AGENDA

ASR COUNCIL MEETING

6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Saturday, August 10, 2013
Doubletree Metropolitan Hotel, New York, NY, Empire, Penthouse Level

Fred Kniss presiding

1) Review minutes of ASR Council Meeting on August 19, 2012, in Denver, which were already approved by an email vote soon after our informal meeting in Phoenix in November.

2) Review and approval of minutes of the informal ASR Council Meeting on November 10, 2012, in Phoenix, AZ.

3) Past-President's report on the results of the 2013 ASR Elections.

4) President's report on 3-year appointments to ASR's Standing Committees.

5) President Elect's report on appointments of chairs of the Standing Committees.

6) Executive Officer's Report.

7) Program Chair's Report.

8) Publications Committee Report.

9) Publisher's Report.

10) Editor's Report.

11) Fichter Grant Committee Report.

12) International Liaison Committee Report (the Gallagher Travel Grants).

13) McNamara Student Paper Award Committee Report.

14) Membership Committee Report.

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.

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by President Fred Kniss, who chaired this informal meeting of Council. The purpose of the meeting was to review the minutes of the ASR Council Meeting on August 19, 2012, to discuss some general parameters or caps within which Melissa Wilde, chair of the Publications Committee, and the Executive Officer could maneuver in negotiating with candidates for the position of editor of *Sociology of Religion*, to introduce a proposal made by the Fichter Grant Committee to modify some of the criteria for application for the Fichter grants, and to introduce and discuss the 2013 budget, which included a proposal to upgrade the ASR website.

The meeting was an informal meeting because there were not a sufficient number of Council members present to vote on any motions. As a result, those present agreed that we would present any motions to the entire Council through email and the Executive Officer would tally their votes.

Jim Cavendish reported that, based on a review of ASA Council meeting minutes (available at http://www.asanet.org/documents/asa/pdfs/council_min_feb_2012.pdf) and a phone conversation with a representative of ASA, the level of financial support provided by ASA to its journal editors varies considerably across journals. Specifically, Jim relayed the following information that was provided to him in a phone conversation with ASA's Publication Manager, Janine McKenna, on Nov. 2, 2012:

- ASA does not pay its editors a salary nor does it pay for course release. It does, however, pay each editor a small honorarium which ranges from $1,250 for editors of publications that come out once a year to $3,500 for editors of publications that come out six times per year.
- ASA pays for office supplies and postage but not for office space.
- ASA pays for managing editors, which are usually either graduate students or part-time workers. She said that a journal like *Sociology of Religion*, with 92 new submissions per year, might have a half-time managing editor.

Melissa Wilde and Jim Cavendish agreed that they would use this information, as well as information obtained about the level of compensation provided by SSSR to the editor of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* to negotiate with candidates for the editor's position.

After discussion about the editor's position, Jim Cavendish introduced a proposal to the Council by the members of the Fichter Award Committee: 1) that the Fichter Grant be open for doctoral research and all post dissertation research including that of senior scholars; 2) that the applicant be required to join the association to apply but does not have to have prior membership; and 3) that the topic be inclusive of women in religion, gender, and sexualities and religion.

Jim Cavendish then presented a proposed budget for 2013, which included a proposal that Council approve the expenditure of $6,000 to update the ASR website.

Fred Kniss adjourned the meeting at 1:45 with the agreement that Jim Cavendish would send an email to all members of Council in which they would be asked to vote to approve these items. The email was sent to Council on December 18, 2012, and Council approved all of these proposals including the 2013 budget.

Nominations Committee Report

July 12, 2013

TO: Officers and Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Roger Finke

Re: Nominations Committee and Election Results

Members of the 2012-13 ASR Nominations Committee were Amy Burdette, Kraig Beyerlein, and me. As the past-president of ASR, I served as the chair of the committee. On October 15th, 2012 we submitted the following slate of candidates for the 2013 election.

President
-- Melissa Wilde
-- Richard Wood

Council
-- Chris Bader
-- Evelyn Bush
-- Mike Emerson
-- Trish Snell Herzog
-- Rachel Kraus
-- Phil Schwadel

When the elections closed on June 1, 2013, Melissa Wilde was elected president and Michael Emerson, Evelyn Bush and Christopher Bader were elected to the council. Eighty seven ASR members voted in the election.

2013-2014 ASR Committee Appointments Made by President Fred Kniss
Committee Chair Appointments (in bold) Made by Incoming President Christopher Ellison

Publications Committee
Scott Schieman (2014)
Nancy Nason-Clark (2014)
Rebecca Kim (2015)
Richard Wood (2016)

Finance Committee
Michael Wilkinson (2014)
Jared Peifer (2015)
*Kevin Dougherty (2016)

Membership Committee
Gabriel Acevedo (2014)
Paula Nesbitt (2014)
*Gerardo Marti (2015)
Ryan Cobb (2016)

International Liaison Committee
Giuseppe Giordan (2014)
*Prema Kurien (2015)
Rachel Rinaldo (2016)

Robert McNamara Award Committee
Perry Chang (2014)
Kevin McElmurry (2015)
*Kathleen Jenkins (2016)

Joseph Fichter Award Committee
*Helen Berger (2014)
Mary Ellen Konieczny (2015)
Jeremy Thomas (2016)

*Served as chair of the committee in 2013.

ASR EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

August 3, 2013

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Jim Cavendish, Executive Officer

RE: Report on the State of ASR

I started my term as Executive Officer of ASR with several goals in mind, most of which have been achieved since the time I began my role at this time last year. These goals were the following:

1) To negotiate terms of contract with hotels in New York City (2013) and San Francisco (2014) that would protect ASR's financial strength by ensuring that ASR would not have to pay penalties to these hotels for "attrition," or the inability to fill a sufficient number of sleeping rooms at the conference hotels to offset any charges these hotels would have for meeting room space.
2) To work with a web-designer to upgrade our website to include a Members-Only area or "portal" where members could update their member profiles, renew their membership, pay for meeting registration, submit abstracts, vote in elections, and view the new ASR online membership directory.
3) To work with the web-designer to create an administrative panel within the website, which could be accessed by the Executive Officer, the Program Chair, and any administrative assistants, so many of the administrative tasks (e.g., keeping track of membership renewals, address changes, abstract submissions, and election results) could be completed through the website.
4) To upload many of ASR's documents and archives to the website to enable greater access to valuable information about the Association's history and current operations and greater transparency.
5) To maintain an account with the online software "Constant Contact," which enables the EO or other administrators to send mass mailings to members by email.
6) To work with the committees to make their operations more efficient and streamlined.

In every one of these respects, the mission has been accomplished. The Doubletree Metropolitan Hotel here in New York City has already told me that we will not be faced with any penalties due to attrition. In fact, our room block sold out a few weeks in advance of the registration deadline of July 10 and I had to negotiate with the hotel to open up more rooms for our members at the lower ASR rate. This success in filling our room block is due to a variety of factors, I'm sure, not least of which were: the fact that I negotiated a hotel contract that would commit ASR to fewer sleeping rooms initially (knowing that I could always negotiate for more rooms through an addendum to our contract); the fact that our hotel is among the most affordable hotels in the city at this time of year (which is something that many of our members stated in a small survey last year was a high priority in their decision about whether to stay in the conference hotel); the fact that I frequently informed our members that the financial health of ASR depends on their staying in the conference hotel; the fact ASR has been making better use of our meeting room space by having more sessions in fewer time slots, thus reducing the number of "room nights" people need to commit to; and finally the fact that we are in New York City, which seems to be a popular location for our members.

