

## ASC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 13, 2007  
Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel

### MINUTES

Attending: Robert Agnew, Tom Blomberg, Bob Bursik, Chris Eskridge, Tom Feucht, Natasha Frost (for Todd Clear), Denise Gottfredson, David Hagy, Karen Heimer, Jeannette Hussemann, Candace Kruttschnitt, Janet Lauritsen, Gary LaFree, Alan Lizotte, Doris Mackenzie, Ross Macmillan, Steve Messner, Wayne Osgood, Alex Piquero, Cassie Spohn, Michael Tonry, Chris Uggen, Pat Van Voorhis, David Weisburd, John Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm

#### 1. President's Report – Michael Tonry

Michael Tonry introduced the new Board members (Karen Heimer, Todd Clear, Wayne Osgood) as well as visitors David Hagy and Tom Feucht of the National Institute of Justice. He then thanked Chris Eskridge for his assistance and leadership and discussed his central role as Executive Director in the Society. He cautioned that the Society is unusually dependent on this position and urged future consideration of increased staffing levels and changes in the structure and functions of the Society. Michael Tonry recommended hiring more professional employees, consideration of a possible move to Washington, DC, and strategies to become a more prominent player on the national and international scene. He also noted the Constitutional Review Committee, chaired by Charles Wellford.

#### 2. Presentation by Acting NIJ Director – David W. Hagy, Ph.D.

Acting Director David Hagy and Tom Feucht discussed the mission of the National Institute of Justice, the priorities of the Director's office, its relation with affiliated agencies, and plans to link the social science operations of the office with the technology side. After Director Hagy's opening remarks, the Board discussed the Society's relationship with the National Institute of Justice and the strategic direction of research programs. He also mentioned the grant solicitation process, the availability of data archives, and ways to bring new talent into the agency via competitive processes. An open meeting with NIJ is scheduled for Thursday at 10:30.

#### 3. National Academy of Sciences review of NIJ; ASC selection of ASC spokespeople

The National Academy of Sciences Committee on Law and Justice will be reviewing the National Institute of Justice. The committee, headed by Charles Wellford, would like to bring forward three representatives from ASC to participate in the review. Michael Tonry proposed to invite four nominees to participate: Joan Petersilia, Al Blumstein, Jim Lynch, and Phil Cook. By unanimous vote, the Board approved this slate of nominees and authorized up to \$3,000 each for

their travel expenses to attend meetings in Washington, DC.

#### 4. Executive Director's Report - Chris Eskridge

Executive Director Chris Eskridge reported that the Society is in good financial health and noted plans for the St. Louis and Philadelphia meetings. The revamped website is getting up to 200,000 hits per week and security has been improved. Archival materials from the Columbus office are now online, dating to the 1950s. By unanimous vote, the Board approved a 3 percent pay increase for staff and an additional \$1,000 bonus for Sue Beelman for her extraordinary work this year.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report - John Wright

The organization is in good financial health, with assets of \$1.5 million, \$1.3 million of which is invested. Our investment income has increased significantly in recent years. This conference should produce \$260,000 in income and dues, plus monies owed by Marriott from prior conferences. We are hoping to realize a small profit on this year's meeting. All divisions are now in good financial health. The increases in dues have helped to offset increases in audio-visual costs. People are now less likely to stay over on Saturday night than they had been in the past, so the Society is not expected to meet our room blocks this year. We may need to adjust future contracts or consider moving more activities, such as didactic sessions, to Saturday.

#### 6. ASC Committee Reports:

##### a. Atlanta Program Committee – Candace Kruttschnitt, Ross MacMillan

Candace Kruttschnitt described the emphasis on local culture at this year's meetings and thanked the local arrangements group. Although the hotel remodeling is unfinished, the Society will have all the space needed for the meetings. She thanked Jeanette Huesseman for her terrific work with authors and with All-Academic in putting together this year's meetings.

##### b. COSSA – Gary LaFree

Gary LaFree described his work with the Consortium of Social Science Associations, including ASC representative Karen Heimer and COSSA Director Howard Silver. He noted that the political environment has changed in recent years regarding appropriations for criminological research, advising continued vigilance from ASC and COSSA to protect the research infrastructure needed for criminological research.

