

Annual Report for the Social Psychology Section

For membership year 2016-17

**Prepared by Amy Kroska, Past Chair of the Section.
October, 2017**



Section Governance

Section Business Meeting

Agenda for the 2017 Social Psychology Business Meeting

Call meeting to order: Amy Kroska

Committee Reports and Related Awards:

1. Outstanding Contribution Award Committee
2. Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
3. Graduate Investigator Award Committee
4. Nominations Committee
5. Membership Committee
6. Endowment Committee
7. Professional and External Affairs Committee
8. Graduate Student Advisory Committee
9. Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee

Budget Report: Jody Clay-Warner

Newsletter/Website Update

Social Psychology Quarterly Update

New Business:

1. SocArXiv's Sociology Open Award Recognition (SOAR)
2. Standardizing the financial award for the graduate student paper award
3. Revising guidelines for the Outstanding Recent Contribution Award to specify that the first author must be a member of the section.
4. Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee

Announcements from members

Minutes for the 2017 Social Psychology Business Meeting

Sunday, August 13, Montréal

68 members were present

Section Chair Amy Kroska called the meeting to order at 3:10, following the Cooley-Mead address.

Committee Reports:

1. *Outstanding Recent Contribution Award Committee*. Committee was chaired by Steve Bernard, who delivered the committee report. There were 21 nominations. Award was given to Tobias Schröder, Jesse Hoey, and Kimberly Rogers for "Modeling Dynamic Identities and Uncertainty in Social Interactions: Bayesian Affect Control Theory." Benard presented the award to the recipients after delivering the committee report.

2. *Graduate Student Paper Award Committee.* Kimberly Rogers chaired the committee and delivered the committee report. Committee received 25 nominations. The award went to Fabiana Silva for “Why Do Employees Discriminate? The Role of Implicit and Explicit Racial Attitudes.” Minjae Kim also received an honorable mention for “A Man is Known by His Cup: Signaling Commitment via Costly Conformity.”
3. *Graduate Student Investigator Award Committee.* Alison Bianchi chaired the committee and delivered the committee report. There were 8 applications for the award. Kristin Kelley was selected. Her proposal is titled, “Do Marital Name Choice and Social Class Cause Women and Men to be Evaluated Differently?” Bianchi presented the award certificate to Kristin Kelley.
4. *Nominations Committee.* André Christie-Mizell served as chair. Amy Kroska delivered report on behalf of committee chair. Committee was successful in recruiting candidates for vacant positions. The new officers are Brent Simpson, the chair-elect, and Celeste Campos-Castillo and D’Lane Compton, the new council members.
5. *Membership Committee.* D’Lane Compton chaired the committee and delivered the committee report. Membership currently stands at 580. The committee was active in using social media to recruit members and also in arranging for gift memberships for graduate students. Compton would like feedback from the membership on the effectiveness of social media in reaching potential new members. She also encouraged members to “like” section posts, as this will increase visibility of the posts.
6. *GSIA Endowment Committee.* Richard Serpe chaired the committee and delivered the committee report. Endowment is holding steady but not growing. The fund total after the \$1000 award to this year’s winner is \$42,240.11. After 4 years of chairing the committee, Richard will be stepping down, so the incoming section chair will need to select a new committee chair.
7. *Professional and External Affairs Committee.* Philip Brenner chaired the committee and delivered the committee report. The committee developed on a column for the summer newsletter on external funding opportunities with the Army Research Office. The committee expects to continue to publish this column at least annually, focusing on different funding agencies and providing tips for funding.
8. *Graduate Student Advisory Committee.* Bianca Manago served as chair and delivered the committee report. The graduate student mixer has been successful. The committee also plans to institute a job market session at next year’s ASA meeting. Amy Kroska suggested that this committee and the membership committee work together to increase membership. Manago invited student members to attend tonight’s grad student mixer.
9. *Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee.* Jane Sell served as chair and delivered committee report. The committee developed a mentoring program for junior faculty. Eleven junior faculty members were matched with senior mentors. The committee plans to follow up to assess program success.

Budget Report:

Jody Clay-Warner delivered the budget report (see budget posted later in report). Clay-Warner said that overall section costs this year were under budget, largely due to a favorable exchange rate, which reduced the cost of the section reception.

