force was presented to Council in January 1998. Council “agreed on the importance of encouraging discussion of faculty work and faculty evaluation . . . [and] thought the issues should be discussed but that Council should not endorse or adopt the report.” (Council, January 1998)
- In 2001, ASA Council decided to revisit the ASA report on the undergraduate sociology major published in 1990 as *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major* by appointing a second Task Force “to update and expand upon the original report and its recommendations.” The new Report, *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major Updated: Meeting the Challenge of Teaching Sociology in the Twenty-First Century*, by Kathleen McKinney, Carla B. Howery, Kerry Strand, Edward L. Kain, and Catherine White Berheide was published in 2004 by the ASA.
- The Task Group On Graduate Education (TAGGE) chaired by Joan Huber issued a Report in March 1992 on a number of issues relating to departments of sociology. Council approved the Report on August 24, 1992, and also appointed a Subcommittee consisting of William Gamson (Chair), David Featherman, Myra Marx Ferree, Jill Quadagno and Doris Wilkinson to examine its implications and frame a discussion for initiatives. The Subcommittee concluded that, rather than orientation toward one “core” in graduate education, a range of approaches and ideas

ought to be explored; it therefore examined strengths of various departments, and how these might be modeled as “promising practices” for other departments. In January 1994, a Committee on Graduate Education was appointed by Council for a three-year period “to look at graduate education and identify the special strengths of departments, with the goal of preparing a report on 3 or 4 programs which are doing exceptional work on particular issues.”

From 1994 to 1996 subcommittees were appointed by Council to address various aspects of the graduate experience (e.g., preparing graduate students as teachers, sociological practice programs, recruiting and graduating students of color, effective mentoring, and professional ethics). The first reports were issued in 1996 on “Teaching Sociology Graduate Students to Teach Sociology.” Subsequent reports were issued by the Committee, including on the “Successful Practice in Master’s Programs in Sociology,” and on “Models for Professional Socialization of Graduate Students.” (All reports are available on the ASA homepage.)

Minority Affairs Program (MAP)

ASA commitment to a diverse discipline led to conceptualizing its specific minority initiatives as elements of a broader Minority Affairs Program (MAP). By the end of 1992, the strategic plan articulated this fundamental objective by characterizing it as Minority Affairs. During the 1990s, the MAP Program consisted primarily of two main components: (1) The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) funded primarily by NIMH to support predoctoral training of underrepresented minorities in the sociology of mental health and, (2) the Minority Opportunities Through School Transformation (MOST) Program, funded by the Ford Foundation to effect systemic change in sociology departments in order to achieve excellence and inclusiveness in education for *all* students. The MOST program was completed in 2002.

MAP reflected ASA’s fundamental objectives that transcended specific activities or projects. A high priority was placed by ASA on expanding the diversity of the profession and on enhancing opportunities for minorities throughout the discipline. The MFP and MOST were described by Executive Officer Levine as, “quite major initiatives whereby the Executive Office plays a pivotal role (a) in ensuring a next generation of well trained minority sociologists, who can be leaders in the field, and (b) in producing systemic changes in how the discipline addresses issues of mentoring and multiculturalism in building faculties of the future.” (*Footnotes*, February 1994:2) ASA also worked to build productive alliances with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) during this time.

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) of the ASA has provided financial support to minority scholars pursuing graduate studies in mental health continuously since the Program was launched with (primarily) NIMH support in 1974. Since that time (up to 2004), more than 1,200 minority students have received support for graduate training (Appendix 23). By the 25th Anniversary of the MFP, which was celebrated at the 1999 ASA Annual Meeting, 214 Fellows had received PhDs. Effective August 1, 2000, MPF Fellows supported by the NIMH Training grant received a stipend award of \$15,000 per year.

ASA received two new awards from NIMH for the MFP Program during the 1990s: \$2.5 million was awarded to cover the period from September 1, 1994 to July 31, 2000 (an increase of almost \$500,000 over the previous cycle), and \$2,688,000 was awarded to cover the period from August 1, 2000 to July 31, 2005.

During the 1990s, ASA continued to seek additional sources of support for minority student training. In order to diversify training for minority students of color in sociology, the MAP Program used resources from the ASA’s restricted MFP Fund to support non-mental health predoctoral

fellows. While only a few such fellows could receive ongoing support in any one year (leading to only one or two new starts), use of this funding stream allowed ASA to provide predoctoral fellowship support outside of the NIMH award. The MFP Fund consists of member contributions (it was the largest proportion of member individual contributions) support from such organizations as the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), and the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS), as well as royalty gifts.

During the 1990s, ASA added explicit training components to the predoctoral training program in addition to the stipend and informal networking opportunities that Fellows receive. These activities included Proposal Development Workshops held in Washington, DC, the Summer Research Initiative (which placed Fellows at research sites with major ongoing studies in mental health or in methods training courses at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [ICPSR], or similar programs), and specific training activities during the ASA Annual Meeting. Also, in 2000, the MFP Program added an orientation training workshop to introduce incoming Fellows to the Program and to the sociology of mental health as a day event before the start of the ASA Annual Meeting.

Minority Opportunities Through School Transformation (MOST)

In 1988, under the general umbrella of the MFP, ASA undertook a program of summer institutes to recruit and attract minority students to sociology. Funded by an \$185,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, MOST I (as this initiative was termed as it ended in 1993), consisted of four successful summers of institutes of coursework, research experiences, and mentoring on two university campuses each summer: at the University of Delaware and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the summers of 1990 and 1991, and the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 1992 and 1993.

The Minority Opportunities through School Transformation Program officially commenced in the fall of 1993 with a period to plan, recruit, and select departments. In May 1994, the MOST Program launched its work with a workshop of all participating MOST coordinators and department chairs. Ultimately, 11 departments participated for the full duration of the Program, including seven at primarily undergraduate institutions (Augusta State University, Grinnell College, Pitzer College, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, Southwestern University, University of Texas-El Paso, and William Paterson University), and four at PhD conferring institutions (University of California-Santa Barbara; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Pennsylvania State University; and Texas A&M University).

The Ford Foundation made two awards in support of MOST: The initial grant of \$415,000 covered the period from October 1, 1993 through September 30, 1998, and was renewed in 1999 with a \$485,000 award covering the period of October 1, 1999 to July 31, 2002.

