

Annual Report from the Long Range Planning Committee

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Setha Low, President-elect and Committee Chair

Committee members: Jason Cross, Paul Durrenberger, Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, Jonathan Marks, Barbara Mills, Jean Schensul, Bonnie Urciuoli,, Maria Vesperi, Mel Williams

AAA staff: Kim Baker, Elaine Lynch, Kathleen Terry-Sharp

The goals of the Long Range Planning Committee for 2006 were to review the Long Range Plan objectives and the Operating Plan, to evaluate current AAA initiatives, to prioritize current initiatives, and to prepare for undertaking intermediate and longer range planning beginning in 2007. These goals were all accomplished and are summarized in this report. We feel that the committee is now ready to tackle new initiatives now that we have completed a review of current and proposed activities.

Reports on Current AAA Initiatives

1. Scholarly Communications/ Publications

Melissa Cefkin gave a detailed report on the state of scholarly publishing focusing on AnthroSource. She noted that the status of the American Anthropologist was not addressed in the Operating plan, and that now with AnthroSource, rethinking the role of the journal seemed appropriate. Two specific recommendations were made:

a. Clarification of the relationship of the AnthroSource Steering Committee (AASC), a technical, productive committee, the AnthroSource Working Group (AWG) that was created in 2003 but that may have fulfilled its original function, and the Committee on Scientific Communication (CSC) the oversight committee but that has minimal communication with the AASC. A new committee was purposed and has been appointed by President Alan Goodman under the chairpersonship of Alisse Waterson.

b. AnthroSource needs more third party content, an evaluation of users and sustainability, an archive, and to gain broader member understanding of and input to the vision of AnthroSource. It was suggested as an action item to bring in an outside person to develop a participatory planning process to discuss the future of AnthroSource. This initiative has been put on hold until the financial constraints on the association are improved. The goal for examining third-party content has been extended until 2008.

A number of problems were identified:

a. AnthroSource's threat to section membership now that membership is not necessary to receive access to the section journals.

b. The disincentive to invest in quality publishing because those who invest more will also pay more (from their section budgets).

c. There were promises of marketing support from UCP but there has been no marketing that we know of.

d. It is unclear what the linkage will be of AnthroSource to NAA (National Anthropological Archive).

e. The development of AnthroSource needs to be solidified, so that staff and support does not get spread too thin.

2. Public Outreach

Melvin Williams reported on Understanding Race and Human Variation, which has resulted in the creation of a traveling exhibit on race. The project has been very successful and the exhibit has been completed. The question remains as to who will maintain the web site and the traveling exhibit, and whether there is there an evaluation component. A recommendation was made that internal diversity within the AAA be addressed, and that there be more public outreach programs on race in general. One possible idea is a website that would parallel the exhibit and widened its impact. This idea has been implemented.

3. Ethics/Membership

Jon Marks reported that the Ethics Committee's charge is current on education. They are working to disseminate their work, to work on revising IRB guidelines, and to develop a Friends of Ethics group.

4. Governance

Bonnie Urciuoli reported that the Governance Commission will report in June 2007, and she feels that it is not just an issue of communication, but the very structure of the organization and discipline. The sections are not equal both in terms of potential and what they do. This seems like a critical moment in thinking about this fundamental issue. People and sections feel that they need to compete for a voice in the organization, and there is a strong sense of "them" versus "us" at the level of the sections. We will return to this issue after the report of the governance group.

5. Public Policy Institute

Paul Durrenberger reported on the activities of the Committee on Public Policy (COPP) and their unsuccessful efforts to move this initiative ahead. A proposal was prepared by David Hess, the chair of the committee, for a University to get involved and partner with

the AAA in developing a University-based Public Policy Institute/Center. It would require a budget of minimally \$500,000 per year. There has not been a clear long term charge for the committee, and that without such a charge, the committee may continue to revisit its mission with each new chair. We did not forward the proposal to the Executive Board.

Public Policy to Labor Issues. Paul Durrenberger proposed that we take up the review of resolutions that have been passed. He would like to see whether there was any discussion of the Coke resolution which strongly discourages AAA members from using Coke products. Other issues are outsourcing of University of California press work, vigilance on the policy of using only union hotels and using INMEX to facilitate planning for meetings, and aiding the organization of graduate employees and fixed term employees into unions as more members will be doing fixed term work in the future.

6. Public Outreach: The Minority Fellowship

Sandi Berlin reported on efforts to fund the Minority Fellowship. It seems that raising money from memberships through a check-off box on the membership dues form only produces small contributions. We discussed the need for an endowment that is significantly larger and a way to solicit funds specifically for this effort. At the moment the Minority Fellowship is a priority for the AAA, but it is being funded through the operating budget, rather than an endowment set aside to produce the yearly stipend.

7. Annual Meeting

Maria Vesperi reported on the annual meeting and presented her recommendations that we passed on to the Executive Board:

a. The Executive Program Chair should be encouraged to identify and facilitate inclusion of international presenters in executive platforms sessions.

b. The Executive Program Chair should be encouraged to coordinate poster sessions.

c. Appropriate computer software should be purchased to address the organization and format of the program and the proliferation of overlapping sessions and papers.

d. There should be designated training for Section Program Editors perhaps with a pre-conference training session to improve the processing and evaluation of sessions and abstracts.

e. An evaluative survey emailed only to registered participants immediately after the meeting is already in place. New meeting software could create a running index of topics which would help with future planning.

f. An electronic message center should be made available to members during the annual meeting.

g. Abstracts should be made available on line prior to the meeting.