Social Psychology Quarterly Report:

Co-editors Jan Stets and Richard Serpe delivered the report. Stets and Serpe are at the end of their three-year term. In this last year, they have continued to publish a mix of full-length research articles and research notes. There was also a special issue on methodology this year. The co-editors expressed thanks to the editorial board. They also emphasized the importance of social media in promoting the journal. They noted, however, that though they have been promoting *SPQ* Snaps, usage remains very low. Journal impact factor is up (1.8), while decision time remains short. Acceptance rate went up slightly this year, likely due to the special issue. Richard and Jan have been in communication with the new editors and look forward to a smooth transition.

Discussion Items from Council Meeting (Kroska):

1. Kroska presented information on the SocArXiv SOAR program that would provide a travel stipend to the winner to section paper awards, provided that the winning paper was submitted to the SocArXiv for open access at the time of submission. Kroska summarized Council's discussion of this issue and the concern that this program might not be good for student authors and that it could disrupt the blind report process. Kroska reported that Council voted not to move forward with SocArXiv at this time but to revisit in the future. She asked the membership to contact her if they had opinions on the issues.
2. Kroska announced that Council had decided to standardize the monetary award associated with the Graduate Student Paper Award to \$500, an amount that would be split among authors if the winning paper has multiple authors. Some members expressed concern that the Section may not always be able to afford this amount. Jody Clay-Warner suggested that the award description be amended to state that the \$500 would be given "when funds are available."
3. Kroska reported that Council had voted to modify the description of the Outstanding Recent Contribution Award to state that the first author of the paper must be a Section member.
4. Kroska announced that the newly formed Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee would operate with staggered three-year terms.

Section Chair, Amy Kroska, then asked the membership if they had any announcements.

Announcements:

- Alison Bianchi thanks Amy for her work this past year on behalf of the Section.
- Peter Burke announced that the second edition of *Contemporary Sociological Theories* is in development.
- Cecilia Ridgeway reminded the membership how important it is for the Section to reach 600 members by September 30th. If we do not reach 600 we will lose a paper session and will receive less money from ASA. Kroska informed the members that our membership currently stands at 580. Gretchen Peterson suggested that we could add members by reaching out to ASA Departmental Affiliates, all of whom receive free ASA membership for first-year graduate students. During this discussion, several members complained about the ASA decision to disable the gift membership site on July 1.

Amy Kroska thanked the Council, Secretary-Treasurer, Jody Clay-Warner, Past-Chair, Cathryn Johnson, and webmaster Jennifer McLeer for their work.

Kroska passed the gavel to incoming Chair Matt Hunt.

Hunt adjourned the meeting at 4:00.

Section Council Meeting

Agenda for the 2017 Social Psychology Council Meeting

Committee Reports:

1. Cooley-Mead Award
2. Outstanding Recent Contribution
3. Graduate Student Paper Award
4. Graduate Investigator Award
5. Nominations Committee
6. Membership Committee
7. Endowment Committee
8. Professional and External Affairs Committee
9. Graduate Student Advisory Committee
10. Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee

Budget Report

Newsletter and Website Update

Social Psychology Quarterly Update

New Business:

1. Presentation by spokesperson from SocArXiv regarding Sociology Open Award Recognition (SOAR)
2. Standardizing the financial award for the graduate student paper award
3. Revising guidelines rules for the Outstanding Recent Contribution Award
4. Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee
5. Updating the committee responsibilities document

Closing remarks

Minutes for the 2017 Social Psychology Council Meeting

Saturday, August 12, Bâton Rouge Steakhouse, Montréal

Attending: Amy Kroska (Chair), Jody Clay-Warner (Secretary-Treasurer), Kathryn Lively, Richard Serpe, Jan Stets, Steve Benard, Corey Fields, David Schaefer, Matthew Brashears, Bianca Manago (student member), Philip Cohen (SocArXiv)

Amy Kroska, section chair, called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm

Amy reviewed committee reports:

1. *Cooley-Mead Committee*. Committee was chaired by Murray Webster. Amy Kroska delivered report on behalf of committee chair. The committee received 6 nominations for the Cooley-Mead Lifetime Achievement Award. The committee selected Jane Sell, who will receive her award and deliver the Cooley-Mead address at the section business meeting on Sunday.