MOST focused on activities that aimed to produce systemic change at the academic departmental level, to improve access and opportunity for students of color, and, in general to change “business-as-usual” practices of departments in order to achieve excellence in education for all students. With leadership from the national MOST team in the Executive Office, ASA worked intensively with departments over the eight-year life of MOST to introduce sustainable change in curriculum, climate, outreach to diverse populations at undergraduate and graduate levels, research-based training, and mentoring.

A review of program outcomes in the participating institutions conducted at the completion of the program in 2002 showed that the number of courses containing diversity content increased, the percent of graduating minority majors nearly doubled, proportions of underrepresented minorities as graduating majors increased (with many students advancing to graduate study), and the number of minority faculty increased significantly.

On June 6–7, 2002, a Capstone Conference was held in Washington, DC as a culmination to the MOST Program. Nearly 100 leaders in education and on diversity issues gathered to reflect on the achievements of and lessons learned from MOST, and to identify approaches that might be used to transport MOST to other disciplines and institutions. While MOST was located in sociology departments, a key objective was to find ways to transport the MOST model to other social and behavioral sciences and to other fields. A report on the MOST Program entitled *Promoting Diversity and Excellence in Higher Education Through Department Change*, by Felice J. Levine, Hávidan Rodríguez, Carla B. Howery, and Alfonso R. Latoni-Rodríguez was published by the ASA in 2002.

The Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy

The Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy was established as a core program within the Executive Office in 1992. According to the proposal that was submitted to the Trustees of the Cornerhouse Fund in 1991, the Program envisioned by ASA would “take the lead in enhancing the visibility, prestige, and centrality of applied social research and the application of sociological knowledge to social policy.” (Proposal for the Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, January 1991:1) In doing so, the program aimed to build on the substantial advances that had been made with respect to promoting applied sociology and sociological practice during the 1980s.

Origins of the Program

As described more fully in Chapter 1, the Trustees of the Cornerhouse Fund informed the ASA in 1989 that the Fund would cease operations, that remaining funds would be gifted, and that ASA would be invited to submit a proposal on how it would expend these funds. The ASA proposal to establish a continuing program named in honor of Sydney S. Spivack (instead of expending the resources on a single major project) was accepted by the Trustees in early 1991, and the gift to the Association was formally announced on August 26, 1991 at the Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. In taking this unrestricted gift and placing it in an ASA Council-designated restricted Fund, the ASA established a program that in the short- and long-term could continue to pursue activities that addressed the connections between sociological research and important issues of social policy. The basic gift from the Cornerhouse Fund establishing the Spivack Program was \$750,000, with a small additional amount (approximately \$25,000) transmitted after the Fund was fully dissolved.

The initial Spivack Advisory Committee chaired by Joan Waring (which also included Ivar Berg, William Hoffman, Marvin Olsen, Harriet Presser, Wendy Baldwin, William V. D’Antonio, Manuel de la Puente, and Cheryl Leggon) was appointed by Council to guide the work of the Spivack Program (including the Committee’s offering its own initiatives). Various operational models and programmatic ideas were presented for launching the program at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee in November 1991. In July 1992, the Committee decided on a “staged” strategy for topics, including invited papers on policy issues—which would serve as a catalyst for workshops, Congressional briefings, press conferences, and so forth. Phyllis Moen wrote the first paper on “Work and Family Linkages,” which was the subject of the first Congressional Briefing on December 10, 1992 and a media briefing on February 1, 1993 (see Appendix 25). In 1993, Council clarified that the Spivack Program was a core program within the Executive Office and allocated full authority over the Program budget to the Executive Office once an annual budget was approved by Council.

The Spivack Program in the 1990s

Inaugurated in 1992, the Spivack Program is a core program of the Association. As it evolved during the 1990s, it consisted of four basic components: (1) a series of policy briefings aimed at Congressional staff, Administration officials, representatives of non-profit associations, and the media, (2) other special initiatives that sought to integrate research and public policy through educational

forums, (3) a Congressional Fellowship Program that provided support for a sociologist to work on a Congressional staff or Congressional agency, and (4) a Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) that provided an opportunity for sociologists to bring social science knowledge, methods, and expertise to bear in addressing community identified issues and concerns.

THE CONGRESSIONAL SEMINARS AND POLICY INITIATIVES

Through 2002, the Spivack Program sponsored about a dozen Congressional seminars and other social science briefings on policy topics. To disseminate the results of these briefings more widely, the substantive contributions of each were published in ASA's *Issue Series in Social Research and Social Policy*. Several Spivack Program workshops and conferences were also conducted to apply sociological knowledge to issues of societal importance or with potential policy consequences. Workshops, for example, were held on "Research Challenges on the Social Causes of Violence" (June 1993); "Initiative on Genocide and Human Rights" (November 1993); "Rethinking the Urban Agenda" (May 1994); and "Social Science Perspectives on Affirmative Action in Employment" (June 1996). A volume, *The Realities of Affirmative Action in Employment*, authored by Barbara F. Reskin was produced from the June 1996 Conference. (Appendix 25 contains a complete list of Spivack Program initiatives and related publications.)

THE CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

The ASA has supported a Congressional Fellowship each year since 1993 (a complete list of Fellows is included in Appendix 26). The Congressional Fellowship supports a PhD-level sociologist as a staff member in a Congressional office, committee, or agency for an intensive six-month period. This experience provides an opportunity for a sociologist to apply sociological knowledge to important issues and to learn more about the policy making process. The Fellowship is funded in part by the American Sociological Foundation, and is part of the Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy. The year 2004 stipend for the Fellowship is \$15,000.

AAAS/ASA MASS MEDIA SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP

With the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the ASA sponsored a summer fellowship for sociologists from 1997 to 2003 to enhance their skills and training in public communication and working with the media. The Fellow was placed in a major media outlet, in addition to orientation seminars with other AAAS Mass Media Science Fellows. The Program was discontinued in 2003 due to the high costs of this Fellowship and the low numbers of sociologists who applied as candidates. The Spivack Advisory Committee thought that other efforts at preparing social science writers and sociologists who would engage in media work would be more effective. (The AAAS/ASA Fellows and their assignments are listed in Appendix 27.)