##### c. Nominations Committee – Rosemary Gartner

Michael Tonry read the slate of candidates. A motion to accept the slate of nominations was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

d. Ad Hoc Committee on UN Involvement – Alan Lizotte

On behalf of the ad hoc committee, Alan Lizotte brought recommendations forward regarding the role of the Society in the United Nations. After discussion, these were put in the form of motions and approved by unanimous vote of the Board:

- i. Subject to the approval of the ASC Board, the president will appoint a UN Representative and an alternate representative to the United Nations. The appointment shall be for a two-year term with the expectation that only one additional two-year appointment may be made (resulting in a maximum of four years of service) and that there will be a one-year overlap with the new representative and the old representative.
- ii. While the ASC UN representative is expected to contribute at UN meetings, the representative should not engage in public policy recommendations. The UN Representative is to serve on the program committee of the ASC, however, organizing and facilitating sessions at the annual meetings on policy topics of particular interest to the UN. The UN representative should facilitate publication of the papers presented at these ASC sessions, but not take a policy position on these papers.
- iii. The representative will report her activities at the ASC panels to the UN and report her activities at the UN to the ASC Board. Given the shift in the role of the representative, the Board approved as a budget line-item an amount up to \$3,000 annually for the representative's reasonable travel and related costs to attend UN meetings per year. Activities of the UN Representative would be limited to these and only these activities.

e. Publications Committee – Doris MacKenzie

- i. *The Criminologist*. The committee discussed possible substantive and design changes to *The Criminologist*, including the appointment of an editor, a stipend for costs associated with publication, formation of an editorial Board, changes in content to include substantive articles and information, electronic distribution of position announcements and calls for papers, and changes in design, layout, and advertisements. Features such as book reviews, research in the spotlight, new books, teaching tips, columns from the president, items of concern to the criminology community, and letters were discussed. The Board considered a motion to solicit an Editor for *The Criminologist* from the membership of the ASC. This motion was tabled until the Saturday meeting, however, so that the Publications committee could meet and provide recommendations to the Board.
- ii. Reprint Report. The Publications Committee reviewed our agreement with Blackwell and discussed our procedures regarding reprint rights and

securing permissions from authors. The ASC currently charges \$50 for a full-text reprint and \$25 for a figure or a table and no excerpts or abridgments are currently permitted. The original authors are not compensated. There was a suggestion to charge \$250 per article, as other journals charge from \$20-\$36 per page and \$100 for each chart or figure. Michael Tonry requested that the committee return with a proposal for the Saturday meeting.

f. Mentor of the Year Committee – Bonnie Berry

A motion to allocate an additional \$500 to subsidize the mentor program at a level of \$1000 per year was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

g. Ad Hoc Teaching Committee - Bonnie Berry

The Committee has been active in putting out a call for syllabi and coordinating with the American Sociological Association, which has also been creating syllabi collections. Other activities of the committee include sponsoring workshops and sessions at the annual meetings and developing a proposal for a teaching award, with a committee appointed by the president and approved by the Board.

7. New Business

a. Congressional Liaison proposal – Gary LaFree

In light of recent threats to critical data series and research infrastructure, Gary LaFree opened a discussion of the Society's role in providing information to congressional staff to share the interests of our members. The Society is prohibited from lobbying activities, but a new liaison could work with COSSA and the Board to protect the resources available for crime and justice research. A motion that the ASC Board authorize spending up to \$24,000 for the coming year (\$2,000 per month) to support a congressional liaison in the Washington DC metropolitan area and to provide travel funds on a selective basis to bring ASC members to Washington was passed by the Board (with one opposed). An ad-hoc criminal policy committee will nominate a person to serve as the Washington liaison to the ASC. The Board requests a report from the liaison on a periodic basis.

b. Proposed Resolution on City Crime Rankings – Janet Lauritsen

The Board discussed the potentially misleading dissemination of city crime rankings, particularly those compiled and distributed by Morgan Quitno Press. Discussion centered on fundamental methodological problems in drawing such comparisons on raw UCR data, as well as the public opposition of other groups to simple UCR-based rankings, including the FBI and the US Conference of Mayors. By a 10-5 vote, the

Board passed a motion to formally oppose the use of FBI Uniform Crime Reports data to rank American cities as “dangerous” or “safe” without proper consideration of the limitations of these data.

8. Future Board Meetings:
  - a. Saturday, November 17, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm; M102
  - b. Friday/Saturday, April 25-26, St. Louis Adam’s Mark Hotel