

ASR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, August 19, 2012
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Present: Roger Finke (as outgoing president), Fred Kniss (as incoming president), Peter Beyer (as past present), Chris Ellison (as president elect); Voting Council members Gerardo Marti (outgoing), Sally Gallagher (2013), Jerry Park (2013), Richard Wood (2013), Amy Adamczyk (2014), Kelly Chong (2014), Rebecca Kim (newly elected), Prema Kurien (newly elected), and incoming committee chairs Margarita Mooney and Melissa Wilde.

Absent: Council members Jerome Baggett (2014), Kevin Dougherty (newly elected).

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by incoming President Fred Kniss, who welcomed the new members of the Council and chaired the meeting. Outgoing President Roger Finke summarized the report which he shared at the First Council Meeting on Thursday, August 16. He spoke briefly about the past year and reviewed the details of the committee reports that were distributed and presented at the First Council Meeting.

The Council discussed the Denver meetings and noted that although many of the presentations at this year's meeting were of very high quality, several of the presentations were not very good. Richard Wood motioned that attempts be made by the Program Committee to raise the bar for paper/abstract submissions for next year, and in cases where paper/abstract submissions do not meet the bar, the Program Committee should consider creating a roundtable session. Sally Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried. Kelly Chung, next year's program chair, said that she will work to achieve this higher bar. Council also discussed how the association might attract more students to the meeting. Roger Finke made a motion that Fred Kniss, the incoming ASR President, appoint an ad hoc committee for organizing professional development sessions for young scholars at next year's meeting in New York. President-elect Chris Ellison seconded the motion and it carried.

Incoming President Fred Kniss announced committee chair appointments as follows: Fichter Grant: Helen Berger; Finance: Kevin Dougherty; International: Prema Kurien; McNamara Award: Kathleen Jenkins; Membership: Margarita Mooney; Publications: Melissa Wilde.

Fred and next year's program chair Kelly Chong presented the theme for next year's meeting – "Religion Outside the Mainstream." Fred announced that Nancy Ammerman accepted the invitation to deliver the Furfey Lecture next year, and Kelly asked if there were any additional suggestions people had for the program chair as she prepares for next year's meeting. Council discussed ways in which ASR could maximize the utilization of the Gallagher Travel Grants by international scholars.

Melissa Wilde, chair of the Publications Committee, stated that they are seeking a new editor for *Sociology of Religion* to succeed our current editor Scott Schieman. She noted that they are considering one strong candidate, but that in order to attract him to the position, ASR would have to offer a stipend that would be equivalent to one month of summer salary. Richard Wood

motioned that the editor of the journal receive as a stipend the equivalent of 1/9 of his/her salary or the previous editor's stipend, whichever is greater. Chris Ellison seconded the motion and it passed. Melissa Wilde stated that she would announce her committee's recommendation for the next editor as soon as possible so the Council can vote on the recommendation.

Because Kevin Dougherty's membership report, which had been presented at the First Council Meeting, illustrated that ASR has a lower percentage of student members than either SSSR or the ASA Religion Section, Chris Ellison suggested that ASR try to bring more young scholars into the association. Margarita Mooney, incoming chair of the Membership Committee, said that her committee would try to devise strategies for attracting student members, including the provision of free food at the meetings. Chris Ellison motioned that "Student members should be job # 1," Richard Wood seconded the motion, and it carried.

Jim Cavendish stated that he visited two hotels earlier in August which he and Bill Swatos are considering for next year's meeting in New York City. One hotel offered ASR a rate of \$209/night, and the other a rate of \$179/night. Jim asked Council what criteria he should use in selecting a hotel, and members of Council suggested that they would prefer to have a quality hotel over a budget hotel, even if it meant ASR subsidizing the room rate to make it more affordable for members. Some members of Council suggested that if a quality hotel cannot be secured at an affordable price, then they would like for the Executive Officer to pursue the possibility of renting meeting-only space (e.g., at a Sentry Center) in close proximity to the ASA hotels, and just having ASR members book rooms at whatever hotel they prefer.

Fred Kniss, incoming President of ASR, noted that Council would need to vote this fall on the new editor and on the 2013 budget. It was suggested that such a vote take place by email or conference call once the Publication's Committee makes its recommendation for the next editor.

There being no other business, Fred Kniss adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.