I think we are on track for a similar performance next year in San Francisco. In negotiating the contract with the JW Marriott in San Francisco, I argued for a similarly low room block to reduce our risk of having penalties for attrition. Obviously, if the room block sells out quickly, then I will need to act to increase the room block (through the negotiation of an addendum to our contract) so all of our members

can enjoy the low ASR room rates. The rooms at the JW Marriott will be more expensive than they were this year at the Doubletree, but this is mainly because we (i.e., the ASR officers) wanted to choose a venue that was within close walking distance to the ASA conference hotels. In San Francisco, we will be within two blocks of the ASA hotels, and we hope that this will continue to build the level of cooperation and visibility of our associations.

Our Program Chair this year, Kelly Chong, did an excellent job putting together a fantastic program. You'll see that, in the interest of maximizing the number of participants in our two-day conference (and thus ultimately strengthening ASR financially), we have opted to have as many as 5 or 6 concurrent sessions (or break-outs) in the same time slot. We're not sure, yet, whether this will diminish attendance at any one session, but it's clear that there are some time slots when our members will wish they could be in a few different sessions at the same time. Jeremy Uecker, the 2014 Program Chair, has voiced interest in using the new abstract submission feature of our website to receive and evaluate abstracts for next year's conference. This will make the Program Chair's tasks much more efficient because: (1) the website will only accept abstracts from people who are ASR members, thereby eliminating the need to check people's membership status; (2) the website will only accept abstracts that are of a pre-determined length/word count, thereby eliminating the need to manually check the length/word count; (3) the website will send an automated message to each person upon receipt of their abstract submission; and (4) people can check on the status of their submission (i.e., whether the Program Chair has accepted it) through the website. I think these will be huge improvements in the way our conference programs are assembled, and I want to thank our webmaster, Neil Luft, for his patience as he worked with me in covering every detail of this new application. Maybe in future years we'll be able to submit our abstracts and view our program through an app on our iPhones!

Many other aspects of the association continue to flourish. In this year's Editor's Report, Scott Schieman reports that *Sociology of Religion* continues to climb in the rankings. This year, our journal ranks 52 out of 137 in Impact Factor in the Sociology journals category of the ISI rankings, which is a dramatic increase over last year, when it ranked 64 out of 137. Congratulations to Scott for this phenomenal achievement. Although we will miss Scott in this role as he moves on to other things, we are equally excited to welcome aboard Gerardo Marti who will continue the fine job Scott has done over these last few years.

This year's committee reports are a testament to each committee's hard work to make their operations more efficient and identify areas in need of improvement. I want to congratulate the committees for doing such good jobs.

Our membership, as you will see in the accompanying report from the Membership Committee, remains quite strong, even though our ratio of student members is lower than that of the ASA Religion Section and SSSR. ASR had 669 members at around this time of the year in 2010, 665 members in 2011, 639 members in 2012, and this year (as of July 17, 2013) we have 674 members. I think the website and the ease of joining ASR through the Member Portal will only serve to maintain our membership base. I've begun discussions with our incoming President, Chris Ellison, about how to increase the number of student memberships in ASR, including among other things a proposal to reduce the membership fee for graduate students. This is something that Council might want to talk about this year.

The accompanying report from the Membership Committee also highlights the extent to which the membership of ASR overlaps with the membership of other academic professional associations which could provide the basis for strategic planning in the years ahead. I believe our incoming President Elect, Melissa Wilde, will be presenting some ideas in response to some of the Membership Committee's recommendations.

The one committee whose advice I did not seek this past year was the Finance Committee (or what our Constitution calls the "Development Committee"). This was not because I was/am not eager to work with

the committee, nor because the Committee didn't offer to help (Kevin has always generously offered his assistance); rather, it was simply because I have spent so much time doing so many of the other tasks of the Executive Office that, quite frankly, I have not had the time this first year of my term to devote the kind of energy that is necessary to thoroughly review the Association's financial investments and to think of additional or alternative ways to save, invest, or allocate money. I realize that this will be a team effort, but until I've experienced a full year of ASR's cash flow (i.e., from January, 2013, when I took over the financial accounts, to January, 2014), I'm hesitate to propose any major changes or new initiatives that would cost ASR money (at least not unless Council was interested in spending down some of our investments.) In fact, I really interpret this first year as learning the lay of the land in terms of ASR's finances so that I can bring ideas to the Finance/ Development Committee soon after embarking on my second year in this position. Among the things that I would like the Finance Committee to do are:

1) Review the investment accounts of ASR to determine whether any investments should be allocated differently.
2) Identify (perhaps through the assistance of Art Farnsley of SSSR) an independent auditor who would be willing for a small fee to annually audit ASR's finances and submit an "Auditor's Report" to the Finance Committee about the handling of our finances.
3) Advise the Executive Officer and the Council about whether it would be wise to either hire a financial manager or appoint a Treasurer who would be able to compose an annual treasurer's report. Other associations of our type have either a paid financial manager or a volunteer treasurer (or both!) to assist the Executive Officer in handling the finances of the Association. This role could conceivably be performed by the chair of the Finance Committee so long as he/she stays in the role for more than one year since the tasks involve reviewing annual auditor's reports and advising the Executive Officer and Council on long-term financial strategies.

So, what does the financial status of ASR look like at the current time? ASR's assets at the current time are summarized below:

	Value as of 3/28/13	Value as of 6/28/13
ASR's Checking Account at the USF Federal Credit Union		$64,885.59
ASR's Savings Account at the USF Federal Credit Union		$5,004.79
American Funds Accounts		
Washington Mutual Investors Fund-A (Fund #01)	$87,752.89	$91,414.63
The Bond Fund of America-A (Fund #08)	$130,001.39	$125,863.15
American High-Income Trust-A (Fund #21)	$117,921.55	$114,423.01
Capital World Grown and Income Fund-A (Fund #33)	$87,012.71	$86,858.20
SMALLCAP World Fund-A (Fund #35)	$98,480.97	$99,566.90
American Funds Money Market Fund-A (Fund #59)	$11,196.19	$11,196.19
Total Value of American Funds Portfolio	**$532,365.70**	**$529,322.08**
TOTAL ASSETS		**$599,212.46**

I mentioned above that this year is the first of the past few years when ASR is not paying a penalty for inadequate occupancy of the sleeping rooms at our conference hotel. Last year, as you recall, ASR had to pay stiff room-take (or attrition) penalties. Even with these penalties, however, ASR's financial situation

at the end of 2012 was pretty good, as you can see in the financial report below. So far this year, we have not had to dip into our investment principal to pay for our website upgrade or to fund our grantees and travel awards, and it seems that we will not need to do so to pay for this year's meeting (even though now, unlike past years, the meeting expenses will include the cost of renting AV equipment, which costs approximately $11,000 here in New York City). In large measure, ASR's financial stability is due to the interest we earn on our investments, our cost savings in member services through the use of our website instead of regular, postage-paid mailings for dues mailings, ballot mailings, etc., and the revenue that is generated from our journal. Below you will find a financial statement for ASR for the past couple years, the budget we approved for 2013, and the proposed budget for 2014.

Because ASR's assets now exceed $500,000, Bill Swatos sent me the following email message when he finished the 2012 tax forms earlier this year:

> One thing you and the Board may want to think about is the matter of investments. If our investments exceed $500k in value, then you will have to file the longer Form 990 in the future, not the 990-EZ that we have used for the past several years. If the inflow from OUP continues at the current rate, however, Council might want to reflect on whether it needs an endowment of over $500k or whether it might increase its grants program(s) in some way… (However), I don't think it's wise to reduce registration fees, which are already quite low.

