Committee on Public Policy 2011 Annual Report

Submitted by:
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1) Please list your Committee, Commission or Task Force Objectives and Responsibilities as stated in your group’s charge:

Objectives

The primary charge of the Committee on Public Policy is to enhance the participation of AAA entities and members in the area of public policy and the visibility of contributions by anthropologists.

Responsibilities

- To encourage sections and interest groups to develop policy-related activities that focus on particular areas of interest to their members, such as by interacting with section leadership and visiting business meetings, without infringing on the autonomy of these units;
- To enhance communication and cooperation between sections, interest groups, other elected committees, task forces, the AAA Public Affairs Office, and other parts of the AAA on policy issues that cross-cut particular domains, thereby encouraging links among their individual efforts. A key mechanism for realizing this goal is working with sections, interest groups, task forces, other AAA committees, and the AAA staff in organizing events for the AAA Annual Meeting, such as policy forums, particularly those that highlight issues that cross-cut specific policy domains;
- To enhance the visibility of anthropological contributions to public policy to audiences outside the AAA, including by creating opportunities for AAA members to enter into policy debates as well as to bring policy makers to AAA annual meetings and other sites in which they can interact with anthropologists;
- To provide models for AAA members and units of effective participation in public policy, such as by placing examples of effective policy interventions on the COPP Web site and in contributions to Anthropology News and helping organize AAA sessions in which members reflect on their policy interventions and sponsor workshops and other events in which AAA members can gain relevant skills.

2) Please list your Group’s goals, activities and accomplishments/products for the designated Period in relation to the AAA’s long range plan:

Goal 1:
Continue work on CoPP Section Survey

Activity:
A major project of the Committee during 2010 was to begin surveying the AAA Sections to learn their interests and activities in the area of public policy. Representatives of nine sections sent responses to detailed questionnaires, including suggestions on how CoPP could facilitate their activities and further their interactions with other AAA sections on policy issues. These responses were discussed at length by CoPP members. In 2011, CoPP continued this project, conducting a second phase of the survey, attempting to broaden the number of range of sections included. The result was disappointing, with only one additional section responding.

Accomplishment/Product:
Earlier in 2011, the 2010 responses were posted on the Web (available at http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ppc/CoPP-Survey-of-Policy-Interests-and-Activities.cfm). This year's additional response is also uploaded to the CoPP website. At its annual meeting in November (at AAA/Montreal), the Committee’s members decided to use the existing responses to consolidate its work on facilitating collaboration among sections, rather than continue to try to increase the number of sections responding. The main follow-up on responses received will be in regard to soliciting policy forums and inno-vents for the 2012 annual meetings and beyond.

Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:
NA

Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
8

Goal 2:
Assist AAA's Task Force for Comprehensive Ethics Review to review our code of ethics
Activity:
In March, CoPP reviewed and discussed the principles put forth by the task force and submitted written comments.

Accomplishment/Product:
While CoPP found the revised principles to be admirably succinct and well-formulated, three issues were highlighted for further consideration. (1) The principles might not speak as well to practitioners as they will to academic anthropologists. (2) The message regarding the unintended consequences of anthropological research needs strengthening. (3) Mechanisms to ensure that these principles are taken up in tandem with the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) dialog now being fostered by agencies such as the NSF and NIH might be put into place. This might be done in a way that actively involves student members of the AAA so that dialogues about ethics are part of their earliest training.

Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:
NA

Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
4, 8

Goal 3:
Establishing a New “Anthropology in Public Policy Award”

Activity:
CoPP continued work begun in late 2009 and early 2010 to establish the AAA Anthropology in Public Policy award. The award is designed to honor anthropologists whose work has had a significant, positive influence upon the course of government decision-making and public policy activities. Public policy is broadly defined to include any level of government, from local to transnational, and to address the full range of contemporary human problems. The award will be conferred every other year in rotation with the Solon T. Kimball award. We also worked to establish the award draft proposal, compile supporting documentation, and garner Executive Board support. In early 2011, we submitted our proposal and requested the board’s consideration. After the award was approved, CoPP took time to delineate the kinds of leg-work that will need to be undertaken if we are to gather an excellent pool of nominees by 2013. We began by publicizing the award’s creation online (http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ppc/AIPP-award.cfm) and in Anthropology News (see http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2011/09/01/aaa-executive-board-actions-december-2010-through-july-2011/).