COMMUNITY ACTION RESEARCH INITIATIVE (CARI)

Since 1995, the ASA has awarded up to seven fellowships each year under the Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) Fellowship Program. These awards are made in support of sociologists engaged in projects that bring social science knowledge, methods, and expertise to bear in addressing community-identified issues and concerns. Grant applications are encouraged from sociologists seeking to work with community organizations, local public interest groups, or community action projects. Projects have included work with groups involved with: health and culture in the African-American community, jobs and support groups for the homeless, women domestic workers, health conditions in the Latino population, immigrant workers rights advocacy programs, and childcare programs. Up to \$2,500 is awarded for each Fellowship to cover direct costs associated with doing the community action research.

The Research Program on the Discipline and Profession

The Research Program on the Discipline and Profession was formally established in 1992 to advance knowledge and information about sociology by improving routine data collection, undertaking studies and issuing reports of significance, and making data accessible to others with research interests in the profession. These goals have been accomplished by conducting several types of surveys, compiling relevant data from secondary sources, building and maintaining databases from ASA membership information and other sources, and disseminating research findings in various formats and through a variety of venues.

Since its inception, research results have been routinely published in *Footnotes*, shared with departments and chairs, and presented at regional and Annual Meeting workshops and at other professional societies and conferences. By 1999, with the evolution of the ASA website, substantially more information, data, and analyses from the Research Program were published on the homepage. Also in 1999, ASA introduced the *Data Brief* and *Research Brief* series containing summary analyses and highlights of information on the discipline and profession. Initially published as print documents, this series became an integral part of the website after several years. (See Appendix 24 for a listing of publications produced by the Program.)

During the 1990s, the Research Program activities were directed by Carla Howery, Cynthia Costello, and (since 1997) by Roberta Spalter-Roth. Other staff in the Research Program has included a Program Assistant (who also performed other programmatic functions), and from 2000–3, two Postdoctoral Fellows. In 2002, William Erskine joined the staff as a Research Associate in the Program.

A major achievement of the Research Program from 1991 to 2000 involved systematizing the data collection processes in several areas:

- **The Survey of Graduate Departments of Sociology.** This Survey was conducted annually between AY 1991–92 and 1997–98 of the universe of graduate sociology departments in the United States. The individual sociology department is the unit of analysis in this survey. In 1999, the Research Program in consultation with department chairs, undertook a review of information needs of departments, and in AY 2001–2, the graduate departments were surveyed again (with this assessment taken into consideration) along with a sample survey of BA-only departments. Since 1994, the Survey was conducted as part of the process to collect information for the *Guide to Graduate Departments*, and the *Guide* has also included a section with analysis of data on graduate departments. Data are compiled on approximately 2,300 departments, and include institution and department name, type of degree or courses offered, chairperson, mailing address, phone number, and number of sociology faculty (Preface to the 1999 Guide).
- **ASA Membership DataBase.** A database on ASA members has been extracted annually since 1999 for research purposes from ASA's NOAH membership database. These data are derived from information provided on membership and renewal forms each year and are entered into the NOAH data base. A "public use" data file containing characteristics of FY 2000 members was created from these files in 2001 for use by the Committee on the Status of Women (CSWS) and the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities (CSREM). An analysis of the 2001 membership was also published on the ASA homepage, and in the January 2002 issue of *Footnotes*.
- **PhD Tracking Survey.** In 1997 and 1998, ASA took part in a multidisciplinary survey of employment experiences and career paths of the 1996–97 cohort of new PhDs. The study was conducted as a collaborative project of a number of scientific societies, including ASA, under the auspices of the Commission on Professions in Science and Technology (CPST),

with funding from the Sloan Foundation and the National Science Foundation. A 72 percent response rate was achieved in the survey, which focused on employment information during the week of October 13, 1997. Several ASA *Research Briefs*, including “New Doctorates in Sociology: Professions Inside and Outside of the Academy” (2000), “Gender in the Early Stages of the Sociological Career” (2000), and “Minorities at Three Stages in the Sociology Pipeline” (2001) were published from this study. In 2001, a brief follow-up survey was conducted, and with 14 professional societies, ASA developed plans to conduct a follow up of the cohort of PhDs, five to six years after they received their PhDs.

- **Secondary Data Compilation and Analysis.** Data relating to sociology and sociologists (including comparative data on selected social science disciplines) have been compiled from various sources, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR), and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Analyses based on these sources were presented on the ASA homepage.

Public Affairs Program

Council has consistently supported and encouraged ASA participation in activities that enhance the visibility and role of the discipline of sociology and the profession. In February 1992, Council specifically affirmed “the Public Affairs Program as a high priority initiative and endorse[d] efforts by the Executive Office to explore how this [would] fit with ongoing commitments.” Discussion in Council focused on the need to undertake such activities in different arenas—particularly as collaborative efforts with other organizations before Congress and federal agencies.

While ASA’s efforts built on the commitment to and advances in public information activities of the 1980s, initiatives after 1993 took on new forms following the realignment of Programs as outlined in the strategic plan. “Public Affairs activities reflect our recognition that advocacy, education, and representation are integral to our goals of advancing sociology as a field and discipline, and promoting the contributions and uses of sociology in society,” wrote Executive Officer Levine in 1994 in describing the objectives of the Program (*Footnotes*, February 1994:3). The Public Affairs and Public Information Programs were planned as efforts that support and undergird substantive programs (such as the Spivack Program) as well as key goals of the Association.

In pursuing these objectives, ASA has worked closely with other scientific and aligned organizations, particularly the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). Also, the Association joined and participated in other coalitions such as the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)—routinely sponsoring an exhibit of an NSF-supported sociological project at the CNSF exhibition held each spring on Capitol Hill on scientific projects funded by NSF.

