



## **Actions of the AASLH Council**

AASLH's Council met on the weekend of **June 24-26, 2016**, at the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt in Nashville, the home city of the association. AASLH Chair Julie Rose led the meeting, which began with a reception at the Hermitage Hotel for Nashville history organizations on Friday, and continued with an all-day business meeting on Saturday and an evening walking tour of the historic downtown guided by Echoes of Nashville. The meeting concluded on Sunday at noon after a strategic planning session.

1. Approved the Minutes from the February 2016 Council Meeting in Washington, D.C., and accepted the Minutes of the Finance and Investment Committees.
2. Approved the FY2017 Operating Budget as proposed: \$1,447,098 in revenue and \$1,443,389 in expenses, for a net surplus of \$3,709. The current fiscal year was expected to result in a significant surplus. The approved budget for fiscal 2017 therefore included an infusion of the FY2016 operational surplus to be used for moving, and upgrading, the office to a new location in Nashville, before the office's current lease ends in calendar 2017.
3. Heard a detailed presentation on the 2015 AASLH Membership Survey by evaluation consultant debb Wilcox and AASLH Chief of Engagement Bob Beatty. The survey formed the primary context for strategic planning conversations throughout the remainder of the Council meeting.
4. Adopted a Corporate Affinity Partner Program model developed by staff which will create new benefits for AASLH members.
5. Authorized the Executive Committee to approve the new AASLH Employee Handbook of personnel policies, which was developed by staff members, after it is reviewed by Council members Tobi Voigt, Linnea Grim, and Erin Carlson Mast, and reviewed by a Tennessee labor attorney. The handbook will be made available to AASLH members wishing to see an example of nonprofit personnel policies.
6. Heard a report on the History Relevance Campaign by Jan Gallimore and John Dichtl, who had helped to organize and participated in the campaign's May 24 summit meeting at the National Museum of American History.
7. Created a task force to consider what role AASLH should have in the commemorative planning for the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary (July 2026) and how the field as a whole might best prepare.
8. Agreed that staff should explore the use of an application for video chat services to connect

Council members to Council meetings. Participation by telephone for members who cannot be present is barely sufficient, and Council is interested in making participation easier as it seeks greater diversity in its own makeup.

9. Approved several changes to the AASLH Bylaws which will be sent to members in August and presented for a vote at the Meeting of the Membership at the Annual Meeting in Detroit, on Friday, September 16, at 1:00 pm. The bylaw changes would make the Governance Task Force a standing committee, place its chair on the Leadership Nominating Committee, specify the term for Council members, create a process for handling vacancies on the Leadership Nominating Committee, and streamline the nomination and election calendar.
10. Heard a report from Ken Turino on the American Alliance of Museum's white paper, "Direct Care of Collections: Ethics, Guidelines, and Recommendations." Council members Turino and Burt Logan are members of the AAM's Direct Care Task Force and will host a session on the white paper at the AASLH Annual Meeting in Detroit on Friday morning, September 16.
11. Discussed the Emeritus Council which the AASLH Council created last year and commended its members for continuing to provide advice. Council also thanked the Emeritus members who agreed to serve as the Michael Kammen Award Committee.
12. Created the following working draft of a Diversity and Inclusion statement for AASLH, which will be presented for public discussion at the Annual Meeting in Detroit: "Everyone makes history. Relevant history is inclusive history. So, we invest in forward-thinking scholarship, expanded diversity of our field, and choose partners who make equity a priority."
13. Began drafting a Values and Vision statement for AASLH, which Council members Norman Burns, Linnea Grim, and Tobi Voigt will develop further.
14. Established the following five goals for the Strategic Plan: promote history relevance; build diversity and inclusion; further a representative, responsive association; increase organizational sustainability and transparency; and, act with creativity and experimental spirit. Staff will create outcomes and objectives for these goals, and Council will discuss at its September meeting.