When I was asked to serve ASR as its E.O., I mentioned to Roger Finke and Fred Kniss that I would like to forego having an administrative assistant, at least during my first year, and do all of the tasks of the Executive Office myself so I could experience everything that the job requires and be able to instruct future assistants on the basis of my experience doing the various tasks. Having had this experience, I can say that the workload, at least without an assistant, is much more than can be expected of someone who also works full time as an associate professor. I enjoy serving as E.O., but I am convinced that I will require an administrative assistant to help with managing the website, reviewing and processing membership fees and registrations, and responding to members' questions, which often come on a daily basis. For this reason, I intend to hire one of the graduate students at USF who specializes in sociology of religion to help with these tasks. This will enable me to devote more time to many of the other tasks that cannot be neglected, such as arranging contracts with hotels, corresponding with book publishers to set up exhibits at the conferences, paying bills and keeping tabs on our grant programs, and brushing up on the financial aspects of the job. In addition to hiring an assistant, I have also created a separate email account at USF specifically for the ASR Executive Office, which can be accessed by the assistants I recruit to help me. That new email address is ASREO@usf.edu. Soon after our annual meeting, I will remove my personal USF email account from the website and replace it with this one.

It's been a pleasure to serve ASR as its Executive Officer. This past year would not have gone so smoothly without the help of my predecessor, Bill Swatos, who devoted a great deal of time and effort to answering my questions and relaying valuable information. Thank you, Bill, for all of your support through this period of transition!

PREVIOUS YEARS' BUDGETS AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2014
ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

	2011 actual	2012 budget	2012 actual	2013 budget	Proposed 2014 budget
Income					
Memberships	14,345	20,000	19,455*	20,000	20,000
RSO/Brill	5,210	1,500	3,239	1,500	1,500
Dividends & Interest	16,042	17,000	12,911	15,000	15,000
Fund contributions	580	1,000	804	600	600
SoR royalties	76,126	75,000	107,724	100,000 (?)	100,000 (?)
Processing fees	350	300	200	200	200
Annual meeting	7,370	12,500	10,815	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous	0	200	0	0	0
In-out	11,791	0	8	0	0
Total Income	**131,814**	**127,500**	**155,156**	**145,300**	**145,300**
Expenses					
Office operations	13,286	13,500	15,376	20,000	20,000
Soc of Religion	27,094	30,000	23,334	38,750	43,000
Reimbursement for editor to travel to annual meeting		1,000		1,500	2,000
Editor's Stipend		4,700		7,500	10,000
Editorial Assistant		5,000		5,000	5,000
Book Review Editor stipend		1,450		2,750	4,000
Reimbursement of expenses					
…of editor				1,000	1,000
…of book review editor				1,000	1,000
Payment to Oxford U. Press for member subscriptions	19,695	20,000		20,000	20,000
RSO	1,291	1,500	1,334	1,500	1,500
Awards	13,000	30,000	20,008	26,500	30,000
Annual Meeting	35,227	35,000	57,706	40,000	40,000
Website	4,619	0	0	6,100	3,000
PayPal		0	0	500	500
Constant Contact		0	0	336***	350
Investments	15,000	17,000	45,000	11,114	6,450
Miscellaneous	352	500	185	500	500
In-out	11,791	0	290	0	0
Total Expenses	**121,660**	**127,500**	**166,233****	**145,300**	**145,300**

*Includes $8,275 dues paid in advance (2013, 2014)
**Actual expenditures less $45k to investments = $118,233
***A subscription to Constant Contact is $28/month or $336 /year.

Notes:

- "RSO/Brill" includes all income (e.g., royalties, contributions, and sales) from the RSO series and Brill corporate.
- "*SOR* Royalties" includes all income from *Sociology of Religion* (i.e., OUP and prior-issue contracts).
- Awards are not necessarily paid in the year they are awarded.

Notes on the highlighted expenses for *Sociology of Religion*:

The projected budget for publishing *Sociology of Religion* in 2014 are identical to the terms of the agreement that was reached with Gerardo Marti. The increases to the editor's stipend, the editor's travel reimbursement, and the book review editor's stipend are scheduled to begin in 2014 because that is the year that Gerardo's first issue of the journal will appear. These amounts were determined as follows:

1. The editor's stipend was determined based on comparisons to SSSR's budget for publishing *JSSR*. *JSSR* received 379 manuscripts in the past 12 months, publishes 850 printed pages/year, and had a 2011 impact factor of 1.348. SSSR pays its editor a stipend of $12k year. In comparison, *Sociology of Religion* receives approximately 120 manuscripts/year, publishes 500 printed pages/year, and had a 2011 impact factor of .861. The $10k figure, therefore, seemed like a fair starting point, but this could be increased over time, especially if there is an increase in the number of manuscripts received, pages published, and/or the impact factor of the journal.

2. The amount of reimbursement for the editor to travel to the annual meetings was determined based on increases in the cost of hotel rooms.

Program Chair's Report

July, 2013

TO: Association for the Study of Religion (ASR)

FROM: Kelly H. Chong, 2003 Program Chair

RE: 2013 Program Chair Report

I would like to thank two individuals in particular for their invaluable assistance in the planning and organizing of the 2013 ASR program. Ruth Symons, who had been working with the former EO Bill Swatos at Augustana College, continued in her support capacity this year to provide the Program Chair with superior administrative assistance. James Cavendish, ASR's new EO, lent valuable additional technological/administrative assistance, support, and his former Program Chair expertise throughout the program planning process.

Program Overview

This year's ASR program has 49 sessions, in which 152 papers are scheduled to be presented and approximately 200 individuals are scheduled to participate. Of the 49 total sessions, 19 are Pre-Organized Sessions (submitted by organizers or solicited/organized by the Program Chair), 27 are Regular sessions organized by the Program Chair from individual paper submissions, 2 are "special" Joint ASR/ASA sessions, and one is a special Presidential Panel organized to celebrate ASR's 75th anniversary. Of the 19 Pre-Organized sessions, 7 are Author-Meets-Critics Sessions and the other 11 are pre-organized paper sessions. Below is a detailed breakdown of this year's sessions and how they compare to last year.

Session Type	2012	2013
Pre-Organized Sessions		
Author-Meets-Critics	8	7
Proposed Paper Sessions	3	11
Professional Development Sessions	2	0
Total Pre-Organized Sessions	**13**	**19**
Regular Sessions	29	27
Presidential Panel	0	1
Joint ASR-ASA Sessions	4	2
Total Sessions	**46**	**49**
Papers Scheduled to be Presented	151	152

This year, we broke a record in the number of Pre-Organized submissions. Due to the large number of sessions that had to be accommodated within the 2-day meeting time frame, and the organization of the special Presidential Panel, the Program Chair, in consultation with the EO, decided not to organize any "professionalization" sessions this year.

The Process/Issues

Starting in the fall of 2012, I worked intensively to recruit colleagues to submit pre-organized panels and to organize Author-Meets-Critics sessions. This effort was successful, as we had a record-breaking number of Pre-Organized Sessions this year. President Fred Kniss worked with Penny Edgell, the Chair of ASA Religion Section, early on to organize two joint ASA/ASR sessions to be held in the ASA meeting venue. These are the two sessions that are currently scheduled on Saturday, August 10, 2013, at the Hilton. We had originally planned for two more ASA/ASR joint sessions to be held at the ASR conference hotel, but this did not materialize due to difficulty in contacting Penny Edgell, who was on sabbatical. I initially tried contacting Penny in the early winter of 2013 to organize two more joint ASA/ASR sessions, and when I made another attempt in March, 2013, ASA had already organized all their sessions and it was too late to submit additional joint sessions in time to be accepted by ASA. During these conversations, Penny seemed reticent to support the idea of having one or two ASA/ASR joint sessions at the ASR conference hotel. She also did not agree that it was a good idea to transmit the declined Religion Section Session papers to ASR (something that Dan Olson had done the previous year), preferring instead to have them be part of their own Roundtables. This is something to be discussed with the future ASA Religion Section Chair, Pat Wittberg, so we want to continue to foster cooperative relations between ASR and ASA's Religion Section.