8. Practicing Anthropology

Barbara Mills reviewed all of the societies and committee engaged in this initiative including: The AAA/SfAA Commission on Practicing Anthropology which has completed its work, the National Association of Practicing Anthropology, the section that focuses on practice, and the Practicing Anthropology Work Group (PAWG). The PAWG submitted its report to the Executive Board in May with specific recommendations on potential programs to support individuals and organizations that employ applied anthropologists. This report is being reviewed by Jay Schensul and Barbara Mills for 2007.

9. Media

Carla Sinopoli reviewed the media initiatives of 2004 and 2005 with the expansion of AAA's commitment to public communication of anthropological knowledge. She identified and discussed the two new action items from the 2006 operating plan which include a media internship program sponsored by the AAA, and a media referral system. Both of these items are in development by AAA staff but have not been funded. Carla Sinopoli pointed out that she felt that the media referral system was critical, but a complex and difficult problem to set up and keep updated. There is currently no committee member working on this initiative.

10. International Initiatives. Diane Gifford-Gonzalez will review this initiative on for us. Dianne would like to see the statistics on exceptions for foreign scholars and interdisciplinary participants at the annual meeting to begin her work.

Prioritization of Initiatives During the May Meeting:

We undertook a prioritization of the initiatives reviewed. Using orange dots (we each got 6), we put our dots on those initiatives that we felt were the most important (we could put all on one or spread them around). The results became a rough framework for considering new initiatives and financial commitments. Our priorities were not very different from those of the member survey with the exception of our first priority on race and public outreach. All initiatives will continue to be worked on, however, our priority for this year will be on the first four. The results in descending order were:

1. Race and Human Variation Public Outreach
2. Annual Meeting
3. AnthroSource

4. Promote Practicing Anthropology
5. Governance
6. Minority Fellowship tied with Media Internship and Referral Service
7. Ethics and IRB Guidelines tied with Public Policy Institute

These priorities produced the following action items:

1. Race and Public Outreach

- a. A website on Race and Human Variation
- b. Develop a public education program for classes
- c. Support Minority Fellowship
- d. Diversify staff and AAA leadership

2. Annual Meeting

- a. Computer software by 2007 (submitted to Scholarly Communications Committee)
- b. Train section program editors
- c. Electronic message system
- d. Abstracts on line (with be possible with new software)
- e. Creative subsidization for student participation
- f. Identify and facilitate inclusion of international presence

3. AnthroSource

- a. Sort out committees and their responsibilities (sent to EB)
- b. Repository
- c. Participatory planning process and business analysis with an outside expert

4. Practicing Anthropology

- a. Respond to recommendations of PAWG
- b. Include practice as part of web redesign and portal
- c. Reconsider dues structure
- d. Tenure review criteria
- e. Recognition that practice is valued
- f. Book exhibit to have practice materials
- g. List practicing anthropologist in AAA directory

Envisioning the Future During the May Meeting

Our final activity in May was envisioning where the AAA should be going in the next 5-

10 years. While most of our planning was not long range, but intermediate (3-5 years), we now focused on the future. We decided to work on envisioning a more public anthropology based on race and human variation. We all agreed with Melvin Williams concern with CRESSANDS (classism, racism, ethnocentrism, sexism, sectarianism, agism, nationalism, disabilitism, specism) and understanding the structures that produce these inequalities of power and access.

We feel that we should be studying the intersection of complex society formation with universal fundamental processes of self/other. How is CRESSANDS manifested social, historically, economically, etc.? What are the public representation of inequality? How is anthropology embedded in these dynamics/systems despite best intentions?

Action items that were suggested to further this initiative included supporting the minority fellowship program, increase the diversity of staff and leadership of the AAA, outreach and media focus on CRESSANDS—globally and locally.

Maria Vesperi argued that we would need a substantive focus for this discussion and suggested that the interaction of Health/Environment/Species would be an excellent vehicle because of current public concern about their health (bird flu, etc), and the health of the environment and planet.

View Priorities in Terms of Implementation During the November Meeting

Jay Schensul summarized the four CORE functions for this committee:

- A. Monitoring resolutions and initiatives***
- B. Intermediate range planning***
- C. Prioritizing resolutions, initiatives, and new ideas***
- D. Long range planning and forecasting the future.***

She reminded us that we should remember to consider all four functions as we move forward with our committee work.

It was discussed that we also need to demonstrate the relevance of anthropology to the world at large, and in many capacities. Diane Gifford-Gonzalez suggested that there might be issues that are of relevance to ourselves as a discipline and to the world at large. She added that we could have two top priorities--one that is internal and the other external.

We ended the meeting with discussion of what are we doing about the future. How can we increase inclusion? What is the future of anthropology? The economics and politics of Universities are changing the way departments function. This initiated a heated discussion of the politics of the university, the role of adjunct faculty, privatization of universities, and shunting of those who are trained for academic roles, into other (less satisfying) occupations. The discussion highlighted the importance of broadening the field of anthropology to include those involved in policy and practice research and other

activities in which anthropologists are employed. These fields and arenas of activity constitute the future of the field.

We were quite happy with the work completed to date and look forward to completing our review of initiatives and to return to longer range planning in the future.