

2001 ASA MEETING: MINUTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

Labor and Labor Movements section-in-formation business meeting at ASA convention on Sunday August 19, 2001 in Anaheim, California. Minutes by Dan Clawson, acting Secretary-Treasurer.

About 75 people attended the business meeting, which was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Judy Stepan-Norris, Acting Chair.

Even though we were not an official ASA section in time to qualify for sessions this year, we secured all of the sessions and activities discussed at last year's meetings: a set of roundtables (organized by Harland Prechel), a business meeting, a tour of Los Angeles sweatshops (organized by Ku-Sup Chin and Bob Ross), and three sessions, "the new labor movement in Los Angeles: achievements and prospects" (organized by Ruth Milkman), "workers across borders" (organized by Fernando Gapasin), "globalization and labor" (organized by Richard Appelbaum and Leslie Gates).

ASA OFFICIAL STATUS AND BY-LAWS

Judy reported that the section has enrolled more than 300 members, and thus qualified to become an official ASA section. To do so, however, we had to develop Section By-Laws prior to the beginning of the ASA convention. Since we were given only two weeks in which to do so, Judy drafted section by-laws, relying heavily on the by-laws of already existing sections, and recognizing that at a later point the section may wish to amend these by-laws. These draft by-laws were then circulated to all (acting) members of the section council. With minor revisions, they were approved and submitted to the ASA. We are awaiting official approval. Copies of the by-laws were circulated among those attending the business meeting.

WEBSITE AND SECTION NEWSLETTER

George Mason reported that the web site is up and running. He solicited additional materials and ideas from members of the section, especially photographs. Several people praised the excellent job he has done. The web site lists and has links to a range of resources, posts our Newsletter, and contains other section materials, such as the bibliography of work related to our section. The web site can be found at www.bgsu.edu/dept/soc/prof/mason/ASA

Kim Scipes noted that the first issue of the newsletter, In Critical Solidarity, had been mailed by the ASA, including a piece by Peter Evans with response by Edna Bonacich, Ian Robinson, and Gay Seidman, as well as a list of section members' scholarly work and of little known resources. It's already generated interest and responses.

NEW UNIVERSITY LABOR INSTITUTE

Ruth Milkman reported on the newly formed Institute for Labor and Employment (ILE), with bases at UCLA and UC Berkeley, and \$6 million a year of state funding. Ruth is the new director of the institute, which was formed due to labor's political clout; she urged other states to form similar centers and offered to consult with anyone exploring such a possibility. The institute has initiated a number of programs, including internships, research grants for University of California faculty and students (who may have non-UC partners), scholarships for UC graduate students, a union leadership school (with SEIU), and the hiring of ten new staff positions.

AFL-CIO AND LABOR RESEARCH

Daisy Rooks reported on a June meeting, co-sponsored by the Economic Policy Institute, to encourage and assist research on union organizing. The meeting was attended by 14 policy people, 30 academics, and 20 union people. The event was held with the active assistance of the AFL-CIO, and is part of their on-going Voice at Work effort to stimulate additional research on organizing; this will include efforts to assist researchers in gaining access to data and sites. Four issues were identified as of special interest: the people who vote no during organizing campaigns, management behavior during campaigns, attempts to document basic information about organizing, and the role of technology in organizing. The group also talked about the need to collect new data and involve new people. The new UCLA ILE (see above) will hold a conference on organizing, tentatively on May 17, 2002.

OUR SESSIONS FOR ASA 2002 IN CHICAGO

One of our sessions for this year was jointly sponsored with the Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) section. They used their session for this year, so next year we will again co-sponsor a session with them and will use our session. That session, "Labor Solidarity and Conflict: North and South," will be co-organized by Peter Evans (for our section) and Bob Ross (for PEWS).

After spirited and extended discussion it was agreed that our second session will focus on New Strategies and Directions for Organized Labor in the 21st Century, and will be co-organized by Hector Delgado and Dan Clawson.

The meeting did not resolve whether to continue to split the business meeting with a roundtable session; it was left for Council to decide that issue.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

We are still limited to acting officers; the first official election (with mail ballots sent out by the ASA) won't be until next spring. Many nominations were made, with the student seat especially hotly contested. The final results are as follows:

Acting Chair:

Judy Stepan-Norris, UC Irvine

Acting Secretary-Treasurer:

Howard Kimeldorf, University of Michigan

Acting Council:

Ralph Armbruster, UC Santa Barbara

Mike Dreiling, University of Oregon

Harland Prechel, Texas A&M

Jill Espenshade, San Diego State University

Acting student representative:

Daisy Rooks, UCLA

LIST-SERVE

After some discussion it was decided the section list-serve would send out a maximum of one message a month. Members with important announcements can send them to Judy Stepan-Norris (jstepann@uci.edu).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.