2. *Outstanding Recent Contribution Award Committee.* The committee was chaired by Steve Benard, who delivered the committee report. There were 21 nominations. Award was given to Tobias Schröder, Jesse Hoey, and Kimberly Rogers for “Modeling Dynamic Identities and Uncertainty in Social Interactions: Bayesian Affect Control Theory.”
3. *Grad Student Paper Award Committee.* Kimberly Rogers chaired the committee. Amy Kroska delivered report on behalf of committee chair. Committee received 25 nominations. The award went to Fabiana Silva for “Why Do Employees Discriminate? The Role of Implicit and Explicit Racial Attitudes.” Minjae Kim also received an honorable mention for “A Man is Known by His Cup: Signaling Commitment via Costly Conformity.”
4. *Graduate Student Investigator Award Committee.* Allison Bianchi chaired the committee. Amy Kroska delivered committee report on behalf of chair. There were 8 applications for the award. Kristin Kelley (Indiana University) was selected. Her proposal is titled, “Do Marital Name Choice and Social Class Cause Women and Men to be Evaluated Differently?”
5. *Nominations Committee.* André Christie-Mizell served as chair. Amy Kroska delivered report on behalf of committee chair. Committee was successful in recruiting candidates for vacant positions. New officers are Brent Simpson, the chair-elect, and Celeste Campos-Castillo and D’Lane Compton, the new council members.
6. *Membership Committee.* D’Lane Compton chaired the committee. Amy Kroska delivered report on behalf of committee chair. Membership currently stands at 580. Committee was active in using social media to recruit members and also in arranging for gift memberships for graduate students.
7. *Graduate Student Investigator Award Endowment Committee.* Richard Serpe chaired the committee, and he delivered the committee report. Endowment is holding steady but not growing. Fund total after the \$1000 award to this year’s winner is \$42,240.11. After four years of chairing the committee, Richard will be stepping down, so the incoming section chair will need to select a new committee chair.
8. *Professional and External Affairs Committee.* Philip Brenner chaired the committee. Amy Kroska delivered the committee report on behalf of the committee chair. Amy asked Philip to develop the committee in line with the committee’s mission statement, which is to promote section and its members to external organizations. Philip has developed a column in the newsletter on external funding opportunities with the Army Research Office. The committee expects to continue to publish this column at least annually, focusing on different funding agencies and providing tips for funding.
9. *Graduate Student Advisory Committee.* Bianca Manago served as chair and delivered committee report. Graduate student mixer has been successful. Committee also plans to institute a job market session at next year’s meeting. Amy suggested that grad committee and membership committee work together to increase membership
10. *Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee.* Jane Sell served as chair. Amy Kroska delivered committee report on behalf of committee chair. Committee developed a mentoring program for junior faculty. Eleven junior faculty members were matched with senior mentors. The committee will follow up to assess program success.

SPQ Update

Co-editors Jan Stets and Richard Serpe are at the end of their three-year term. In this last year, they have continued to publish a mix of full-length research articles and research notes. There was also a special issue on methodology this year. The co-editors expressed thanks to the editorial board. They also emphasized the importance of social media in promoting the journal. They noted, however, that though they have been promoting *SPQ* Snaps, usage remains very low. Journal Impact factor is up (1.8), while decision time remains short. Acceptance rate went up slightly this year, likely due to the special issue. Richard and Jan have been in communication with new editors and look forward to a smooth transition.

New Business:

1. SocArXiv Sociology Open Award Recognition (SOAR)

Philip Cohen spoke on behalf of the SocArXiv Sociology Open Award Recognition (SOAR) project. He is soliciting Section support for the project, which promotes open access to research papers, including award submission papers. He would like the Section to participate in an incentive program in which SocArXiv would give a travel stipend to the winners of Section paper award winners who submit their paper to the SocArXiv repository prior to submitting to the Section paper competition.

Steve Bernard asked Philip if other sections doing this. Answer: not yet, but it is being proposed.

Jan Stets asked Philip what the negatives to participation might be. Philip replied that a person may not want a not-quite-ready paper out there or someone may be working in a controversial area where releasing a pre-publication copy could be problematic. He also said that the openness increases quality (i.e., reliable and reproducible) and that this outweighs the potential negatives.

Bianca Managa asked if it is possible to deposit data through SocArXiv. Answer: yes, and they can also include links to the published version.

