



Actions of the AASLH Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23, 2019, at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida. AASLH Chair John Fleming led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes from the February 24, 2019, Council Meeting in Washington, D.C. and accepted the Executive Committee minutes from May 17, 2019.
2. Voted to confirm the Chair's appointment of Melissa Bingmann, University of West Virginia, to complete Lisa Eriksen's term on Council.
3. Accepted the Finance Committee minutes from February 6 and June 6, 2019, and the Investment Committee minutes from February 1 and May 21, 2019, and discussed the March 31, 2019 Quarterly Dashboard, Statement of Financial Position, and Report on Investments.
4. Heard the report from President & CEO John Dichtl on third quarter finances and investments, and the forecast for finishing the current fiscal year (June 30). The 4.5 percent draw on the endowment was taken in May. Revenue from membership was up significantly, net revenue from the Annual Meeting in Kansas City was slightly better than expected, and revenue from the continuing education program was less than budgeted due to a focus on structural improvements over the past year.
5. Reviewed and approved the proposed FY2020 budget (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), with revenue of \$1,977,488 and expenses of \$1,958,385. The FY2020 budget increases spending on staff, the annual meeting, professional development, and membership acquisition and fundraising. The budget includes a draw on the endowment of 4.25 percent and projects a \$19,103 surplus. Council agreed to consider a revised budget in the late fall once the office has a better idea of the effects of possible grant proposals, staffing needs, and new projects outlined in the still-evolving strategic plan framework.
6. Voted on nominations for the Award of Distinction brought forward and recommended by the Awards Committee.
7. Heard a report from Council member Kim Fortney, the chair of the Governance Committee, who explained a lengthy package of changes to the organization's governing documents, which are meant to ensure the association is compliance with the District of Columbia Nonprofit Code and to have the documents reflect the organization as it operates today. Council voted to approve, and submit to the membership for a final vote, the revised Articles of Incorporation and the revised Bylaws, and to eliminate the Constitution, since it

is redundant with the revised Bylaws. The amended documents will be sent to the membership by August 1 and brought to the Meeting of the Membership at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia for final approval.

8. Addressed the question of how to build a more inclusive Council and AASLH organizational culture. Council member Richard Josey led two and a half hours of discussion that followed up on the Intercultural Development Inventory assessment work that Council members did individually and as a group at the last Council meeting. Building on the identified ideal behaviors of an inclusive Council, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee will be asked to conduct an organization-wide cultural assessment, from Council to committees to staff and programs.
9. Approved a preliminary proposal from Dichtl to jointly host with the National Council on Public History a special fellowship to promote the relevance of history and help both organizations reach a broader audience through the media.
10. Agreed that the AASLH U.S. 250th Anniversary Task Force should transition into becoming more of a coordinating committee involving other representatives organizations, institutions, and agencies.
11. Accepted the Climate Sustainability Task Force's report and directed the group to draft a charge for a Climate Sustainability Committee.
12. Decided to begin creating an endowment campaign advisory committee to be in place by time of the AASLH's 80th anniversary in December 2020.
13. Discussed the draft strategic plan framework provided by the Strategic Planning Task Force and staff and revised the proposed mission, vision, and values. The task force will present a new version at Council's next meeting.
14. Set date for the February 2020 Council meeting to be the Wednesday following Museum Advocacy Day and agreed that staff should explore the possibility of scheduling the June 2020 meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.