

Actions of the AASLH Council

On Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, 2014, the AASLH Council met in Boston at Historic New England's Harrison Gray Otis House, and took the following actions. AASLH Chair Julie Rose led the meeting.

1. Approved the Minutes from the February 2015 Council Meeting, approved the Minutes of the May 2015 Finance Committee Meeting, and collected signed "Conflict of Interest Policy" forms from Council members.
2. Approved the FY2016 Budget as proposed: \$1,380,295 in revenue and \$1,377,194 in expenses, for a net surplus of \$3,101, and approved a plan to fully rebuild the corpus of the endowment by the end of Fiscal Year 2016.
3. President & CEO John Dichtl presented his vision for AASLH to be more of a "town square" that brings together a wide variety of history practitioners. His eight points were: 1) Engage the academy; 2) Tap the power of avocational, outsider, passionate history makers; 3) Think globally, act locally; 4) Strengthen AASLH's role in humanities scholarship and education; 5) Do more history again; 6) Encourage history practitioners to be more transparent about the interpretive process; 7) Strengthen the AASLH membership; and, in everything we do, 8) Articulate the Relevance of History.
4. Discussed the 75 for 75 Campaign and agreed to a plan for coordinated, individual contacts made by Council members this summer.
5. Heard the Governance Committee's report and discussed progress on the Governance Committee Handbook for Council members.
6. Heard an update from Burt Logan and Ken Turino on the American Alliance of Museum's Committee on Direct Care.
7. Discussed the Leadership Nominating Committee's evolving definition of "diversity" and agreed that the committee is headed in the right direction. Council members affirmed that diversity is a philosophical matter that is central to what AASLH does in all its activities, and that AASLH should be a leader in the national discourse.
8. Discussed the History Relevance Campaign and ways that AASLH can help. Council members were enthusiastic about integrating across AASLH programs the ideas that HRC is articulating about the value and relevance of history.
9. At the end of two robust sessions of strategic and visioning discussion on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the Council agreed to proceed with a new Membership Survey and directed the Aspirations Task Force to advance the strategic thinking process, beginning with the Council's meeting at the AASLH annual conference in Louisville. When the report summarizing the strategic thinking discussion from this meeting is finalized, the Council's intention is to share it with the membership and staff, and to maintain an open, inclusive, and ongoing planning process.