

BYLAWS: SECTION ON CRIME, LAW, AND DEVIANCE

Revised 1990, 2012, 2013, 2022, 2023

The purpose of the section on Crime, Law and Deviance is to foster the sociological study of crime, law, and deviance through the organized interchange of ideas and research results. The section shall encourage the development of the study of crime, law, and deviance through organized meetings and conferences, publications, and such other means as are deemed appropriate by the Council of the Section. The term “crime, law, and deviance” shall be interpreted in its broadest sense to include all matters of sociological interest related to the study and understanding of deviant and law-violating behavior and the organization and operation of systems of social control.

Officers of the Section:

The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, a Chair-elect, a Past Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer and a Secretary-Treasurer-elect. The Chair-elect will automatically become the Chair in the year following their office as Chair-elect. The Chair will automatically become the Past Chair in the year following their office as Chair. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years. A Secretary-Treasurer-elect shall be chosen in the second year of a Secretary-Treasurer’s three year term. The Secretary-Treasurer and Secretary-Treasurer-elect will overlap in their third and first years, respectively. The Secretary Treasurer-elect is not required to attend the meetings following their election, but is expected to attend the meetings that start their second and third years. The outgoing Secretary-Treasurer will not be required to attend the meetings at the end of their third year as the Secretary-Treasurer-elect will take over.

There shall be a Council consisting of six members, each serving for three years, with two Council seats being vacated each year. In the first election of the Council the terms of office, whether for one, two, or three years, shall be designated by the Chair. Officers shall not succeed themselves. The Chair, the Chair-elect, the Past Chair, and the Secretary-treasurer shall serve as members of the Council, with the Chair acting as Chair of the Council. No member can hold two elective offices simultaneously. If an elected officer is elected to another office, their prior office shall be declared vacant. If an elected office is vacated before the term is completed, it shall be filled through appointment by the Chair for the unexpired term, but this appointment must be confirmed by the Council at its next meeting.

Powers of the Officers:

The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. Any question or issue to be brought before the Section membership, including changes of the by-laws, may originate with the Council itself, by a petition of 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members of the Section, whichever is less. Questions that are interpreted by the Council to be matters of new program development or policy shall be brought before the membership for discussion.

Elections and Voting:

The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and co-ordinate to their schedule. The exception for this shall be the first election, which shall be carried out concomitantly with the formation of the Section. Officers elected shall serve through the first year after the Section is formed and accepted into the Association.

Committees:

There shall be a Committee on Nominations appointed each year by the Chair, with advice of the Council, within two months following the convening of the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall be constituted of no more than five members. One member of the Committee on Nominations shall be designated as Chair of that Committee, and that Chair shall be a member (but not the Chair) of the Committee on Nominations in the following year. All other members of the Committee shall be non-overlapping from year to year. At least two candidates will be presented for each office by the Committee on Nominations

There shall be a Committee on Publications, appointed by the Council of the Section, membership to be for three years. The purpose of this Committee shall be to produce the section newsletter to be distributed to all section members. The Committee may also report to the Council on matters of publication that may foster the discipline. The Committee on Publications will be chaired by the Section Newsletter Editor, and include the Section Webmaster plus at least one member from the Section membership (including Council members) appointed by the Section Chair, with the advice of the Council.

There shall be a Committee on Crime, Law and Deviance Sessions of the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association appointed by the Section Chair with the advice of the Council. The purpose of this Committee shall be to assist the Chair in developing sessions on crime, law, and deviance for the annual meeting. This committee will consist of at least two members.

There shall be a separate Award Committee for each of the four Section Awards and one for a joint award: (1) the Distinguished Article Award (awarded every year), (2) the Distinguished Book Award (awarded every year) (3) the Distinguished Scholar Award (awarded every two years), (4) the Distinguished Student Paper Award (awarded every year), and (5) the Mentoring Award (awarded every two years jointly, in conjunction with the Sociology of Law Section). Each Awards Committee will consist of three to five members appointed to a one-year term by the Chair, with advice from Council. Each member will be drawn from the Section membership, and may include members of Council. The Awards Committee will be chaired by a member appointed by the Section Chair, with advice of the Council.

There shall be a Membership Committee appointed each year by the Council comprised of a chair and two members serving on the committee for three years, with the term of

one member expiring each year. The incoming person will serve one year as a member, one year as chair, and one year as senior member to give advice to the new chair when needed. The chair of the committee will have access to monthly membership reports and emails of current and past members provided by the ASA. The purpose of this Committee shall be to organize membership renewal and recruitment efforts. Other committees shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council or by the Council on an ad hoc basis.

Membership:

The membership of the Section shall be drawn from members of the American Sociological Association, without regard to the classification of their membership, who have expressed an interest in the study, research or teaching of crime, law, and deviance. Only current members may be considered for Section awards, with the exception of the Distinguished Student Paper Award. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls.

Dues: Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association. In addition, members of the Section shall be assessed as necessary to carry out any program undertaken by the Section.