During the 1990s, the ASA undertook initiatives to educate about and speak on behalf of sociology (and the social sciences) by (1) responding to legislation, (2) supporting the National Science Foundation on budgetary and other issues, (3) contributing to the work of the Census 2000 through participation in key committees, (4) promoting sociology in health issues, (5) participating in activities related to protection of human subjects in research, and (6) engaging in or testifying on behalf of agencies and programs vital to ASA and sociology. The ASA also took various actions in response to the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. The following are illustrative of some of these initiatives:

Responding to Legislation

ASA routinely monitored federal legislation (especially legislation with adverse effects for social science research) and, with other scientific and learned societies, responded to such initiatives in

various ways. For example, in 1996, ASA led a “Research and Privacy Coalition” of more than 30 groups in opposition to H.R. 1271 (“the Family Privacy Protection Act of 1995”) which was passed as part of the GOP agenda on the “Contract with America.” The Act required parents to give written consent before their children could participate in almost all federally-funded research. The Coalition strongly argued that this measure would have a chilling effect on research on minors and mobilized action against it. Executive Officer Levine testified before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on behalf of the Coalition in opposition to H.R. 1271 on November 9, 1995. On June 19, 1996, the Coalition organized a Senate staff briefing and press conference on Capitol Hill to urge defeat of the bill. The profile that ASA and related groups gave to this issue sufficiently delayed Congressional action that it was supplanted by other topics until it resurfaced in the context of reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Act (ESEA) in 2001.

Supporting the National Science Foundation

ASA participated in activities aimed at strengthening the role of the National Science Foundation as a key federal agency supporting social science research. In the early 1990s, Executive Officers D’Antonio and Levine were actively engaged in the process to establish a separate directorate for the social and behavioral sciences at the NSF, and, throughout the 1990s, Levine continued to work closely with the NSF leadership and the NSF Sociology Program on expanding opportunities for the social sciences. NSF Sociology Program Director Patricia White spent a year starting in March 1997 visiting at the ASA Executive Office to work on special policy issues.

Executive Officer Levine testified on Appropriations for the National Science Foundation, before the U.S. House of Representatives (Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies) on behalf of ASA on three occasions: in April 1999 (for FY 2000 Appropriations), in May 1997 (for FY 1998 Appropriations), and in May 1996 (for FY 1997 Appropriations).

ASA also supported the NSF Data Infrastructure Initiative, a year-long planning effort launched in the summer of 1997 to examine the investment in data infrastructure—for example, the General Social Survey (GSS). ASA sponsored workshops and meetings, and published articles in *Footnotes* on the initiative to raise awareness of the issue and provide opportunity for contribution to this planning effort. Executive Officer Levine was invited to present at a meeting held by the National Research Council on this issue.

Supporting Census 2000

In January 1995, Council passed a motion urging that ASA seek greater involvement with the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Executive Office subsequently explored ways that sociology and ASA could have a greater role in the Census. In December 1995, then Department of Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown appointed Executive Officer Levine to the newly reconstituted Advisory Committee for the Census 2000 (renamed the Decennial Census Advisory Committee). Executive Officer Levine was an active member of the Advisory Committee, chairing the Statistical Estimation Subcommittee and serving on a small writing team that drafted the Committee’s major report.

Promoting Sociology in Health Issues

ASA brought a sociological perspective to the field of health through various efforts at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

A major challenge for social science research occurred in 1991 when DHHS Secretary Louis Sullivan rescinded an award by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to the University of North Carolina for support of the American Teenage Study. The award

had been made after peer review and approval by the NICHD Advisory Council and the NICHD Director. ASA Council (in response to a request by the Sociology of Population Section), passed a resolution strongly opposing the “totally egregious and unprecedented action of HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan in rescinding an approved grant . . . This action is a serious threat to the integrity of the peer review process and the independence of scientific thought, and represents political intrusion into scientific research. We direct the Executive Office to publicly oppose this action, and to take all appropriate steps to have the study reinstated.” (Council Minutes, August 27, 1991)

ASA played an important role in emphasizing the social sciences at the National Institutes of Health (NIH): In 1993, ASA urged that social science be explicitly included in the title of the newly created Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR) and worked as an active member of the coalition to establish this Office. ASA also worked closely with the OBSSR throughout the 1990s on a number of initiatives, including a jointly sponsored Science Writer’s Workshop in June 1997 (see below).

ASA sought to increase the visibility of sociology at NIH by, (for example), providing extensive comment on the restructuring of peer review at NIH, and by submitting a detailed statement to the NIMH on the importance of investing in sociological work. The ASA also helped in planning and implementing a major conference with the NIH, “Toward Higher Levels of Analysis: Progress and Promise in Research on Social and Cultural Dimensions of Health,” which took place on the NIH campus in June 2000. This conference was the first time NIH focused on the social sciences in this area.

Executive Officer Levine testified before a U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Appropriations on Fiscal Year 1998 Appropriations for the National Institutes of Health on April 16, 1997. ASA also submitted written testimony on the National Institutes of Health to the U.S. Senate on May 1, 1997.

Participating in Activities on Protecting Human Subjects in Research

The ASA has participated in activities relating to protection of human subjects since the late 1970s when the Executive Office and the ASA Standing Committee on Regulations of Research responded to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revisions to procedures on standards for human protections in federally-funded research. In the two decades that followed, ASA became involved in the issue in a number of significant ways, including the legal cases of Mario Brajuha (see Chapter 1) and Richard Scarce, which focused on protection of confidential information provided by research subjects. In the mid-1990s, the ASA Committee on Ethics considered related issues extensively in the course of the major revision of the ASA Code of Ethics (approved in 1997).

In January 2001, then Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Donna Shalala, appointed ASA’s Executive Officer Felice J. Levine to the National Human Research Protections Advisory Committee (NHRPAC). Levine was one of only two social scientists on NHRPAC. The Committee was charged with providing expert advice and recommendations to the DHHS departmental officials on a broad range of issues and topics pertaining to the protection of human research subjects. Levine was Co-chair of NHRPAC’s Social and Behavioral Sciences Working Group. She also testified before the Committee Assessing the System for Protecting Human Research Subjects of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies (on behalf of COSSA and the ASA) on January 31, 2001.

The ASA Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Association issued a public statement on the tragic events, disseminated relevant materials to members of the Congress and other policy makers, and posted lists of experts from sociology who were available for consultation and interviews. “The Statement of the American Sociological Association on the Terrorist Attack,

September 11, 2001,” noted that, “Sociologists have made contributions in different areas that can add significantly to public understanding of these events and to healing communities and our nation.” Sociologists added their knowledge and expertise to the public discussion on the causes and consequences of such events, and several Congressional briefings sponsored by the Spivack Program were held during 2002 on related issues (see Appendix 25). Terrorism and related themes were highlighted at the 2002 Annual Meeting (see Chapter 3).