Corey Fields asked what the relationship is between SocArXiv and ASA. Answer: none

Amy Kroska reported that she had heard others object to the SOAR project because of concerns that a grad student could submit a paper that is underdeveloped without realizing it is not ready for dissemination yet. As result, the student may have work that is open access that could be embarrassing to the student in the future.

Matt Brashears asked whether SocArxiv would give a travel award to a student who submitted the code used to generate results for a winning paper but not the paper itself. Philip said code alone is not enough since that isn't sufficient for replication. Philip advocates open access because it introduces to the public stage the publication process.

Philip also stated that some fear that media outlets may pick up an open access paper that has not been vetted and turns out to be inaccurate. But, he said that this can be managed. It could be a problem for less experienced people, but it was worth the risk.

Richard Serpe expressed the concern that students who submit to the archive might be embarrassed later in their career.

Council continued to have discussion about the value of openness vs. requiring grad students to be exposed to criticism of the early versions of paper. Council was not certain how making pre-publication versions of papers available increased replicability. There was a general sentiment that the primary advantage to the SOAR project is in getting work out to the scientific community as soon as possible. But they felt that it was not clear that this was enough of an advantage. Council members also expressed concerns that there would be problems with the system and that SocArXiv was giving financial incentives as way to make everyone feel better about the problems. Given the uncertainty, council members decided to wait until next year to see what other sections have done and how well the process has worked.

Amy Kroska will relay at the business meeting that the council took up this issue but decided that there was not enough evidence to go forward at this time and recommended that the council consider the issue again next year.

2. Standardizing the Financial Award for the Graduate Student Paper Award

The current language in the guidelines (adopted in 2011) is: “The winner will receive financial assistance to attend the summer ASA meetings. The section chair, treasurer, and paper award committee chair shall discuss the upper limit of the award (typically about \$650-\$800).” Amy Kroska proposed standardizing this award at \$500. She noted that she and Jody had reviewed records on the award and found that the awards vary considerably and not always in proportion to the travel costs or the section budget. So, if we reframe this as a monetary prize rather than as a way to defray travel expenses, we could avoid that inconsistency, and the winner would receive the award whether or not s/he is coming to the ASAs. Standardizing it would also simplify the process a bit, because the winner would not have to mail in receipts afterwards to establish the travel costs. There are disadvantages, however: the winners who live far from the ASA city will have less of their travel expenses covered than those who live close; we cannot easily adjust the award in light of budget changes; and fewer winners may be present at the business meeting to receive the award. After discussion, the council agreed to revise the committee responsibility description to remove reference to travel expenses and set the award at \$500.

3. Recent Contribution Award

Amy Kroska asked Council to consider clarifying whether authors of a paper must be Section members in order for the paper to receive the Section’s Outstanding Contribution Award. Amy proposed that the first author should be member of section and that this should be stated in the award description. After discussion, Council agreed. Amy will make this change to the award description.

4. Committee Responsibility Descriptions

Amy Kroska has reviewed the committee descriptions on the section website and found many of them to be out of date. She committed to revising these descriptions with the assistance of the chair of each committee.

Budget report: Jody Clay-Warner delivered budget report

Meeting adjourned at 2:10

State of the Section Budget

The section stayed within its budget. The tables below report our 2017 expenditures and income.

Expenditures			
Annual Meeting	Amount	Code	Notes
Reception	\$1,581.12	37300	off-site (Old Dublin Pub)
Other Meeting Expenses	\$305.25	37310	council lunch (Restaurant Baton Rouge)
Misc	\$192.80	37320	grad student mixer (Le Mal Necessaire)
Other		37370	
Total	\$2,079.17	n/a	
Awards			
Awards	Amount	Code	Notes
Student Awards	\$500.00	37360	to Fabiana Silva
Award Plaques	\$170.95	37360	4 engraved plaques
Misc		37360	
Other		37360	
Total	\$670.95	n/a	
Communications			
Communications	Amount	Code	Notes
Website	\$127.95	37330	2 x \$49 to Weebly + \$29.95 domain registration
Misc		37370	
Other		37370	
Total	\$127.95	n/a	
Miscellaneous			
Miscellaneous	Amount	Code	Notes
Membership		37370	
Misc		37370	
Other		37370	
Total	\$0.00	n/a	
Summary			
Summary	Amount	Notes	
Total Expenditures	\$2,878.07		
Current Year's Income	\$2,685.00		
Carryover Balance	\$7,666.00	From Net Assets, Beginning Balance in Q1	
End of Year Balance	\$7,472.93		

