

Minutes of the Environment and Technology Council Meeting

August 22, 1998

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Tom Rudel. Secretary-Treasurer, Dorceta Taylor presented the minutes of last year's Council meeting which were approved unanimously. Valerie Gunter reported for the Nominations and Elections Committee that David Pellow and Stella Capek had been elected to the Council. A discussion ensued regarding the need to constitute a new committee to oversee committee assignments.

David Sonnenfeld reported that the section had 376 members. Tom Rudel reported that his latest figures showed that the section had 381 members. All agreed that we needed to launch a membership drive to get the membership above the 400 mark by September 1, 1998.

The Chair indicated he would discuss with ASA the possibility of allocating space so that sections could set up information tables. David Sonnenfeld developed and printed 1,200 copies of the new Section brochure at a cost of \$105.15.00. There was some discussion about updating the Section's home page currently housed at a George Mason University website. It was suggested that the website would be more accessible if it were housed at Colorado State where it would be more closely tied to the Section's listserver group, EnvTecSoc.

Susan Roschke, editor of *Environment, Technology, and Society*, reported that she is investigating the possibility of printing the Section's newsletter on recycled paper using soy-based ink. She has contacted Svetlana Durkovic, the ASA's Governance Coordinator, who will check into the matter further. Rik Scarce of Montana State is currently producing portions of the Section's newsletter in electronic form. There was much interest in a new feature of the newsletter, point-counterpoint, which would feature scholars arguing different sides of controversial issues. Susan Roschke agreed to continue as editor of the newsletter for the next three years.

Timmons Roberts reported that EnvTecSoc generally had few postings and very low traffic. To generate more interest in the in EnvTecSoc, it was suggested that a digest version of the newsletter, possibly the point-counterpoint section, could be posted on the listserver. Another suggestion was to develop a dual list – one for general discussion, and one for posting news items.

Dorceta Taylor reported a balance of \$1,958.86 in the Section's general funds after current meeting expenses. She also reported \$3,033.33 in the Boguslaw scholarship fund. The Section awarded \$200.00 to the winner of the Olsen Student Paper competition. There was no winner for the Boguslaw award in 1998. A question was raised about the dues income. It was pointed out that though the Section increased its dues the 1998 budget reflected a dues income of \$988, an amount that was not significantly different from prior years – before the dues increase. The Chair noted that all the increase in dues does not automatically accrue to a Section, because the ASA exacts a kind of "tax" on the membership of the section.

Dorceta Taylor reported that Robert Bullard of Clark Atlanta University had won the 1998 Distinguished Service Award. Ken Gould reported that the winner of the 1998 Olsen Student

Paper Award was Michael Handel of Harvard University. There was a lengthy discussion on the status of the Boguslaw award. Because so few people enter the competition, council members discussed ways on reviving interest in the award. Since SKAT has withdrawn from the award, it has become the sole province of the Environment and Technology Section. This has resulted in fewer nominations. Council members speculated that the criteria for the award might be so restrictive that it deters nominations. However, it was noted that the award was established with specific stipulations that could not be circumvented. Currently the Boguslaw competition is facilitated by Alan Schnaiberg. The council suggested that a larger Boguslaw Award committee should be constituted to help with the work related to the award.

Michael Bell could not attend the council meeting, but asked the Chair to put forward a proposal in his name. Bell proposed that in addition to the Distinguished Service Award, the Section should give a Outstanding Publication Award. The first award would be considered a life-time contribution award while the latter would be given for a single, outstanding publication completed within a five year period of the time of the award. After a spirited discussion, all but one council member voted to put the proposal before the membership at the August 23rd business meeting.

The Chair reported that the Section was cosponsoring their reception with Race, Class and Gender and Marxist Sociology. The reception would cost the Section \$425.00. The Chair also reported on the status of students on the council. Currently there were no student members. The Section could not elect student members till it changed its bylaws to allow such a move.

The council also discussed initiatives to identify and encourage new people to participate in Section activities and on committees. It was suggested that the chair solicit nominations for various committee assignments from the general membership at the business meeting. Tom Rudel also announced initiatives to sponsor joint sessions with Race, Gender and Class. The council meeting closed with a discussion of the possibility of co-sponsoring sessions with Rural Sociology at the Chicago or Washington meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorceta E. Taylor,
Secretary-Treasurer