

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on March 24, 2021 using Zoom. AASLH Chair Norman Burns led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the January 15, 2021 Council Meeting.
2. Approved Chair Norman Burn's interim appointee to Council, Veronica Gallardo, as a member of Council filling a vacancy in the cohort of members whose terms end in September 2023.
3. Heard a detailed report from fund development consultant Jennifer Chalos on preliminary research into the feasibility of an endowment campaign. The report focused on the results of a survey of current and a sampling of past members of Council.
4. At the Diversity & Inclusion Committee's recommendation, adopted "The 13 Behaviors of a High Trust Leader" (FranklinCovey) in place of the list of behaviors Council had generated in June 2019. The behaviors are meant to help govern Council conversations and interactions and to maintain individual and collective focus on creating more inclusive learning within AASLH and will be shared with committees and staff.
5. Reviewed the organization's summary financial report for the first half of the fiscal year, July 1 to December 31, 2020. While there has been some loss in revenue for cancelled programs, membership revenue has been steadier than expected, and the organization received a second PPP loan, for \$104,855.
6. Accepted the Independent Auditors' Report for Years Ended June 30, 2020 and 2019. The report was prepared by Edmondson, Betzler & Dame, PLLC, Brentwood, Tennessee, and accepted and referred by the AASLH Audit Committee on February 1, 2020. The auditors did not identify any deficiencies or weaknesses.
7. Heard a report from staff on options for the annual conference and voted unanimously to proceed with planning the in-person, Onsite Conference September 22-25 in Little Rock, Arkansas, along with having an Online Conference in October. Council assessed the hotel and convention center response to COVID, information on national vaccination rates, and financial research provided by staff, and unanimously voted to gather for an onsite conference.
8. Discussed Governance Committee's four projects: Council exit interviews; biannual Council performance and fulfillment survey, Council orientation and handbook, and reform of the Leadership Nominating Committee.
9. Reviewed progress on objectives within the four overarching goals of AASLH's Strategic Framework: building inclusion, promoting relevance, advancing professional development, and connecting the history community to field-wide questions and to each other.