

Minutes of the ASA Environment and Technology Council Meeting
August 15, 2004
San Francisco, CA

Present: Phil Brown, Robert Brulle, Tammy Lewis, Maggie Alario, Steven Zavestoski, Stella Capek, Steven Scholz, Dana Fisher, John Foster, Maurie Cohen, Laurie Hunter, Rob Gardner, Andrew Van Alstyne

The Chair, Phil Brown, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. The chair reported that the new bylaws had been passed, and were now in effect. He reminded the council that all officers, included the newly elected ones, should be present at the council meeting, and that their absence made it hard to carry out section business. He also discussed the logistical arrangements for the special session on Environmental Justice on Tuesday morning.

Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Brulle, reported on the Section's budget. As of August 10, 2004, the section had total revenue of \$4,492 for the 2004 fiscal year, and projected expenditures of \$2,452 this year, which includes \$948 for the reception, awards costs of \$304, and an estimated \$1,200 in travel, lodging, and food expenses for the external invited speakers for the special Environmental Justice Session. The shift to an electronic newsletter has saved the section \$2,000 in annual expenses. The projected end of year budget surplus is \$2,039.

In the absence of Steve Kroll-Smith, Phil Brown discussed the elections to be held for 2005. Three officers will need to be elected, including a new chair-elect, and chairs of the Teaching and Training Committee, and the Membership Committee. Bob Edwards is the new chair of the Nominations Committee, and will be handling the election.

Steve Zavestoski gave the Membership Committee Report. He reported that we has 368 current members. Student memberships are paid for by the section. In an attempt to increase membership, the Membership Committee will look into running ads in the RC 24 and Rural Sociology bulletins. Steve Scholz reported on the production of the newsletter. The PDF version has been well received. After some discussion, it was decided that Phil Brown and Steve Scholz would develop a one way listserv that would email electronic copies of the newsletter to all E&T section members. Andrew Van Alstyne reported that the existing E&T listserv is working fine. Rob Gardner reported on the section web site. It was decided that all previous E&T web sites will be consolidated and deleted.

Maurie Cohen discussed the newly created Policy and Research Committee, and outlined some of the directions that this section will take to improve communication among E&T members regarding research and publication activities. It was also noted that the awards for the Outstanding Publication and the Olsen Student Paper Award will be handled by the Policy and Research Committee

Robert Brulle then discussed the Distinguished Contribution Award. After a lively discussion, it was decided that the person who nominated the award recipient would be offered the opportunity to present the award. In addition, the nominations for the Distinguished Contribution Award would be valid for 3 years from the date of their submission.

Phil Brown then discussed the awards, and noted that the ASA only allows three "awards." To avoid conflict with the Boguslaw Award, it was decided that the name of the Olsen Student Paper Award would be changed to the Olsen Student Paper Certificate. It was also discussed and decided (by unanimous vote) that all E&T section awards would only go to section members. Finally, Phil pointed out that the Boguslaw Award would be handled by the Chair elect.

Stella Capek, chair-elect, discussed the 2005 ASA meeting in Philadelphia. John Foster, as the only council member-at large, will work with her to plan the meeting. It was noted that there is a need for more submissions to the E&T sections at ASA. Steve Scholz will put a reminder in the next E&T newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert J. Brulle,
Secretary-Treasurer