



### 2008 President's Report to AAA Membership

AAA's activities are as diverse as our members. As president, I want to increase transparency and democratic practices, because I think it is crucial for us to know what we do as an organization and how our members, sections, leadership and staff participate by supporting each other, the association, and anthropology as a discipline. Now that I have seen this firsthand, I can document that it's an incredibly broad panoply of activities and endeavors.

Throughout this year, I have tried to keep the lines of communication open through outlets such as *Anthropology News*, the "President's Page" at [www.aaanet.org](http://www.aaanet.org), my telephone, and an occasional blast email. In this report, I'd like to share the scope of what the Executive Board has accomplished. While many of you are familiar with the Code of Ethics changes or our new contract with Wiley-Blackwell, these achievements were only part of what we have been tackling. We have continued to develop our voice in advocacy, strengthen our publications, maintain financial stability, support our sections, reach out to the world community, and develop resources for members.

Before you start perusing our actions since the 2007 annual meeting through October 2008, I'd like to warmly thank all the Executive Board, Committee and Commission members and the AAA staff who have put so much thought, energy, and time into these activities. As with any democratic volunteer organization, the diverse views and insights serve to strengthen the group as a whole.

#### AAA Governance

- Established four separate temporary subcommittees of the Executive Board (EB) to:
  - Consider proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics in consultation with other groups as deemed appropriate. This group reported back to the EB in August.
  - Develop a new process for strategic decision-making and planning. This group is to be chaired by the president-elect and will report back to the full EB in November.
  - Work on exploring the use of a virtual site for EB communication.
  - Work on ways to address membership issues.  
(*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Adopted a motion to upgrade and formalize the AAA leadership orientation process. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Endorsed a proposal to establish a Mentor/Shadow Program for post graduates 3–5 years beyond their terminal degree. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Endorsed a proposal to hold a leadership and governance pilot workshop at the annual meeting. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Accepted the December 31, 2007 audited financial statements of the AAA. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Welcomed the establishment by the Section Assembly (SA) of a review committee to evaluate proposals for new sections and interest groups, and the ongoing functioning of existing sections and interest groups, and to report the results of all such reviews to the Association Operations Committee, which will consider the review and report to the EB for action. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)

#### Annual Meeting

- Authorized the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with the Chicago Hilton for the AAA Annual Meeting in 2013. (*EB email action, March 2008*)
- Agreed to locate the 2014 AAA Annual Meeting in Washington DC. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Selected Montreal, Canada as the location for American Anthropological Association's 2011 Annual Meeting. (*EB email action, October 2008*)

## Awards

- Agreed to award, for 2008, the Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology to George Armelagos; the AAA/Oxford University Press Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Anthropology to Paula K Clarke; and the Anthropology in Media Award to James McKenna. *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- 2008-09 AAA Minority Dissertation Fellowship was awarded to Kerry F Thompson. *(May 2008)*
- Changed the deadline for receipt of nomination materials for the Margaret Mead June 1 to March 15 of the calendar year. The new deadline will go into effect for the 2009 competition. *(EB email action, August 2008)*

## Bylaws: Recommended changes to be voted on by the membership

- Proposed adding as a stand alone clause the granting of permanent status to Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA), Association of Indigenous Anthropologists (AIA), Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists (ALLA), Association of Senior Anthropologists (ASA), Society of Anthropologists in Community Colleges (SACC), and Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists (SOLGA). *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- Allow individual sections to have voting rights for selecting members to the EB, as long as their membership does not fall below 225. It is the EB's understanding that the calculation of section membership would be an average of the peak membership count each year for a three year period. *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- Make the Section Assembly Convenor a voting member of the AAA Executive Board. *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- The SA would create a slate of two candidates for each of the two newly created SA seats on the EB. These seats would be elected by a vote of the entire AAA membership. *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- Reduce the number of undesignated seats on the EB from five to four. *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*

## Committees

- Directed the Committee on Ethics (CoE) to draft a revised version of the AAA Code of Ethics incorporating the principles of the Turner motion from the Annual Business Meeting, and the final report of the Ad Hoc Commission on the Engagement of Anthropology with the US Security and Intelligence Communities (CEAUSSIC). The EB also asked CoE to advise them on the effects of adopting such a proposal. Four additional colleagues were asked to join the CoE as invited guests for these discussions. *(EB email action, January 2008)*
- Asked the CoE to consider the advisability of setting up a permanent mode of member counseling on ethical dilemmas and what form such counseling might take. *(EB email action, January 2008)*
- Renewed the CEAUSSIC mandate for a period of two years, with the charge of developing modes of dialogue with security, intelligence and military agencies in order to communicate the AAA's perspectives on ethics and in order to better understand those agencies' interest in anthropology. *(EB email action, January 2008)*
- Established the Committee on Labor Relations and adopted a committee charge. *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- This year, two committees were up for review (each at five year intervals):
  - Reauthorized the AAA Nominations Committee.
  - Did not reauthorize the Long-Range Planning Committee and received their committee report with thanks. This report will be used to assist with further strategic planning by the EB.  
*(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- Adopted a change in the charge for the Resource Development Committee that would increase the number of committee members from 8 to 15. *(EB meeting action, May 2008)*
- Approved five language changes to the Code of Ethics, stemming from recommendations of the Code of Ethics working group. These changes updated the language in Section III.A.2, Section

III.B.4, and Section III.C.2; inserted the new Section VI, concerning the dissemination of results; and renumbered subsequent sections. (*EB teleconference actions, September 2008*)

