



Actions of the AASLH Council

AASLH's Council met on Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18, at the Idaho State Historical Society, in Boise, Idaho. AASLH Chair Katherine Kane led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Voted to approve AASLH Chair Katherine Kane's appointment of Jennifer Kilmer, director of the Washington State Historical Society, to fill the vacant seat on Council created by Will Ticknor's resignation.
2. Approved the Minutes (2/21/2017) of the Council Meeting in Washington, D.C.
3. Accepted the Finance Committee Minutes (5/23/2017), Quarterly Dashboard (3/31/2017), Balance Sheet (3/31/2017), Budgeted Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (3/31/2017), Investment Committee Minutes (4/25/2017), and Report on Investments (3/31/2017).
4. Voted to bestow the AASLH Award of Distinction on Lonnie G. Bunch, III, historian, author, curator, educator, and founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Bunch will receive AASLH's highest award at the Awards Banquet at the Annual Meeting in Austin on Friday, September 8 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
5. Heard the report from Treasurer Norman Burns on finances, investments, and the proposed FY2018 Operating Budget. Endowment funds have been above the pre-fraud level for more than half a year, and the projected surplus in the FY2017 budget (ending June 30) means that the annual 4.75% draw on the endowment can be left in the endowment. President and CEO John Dichtl will make recommendations after the close of the fiscal year on uses for any additional surplus. In the proposed FY2018 budget, the draw on the endowment is reduced to 4.5% and a surplus is projected.
6. Heard a report from John Dichtl about progress on the Strategic Plan and how the new budget is structured to fit it. Key expansions include the new External Relations Coordinator position, the Master Local Historians project, the StEPs enhancement project, rebuilding the AASLH website, and new webinars for continuing education/professional development.
7. Approved the FY2018 Operating Budget as proposed: \$1,567,597 in revenue and \$1,514,849 in expenses, for a net surplus of \$52,748.
8. Heard a report from Diversity & Inclusion Task Force Chair Marian Carpenter about a session and reception planned for the Annual Meeting in Austin, then discussed

inclusiveness in aspects of the conference such as the exhibit hall, and directed staff to review the contract used with vendors.

9. Heard a report from Creativity & Experimentation Task Force Chair Sarah Pharaon. In addition to addressing creative and experimental approaches across several AASLH program areas, the task force will be focusing on helping to enhance StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations).
10. Heard a report from Advocacy Task Force Chair Leigh Grinstead about the proposed AASLH Advocacy Policy and the charge for the task force. Agreed to finalize the documents at the September meeting.
11. Heard a report from Governance Committee Chair Kim Fortney about orientation for new members of Council and about the findings from the Council's self-evaluation survey.
12. Set the meeting date and location for next summer's Council meeting to be June 23-24, 2018, in Indianapolis, Indiana.
13. Discussed the culture of AASLH Council meetings, the roles of Council members, particularly in supporting the Strategic Plan, and how to improve connections between the Leadership Nominating Committee and Council.
14. Reviewed AASLH's experience with embezzlement in 2011 and the frequency of fraud among nonprofits, museums, and history organizations. Discussed how AASLH can best help members arm themselves against fraud at their own institutions and directed the Finance Committee to create a list of actions that AASLH can take, such as creating educational materials and courses.
15. Discussed a variety of issues facing history organizations today. All eight standing committees, eleven affinity group committees, and five task forces had been asked prior to the Council meeting to offer their thoughts on the question, "What issues, challenges, and trends do you see emerging in your sector of the history community and what should this mean for AASLH?"
16. Ended the meeting with an in-depth conversation about AASLH's audiences, particularly the makeup of its membership, that is, individuals versus institutions, and museums versus other history organizations.