In the months following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the federal government began removing or restricting access to certain public datasets that were vital to researchers, policy makers, professionals in public health and the environment, industry, and others. With consultation and expertise provided by ASA's Section on Environment and Technology, and acknowledging the sensitivity of these issues in light of security issues surrounding the September attacks, ASA Council passed a resolution in January 2002 on “Access to Public Data.” The Resolution urged that rationale for such restrictions be specified, “that recognized scientific, academic, and citizens organizations engaged in lawful use of such data be granted access to such information through data access provisions; and that an advisory committee on public access to environmental and public health data be formed . . . to guide government agencies in maximizing reasonable public access.” (*Footnotes*, February, 2002:9)

Other Public Affairs Initiatives

ASA also collaborated on actions with other aligned associations in areas of mutual concern and especially on issues affecting the social sciences, humanities, and education. Some of these other initiatives included:

- In 1997, a project was undertaken in response to a request from the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in support of President Clinton's Initiative on Race, “One America.” Of all the scientific and learned societies, ASA alone responded to this call from OSTP. With the Spivack Program, ASA sponsored a research workshop on the Race Initiative in April 1998, actively sought to engage sociologists and other social scientists in this project, and undertook preparation of research papers on various issues relating to race, racism, and race relations. ASA was awarded \$87,640 from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in 1998, and \$54,300 from The Ford Foundation in 1997 for the project.
- With the National Humanities Alliance, ASA joined the effort to protect the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) from sharp budget cuts or total elimination due to the House GOP plan to balance the federal budget.
- The ASA joined colleagues from the American Psychological Association (APA) on the Human Capital Initiative in the mid-1990s; and in 2000, began support for the Decade of Behavior (2000–10), a multidisciplinary effort led by the APA to focus attention on the potential for contribution by the behavioral and social sciences on meeting significant challenges of society.
- The ASA was involved in collaboration on several major projects on violence. Executive Officer Levine was invited to attend the federal Interagency Violence Research Working Group, and served on the Advisory Board of the National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR) and the National Television Violence Study.
- On behalf of COSSA, Levine provided testimony on Appropriations for the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, before a U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Appropriations three times: on April 17, 1997 (for FY 1998); April 17, 1996 (for FY1997); and on May 11, 1993 (for FY 1994 Appropriations).

Public Information Program

First established in the mid-1980s, the Public Information Program of ASA continued to expand media coverage of sociology during the 1990s. The strategic plan of 1992 envisioned two goals for the Public Information Program: (1) to respond to media inquiries with timely and relevant information, including referrals to experts on specific issues, and (2) to initiate press briefings and other actions that inform and educate about sociology. Topics emanating from the substantive programs such as the Spivack Program were viewed as particularly appropriate for nurturing media interest in sociological issues. There was a close alliance between Public Affairs and Public Information initiatives with the same members of ASA's small staff often engaging in one, the other, or both forms of activity.

At the 1993 Annual Meeting, a public information consultant was engaged to enhance coverage and to involve the media in the meeting by initiating a special media panel. Edward Hatcher was appointed Director of Public Affairs and Communications in 1995 and served until 1997. Katherine J. Rosich, a Policy Analyst Consultant to the ASA on Spivack projects, continued the work of coordinating the public information functions from 1998 to early 2002, when Lee Herring joined the staff as Director. In July 2000, Johanna Ebner, a recent graduate of American University in Sociology and Communications was hired as a Program Assistant in Public Information. Ann Boyle, the AAAS/ASA Media Fellow for 1998, and Rachel Gragg (who had completed a term as Congressional Fellow) provided professional support in the public information area during the 1998 and 1999 Annual Meetings respectively.

Considerable emphasis was placed in the Public Information Program on enhancing forms of communication with the media:

- Requests for information by media were routinely referred to sociologists with expertise in a given area. These events also generated ongoing contacts with some members of the press.
- Press releases were written on articles from ASA journals (*ASR* and *JHSB* as well as special editions of *ASR* and *CS*) and were posted on the news wires (these were routinely filed on newswires: Newswise and the AAAS news service, Eurekalert).
- Events held under the auspices of the Spivack Program or special public affairs initiatives were also covered in press releases and posted on the newswires (e.g., ASA held a briefing at the National Press Club on research related to the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993, and also on the action against H.R. 1271 in 1996). The media was invited to all Congressional briefings and Spivack Program initiatives and to the MOST Capstone Conference in June 2002 (special media packets were prepared for these events).
- A Science Writer's Workshop sponsored jointly by ASA and OBSSR was held on June 30, 1997 on "Families, Youth, and Children's Well Being," featuring Linda Burton, Donald Hernandez, and Sandra Hofferth (proceedings were published in the *ASA Issue Series in Social Research and Social Policy*).
- The ASA Annual Meeting was a high priority for the Public Information Program. A major effort was made to contact or invite national and local media to the meeting, packets of special materials were prepared, and a media office was set up at the Annual Meeting to provide services and support to members of the press who attended. Press releases on plenary sessions, presentations, selected papers, and other special events at the Meeting were prepared and posted on the newswires. Each year one or two press conferences were also held during the meeting: In 1998, a press conference was held at the release of *The Realities of Affirmative Action in Employment*, by Barbara F. Reskin. A press conference on "Cyberspace and Everyday Life," with Barry Wellman, Keith Hampton, and Marc Smith at the 2000 Annual Meeting generated dozens of media stories around the world in the weeks following the Annual Meeting.

8. OTHER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD)

The Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) continued to provide support in the form of small grants for projects that advance the discipline of sociology. Supported by the American Sociological Association through a matching grant from the National Science Foundation, the goal of FAD is to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, groundbreaking research initiatives and other important scientific research activities. FAD awards provide scholars with seed money for innovative research that has the potential for challenging the discipline, stimulating new lines of research, and creating new networks of scientific collaboration. The award is intended to provide opportunities for substantive and methodological breakthroughs, broaden the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and provide leverage for acquisition of additional research funds. The maximum amount of each award is \$7,000 (2004 levels). (ASA homepage)

The first NSF award to ASA in support of a small grants program was made in 1987 (see Chapter 1). During the 1990s, the National Science Foundation made the following awards to the Program: in 1990, \$60,000 (covering the period from September 1, 1990 to February 29, 1996); in 1994: \$60,000 (for September 1, 1994 to August 31, 1997, including a supplement of \$20,000); in 1997: \$161,526 (for July 15, 1997 to June 30, 2001, including a supplement for June 2001), and in 2001: \$165,000 (for February 15, 2001 to February 14, 2004).

