

ASC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Hyatt Hotel, St. Louis - Director's Row Room 23

MINUTES

Attending: Robert Agnew, Joanne Belknap, Tom Blomberg, Bob Bursik, Chris Eskridge, Todd Clear, Denise Gottfredson, Karen Heimer, Janet Lauritsen, Gary LaFree, Alan Lizotte, Doris Mackenzie, Cheryl Maxson, Jody Miller, Steve Messner, Wayne Osgood, Alex Piquero, Richard Rosenfeld, Cassie Spohn, Chris Uggen, Pat Van Voorhis, David Weisburd, John Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Outgoing Board members Chris Eskridge, Chris Uggen, Denise Gottfredson, John Wright, Michael Tonry, Steve Messner, and Tom Blomberg were thanked for their service. The following incoming members (as of Saturday) were then welcomed to the board: Cheryl Maxson, Joanne Belknap, Jody Miller, and Richard Rosenfeld.

2. President's Report

Bob Bursik reported that it has been a busy year for the Society, accomplishing an enormous amount of work. We have revised our constitution and bylaws, hired a lobbying group to represent the Society's interests, and the meetings are well-organized with a good variety of panels.

3. Executive Director's Report

Chris Eskridge reported on the financial health of the Society. We are operating in the black for the year, although the stock market decline has affected our balances. The divisions are doing well and are in sound financial condition. The Society's webpage has now reached the limits of our provider's capacity, so we will be moving to a new provider who can handle the increased traffic.

Chris Eskridge proposed a pay increase for Susan Case, Nicole Coldiron, and Sue Beelman. Bob Bursik suggested increasing staff salaries by 5 percent, in light of their fine performance and the need for a cost of living adjustment. Todd Clear moved that we provide staff with a minimum raise of either (a) 5 percent, or (b) the cost of living changes in the CPI (for the year ending October 31, 2008), plus 1 percent – whichever is greater. That is, staff salary will be keyed to the CPI but a minimum raise of 5 percent will be implemented. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Changes to *The Criminologist* are also under way. Chris Eskridge discussed preparations with Natasha Frost for the next annual meeting in Philadelphia. He then announced that the ice cream social will be held at 3:00 on Thursday in the exhibit hall.

4. Treasurer's Report (Saturday)

5. By- Laws

The Society's membership recently voted to approve changes to the ASC constitution. Changes to Society by-laws require two votes of the Board and the first vote was taken last April. Chris Eskridge moved that we accept the bylaws and the motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. Charles Wellford and the committee were thanked for their important service to the Society on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

6. ASC Committee Reports:

a) Outstanding Paper

We still have no award for the 2005 outstanding paper. This year we are giving the award for the 2006 year. David Weisburd moves that we make a decision on 2004-2005 award before the next board meeting in April 2009 and that if a recommendation is not made to the board at that time, we not make an award for that year. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board

b) Nominations Committee

Chris Eskridge spoke on behalf of Julie Horney, chair of the nominations committee. The Board excused Bob Agnew, David Weisburd, and Steve Messner since they were noted in the report. Bob Crutchfield and Steve Messner were nominated for President of the Society. The slate of nominees was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

c) Teaching Committee

Chris Eskridge spoke on behalf of Bonnie Berry, committee chair. The committee has established a teaching award and adding a "teaching tips" page to *The Criminologist*. Bob Agnew urged continuity in the committee membership, particularly for this new committee. By tradition we appoint one person from the previous year who then becomes chair, but then rotate the members. The President is permitted to appoint committee memberships with the approval of the Board on the slate of committee members.

d) Student Affairs Committee/Mentoring Report (verbal report on Saturday)

e) Publications Committee

Steve Messner presented his report from the publications committee. We have not yet been successful in identifying an editor for *The Criminologist*, although Wayne Osgood

is working to further enhance its content. Our journal publication contract is not up until 2011, but the committee is generally pleased with the relationship with Blackwell thus far. The Committee and Board will open the bidding process to other companies at the appropriate time.

f) *Criminology & Public Policy*

Tom Blomberg has successfully increased submissions to *Criminology and Public Policy*.

g) Ad Hoc Committee on ASC and Justice Policy

Todd Clear's committee is considering the involvement of the ASC in policy matters. He argued that the Society needs to develop a consistent approach with regard to research-based policy positions. A review has determined that such activities will not endanger the Society's nonprofit status, so long as they are consistent with the educational function of our professional association – in this case, educating government officials and other policy decision makers. Several board members discussed how the Society works best in advocating for basic criminological research and funding. When the ASC begins moving into specific policy questions, we quickly lose consensus among the Board and the broader membership. Nevertheless, the Board wishes to be aggressive in protecting key data sources and agency budgets. Todd Clear's committee will come back with a report for the Board to discuss.

h) Ad Hoc Criminology Policy Committee

Gary Lafree is currently chair of the Ad Hoc Criminology Policy Committee, to be chaired next year by Janet Lauritsen. The Raben Group has been hired as our ASC lobbyist. Katharine Huffman of Raben shared a memo on Public Policy Education in Washington DC. Ms. Huffman discussed the issue of appropriations for criminological research, reporting great interest in these issues from the appropriations staff in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. The Raben Group will be communicating directly with the Board and with Chris Eskridge to determine how best to alert and inform the membership to these issues.

The Board then discussed the interrelationship between our COSSA representative and the two ad-hoc committees: (1) one serving as liaison with the Raben group to represent our interests in Washington; and, (2) the other an ad-hoc group charged with recommending guidelines for policy action, developing a statement of principles, policies, and practices to serve as a guide for the Board. David Weisburd introduced a motion to continue the current agreement with Raben (for \$2,000 per month) for 12 months. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board. They will be bound by the current financial agreement unless the committee introduces a proposal to expand their role. Our next step would be to develop a more permanent structure that involves the President of the Society and a committee. The membership will be kept informed with a series of lead articles in *The Criminologist*.

7. ASC Division Reports (Saturday)

8. Coin Flip

Cassia Spohn and Karen Heimer flipped a coin to resolve ambiguity in the length of their Board service dates. As a result, Cassia Spohn will serve on the Board through 2010 and Karen Heimer will serve through 2011.

9. New Business

10. Future Meetings of the ASC Board

a) Dinner at 7 pm in Directors Row 41

b) Saturday, November 15, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Director's Row 23

c) Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, 2009; Philadelphia Marriott

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.