Income			
	Source	Amount	Calculated
	Section Allocation	\$2,220.00	
Description	Fill this in using the "Section Budget Allocation" from the "Year to Date" Column		
	Levied Dues	\$465.00	Special
Description	Fill this in using the "Dues Income" from the "Year to Date" Column. Your section may not collect excess dues. Dues income accrues on a monthly basis, so this number will change over time.		
	Contributions	\$0.00	n/a
Description			
	Royalties	\$0.00	n/a
Description			
	Outside Contributions	\$0.00	n/a
Description			
	Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	n/a
Description			
	Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	n/a
Description			
	Total	\$2,685.00	n/a

Operating Budget for 2018

Below is the operating budget for 2017-18 that was approved by Council

Budgeted Expenditures			
Annual Meeting	Amount	Code	Notes
Reception	\$1,600.00	37300	off-site reception (TBD)
Other Meeting Expenses	\$300.00	37310	council meeting (TBD)
Misc	\$250.00	37320	grad student mixer (TBD)
Other		37370	
Total	\$2,150.00	n/a	
Awards	Amount	Code	Notes
Student Awards	\$500.00	37360	for winner of grad student paper award
Award Plaques	\$175.00	37360	
Misc		37360	
Other		37360	
Total	\$675.00	n/a	
Communications	Amount	Code	Notes
Website	\$130.00	37330	
Misc		37370	
Other		37370	
Total	\$130.00	n/a	
Miscellaneous	Amount	Code	Notes
Membership		37370	
Misc		37370	
Other		37370	
Total	\$0.00	n/a	
Summary	Amount	Notes	
Budgeted Expenditures	\$2,955.00		
Estimated Income	\$2,942.00		
Carryover Balance	\$7,472.93	Brought over from current year's report	
Est. End of Year Balance	\$7,459.93		

Estimated Income					
Source		Amount	Calculated		
Section Allocation		\$2,220.00	(Members*2)+A		610
Description	"A" is determined by the overall membership size: Sections with fewer than 200 members receive a base allocation of \$500. Sections with less than 300 members but more than 200 members receive a base allocation of: (# of section members minus 100) multiplied by \$5. Sections with more than 300 members receive a base allocation of \$1,000. In addition the section receives two dollars from dues of each member. To calculate this amount enter your section's membership in the shaded box on the left. See your monthly membership report update for these numbers.				
Levied Dues		\$722.00	Special	361	225
Description	Any dues raised by the sections in excess of the base rate go directly to the section's coffers. The base rate is \$10 for regular members, \$5 for students and \$10 for associate (low income) members. Subscription Fees for Section Journals are not added here. To calculate this, add regular members to the light shaded box, student members to the middle shaded box, and low income members to the dark shaded box on the left hand side. See your monthly membership report update for these numbers.				
Contributions			n/a		
Description	These are funds raised from members.				
Royalties			n/a		
Description	Royalties donated by members or generated through other activities.				
Outside Contributions			n/a		
Description	Funds donated from individuals/entities outside the section.				
Miscellaneous Income			n/a		
Description	Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description				
Miscellaneous Income			n/a		
Description	Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description				
Total		\$2,942.00	n/a		

The Previous Year

Overview

The section functioned smoothly this year. As discussed below, we continued to disseminate information using the list-serv, the two newsletters, and our website, and we concluded the membership year at a size similar to that of last year (610). Our five sessions at the ASA Meeting were also well attended. As usual, one of our sessions was reserved for the Cooley-Mead Address and the business meeting, and a second was reserved for the roundtables, which we share with the Emotions Section. The final three sessions were traditional open sessions that focused on social psychological approaches to understanding different forms of inequality: gender inequality (organized by Sarah Thébaud), health disparities (organized by Stefanie Mollborn), and racial and ethnic inequality (organized by Ellis Monk). In addition, our off-site reception at the ASA meeting, which we jointly sponsored with the Emotions and the Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidary Sections, was well attended as was the Graduate Student Advisory Committee's Graduate Student Mixer.

We also developed a new committee this year: the Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee. The council was so pleased with the early success of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee's mentorship program that it proposed developing a similar program for junior faculty; therefore, I created a new committee charged with developing such a program. The committee used a survey, similar to the one the Graduate Student Advisory Committee developed, to gather information on research interests and mentorship needs and then used that information to create mentor-mentee matches. As noted in the council and business meeting minutes, the committee made 11 matches and felt that the process worked smoothly.