To ensure high quality of submissions, we had very clear criteria for abstract submissions, including describing a research question, methodology, and preliminary results/conclusions. We imposed a strict 100 word limit. We regularly sent out email reminders regarding the submission procedures and procedures related to the meeting attendance. We sent e-mails to all presenters asking them to share a copy of their completed papers with the convener and/or discussants for their session 3 weeks in advance of the meetings. When we placed the preliminary program on the ASR website, we compiled and made available a document of all the abstracts as well.

Below, I outline some of the major issues encountered during the program planning process.

Evening/Day Sessions: Unlike last year's program, which included evening sessions, I, in consultation with the President, decided not to implement evening sessions. Instead, we chose to have a greater number of sessions, up to six, in each time slot. Last year's program had a maximum of five sessions in each time slot, and the majority of time slots had only four sessions. The success or failure of this year's policy remains to be seen at the time of this writing, but this is an issue that should be considered by the future Program Chair.

Criteria for Paper Acceptance: Due to a large number of submissions, a question initially arose as to what kind of criteria we should employ for paper acceptance. In the previous year's program, it is my understanding that all papers were accepted and accommodated. This year, I decided not to implement a "blanket acceptance policy," but to reject a small number of papers that clearly did not meet the criteria for abstract submissions, criteria which included having a research question, methodology, and preliminary results/conclusions. On this basis, 3 papers were rejected outright. However, one of those rejected asked to rewrite and resubmit her abstract, and was subsequently accepted. There were several individuals who submitted more than 2 abstracts; we implemented a policy of having a submitter present only one paper in the meeting (unless another paper was a co-authored paper whereby the presentation can be made by a different author on the second paper). We asked several other individuals to rewrite and resubmit their abstracts.

Number of Papers in a Panel: Another issue that arose was how many papers to have in a panel. Some of last year's panels had up to 6-7 papers. This year, I erred on the side of having less papers per panel to give presenters plenty of time to present and to leave time for Q & A. No more than 4 papers were assigned in most of this year's panels (some pre-organized panels had 5, if it had a discussant). However, one problem here was that a number of accepted participants withdrew at the last minute, particularly

international scholars due to issues of funding, leaving some panels with three papers. This is another issue that should be considered by the program chair.

Conveners: After the preliminary program was crafted, about two thirds of Regular Sessions (not Pre-Organized) did not have Conveners. We sent out a request to all the members to volunteer to be conveners but only 2 people responded. Thus, I and the EO, Jim Cavendish, individually solicited and recruited Conveners for all the sessions, as well as discussants for some of the 3-person panels. This was a labor-intensive and time-consuming process.

Administrative Assistance: This year, the majority of administrative assistance was provided by Ruth Symons, who kept on top of membership status of submitters, sent out acknowledgement emails, as well as requests for further information, reminders regarding submission procedures, abstract lengths, and the like. Ruth was in turn provided assistance by EO Jim Cavendish, who oriented her to some online features of our website and to the Constant Contact software. However, given that Ruth was not physically present to Jim, Jim found it difficult to provide thorough orientation to Ruth about these matters.

One of my original suggestions at the outset of the meeting planning process was the possibility of hiring my own student assistant at my institution to help with the administrative matters. This idea was shelved when we found out that Ruth Symons would be available to us this year. For next year's program, I think that hiring of a student assistant by the Program Chair who would provide administrative assistance, and become conversant in the technological aspects of the website would be something serious to consider. This would lighten the EO's burdens considerably as well, for next year.

Suggestions for Improvement

1) Because the tasks associated with planning the program, receiving abstracts through the ASR website, and communicating with conference participants are becoming more technologically advanced, it is important to have a student or administrative assistant who is able, under the close direction of either the Program Chair or the EO, to work with the website and the Constant Contact software. In light of this, ASR should consider allocating in its budget for 2014 a sufficient amount of resources (e.g., $2,500) so either the Program Chair or the EO can hire a student or administrative assistant to carry out more of the technological and time consuming tasks associated with putting together the conference program. This will require locating an assistant either at the institution of the Program Chair or the EO who is willing to become conversant with the ASR website navigation and the Constant Contact software.

2) If ASR decides to have 4 joint sessions with ASA Religion Section again next, early and extensive discussions need to be made with the Religion Section Chair by both the President and the Program Chair to decide what the two organizations would agree to do together and how to proceed.

3) A review should be made of the issue of the number of sessions per time slot, of the pros and cons of having evening sessions, and what policy ASR would like to have in regard to abstract acceptances/rejections. Obviously the quality of the program is enhanced by rejecting weaker papers, but the more papers we reject, the fewer the number of our conference attendees and the less likely ASR will be able to meet the minimum sleeping room occupancy at the hotel.

4) We need to seriously revisit the issue of travel funding for participants, that is, the Gallagher funding. This is a particularly important issue regarding the attendance of international participants. At last year's meeting, the Council discussed dispensing as much as $1000 in travel funds to international scholars in order to help expand their attendance at the ASR meeting, and advertised this possibility. This year, however, we were not able to implement this policy

because we had an unusually large number of applicants and no basis for determining who should be awarded the higher dollar amounts. As a result, we ended up dispensing a far smaller amount to a larger number of applicants, similar in amounts as the previous years. This caused disappointments among a number of international scholars who submitted abstracts hoping to receive this level of funding, and many of them ended up cancelling their trip, reducing the number of papers in a number of panels. The International Liaison Committee is aware of this problem, and in order to remedy it for next year, they have decided to request that applicants submit a c.v. and a draft of the paper they wish to present. These items will enable the International Liaison Committee, in collaboration with the Program Committee, to distinguish those who are most deserving of the larger amounts of financial assistance.

5) Next year's Program Chair should consider continuing Professionalization panels, geared especially toward graduate student attendees.

6) We might consider a stricter and more clearly advertised policy regarding scheduling changes requests. This year, we have had a number of people ask for scheduling changes after the preliminary program was posted, despite the announcement made in the emails sent out early on that every participant should make himself/herself available to any of the time slots during the meetings. Some requested changes before the preliminary program was finalized, and in these cases, all efforts were made to accommodate them. Even for those who made requests after the preliminary program went online, I made as much effort as possible to accommodate. However, many such requests make the job difficult for the Program Chair, for obvious reasons.

Acknowledgments

I have had a terrific time organizing this year's program. Again, many thanks go out to Ruth Symons and Jim Cavendish; the process would not have been nearly as efficient or enjoyable without their help and camaraderie. I am also deeply grateful to many members who responded with alacrity and spirit of cooperation to solicitations to organize panels, to participate in the panels, and to volunteer to be conveners/discussants. I thank all those who have organized wonderful sessions, and those who have lent valuable advice or ear along the way. Last but not least, I especially want to thank Fred Kniss for inviting me to serve ASR as the 2013 Program Chair.

Publications Committee Report 2013

July 2, 2013

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Melissa Wilde, chair

RE: This year's activity

The Publications Committee was comprised this year of Nancy Nason-Clark, Rebecca Kim, and Melissa Wilde (chair).

We are delighted to announce that we have secured Gerardo Marti, from Davidson College as the new editor of Sociology of Religion. Marti will begin taking over from Scott Schieman by the end of July, with the transition to be completed by the end of 2013 at the latest.

