



## Actions of the AASLH Council

AASLH's Council met on Sunday, **February 26, 2017**, at President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with AAM's Museum Advocacy Day. AASLH Chair Katherine Kane led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Discussed the plans for the 2017 Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, the theme of which will be "I AM History." Program Chair Dina Bailey noted that the Program Committee and staff integrated AASLH's strategic goals into the vetting process for the record number of proposals.
2. Considered a draft of a policy for taking advocacy actions and appointed an Advocacy Task Force to finalize the document for the June 2017 Council meeting.
3. Heard a report from President & CEO John Dichtl on AASLH's advocacy collaborations with the National Coalition for History and the History Relevance Campaign (HRC). The latter organized a dinner meeting the following evening (February 27) for 50 Museum Advocacy Day participants interested in receiving an update on HRC's activities.
4. Heard a report from John Dichtl about progress on the new Strategic Plan and approved creation of a new staff position to help coordinate external relations and partnerships. The new staff member's key responsibilities will be to help with the History Relevance Campaign, the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force, the State Historical Administrators Meeting, and the National Coalition for History.
5. Discussed the work of the Leadership Nominating Committee, the Governance Committee, the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, and the Creativity & Experimentation Task Force.
6. Approved the Awards Committee's revisions to clarify and add to the criteria for the Award of Distinction, in part to bring the criteria in alignment with AASLH's strategic goals, and thanked the committee for its hard work.
7. Approved the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee's recommendation to change the AASLH Statement of Professional Standards and Ethics by adding the phrase, "disability, and gender identity" to the section "Human Resources"; it now reads "Institutions shall not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, creed, age, sex, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity." Council also directed the committee to consider an overall update of the standards and ethics document.
8. Discussed the report from the Joint AASLH-AHA-NCPH-OAH Task Force on Public History Education and Employment titled, "What Do Public History Employers Want?"
9. Voted to accept the Independent Auditors' Report for Years Ended June 30, 2016 and 2015. The report was prepared by Edmondson, Betzler & Dame, PLLC and accepted and referred by the AASLH Audit Committee in January 2017. The auditors did not identify any deficiencies in internal control

that they considered to be material weaknesses.

10. Approved revisions to the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual which staff recommended to match the changes that Council approved last year in the Employee Handbook.
11. Approved staff's proposal to spend the remainder of funds set aside last year for the office move on overhauling the AASLH website.
12. Heard the report from Treasurer Norman Burns on the state of AASLH's finances, which is strong. Burns and Dichtl noted that there was a healthy net operating surplus at the six-month mark, December 31, of the fiscal year, thanks to high attendance at the Detroit conference, and to the Visitors Count! program, the online continuing education program, and marketing efforts performing particularly well. At the end of 2016, the endowment stood at \$1,544,602, which means it is fully restored after the organization's financial troubles in 2011. The annual draw on the endowment into the operating budget is currently 4.75 percent and should be 4.5 percent in the next fiscal year.
13. Accepted by consent agenda the Finance Committee Minutes (2/3/2017), Investment Committee Minutes (1/31/2017), the Report on Investments (12/31/2016), Quarterly Financial Dashboard (12/31/2016), Balance Sheet (12/31/2016), and General Ledger/Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (12/31/2016).