We also developed a clearer plan for a committee that is normally inactive: the Professional and External Affairs Committee. Last fall, I asked the committee to consider writing a column and/or announcements focused on topics related to its mission: to monitor professional, political, federal funding, and federal regulatory developments and to foster inter- and intra-disciplinary collaboration relevant to social psychologists. With that plan in mind, I also asked two people with extensive external grant experience to join the committee. The committee took on the challenge and contacted Lisa Troyer, the Program Manager in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Program of the Army Research Office and the Acting Director of the Minerva Research Initiative in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, for information about Department of Defense grants. Lisa worked with the committee and created a highly instructive newsletter column focused on grant opportunities and tips. The committee plans to make this column a recurring feature in our newsletter.

Recruiting and Retention Efforts

The Membership Committee and the Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) were active in recruiting and retaining members. In the early fall and again in the late summer, I worked with GSAC to create a list of graduate students who were interested in joining the section. I then asked section members to sponsor these students using the sponsorship portal provided by the ASA. In late fall, the Membership Committee and GSAC put together a list of section membership benefits for graduate students, and we included this list in both the winter

and the summer newsletters. In the spring, the Membership Committee also contacted non-renewers, asking them to re-join the section, and throughout the year, the committee promoted the benefits of section membership through our Facebook and Twitter pages. At the time of ASA meetings, our membership was at 580, just below our target 600 mark. Therefore, in September, Matt Hunt, the new chair, and the newly appointed Membership Committee did additional outreach by again urging members to sponsor graduate students in their own programs and by again emailing the remaining non-renewers. All of these efforts were successful, given that, on September 30, our membership was at a size similar to previous years (610), allowing us to retain the usual five sessions at the ASA meeting.

Communications Strategy

I sent announcements to the section membership every 2-4 weeks through our list-serv. Our website manager and newsletter editor, Jennifer McLeer, compiled these and posted some of them on our section website (<http://www.socialpsychologyasasection.com/>). We also sent section members a newsletter twice a year (in December and July). The newsletters includes section news (e.g., award calls) and recurring columns (e.g., stories about each award winner). Our section website also serves as a mechanism of communication. It includes current information (newsletters, current section committees, award calls, and many of our list-serv announcements) as well as an archive of past newsletters, annual reports, and past award winners and council members.

The Coming Year

Elections and Nominations

Last year, the Nominations Committee included André Christie-Mizell (chair), Elizabeth Culatta (graduate student member), Will Kalkhoff, David Melamed, David Schaefer, and Lisa Slattery Walker. I asked these people to serve on the committee, and the council approved the appointments. The committee nominated Gretchen Peterson (University of Memphis) and Brent Simpson (University of South Carolina) for the chair position and Celeste Campos-Castillo (University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee), D’Lane Compton (University of New Orleans), Mamadi Corra (East Carolina University), and Joseph Dippong (University of North Carolina – Charlotte) for council positions. Brent Simpson, Celeste Campos-Castillo, and D’Lane Compton won the election.

This year, the Nominations Committee will include Dave Melamed (chair), Long Doan, Linda Francis, Jennifer Hayward (graduate student member), and Jill Kiecolt. The committee was created in the same fashion: the new chair, Matt Hunt, appointed the members and the council approved his appointments.

Plans for the Coming Year

Matt Hunt, the new chair, is in the process of developing the topics for the 2018 meeting. We do not have any new projects planned for the coming year, but we will continue to develop the newly created Junior Faculty Mentorship Committee and foster a more active Professional and External Affairs Committee.

The Association and the Executive Office

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the ASA Council and Committee on Sections?

During our business meeting, many members complained about the ASA decision to disable the gift membership site on July 1. We understand the principle behind this decision (to ensure that graduate student members are given more of the section benefits), but we also feel that we should have the opportunity to sponsor a student or colleague at any point throughout the year. Thus, we hope that the ASA will discontinue its policy of disabling the site between July 1 and October 15.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to ASA Staff?

Both Matt Hunt, the incoming chair, and I encountered problems getting information from ASA after the departure of the governance coordinator in late June and before his replacement started in late September, so it would be ideal to have a better transition plan in place for future employee transitions.