Rebecca Y. Kim (Pepperdine University) is incoming Book Review Editor. Because all of the book review slots for the current volume (as well as Spring of next year) are now full, she is now soliciting reviews for Summer 2014 and beyond.

Marti will continue to work with Oxford University Press to publish the journal.

Editor's Report August 2012– August 2013
Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review
August 1, 2013
Prepared By: Scott Schieman (University of Toronto)

I. <u>Book Review Editor, Deputy Editors, and Editorial Board</u>

Book Review Editor: Gerardo Marti (Davidson College)
Deputy Editors: John Bartkowski (UT- San Antonio); Alex Bierman (University of Calgary)

Editorial Board Members (University/date term ends):
Joseph O. Baker (East Tennessee State University/August, 2014)
Jennifer Barrett (Wageningen University and Research Centre (The Netherlands)/August, 2013)
Matt Bradshaw (Duke University/August, 2014)
Amy Burdette (Florida State University/August, 2013)
James Cavendish (University of South Florida/August, 2014)
Dave Dixon (St. Joseph's College/August, 2014)
Michael Emerson (Rice University/August, 2013)
Sally Gallagher (Oregon State University/August, 2013)
Mathew Guest (Durham University/August, 2013)
Patricia Snell Herzog (Rice University/August, 2014)
Ines Jindra (University of Notre Dame/August, 2014)
Pamela Klassen (University of Toronto/August, 2013)
Rachel Kraus (Ball State University/August, 2014)
Christel Manning (Sacred Heart University/August, 2013)
Rebekah P. Massengill (Swathmore College/August, 2014)
Andrew McKinnon (University of Aberdeen/August, 2014)
Atalia Omer (University of Notre Dame/August, 2014)
Jerry Park (Baylor University/August, 2013)
Susan Crawford Sullivan (College of the Holy Cross/August 2014)
James Wellman (University of Washington/August, 2013)

Once again, this has been a great team. Everyone has been incredibly responsive and supportive. It makes the job much easier and enjoyable. Thank you!

II. Manuscript Flow
- 145 manuscripts in total (new and revised submissions) were processed on or after August 1, 2012. The total for the previous year was 139.
- 96 <u>original</u> (new) manuscripts with a submission date on or after August 1, 2012—an increase of 4 from the previous year.
    - Of the 85 that have editorial decisions, 69 were rejected (81%) and 16 were given "major revision" status (19%). Other than the Presidential Address, no manuscripts were accepted outright and none were given "minor revision" status outright.
- 40 <u>revised</u> manuscripts with a submission date on or after August 1, 2012.
    - Of the 40 revised manuscripts that have decisions: 17 were accepted (43%), 9 were given "major revision" status—that is, a <u>second</u> "major revision" (23%), 14 were given "minor revision" status (35%), and 0 were rejected.
- Of all manuscripts that received an editorial decision on or after August 1, 2011, **14 percent** (17/125) were accepted (this includes the Presidential Address).

III. Editorial Lag

- Among <u>new</u> submissions, most editorial decisions are sent back to authors within 6 to 10 weeks of the submission date.
    - Rejected manuscripts averaged <u>41 days</u> from submission date to editorial decision date (this excludes 2 immediate rejections).
    - "Major revision" decisions averaged <u>79 days</u> from submission date to decision.
- Among <u>revised</u> submissions, "accepted" decisions average 10 days from submission to decision; "minor revision" (a 2nd R&R or "conditional acceptance") decisions average lag is 61 days; "major revision" decisions (a 2nd R&R) average lag is 59 days.
- The time from acceptance to publication online in Advance Access is approximately 4 – 5 weeks; from Advance Access to print is roughly 3 - 6 months.

IV. Impact Factor

Sociology of Religion ranks 52 out of 137 in Impact Factor in the Sociology journals category of the ISI rankings. (Last year, *Sociology of Religion* ranked 64th out of 137 in Impact Factor in the sociology journals category of the ISI rankings.) The 5-year Impact Factor is 1.333, ranking Sociology of Religion 58 out of 137 sociology journals. (Last year, the 5-year impact factor was 1.09, and the previous year it was 1.01).

Sociology of Religion 2012 (latest) impact factor is **1.08** (A positive trend over the past few years):
2009 = .56
2010 = .91
2011 = .86

Comparison with JSSR:
The 2012 (latest) impact factor is 1.39
2009 = .92
2010 = 1.34
2011 = 1.34

Comparison with RRR:
The 2012 (latest) impact factor is .34
2009 = .29; 2010 = .47; 2011 = .45

Comparison with a "general" sociology journal with a similar impact factor and rank in 2011: Sociological Forum ranked 68th & Impact Factor = .83; in 2011, it ranked 58 & Impact Factor= .908.

Efforts to improve the impact factor: "Featured articles" on the Sociology of Religion webpage; Greater promotion and visibility by OUP, especially Advance Access; Continue to select and solicit high quality articles with greater citation potential, timely subjects, and broader appeal.

Fichter Research Grant Committee Report

July 8, 2013

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Helen A. Berger, chair

RE: Report to Council on the activity of the Fichter Research Grant Committee for 2013

2013 Activity

The Fichter Research Grant Committee was comprised this year of Peter Althouse, Mary Ellen Konieczny and Helen A. Berger (chair).

In 2013 we continued the practices institutionalized in previous years to announce the Fichter Grant competition in the *News & Announcements* that now appears in our journal, and on the ASR website. This year we received twenty-five applications, which can be compared with last year when we received nine. Of those that applied, seven were deemed by the committee clearly worthy of support but it would have required that the money be thinly distributed among them. We decided instead to fund the top four projects more generously and a fifth with the amount that remained. The projects funded were:

1. Gabriel Acevedo, The University of Texas at San Antonio, " Faith Between Cultures: Exploring Latina Women's Conversion to Islam in South Texas," $ 6434.
2. Staci Young, Medical College of Wisconsin, "The Organization of Work Among Milwaukee Parish Nurses," $6155.
3. Alana M. Henninger, The Graduate Center/John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY), "A Cross-Country Comparison of Institutional Responses to Honor Violence," $6020.
4. Casey Ritchie Clevenger, Brandeis University, "Women with Hearts as Wide as the World: Gender, Race, and Inequality in Women's Transnational Religious Organizations," $4080.
5. Vanessa Miller, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science and Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing, "Secularization and African American Women's Health Risk," $1311.

On the whole we were pleased with the quality of the applications and see it as an indication that quality research is being conducted in the sociology of religion that focuses on issues of gender and sexuality. We believe both the quantity and quality of the proposals we received are, at least in part, the result of Council's vote to permit individuals to apply who have just joined the Association. We believe this has resulted in the Fichter Award becoming more competitive.

I have worked with our Executive Officer, James Cavendish, in making some changes in the announcement for Fichter Awards on the website, which include:

1. A statement that we do not support indirect costs, such as salaries or tuition for the PI nor do we provide money for the purpose of attending conferences to disseminate the

research findings. This year the majority of proposals included these requests and in one instance I needed to send a letter to an applicant's institution informing them that we do not cover facilities and administrative costs prior to her being allowed to submit her grant proposal.

2. We added a statement that we do not cover costs of computers or books that one can reasonably expect to find at a university or to be provided by the university.
3. The budget should be in U.S. dollars.
4. All proposals require a substantive title. It is surprising how many come with none.
5. Although this year we did cover the cost of meals while individuals are traveling for research purposes, it was decided that in the future only 50% of those costs will be covered as that should be sufficient to reimburse the individual for the additional cost of eating away from home.
6. We note that we will not pay for any alcoholic drinks.

This year we made, with Council's agreement, a change to include sexualities in the call. In previous years this was implied but not stated. Our request was based both on the desire to formalize this and to recognize that sexualities is a field that overlaps with issues of gender.