From 1991 to 1997, the Program was directed by Executive Officer Levine, and from 1997 to 2002, by Felice Levine (the Principal Investigator on the NSF grants) and Roberta Spalter-Roth, with the assistance of Andrew Sutter. A FAD Advisory Panel (composed of members of Council) participated in making award selections.

From 1987 to 2001, 622 proposals were submitted to the FAD Program and 184 scholars received awards. The Program is limited to PhDs (or the equivalent degree), and grantees come from a broad spectrum of colleges and universities, all academic ranks, and a range of years since they received their PhDs (Spalter-Roth, in *Footnotes*, March 2001).

International Activities

The ASA has a long history of commitment to international issues. The Association addressed such issues in a number of ways, including by: (1) sponsoring activities at the Annual Meeting featuring international themes and topics, (2) participating in the International Sociological Association (ISA) and other international organizations and events, (3) initiating activities through ASA committees and sections, (4) collaborating and networking with other professional organizations relating to specific area studies (e.g., Latin America), (5) hosting visiting foreign delegations, (6) responding to requests for assistance from sociological associations in other countries, and (7) featuring articles on international events in *Footnotes*, and in other ASA publications. The ASA has also responded to human rights violations (see Human Rights), and to efforts in response to international conflicts and acts of terrorism.

Task Force on the International Focus of American Sociology

In August 1999, a Task Force on the International Focus of American Sociology (TFIFAS) was appointed “to provide the Association with a comprehensive review of the international focus of the Association . . . [and] to undertake specific activities that reinforce this strong commitment.” (Council Agenda Memo, August 1, 1999) The members of the Task Force were Michael Micklin (Chair), James McCartney, Cathy Rakowski, Saskia Sassen, Brent Shea, and David Wiley. The TFIFAS submitted its final report to Council in 2003.

As part of its mandate, the Task Force examined the *Annual Meeting Programs*, committee activities, and ASA teaching materials for international content. The analyses of program content showed a generally increased attention over the years to international issues at the Annual Meeting. Committees also increasingly addressed international topics. However, levels of participation in ASA meetings by foreign sociologists (especially by non-Europeans) were found to be low, in part due to the lack of available funding. Teaching materials also generally had a low degree of international material. Finally, the Report assessed external funding sources that could enhance the participation of non-U.S. scholars at the Annual Meeting and recommended that ASA should reconstitute a committee dedicated to international issues.

Annual Meetings

Annual Meetings in 1993 (“Transition to Democracy”) and 1997 (“Bridges of Sociology”) were among those during the 1990s with a strong emphasis on international themes. In 1993, ASA President Lipset continued the practices of Presidents Melvin Kohn and James Coleman by inviting foreign scholars (especially those with Caribbean and Latin American interests) to participate on the program at the Annual Meeting in Miami. Funding was also obtained to support travel to the meeting by sociologists from the former Soviet Union, other Eastern European countries, and several developing nations. With President Neil Smelser, the 1997 Annual Meeting in Toronto was intentionally inclusive of most geographic regions of the world. The meeting theme was on the bridges between countries and between disciplines, and great efforts were made to include Canadian sociologists, with two thematic sessions assigned to the Canadian Sociological and Anthropological Association.

International Sociological Association (ISA)

The ASA continued to participate in meetings and activities of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the major worldwide organization of sociologists. The ISA meetings, which are held at regular four-year intervals, took place in Madrid, Spain in 1990 (the Twelfth Congress, as the ISA meetings are known); Bielefeld, Germany in 1994 (Thirteenth Congress); and in Montreal, Canada in 1998 (Fourteenth Congress). The ASA received block travel grants from NSF in support of travel by U.S. sociologists to the ISA meetings (with the exception of the Montreal meeting, for which funding was not requested, because it was considered to be no different than travel to an ASA meeting).

The ISA-ASA relationship was complex and reflected certain tensions. Over the years, ASA Council and other ASA members criticized certain aspects of the ISA governance, organizational, and operational structure. ASA long argued for a more democratic system with individual dues and individual voting by members. However according to the ISA Bylaws adopted in January 1994, ASA dues to ISA were increased—but each country would continue to have one representative in the Council of National Associations, regardless of the size of the country or the number of members it has in ISA. Discussion in Council during 1994 focused on these changes, including whether ASA should continue to be an institutional member. In August 1994, however, Council voted to continue its affiliation with ISA and to review it on an annual basis (given the governance issues of ISA), and to enhance coordination by having the ASA delegate to ISA serve as a member of the Committee on International Sociology.

In 1997, the Russell Sage Foundation awarded ASA \$25,000 to fund the ISA-ASA North American Conference on “Millennial Milestone: The Heritage and Future of Sociology,” which was planned and coordinated by Council member Janet Abu-Lughod, and took place on August 7–8, 1997 in Toronto, Canada. A manuscript based on the conference, “Continuities and Cutting Edges: Sociology for the Twenty-First Century,” edited by Janet Abu Lughod was published by the University of Chicago Press in 1999.

Other International Organizations

The ASA also has a working relationship as part of the Consortium of Affiliates for International Programs of the AAAS. In 1992, former Executive Officer William D'Antonio was elected President of the International Institute of Sociology (IIS). Founded in Paris, France in 1893, the IIS (distinct from the ISA), is an organization of scholars sharing theoretical and research interests (*Footnotes*, March 1992:6).

Other activities relating to Internationalization of Sociology

Over the years, ASA has focused attention on international issues in many other ways. The ASA, for example, has been asked to lend its support on behalf of sociological associations in developing countries or those emerging from totalitarian regimes (e.g., In 1992, by the Albanian Sociology Department). The ASA also hosted delegations from a number of countries (e.g., of Chinese students in October 1997; as well as from Russia and other countries).