Accomplishment/Product:
In March, 2011, the board moved to create the award. Starting in 2013, the award will be conferred every other year (see above). Winners will be invited to give a lecture at the AAA annual meeting where their award will be announced and they will receive $500 and a commemorative plaque. Further information is available at: http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ppc/AIPP-award.cfm.

Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:
NA

Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
2, 7, and 8

Goal 4:
Review Public Policy Sessions for Annual Meeting

Activity:
CoPP solicited and reviewed submissions for the public policy forums held during the course of the annual meeting. We also coached some proposers regarding the kinds of forums desired and expected.

Accomplishment/Product:
This year, there were four policy-related events at the meetings: (1) Immense New Challenges to the Future of Food: Reports from the AAA Task Force on the World Food Problems Solomon H. Katz, Ellen Messer, Barrett P. Brenton, Lois M. Stanford, Craig A. Hadley and Joan P. Mencher (2) The Global Crisis of Statelessness and Threats to Birthright Citizenship Samuel Martinez, Sebastian Kohn, Josiah Heyman, Donald Kerwin Jr., Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Maureen Lynch and Denise Otis (3) Anthropological Research with "Terrorist" Groups: Responding to the Criminalization of Research Robert A. Rubinstein, Lori A. Allen, Daniel J. Hoffman, David H. Price, Emily Berman and Charles Dambach (4) Legacies of the Past, Promises of the Future: Capacity Building as a Practice of Contemporary Development, Intervention and Governance Rachel Douglas-Jones, Justin R. Shaffner, Alberto Corsin Jimenez and Susan A. Wright
Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:
NA

Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
7 & 8

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**Goal 5:**
Contribute AN "Views on Policy" columns

**Activity:**
CoPP actively solicits and edits contributions regarding policy for the "Views on Policy" column.

**Accomplishment/Product:**
This year, CoPP had four columns published. Via these columns, CoPP brought to the attention of AAA members and other AN readers the work of professionals from a variety of fields who have worked on-the-ground in the policy arena, influencing both policy and other practitioners.

Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:
NA

Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
1 & 2

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3) Provide any additions or proposed changes to goals, activities, products or outcomes for the designated period:

**Goals:**
NA

**Proposed Changes:**
NA

**Activities:**
NA

**Proposed Changes:**
NA

**Products/Outcomes:**
NA

**Proposed Changes:**
NA

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4) Provide plans for 2012 in relation to existing or new goals/activities and relationship to the Objective in the Committee's
Committee/Commission Objective 1:
Work to establish the Anthropology in Public Policy award will continue in 2012. CoPP will need to attract further publicity for the award and corral support needed to ensure ample, relevant nominations, including announcements in Anthropology News, the website, and across social media networks. In regard to the survey, the main follow-up on responses received will be in regard to soliciting policy forums and inno-vents for the 2012 annual meetings and beyond. Also again this year, as it does every year, CoPP will solicit and review submissions for the public policy forums held during the course of the annual meeting. This year we hope to pro-actively leverage section enthusiasm regarding themes related to health and well-being, family/kinship, im/migration, and environmental sustainability and we will launch special outreach efforts in January including via communication with Section leaders and AN's 'Views on Policy' column.

LRP Objective 1:
1,2,7,8

New Goal and or Activity 1:
NA

5) List financial and other resources in hand to complete the proposed work of the Committee, Commission or Task force for the coming year and explain any additional resources. Please list separately:

a. Resources in hand or being sought independent of the AAA:
   NA

b. Requests for additional resources from the AAA. Specify clearly which specific goals/activities etc. require additional resources from each source:
   NA

6) Have there been or do you propose any changes to the Objective or the Responsibilities of your Committee, Commission or Task Force If so, what are they and what is the rationale for them:

   Current Objective 1:
   NA

   Responsibility:
   NA

   Proposed Change:
   NA

   Rational for Change:
   NA

7) Are there issues you would like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board related to the work of your committee commission or task force?
   NA