The committee in consultation with Jim Cavendish has voted to have the Executive Officer rule on any requested changes to budgets of ongoing grants. If there are any questions about a particular case the current Chair of the Committee should be consulted.

This is my second year as a member and first as chair of the Fichter Award Committee. I appreciate this opportunity to serve my colleagues and am grateful for the trust put in me by two presidents of the Association. Barbara Dennison, our previous committee chair, generously answered all my questions and was there as a resource as I learned the ropes. Jim Cavendish has kept on top of all the procedures and was there to work with me as each issue or problem arose. The committee was good spirited, hardworking, and cooperative as we worked to find what we felt were the proposal that were best presented, had clear budgets and goals, and would contribute to the continued vibrancy of our sub-discipline.

Yours,

Helen A. Berger, PhD
Chair of the Fichter Award
Resident Scholar
Women's Studies Research Center
Brandeis University

<div align="center">**International Liaison Committee Report**</div>

July, 2013

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Prema A. Kurien, chair

RE: Report to Council on the activity of the International Liaison Committee for 2013

The International Liaison Committee was comprised this year of Giuseppe Giordan, Afe Adogame, and Prema A. Kurien (chair).

Background

The primary task of the International Liaison Committee has been to provide input into selecting the international scholars who receive the Ralph A. Gallagher Travel funds. There is some background that I need to provide the Council about these travel funds and the selection process since, based on discussions with the other members of the committee and our Executive Officer, James Cavendish, I am proposing that the process of seeking and allocating funding be changed.

I have been on this committee from 2009 on with, as far as I can remember, the same group of members, but this is the first year that the committee was consulted regarding allocation of the Gallagher Travel funds. In the past, these allocations were decided by the chair of the program committee and the Executive Officer (Bill Swatos). I am sure this was largely because the deadline for the Gallagher funds was the same as the deadline for the ASR abstracts, and nothing more was required from the applicants except the abstract, an indication that they were requesting the funds and the reason for their need for funds. Because of the late deadline, there was probably not enough time to consult with the International Committee. There was also the question of determining the allocation between domestic graduate students and the international applicants. Since funding for domestic graduate students was outside the purview of the international liaison committee, this was probably an additional complicating factor.

Also, in the past, many international scholars who were offered funding (at this time the maximum funding offered was $500) were not able to attend the conference due to insufficient funds or due to their being denied a visa for travel. In the latter case, the chair of the program committee was often only notified a few weeks before the conference, too late to offer the funding to anyone else. Consequently, much of the Gallagher funding remained unused (the total funding at this time was $3000). Since insufficient funds and visas are often related, the decision was made when Roger Finke was President, to increase the maximum amount to $1000 and to double the total amount of Gallagher Travel funds to $6000.

2013 Activity

This year, we unexpectedly had a large number of applicants. Including domestic graduate students, we had 24 individuals applying for travel funds. Consequently, we had to decide how to allocate the pool of $6000 among the 24 applicants. We had to make some ad hoc decisions this year, but we propose that we make some changes to the deadline, the application procedure, and the criteria for making awards for the future to make the selection process less arbitrary and more transparent, and also to produce higher quality presentations and hopefully, a better yield in terms of the number of international scholars who are

actually able to use the Gallagher travel funds. The recommendations below are based on discussions with the other committee members and with James Cavendish.

1) Earlier Deadline: We propose to ask all those applying for the Gallagher grants to send in their materials by March 1 -- two months before other people's abstracts are due, directly to the International Liaison Committee, so that the committee can submit its recommendations to the Program Chair and get his/her approval of the abstracts by April 1. This would give international scholars sufficient time to take an official letter from ASR notifying them of their award to their visa processing centers. This would also mean that the International Liaison committee would evaluate the applications of domestic graduate students as well as those of international scholars.

2) Submit CV and a presentation-length paper: In addition to their abstract, we would also ask applicants to submit their CV and a 10-page (double-spaced) paper, and evidence that they could afford to actually come to the meeting if the size of their grant was only $500 or $1,000. The 10-page paper will allow us to get a good sense of the quality of their contribution which we can use as a criterion for the selection of the applicants, particularly those who will receive the higher awards. The CV will also allow us to see if they have PhD's, have current positions at universities or research-oriented institutions, and have a research and publication record (which we recommend should be a criterion for funding for international scholars). Finally, by asking them to indicate whether they have access to additional resources which would enable them to supplement the Gallagher funding and attend the meeting, we hope that there would be a better chance that the awardees will actually show up and contribute to the meetings.

3) Criteria for evaluation of international applicants: We recommend changes in the call for the Gallagher awards to include the criteria listed above and also to indicate that we would give priority to more junior scholars. In other words, we suggest language similar to the following: "International applicants for Gallagher Travel awards should have completed their PhD, hold current, positions at universities or research-oriented institutions, and have a research and publication record. We will give priority to junior scholars. Gallagher applicants will be evaluated on the basis of the quality and contribution of their paper."

4) Criteria for evaluation of domestic graduate student applicants: We recommend including language to indicate that we will give priority to graduate students coming to the conference from outside the larger region where the conference is located, who will have higher travel costs. "Graduate student applicants will be evaluated on the basis of the quality and contribution of their paper. Those who will be traveling long distances to the conference and who will consequently incur higher travel costs will be given priority."

We would like the Council to discuss the above suggestions and to provide input on the proposed changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Prema Kurien
Chair, International Liaison Committee
Professor of Sociology
Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13244

McNamara Committee Report 2013

July 5, 2013

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Kathleen E. Jenkins, chair

RE: This year's competition

The McNamara Committee was comprised this year of Perry Chang, Kevin McElmurry, and Kathleen E. Jenkins (chair).

We received 19 submissions this year. Each member of the committee read all papers and ranked them using the following system: a 4 point scale (1=not worthy of award, 2=probably not worthy of award, 3=probably worthy of award, 4=definitely worthy of award). We added our scores together and then had exchanges via email regarding three papers with similar scores.

The award was given to Bethany Weed's, "Lived Religion: Islam in a West African Take-out Restaurant." In the paper "Lived Religion: Islam in a West African Take-out Restaurant," University of Pennsylvania graduate student Bethany Weed describes her three years of ethnographic field research at a restaurant in a Northeastern U.S. city and with the African immigrant family that runs the restaurant. Weed's paper makes strong contributions to the study of religion outside of formal religious organizations, immigrant religion, U.S. Islam, and ethnic enclave development. Weed's case study provides an example of how Americans who are not able or willing to participate in religious congregations nevertheless practice their religion on their own time, including at places where they work and shop. She suggests that some Americans are able to create sacred spaces for themselves and fellow believers in the most unlikely of places, even while the informality of the arrangements can pose challenges for religious formation.

Suggestions for the Future

It would be helpful if the website could reflect whether or not we accept published papers or papers accepted for publication. Clarification regarding the number of papers students are allowed to submit would also be useful.

The deadline for the competition reads June 15th in the Award Committee description of duties on the website. The call for paper submissions reads June 1st. I would recommend that both indicate a June 1st deadline to allow adequate time for review of papers, and far enough in advance so that the winning student can plan travel.

Any changes should also be indicated in distribution of award information through RRA/SSSR.

I would also recommend updating the language in the description of duties that indicates the number of expected submissions. I don't know the exact number over the last five years, but this year we had 19 papers and last year 12, which does not indicate a low number of expected submissions.