President Coleman also addressed the “rapid internationalization of sociology and what role the ASA should play to improve communication and collaboration. He also sought comments on the need to stimulate greater interaction among international sociology associations. Among items discussed were the current structure of the International Sociological Association, the role of the Committee on International Sociology, the role of the ASA/NSF Small Grants Program in funding proposals aimed at enhancing international networking, and foundation support.” (Council Minutes, January 1992)

The ASA additionally provided coverage of international issues in *Footnotes*, through its homepage, and through other publications. A regular *Footnotes* feature to the mid-1990s “International News and Notes” covered a range of topics, including international funding and teaching opportunities, news about research programs (such as the International Social Survey [ISS] Program of NORC), and so forth. President Coleman proposed this idea “to provide better visibility for the activities of overseas colleagues and to facilitate better communication in general. Although no formal motion was made, the editors indicated that they were sympathetic to the suggestion of highlighting international issues.” (Council Minutes, August 27, 1991)

Human Rights

Over the past several decades, the ASA has spoken out in defense of human rights generally, but especially on behalf of scholars who have been arrested, convicted, and incarcerated for activities relating to their scientific and scholarly work. ASA has long argued that restricting the academic freedom of sociologists and other scientists is certain to have a chilling effect on other independent scholarly investigations. Since the late 1990s, ASA has also advocated a strong U.S. governmental response to the infringement of academic freedoms as critical to promoting democracy in nations under study, since the “free production and circulation of knowledge [is] vital to both science and democracy.” (ASA Press Release on “Addressing Human Rights Violations of U.S. Scholars,” August 19, 2001)

Actions by ASA have been in the form of resolutions of ASA Council, letters of appeal or protest on behalf of those detained, articles in *Footnotes* (and, more recently, on the ASA homepage), op-ed pieces, press releases on ASA positions, and in general public announcements to mobilize action at the grassroots level in support of the victims. Since the mid-1980s, ASA has worked closely with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Human Rights Action Network (AAASHRAN) in coordinating appropriate responses on specific cases.

Human Rights Issues in the 1990s

The Association took up issues regarding human rights from a broad sociological perspective as well as from the context of potential suppression of rights of research scholar. For example, ASA also initiated efforts to further understanding of social conflicts that lead to massive human

rights violations. In November 1993, under the leadership of ASA President Gamson, a Spivack workshop was held on “Initiative on Genocide and Human Rights,” which addressed the need to “mobilize social science associations and funding organizations to respond to situations of genocide and mass deaths, such as that now occurring in the Bosnia-Serbia conflict. [Gamson] said that there was an agenda, as well as research roles, which go beyond the current activities of such organizations as Amnesty International.” (Council Minutes, January 1993)

In the late 1990s, a series of human rights cases emerged involving sociologists detained in Egypt and China that led to ASA’s engagement. In June 2000, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, a Professor of Sociology at American University in Cairo who holds both Egyptian and American citizenship, was arrested with colleagues from the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies on charges widely believed to be politically motivated. Also, Li Shaomin, a PhD in demography from Princeton and a Professor of Business at the City University of Hong Kong, and Gao Zhan, a PhD from Syracuse University and a researcher studying Chinese women students, were arrested in China in early 2001. ASA raised a strong voice in protest in these cases. (Li Shaomin and Gao Zhan were released by the summer of 2001; Saad Eddin Ibrahim was released in December 2002 and acquitted in March 2003.)

In a unanimous resolution, ASA Council also called upon the U.S. government to strengthen its resolve to protect the safety and well-being of scholars engaged in scientific research in countries where basic freedoms do not exist, and to speak out assertively in support of academic freedom:

The ASA calls upon the State Department to go beyond merely working behind the scenes to secure the release and departure of social scientists once they are jailed. It is imperative that the State Department protects foreign-born scientists who are naturalized citizens or permanent U.S. residents with the same vigor it would apply on behalf of U.S.-born citizens; that it asserts and defends the values of free scientific investigation of human society, both for its intrinsic worth and for its ultimately positive consequences for the nations under study; that it does not stand passively by while academic freedoms are systematically repressed abroad, and that it must not itself act to curb research and thereby become a tacit participant in repressing those freedoms. (ASA homepage)

ASA President Douglas S. Massey, Vice-President Richard D. Alba, and Council Member Craig J. Calhoun, who is also President of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), issued a joint statement which noted that the ASA is “very concerned that sociologists are most at risk because the issues they study inevitably touch on the distribution of power and resources in society and the methods they use frequently involve contact with ordinary citizens, as in surveys or observational studies.” (ASA Press Release, August 19, 2001)

The ASA Archiving Project

The preservation of sociology’s history has been a topic of discussion for decades. Stephen Turner summarized some of these issues in a May 1991 *Footnotes* article on “Salvaging Sociology’s Past,” in which he described concrete steps taken by ASA to preserve the history of the Association.

In 1983, ASA donated its records to the Library of Congress, where some 57,900 ASA administrative records and documents from 1931 to 1986 are part of the Manuscript Division Materials of the James Madison Building of the Library. In 1989, supported by a grant from the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, Michael R. Hill and Mary Jo Deegan conducted an inventory of the materials and prepared a “finding aid” based on their assessment of the contents. As Turner notes in the 1991 article, this archive at the Library of Congress, while substantial, is still only a small part of the potentially large body of information that exists on the history of sociology during the 20th century.

ASA Council turned its attention to exploring other approaches for preserving records from the Executive Office, when the Library of Congress informed ASA in 1992 that it would no longer accept the ASA archives. From 1989 to 1993, Council reviewed various proposals for archiving projects,

and reached a consensus that Pennsylvania State University's offer should be further explored. Further negotiations were pursued with Penn State while the Committee on Archives worked to establish guidelines for what should be preserved and archived, to define criteria for classification of materials as "restricted" and "non-restricted," to work out procedures for transmission of materials to the archive, and in general, to define specifications to ensure the integrity and security of the ASA archive. The Committee on Archives during this time was co-chaired by Stephen Turner and Lynne Zucker, and also consisted of John M. Goering, Sydney Halpern, Michael Hill, John Stanfield, and Executive Officer Felice Levine.

In September 1997, ASA signed the contract with Penn State to create the ASA archive that affirms "a common commitment to establish, maintain, and provide access to the ASA records, documents, and materials for research and investigation by current and future generations." (*Footnotes*, November 1997:1) State-of-the-art methods were to be used to maintain and provide access to documents. The final agreement also provided for the "appointment of an ASA Archives Advisory Committee, to be named by Penn State and ASA, to make recommendations regarding the ASA archives and its operations. This Advisory Committee would include potential scholarly users." (Council Minutes, August 12, 1997)

The American Sociological Association Archives were dedicated on February 28, 1998 in a one-day symposium focusing on use of archives for scholarly research and on the importance of Jessie Bernard in Sociology.

