

By-Laws: Section on Community and Urban Sociology

The goals of the Section on Community and Urban Sociology are to encourage theory and empirical research relating to community and to urban settlements and to encourage the interchange of ideas through organized meetings and conferences, newsletters, publications and other means deemed appropriate by the Council of the Section. The term community is understood to refer to organized social relations in a territorial context.

Officers of the Section: The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Chair shall serve for two years. The Chair-Elect shall serve for two years, after which he/she will assume the Chair. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for a period of three years. There shall be a Council consisting of six members, each serving for three years, with two Council seats being vacated each year. [In the first election of the Council the terms of office, whether for one, two or three years, shall be designated by the Chair.] The Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as members of the Council during the two years following the ends of their terms as officers. No member can hold two elective offices simultaneously. If an elected officer is elected to another office, his/her prior office shall be declared vacant. If an elected office is vacated before the term is completed, it shall be filled through appointment by the Chair for the unexpired term, but this appointment must be confirmed by the Council at its next meeting. A Newsletter Editor will be appointed by the Council for a term of three years. The Editor will serve as an ex-officio member of the Council.

Terms of office shall begin and end at the Annual Business Meeting of the Section during the Meetings of the American Sociological Association.

Powers of the Officers: The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section. The Council shall make decisions by majority rule of its attending members. Any action of the Section, including changes of the by-laws, may be brought to the vote of the Section by the Council, by a petition of 10 percent of the members of the Section or by twenty-five members of the Section, whichever is less.

Elections and Voting: The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to their schedule. [The exception for this shall be the first election, which shall be carried out concomitantly with the formation of the Section.]

Committees: There shall be a Committee on Nominations of at least three members appointed each year by the Council when it convenes at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. One member of the Committee on Nominations shall be designated by the Council as Chair of that Committee, and the Chair each year shall be a member (but not the Chair) of the Committee on Nominations in the following year. At least two candidates will be presented for each office by the Committee on Nominations.

There shall be a Committee, appointed by the Council, to select the recipient of the Robert & Helen Lynd Award Distinguished Service Award. The award is given annually in recognition of the recipient's lifetime contributions to research in community/urban sociology.

There shall be a Committee, appointed by the Council, to select the recipient of the Robert E. Park Distinguished Scholarship Award. The award is given annually to the outstanding research monograph in community/urban sociology published during the preceding two years.

Other committees shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council.

Activities: There shall be one business meeting and at least one substantive meeting to be held for members of the Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Membership: The membership of the Section is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of his/her membership, who has expressed an interest in the community. Elected officers and committee members shall be drawn from the members of the American Sociological Association who have voting privileges. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls.

Dues: Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.

Amendment of By-Laws: By-laws may be amended by a vote of the membership in a mail ballot. To pass, an amendment must be approved by a plurality of those voting.