Finally, the call for the competition on the website reads: "The winner will be notified by July 1, 2013, via email with a hard copy to follow." I see no reason to follow with a hardcopy letter regarding the status of the submission and suggest this be removed.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen E. Jenkins, College of William and Mary

<u>Recommended Revision to Webpage</u>

2014 Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award Competition

This award, which comes in the form of a certificate of honor and a monetary grant of $500, recognizes outstanding scholarship in the sociology of religion conducted by a graduate student. <u>Only one paper may be submitted by each graduate student for each year's competition.</u>

Authors <u>(and co-authors, in the case of co-authored submissions)</u> must be currently enrolled graduate students who have not defended their doctoral dissertation when the paper is submitted. <u>The paper may be already published as an article or accepted for publication as long as it complies with the other requirements of submissions (see below).</u> Applicants must also be members of the Association for the Sociology of Religion at the time of application.

Application Procedure

Submissions should be in the form of an article with a maximum length of 40 double-spaced, single-sided pages inclusive of all materials: text, title, notes, tables, figures, and works cited. The title page should include an abstract of no more than 200 words. The text should not exceed 12,000 words, i.e., approximately 36 double-spaced pages in 12-point font.

All submissions must be in English and submitted electronically to XXXXX, Chair of the McNamara Student Paper Award Committee, at XXXXX.edu by June 1, 2014. The winner will be notified by July 1, 2014, via email ~~with a hard copy to follow~~.

Submission for McNamara consideration is separate from submission for ASR program participation; students who wish their papers considered for the program must submit paper abstracts to the Program Chair following the guidelines presented in the "Call for Papers." The successful applicant may also apply for up to $500 travel assistance to present his or her paper at the annual meeting. The winner of the McNamara Student Paper Award is highly encouraged to present his/her paper at the annual meeting in August <u>and to submit the paper to the Association's journal *Sociology of Religion* for consideration of publication, if it has not already been published.</u>

<u>Recommended Revision to Duties of Committee</u>

MC NAMARA AWARD COMMITTEE

The McNamara Award Committee gives "an annual certificate of honor and monetary grant for a paper in the sociology of religion submitted by a student." The committee both solicits submissions and judges "their merit, within guidelines established by the Executive Council." These guidelines are summarized in the call for papers that appears on the website. The Executive Officer and the Committee Chair may choose to pursue other means of distributing the call for papers (e.g., at SSSR/RRA or their newsletters).

The Chair of the committee receives <u>the applications</u> at his or her address and circulates the manuscripts that are submitted. Manuscripts are currently due ~~15~~ June <u>1</u>, so the Chair <u>and the committee</u> should be available at that time to begin the committee's work. In consultation with the committee, the Chair determines, within reason, <u>how the manuscripts will be evaluated.</u> ~~the formats in which manuscripts will be accepted. If the Chair is a member of the committee, s/he participates directly in the voting process; if not, then s/he would act only in a tie. Regardless, however, the Chair normally participates in the~~

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discussion and evaluation process. In addition, the Chair should expect to receive various inquiries about special circumstances. Usually the guidelines speak to these, but some will require consultation with the Executive Officer and/or previous chairs. The guidelines are posted to the website by the Executive Officer and also distributed at RRA/SSSR. The Chair may choose to pursue other means of distribution as well. Contact with the Executive Officer is essential before the vetting of the manuscripts, since membership in the Association is required for participation; hence Because all applicants for the McNamara Award must be members of the Association, the Chair should consult the ASR Member Directory on the website to verify that each applicant is a member. needs to furnish the Executive Officer with a list of names of persons who have submitted manuscripts. This is best done as a single list.

Once an awardee has been determined, it is the responsibility of the Chair to notify the Executive Officer and to notify *all* those who submitted papers for consideration, including the awardee.

Neither the work of the committee nor the giving of the award requires attendance at the annual meeting. H, however, when both the Chair and the Awardee are present, it is appropriate for the Chair to present the award at the Association's Opening Night Reception. If the Chair of the committee is unable to present the award, another member of the committee or the President of the Association will do so. annual business meeting. Otherwise, the award is announced at that time the General Business Meeting and conveyed through the mail from the Executive Office.

The current amount of the award is $500. An additional $200 is available for honorable mention(s), though it has been given only once. One year when the paper was co-authored, an award of $600 was given.

In recent years, Tthe number of papers received has ranged from 12 to 19. a low of 0 to a high of about a dozen. Normally the number is low. The award does not have to be presented, and at least once, the committee chose to give no award, even though it had candidates. When it is not presented, the award returns to the endowment.

Membership Committee Report

August 3, 2013

TO: Officers and Council Members of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Jim Cavendish and Membership Committee members Paula Nesbit and Gerardo Marti

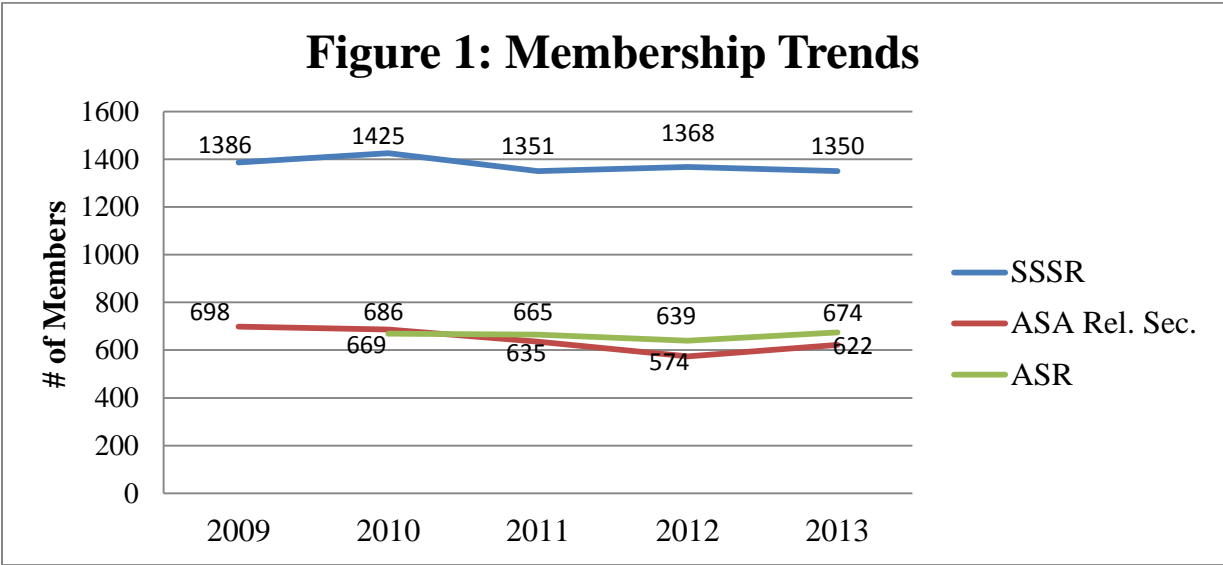RE: Report to Council on the Membership of ASR during 2013

The purpose of this report is to provide current membership statistics for the Association for the Sociology of Religion, report on trends in ASR membership over time and contrast them with those of comparable organizations devoted to the social scientific study of religion, and report the findings of a recent investigation conducted by the Membership Committee of the degree of membership overlap between ASR and a number of comparable organizations. Together, these pieces of data show that ASR remains a strong and healthy organization with a distinct and stable membership composed of individuals from 46 countries from every region of the world. These data also provide a basis for ASR to conduct longer term strategic planning.

