

Annual Report for CSAS 2005

Submitted by J. Patrick Gray, President

1) Accomplishments

Membership: There were 215 members in November 2005, down slightly from the 218 reported in November 2004. The Executive Board created a subcommittee on membership at the Oxford meeting. The committee issued a report that was discussed at the Board meeting in Washington. The report will be reviewed at the Omaha meetings, submitted to the Section for approval, and implemented during 2006. The meeting in Omaha will be smaller than meetings in the previous years, which may result in a loss of membership, as some individuals join the Section only to participate in the annual meeting.

Financial Balance: Net assets as of October 2004 were \$6,034.14. In November 2005 they were \$10,044.20. The net assets of the Dillingham Award Fund increased from \$14,148.90 to \$14,571.42 during the same period, while those of the White Award increased from \$15,834.37 to \$16,174.76. Both funds distributed awards of \$400 during the year.

Factors affecting 2005 financial health: The annual meeting was well attended and helped keep CSAS in the black. Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Lucke continued her outstanding job of monitoring the section's finances and negotiating advantageous contracts for meetings. The Board's main financial worry is the impact of AnthroSource on our finances. The 2005 budget for the Bulletin was \$3,955.00. In 2006 the budget has increased to \$8,120.00. The most important reasons for the huge increase appear to be AnthroSource related (UCP Marketing and Administration fee from \$623.00 to \$1,553.00; Online operating expenses from \$1,327.00 to \$3,857.00; Digital Preservation Expense from \$63.00 to \$458.00). The report on AnthroSource at the Section Assembly meeting in Washington contained a promise of a formula for revenue return from AnthroSource to the sections, but this formula will not be ready for at least a year.

AAA meeting activities: Meeting activities included two invited sessions and one CSAS-reviewed session. The Society also conducted a Board meeting.

2005 spring meeting activities: The program contained 36 sessions with over 150 papers. Other events included a poster session, the distinguished lecture by Owen Lovejoy, a Presidential Session on "Anthropological Ethics and Organizational Politics", a panel on "The Current Edge of Knowledge in Biological Anthropology", and the Saturday-night Jam Session.

Communication: The Website is available at <http://www.iupui.edu/~csas/> and linked to the AAA website. The current *CSAS Bulletin* is online at <http://www.iupui.edu/~csas/PDF%20Files/Spring06%20Bulletin.pdf>

Change in bylaws: The section approved numerous changes in bylaws in 2005. Most of the changes involved minor alterations in language for the sake of consistency (e.g., referring to the organization as a “Society,” not a “Section” or changing “Executive Committee” to “Society Board”). Other changes reflected codification of accepted operating procedures (e, g., the list of the President’s duties now includes the duty of acting as Section Program Editor for the AAA annual meeting and that of the Past President now contains the duty of acting as Chair for the Leslie A. White and Beth Wilder Dillingham Awards).

2) Future Plans

1. 2006 annual meeting at Creighton University in Omaha. Distinguished Lecturer will be Paul Durrenberger (Pennsylvania State University).
2. Student paper competition—undergraduate and graduate divisions.
3. Award Leslie A. White and Beth Dillingham scholarships.
4. Review organization of sessions at annual meeting.
5. Implement recommendations from membership committee.
6. Monitor expenses of AnthroSource involvement.

3) Other items

Questions for the AAA Executive Board to consider

1. In the 2004 annual report President Feinberg suggested that the AAA Executive Board review the AAA policy on boycotting states with sodomy laws. His statement follows. We renew our call for a reconsideration of this policy.

“For many years, this has been a matter of concern. Most of our members sympathize with the national organization's objectives but question the effectiveness of boycotts as a strategy for achieving them. This is particularly problematic for CSAS, as it severely limits the number of states in which we are able to meet. My own view is that boycotts can be very effective, but they must be carefully targeted. In addition, we must consider the effects on our own membership and operations. Many CSAS members have observed that boycotts of specific cities rather than entire states would provide an adequate range of meeting options. If that approach is unfeasible for AAA, my preference would be to leave current strictures in place but give sections some flexibility to waive them in cases where they will make it difficult to conduct section business or are likely to create unusual hardships for our members.”

2. Also in the 2004 annual report President Feinberg cited President Durrenberger's 2003 request "Either [to] re-vitalize the section assembly by giving it a role in policy making rather than simply being advisory, or disband it and create some meaningful way for sections to influence policy." The need for the Board to take President's Durrenberger's request seriously was illustrated at the Washington meeting when the Section Assembly was asked to discuss a ban on the *Anthropology Newsletter* accepting ads from the CIA. The ban had been approved by the Executive Board earlier the same day, so the discussion had no influence on policy making.

3. The Board must better communicate the impact of AnthroSource upon the financial viability of the smaller sections. The process generating the revenue sharing formula must be transparent and the interests of smaller sections must be considered.

4. CSAS re-emphasizes its strong support for development of the Policy Institute and urge the Executive Board to continue moving as rapidly as possible on this issue.