- Recommended an extensive review of the Code of Ethics to occur over the next three years. The Executive Board asks the Committee on Ethics to create a Task Force, to consist of both representative members of the Committee and six other members to be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Board. These six members are to be selected to broadly represent the AAA membership overall, including its major subfields. The Task Force is to consult extensively during this review with relevant AAA committees and commissions, the Section Assembly, and the membership at large through presentations and panel discussions at annual meetings as well as through articles and reports in the *Anthropology News*. The period of consultation should last at least six months. The new code is subject to approval by the Executive Board before being submitted for approval to the AAA membership by email ballot. This Committee will report to the Executive Board by November 15, 2010. (*EB email action, October 2008*)

### **Public Policy**

- Adopted a resolution calling for the inclusion of US Census questions about proficiency in languages other than English and urging the Census Bureau to stop classifying those who speak English less than "very well" and all members of their households as "linguistically isolated." (*EB & CfHR email action, February 2008*)
- Authorized the Executive Director to sign an amicus brief in the Varnum v Brien case before the Iowa Supreme Court granting same sex couples the right to marry. (*EB email action, March 2008*)
- Sent letter to the Supreme Court of California in support of their same-sex marriage ruling and to urge them to enact their ruling without delay (*May 2008*).
- Sent a letter to Jim Nussle at the Office of Management and Budget, in response to the April 14, 2008 announcement of Project Minerva by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. (*EB email action, May 2008*)
- Authorized the AAA president to send a letter to the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala ("CICIG") expressing concerns raised in report from the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation ("FAFG") that its Executive Director, Mr. Fredy Peccerelli, members of his immediate family, and a number of FAFG employees have received threats of violent retribution for their tireless work to document past and present human rights abuses by illegal armed groups in Guatemala. (*EB & CfHR email action, June 2008*)
- Sent letter to the Department of Homeland Security protesting illegal searching of electronic devices at nation's borders and airports (*July 2008*)
- Sent letter to the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs urging hearings on the protections of Native American sacred sites (*October 2008*)
- Sent letter to the US House Committee on the Judiciary and Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in support of the Electronic Device Privacy Act of 2008 (H.R. 6588) and Travelers' Privacy Protection Act of 2008 (H.R. 7118; S. 3612) (*October 2008*)
- Wrote letter to Department of State asking for "immediate action" towards the review of Dr. Altorki's visa application to present at the 2008 AAA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.
- Wrote letter to the US House Committee on the Judiciary in support of the End Racial Profiling Act of 2007 (H.R. 4611) (*July 2008*)
- Wrote letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid urging him to oppose any amendments that would reduce funding levels for the global AIDS spending bill (S. 2731) (*July 2008*)

### **Publishing**

- Agreed to place information in the job placement section of *Anthropology News* and on the AAA website stating that the AAA urges applicants to make sure that job conditions for positions for which they apply allow them to act in ways which conform to the Code of Ethics and that counseling is available via whatever means the Committee on Ethics sets up. (*EB email action, January 2008*)
- Directed AAA staff to request that all agencies wishing to place ads for personnel recruitment affirm that the position in question would allow the employee to conduct anthropological activities

in ways that are in accordance with the AAA Code of Ethics. A subcommittee of the EB would be charged with vetting potentially problematic recruitment ads, as flagged by AAA staff. (*EB email action, January 2008*)

- Adopted a new allocations formula for distributing the guaranteed minimum royalties apportioned to publishing sections from the Wiley-Blackwell profit share agreement. (*EB email action, February 2008*)
- Adopted "Procedure to Request Changes to Specifications of a Publication Covered by the Wiley-Blackwell Agreement" and established a Specifications Advisory Subcommittee, for the purposes of evaluating requests from editors and section leadership of those publications covered by the Wiley-Blackwell agreement. (*EB email action, March 2008*)
- Approved AAA to act as the managing agency on a grant to research publishing finance on behalf of the National Humanities Alliance Open Access Task Force. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Passed pricing and subscription packages for AAA journals and AnthroSource for the 2009 library market. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Moved that the editor of *American Anthropologist* post statements asking authors to self-identify any research funding and conflicts of interest. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Adopted the slate of specific requests for changes to the specifications of publications for 2009 as recommended by the Specifications Advisory Subcommittee and as approved by the Committee on Scientific Communications. (*EB email action, June 2008*)
- Approved the process for AAA to provide free and unrestricted online access to *American Anthropologist* and *Anthropology News* for the purposes of personal, educational, and other non-commercial uses after a 35-year period. Previously, these publications were only available via AAA membership, subscription, or pay-per-view. With this initiative, they will be ungated (publicly available online for free) 35 years after their initial publication. Implementation to be complete by September 2009. After one year of experience with ungating, in September 2010, the Committee on the Future of Print and Electronic Publishing will explore additional mechanisms for expanding access. Publishing sections have been invited to participate in this ungating experiment and were asked to indicate their participation by 1 December 2008. (*EB email action, October 2008*)

### **Sections and Interest Groups**

- Received the 2007 Annual Reports from sections, journal editors and committees. Agreed to send a letter to all sections and committees to let them know the results of the EB's discussions on issues raised in their reports. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Granted a one-year extension of probationary status for the Society for Anthropological Sciences. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Established the Anthropology of Aging and Life Course Interest Group. (*EB meeting action, May 2008*)
- Approved the renaming of the Sexual Studies in Anthropology Interest Group to the Human Sexuality and Anthropology Interest Group. (*EB email action, June 2008*)