Based on membership figures available on July 17, 2013, ASR has 674 members, the highest it has been in the last 3 years. Of these 674 members, 488 (or 72%) are "Constituent Members" who paid $35 for annual membership, and 186 (or 28%) are either student members or members residing in a lesser developed or low income country (i.e., countries identified as ISA Category C countries based on data from the World Bank), who paid $15 for annual membership.
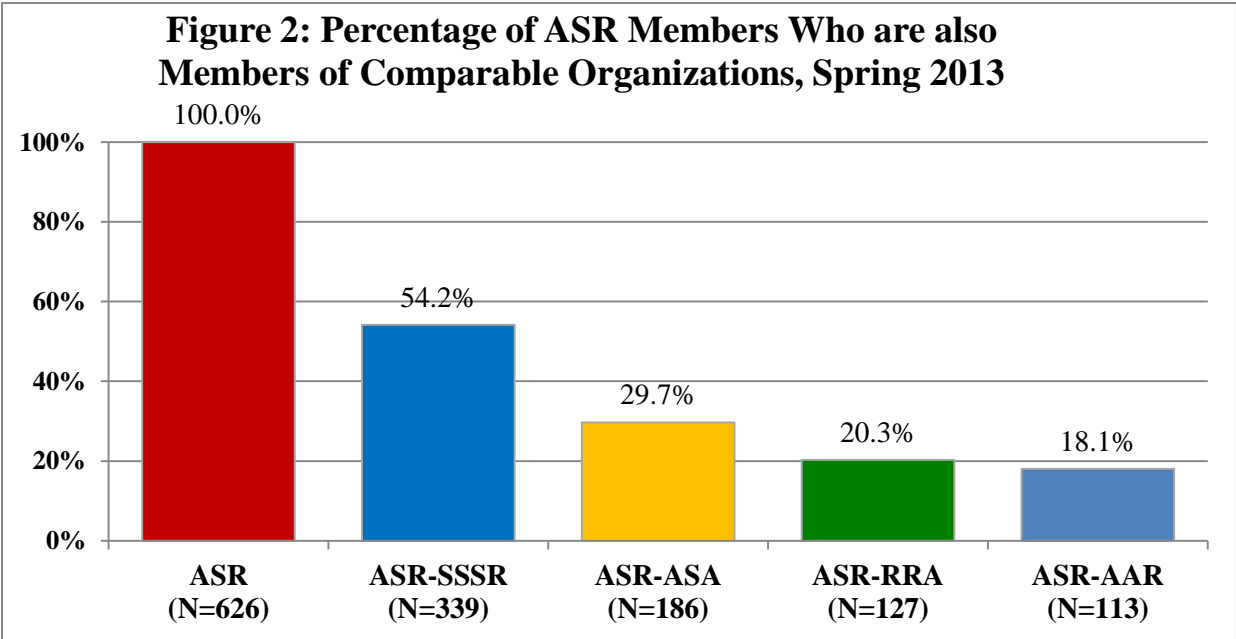
Approximately 72% of ASR's members reside in the United States, but there are several other countries with fairly large representations in ASR. Approximately 5.5% of ASR's members are from the U.K., 4.5% are from Canada, 2.4% are from Italy, and approximately 1.5% each are from Australia, Germany, and Israel. France, Japan, and Mexico each supplies approximately 1% of ASR's members. Among the lesser developed countries represented in ASR are Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Zimbabwe. Based on a recent membership roster shared with us by SSSR, SSSR has a similarly broad international presence among its membership, but while 28% of ASR's members reside outside of the United States, only 22% of SSSR's members live outside of the U.S. Last year, Kevin Dougherty and the ASR Membership committee recognized ASR's international membership as one of its key assets and recommended that ASR "pursue ways to extend this competitive advantage through the annual meeting and the journal."

Last year, the ASR Membership Committee reported that 24% of ASR's members were students, and this percentage has remained about the same in 2013 when 25.2% of ASR's members are students. This is lower than the percentage of student members in either the ASA Religion Section or SSSR. As reported last year, 32% of ASA Religion Section members and 35% of SSSR members are students. This led the Membership Committee in 2012 to recommend that ASR "develop strategies to attract and retain student members," including perhaps the incorporation of professional development sessions in our annual meeting program for aspiring sociologists of religion.

Figure 1 below shows trends in membership for ASR and two comparable organizations – the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) and the ASA Religion Section. These data must be interpreted with caution, however, because membership figures fluctuate during the course of the year, often peaking just before the annual meeting when those wanting to attend the meeting realize that they forgot to renew their membership. So, unless the membership count is done every year at the same time of the year (ideally immediately before the annual meeting) for every organization, comparing membership trends across these organizations is risky business. As this figure illustrates, membership in these associations has remained fairly stable over the last few years. ASR had 669 members in 2010, 665 members in 2011, 639 members in 2012, and 674 members in 2013.

Figure 1: Membership Trends

Some individuals in recent years have raised questions about whether ASR serves a distinct purpose and constituency that differentiates it from comparable scholarly associations such as SSSR, RRA, the ASA Religion Section, and AAR. Last year's Membership Committee recognized this and recommended that ASR "take a closer look at where the association stands in comparison to other religion-related associations" so it can begin to address "larger issues of organizational identity and brand loyalty." In light of this concern, we investigated the extent to which ASR's membership overlaps with these organizations. Figure 2 presents the results of this investigation using data gathered from these organizations earlier this spring. Keep in mind that these results must be interpreted cautiously because membership lists could not be obtained at the precise time of the year when each association was at its peak in terms of membership.

Figure 2: Percentage of ASR Members Who are also Members of Comparable Organizations, Spring 2013

As illustrated in this figure, 54.2% of ASR's members are also members of SSSR, 29.7% are also members of ASA's Religion Section, 20.3% are also members of RRA, and 18.1% are also members of AAR. These data suggest to us that:

1) Because only approximately a third of ASR's members are also members of ASA's Religion Section, many ASR members probably find something distinctive about ASR and what ASR has to offer. It would be interesting for the Membership Committee in the future to investigate the characteristics of those who initiate or retain membership in ASR in addition to, or instead of, membership in ASA or these other organizations. Are international members or non-sociologists, for instance, less likely to also be members of one or more of these other organizations?

2) If these various organizations were ever to envision forming partnerships or consolidating administrative tasks or resources, perhaps a partnership between ASR and SSSR would be as likely a scenario as a partnership between ASR and the ASA Religion Section at least on the basis of membership overlap (because 54.2% of ASR's members are also members of SSSR). However, the Membership Committee doesn't think that any kind of merger is likely or profitable at the current time. Clearly, ASR allows another avenue for presenting work, hearing other people's research, and discussing/critiquing works in progress. In addition, ASR provides numerous opportunities for scholars to exercise leadership on behalf of the discipline. For all of these reasons, we do not believe that merging with another association, if it were to be proposed, is in the best interest of scholarship. Rather than assuming that the functions of ASR are covered by other associations (Duplication! Let's Get Rid of It!), we should find ways to expand opportunities for scholars to benefit from ASR as well as opportunities to be "grateful" for their involvement. For example, perhaps ASR should consider adding annual article and book awards (and committees to evaluate the submissions) or expanding grant opportunities.

3) A sizeable number of ASR members (i.e., 113, or 18.1%) are also members of AAR. Although this group is clearly smaller than those who are also members of ASA's Religion Section, there is some basis for entertaining the suggestion made by some of our members that ASR consider the possibility of occasionally meeting in conjunction with AAR, instead of ASA, as a way of broadening our networks and intellectual reach. It is the belief of the Membership Committee, however, that because AAR is not as well attended by social scientists and because there is an advantage to ASR maintaining consistency, ASR should continue to meet in conjunction with ASA.

Ultimately, the Membership Committee hopes that these data and reflections will not only serve as the basis for discussion, but also as the foundation for the development of a membership survey in the future. It would be interesting to learn from our members what they value most about ASR and what types of things they'd like ASR to do to facilitate their research, professional development and leadership in the discipline.