



Actions of the AASLH Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24, 2018, at Conner Prairie in Fishers, Indiana. AASLH Chair Katherine Kane led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes from the February 25, 2018, Council Meeting in Washington, D.C.
2. Approved establishment of an email address “council@aaslh.org” for members to use to reach AASLH Council. Messages will go automatically to the president & CEO as well as the Secretary of Council, who will share them with Council on a periodic basis.
3. Accepted the Finance Committee minutes (5/23/2018) and the Investment Committee minutes (5/22/2018), and discussed the 3/31/2018 Quarterly Dashboard, Statement of Financial Position, and Report on Investments.
4. Heard the report from Treasurer Norman Burns and President & CEO John Dichtl on finances, investments, and the forecast for finishing the current fiscal year. The predicted surplus will be substantially more than the budgeted amount of \$27,000. Therefore, the budgeted annual draw on the endowment, 4.5% in FY2018, will be left in the investment accounts. Higher than expected net income on the Austin annual meeting, turnover in staff, sale of publication rights on *Nomenclature*, delay of spending on another publishing project, reduction in *History News* expenses, and a highly successful spring campaign (\$35,000 raised in four months) for the Annual Fund are reasons for the larger surplus.
5. Reviewed and approved the proposed FY2019 budget, with revenue of \$1,733,299 and expenses of \$1,708,825. The FY2019 budget increases spending on staff, the website, and the continuing education and professional development program in particular, maintains a 4.5% draw on the endowment, and projects a \$24,000 surplus.
6. Discussed the steps taken by staff, committees, and Council to make the 2018 and future annual meetings more inclusive and more connected to the local community. Agreed that the staff should make visible the steps taken in this regard for the meeting in Kansas City.
7. Approved the plan, in the spirit of improving transparency, to post additional financial information on the new AASLH website once it is launched this summer. Key documents will include current and past years’ “Actions of Council,” audited financial reports, and graphs showing main categories of revenues vs. expenses.
8. Heard a detailed report from John Dichtl about progress made in the current strategic plan, opportunities on the horizon, and areas of focus for the next phases of strategic planning. Council created a task force to work with him on outlining a fresh strategic planning process

beginning this summer and fall. Task force includes Norman Burns, Marianne Carpenter, Lisa Eriksen, Leigh Grinstead, Trina Nelson Thomas, and Scott Wands.

9. Approved the Governance Committee minutes (5/1/2018), its plan to interview annually the Council members whose terms end, and the committee's two-phase plan to review and update the AASLH Bylaws. Council created a task force to do this, which includes Emeritus Council members Doug Evelyn, James Gardner, and Anne McCudden, in addition to Council members Norman Burns, Kim Fortney, and Stacy Klingler. Phase one of updates to bylaws will go before the Meeting of the Membership at the Kansas City meeting.
10. Approved the preliminary charter for a Diversity & Inclusion Committee.
11. Discussed and endorsed the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force's recommendation that Council participate in diversity and inclusion training and decided to dedicate an upcoming meeting to such training. Members of Council also will attend the task force's session at the 2018 Annual Meeting on implicit bias.
12. Discussed the report by Council task force Bill Adair, Dina Bailey, Erin Carlson Mast, and Kyle McKoy on the History Leadership Institute, which endorses the program's new strategic priorities under its director Max van Balgooy and the HLI Advisory Board. Some of the priorities are advancing the curriculum; increasing the diversity of applicant pool, facilitators, and partner institutions; developing the think-tank-like potential of HLI; and engaging alumni.
13. Voted to support the initiative of the 250th Anniversary Task Force and its five stated goals, as well as their continued development. The goals, to be shared and discussed with organizations across the history community, are to emphasize the relevance of history to every American, every day; tell a diverse and inclusive story about the American past; increase public funding for history; highlight the importance of history education; and, enhance public engagement with history collections.
14. Generated and discussed a list of issues, questions, challenges, and opportunities facing the history and museum communities.
15. In response to a question from the AASLH National Leadership Awards Committee, encouraged that group to continue to interpret its charge broadly and to look in award submissions for a local connection to be brought to the foreground even if the topic is a national one.
16. Formed a task force to examine the processes surrounding and the applicant pool for the AASLH Award of Distinction and to bring back recommendations to Council. Task force includes Kyle McKoy and Scott Wands, and Awards Committee Chair Nick Hoffman.
17. Tabled a motion to approve the newly revised Employee Handbook for the AASLH staff until a working group of Council and staff can increase access to paid leave for FMLA-type needs.
18. Set dates for the June 2019 Council meeting to be June 22-23 (or 29-30) in Sarasota, Florida or Tacoma, Washington.