9. ANNUAL MEETING

During the 1990s, the Annual Meeting continued to be the most important forum for scholarly communication and dissemination of research and ideas by attendees in addition to network opportunities. By 2000, about 600 program sessions were held during each Meeting for the nearly 5,000 registrants. In addition, at each Meeting about 100 book publishers, computer software companies, data/statistics centers, research institutes, government agencies and bureaus, and internet resource providers exhibited books and other materials. The Meeting is open to sociologists, "scholars from disciplines related to sociology, students in all areas of social science, and anyone interested in the scientific study of society." (ASA homepage)

The Annual Meeting Program evolved in length and composition throughout the 1990s, even as the Annual Meeting itself was shortened from a five- to four-day event in 2001. In 1980, the Annual Meeting had 206 program sessions and 3,331 paid registrants; in 1990, 312 program sessions and 3,818 paid registrants; and in 2000, 577 program sessions, and 4,793 paid registrants (Levine, *Footnotes*, January 2002:2). While Annual Meeting Programs reflected membership interest and proposals, during the 1990s, the Association also modified some familiar features or introduced new ideas and services: (1) Regional Spotlight Sessions, which focus attention on the discipline from the perspective of the Annual Meeting locations, were expanded; (2) The Science Policy Forum, a series of sessions that featured representatives of funding agencies in discussion of trends and opportunities for professional support, was introduced; (3) Poster Sessions grew in number; and (4) A variety of other professional sessions, such as the Chairs Conference and meetings for Directors of Graduate Studies, were added.

During this time, the nature and character of workshops changed as well. In 1980, there were eight professional workshops and 10 didactic seminars. By 2000, there were 16 workshops related to the academic workplace (i.e., sessions addressed to leading and managing in the academic workplace), 21 professional workshops (i.e., on topics and issues important to the professional development of sociologists, such as writing grant proposals), and 29 teaching workshops (i.e., those that center on strategies for teaching specific courses). In addition, didactic seminars, held as half-day or full-day events were offered on topics such as new methodological approaches or techniques.

In 2002, some innovations were introduced into the program of workshops at the Annual Meeting. Under the leadership of President Barbara Reskin and ASA Council as well as the strong interest of Executive Officer Levine and APAP Director Howerly, the Association more actively promoted workshops and the training component of the Annual Meeting. For the first time, two extended “short-course” workshops, one on Teaching Racial Profiling, and another on Human Research Protections in Sociology and the Social Sciences were offered at the Annual Meeting in 2002 with a credit-granting mechanism. Attendees were required to register in advance for these courses, expected to do some preparation prior to the workshop session, and were offered certificates by ASA to attest to successful completion of these courses.

Other highlights relating to Annual Meetings during the 1990s include:

- The threatened boycott of Miami as a site for the Annual Meeting in 1993 came from African-American leaders over a snub of Nelson Mandela in 1990 and a strong concern about underrepresentation of African Americans in tourist-industry jobs. Both ASA President Lipset and Executive Officer Levine worked closely with boycott leaders in planning a major luncheon plenary at the 1993 Annual Meeting to address the reasons for the boycott and apply sociological knowledge to understanding the situation. The matter was settled prior to the meeting with gains for the African-American community.
- The Association made significant policy decisions aimed at enhancing inclusivity and wide participation at Annual Meetings by emphasis on “assembling a Program Committee to be as fully representative as possible of the diversity of the ASA membership” (Council Minutes, February 1992); through its site selection policies, and through various other structural changes. In 1995, Council affirmed an August 1994 statement “to hold its meetings only in cities where its members are afforded legal protection from discrimination on the basis of age, gender, marital status, national origin, physical ability, race, religion, or sexual orientation.” (August 22, 1995) Over the years, ASA also sought to enhance and improve its services to special groups at the Annual Meeting, such as for childcare, persons with disabilities, and for those persons seeking employment.
- ASA has long supported the presence of students and student activities at the Annual Meetings, and in various ways provided support to encourage student attendance. The Honors Program had a strong presence at each Annual Meeting with enthusiastic support from the Association and the Executive Office. Special receptions, roundtables, and other events were held with the student participants in mind. During the 1990s, the Honors Program was directed by David Bills, Duane Dukes, and Kerry Strand.
- Although the impetus for the ASA Policy on Exhibits, Advertising, and Sales emanated from “political advocacy exhibits” at the 1991 Annual Meeting, a Subcommittee of Council (consisting of Janet Chavetz, Chair, Felice Levine, Richard Scott, and Franklin Wilson) was charged with addressing the broader question of policies relating to *all* ASA exhibits, sales, and advertising. The Report submitted by the subcommittee found that, in general, the ASA policies were similar to those of other social science associations, and “offered an affirmative guideline based on three criteria; that any item must be (in brief) a tool of the trade, of benefit to individual members, or of benefit to the ASA. ASA has the sole authority to judge conformity to these criteria and reserves the right to refuse, curtail or cancel any exhibit, ad or sale which does not. The report also outlined internal review and enforcement procedures.” (Council Minutes, January 1992)
- In 2000, Council voted to shorten the 2001 Annual Meeting from five to four days on an experimental basis for one year in order to cut costs and potentially increase attendance. A survey of other professional organizations had indicated that a four-day meeting seemed to be the norm. The 2001 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA was the first four-day meeting held

by the Association. In February 2001, Council voted to continue the four-day meeting on a permanent basis.

- Council also approved participation exemptions for professional service appearances as specified by the Program Committee (e.g., for leading workshop or seminars, or representing an organization in an informational poster session), effective for the 2001 Annual Meeting.
- With improvements in technologies and enhancements to the ASA homepage since 2001, activities relating to the Annual Meeting (including the Program) have been much more visible. The advance of the Internet, use of emails, listservs, and other forms of electronic publishing (such as the online presentation of the Annual Meeting Program with a personal scheduler feature) greatly enhanced communication about the Annual Meeting. Since 1997, the ASA homepage has increasingly become pivotal in disseminating information on the Annual Meeting (e.g., Call for Papers). Annual meeting-related innovations introduced during the first half of 2001 included the online abstracts and papers center (the only place where abstracts and papers can be purchased), online audiovisual request system, and online preliminary program and personal scheduler. (See also Information Technology.)