



## Actions of the AASLH Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Sunday, **February 25, 2018**, at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. AASLH Chair Katherine Kane led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Thanked Sarah Jencks, Director of Education and Interpretation at Ford's Theatre, for hosting the Council's meeting and providing a tour of the site and an overview of its programs.
2. Approved the Minutes from the September 6, 2017, Council Meeting in Austin, Texas, and the January 10, 2018 Executive Committee conference call.
3. Discussed the staff request for a formal policy that governs the posting of internships in the AASLH online Career Center, one that considers the interests of emerging history professionals and students, history institutions of all sizes, and the history field at large. Agreed to consider a draft policy at the next meeting in June.
4. Decided on a policy that all jobs posted on the AASLH Career Center must indicate an intended salary or salary range.
5. In light of the nation-wide reckoning with the pervasiveness of sexual harassment, discussed the scope of AASLH's current policy in its Employee Handbook. Agreed to consider as a possible model or starting point for AASLH the [draft recommendations](#) that a special committee of the American Historical Association is preparing for that organization's council's review this summer. Also endorsed the idea of an AASLH Technical Leaflet on the subject.
6. Discussed the importance of the American Alliance of Museums "Museums Advocacy Day" (MAD), an event that for ten years has brought together hundreds of people to share with Members of Congress how essential museums are in America. (The following day, during the opening remarks of MAD, AASLH received an award in recognition of its ten years of supporting MAD.)
7. Heard a report on collaborative advocacy efforts between AASLH and the National Coalition for History.
8. Heard a report on the convening organized by the American Alliance of Museums, "Don't Raid the Cookie Jar: Creating Early Interventions to Prevent Deaccessioning Crises," last December in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the AASLH Professional

Standards and Ethics Committee's plans for a related session at the AASLH Annual Meeting in Kansas City.

9. Voted to approve Governance Committee minutes from March 14, May 21, and June 26, 2017, and January 23, 2018.
10. Voted to approve a new, streamlined version of the AASLH Council Handbook, which describes the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of Council members and officers.
11. Heard the report from the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force about its work and agreed that the task force should be made a standing committee of AASLH. Directed the task force to draft an official description of such a committee and to offer a proposal for bylaws revision by April 15 to the Governance Committee for Council to consider at its June meeting.
12. Supported a proposal from the Women's History Affinity Group Committee for the committee to "create a value statement to disseminate to the field that will offer best practices on how to commemorate the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in an effort to reframe, broaden, and create a more authentic narrative." Discussed how this initiative might affect AASLH's approach to other anniversaries and commemorations in the future.
13. Discussed five goals for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States that the AASLH Task Force on the 250<sup>th</sup> has drafted and begun to share with other organizations and coalitions. The goals, as they stand now, are as follows: emphasize history's relevance to every American, every day; tell a diverse and inclusive story about the American past; prepare history museums collections for the next century; increase emphasis on the importance of history education; and increase public funding for history.
14. Voted to accept the Independent Auditors' Report for Years Ended June 30, 2017 and 2016. 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.
15. Voted to accept the minutes from the January 30, 2018, Audit Committee meeting.
16. Accepted the Treasurer's Report on the first half of Fiscal Year 2018, which ends on June 30, 2018, and voted to approve the Quarterly Financial Dashboard, the Report on Investments, and the minutes of the following meetings: Investment Committee, on November 14, 2017, and on February 6, 2018; Finance Committee on November 1, 2017, and February 1, 2018.

17. Voted to accept revisions to the Financial Policies and Procedures Handbook which were necessitated by outsourcing AASLH staff accounting duties to KraftCPAs, PLLC.
18. Heard the staff report on the spring Annual Fund campaign which will involve a pool of matching funds from two to three special donors.
19. Discussed the strategic overview of programs and operations presented by President and CEO John Dichtl, which includes a number of grant-funded initiatives and collaborative projects with other organizations. Agreed to talk at the June Council meeting about plans for an endowment campaign.
20. Voted to move forward with the staff recommendation to restructure the institutional membership dues and benefits. A new plan will be in place beginning July 1, 2018.
21. Discussed proposed changes to the Seminar for Historical Administration that staff and the new SHA Director Max van Balgooy will be submitting to the SHA Partner organizations in March. Voted to approve adopting SHA as a permanent program of AASLH, pending approval by the [SHA Partners](#).
22. Heard a report on the StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) Enhancement initiative which involves bringing thirty reviewers to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in April 2018 to assess the program on broad topic areas, from diversity and inclusion to environmental sustainability, and from digital collections to fundraising.