American Anthropological Association

Committee Annual Report

Committee on Labor Relations

Submitted By:
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Question 1

Please report on the activities your group undertook during the year. Indicate how these activities correspond to the group’s charge (objectives and responsibilities, provided above). If there has been any shortfall in accomplishing those objectives, please explain.

This year we expanded our charge to include a focus on labor issues in the academy. In this capacity, we worked to write a resolution on contingent and part-time faculty. This resolution was passed at the 2013 AAA Business Meeting (no quorum) and subsequently passed by the EB at their November meeting. It will be voted on by the membership in 2014.

To prepare the resolution, we did research on the issue of contingent labor among our members; we contacted other professional organizations working on this issue; we organized a special session at the Chicago meeting; and we communicated to the membership via AN columns.

Per our new charge, we added two appointed committee members.

We also began a labor issues listserv.

Question 2

Please indicate your group’s plans for activities in the coming year. If they represent significant modification or elaboration of the stated objectives and responsibilities, please explain.

We will work with the EB to determine the best next steps to promote fair labor standards for contingent faculty.

We will continue to communicate with members via the listserv and AN columns.

We will continue to work with the EB to best implement the AAA’s commitment to fair labor standards in the businesses we contract for our annual meetings.

We plan to further develop our relationships with other professional organizations working on academic labor issues.

We plan two panels at 2014 meetings on academic labor, including one on distance learning. We plan to discuss possible future initiatives with regard to labor issues in distance learning activities.

Question 3

This question refers to any specific tasks or activities in the current Strategic Implementation Plan. They are briefly reported separately so that they can be reviewed by the appropriate staff. If your unit was not assigned any activities in the current SIP, please skip Part II.

Please briefly report on how you have fulfilled, or plan to fulfill, those specific tasks or activities, whether new or ongoing, that appear in the current Strategic Implementation Plan. Please refer to each one by their item number.

NA

Question 4

Please comment on any issues or recommendations you would like to bring to the special attention of the Executive Board. These might be problems in fulfilling group objectives and responsibilities or in fulfilling tasks listed in the SIP, the need for additional resources, recommended changes to the group charge (objectives, responsibilities, products/outcomes), and recommended changes to the committee structure or membership. Any problems or recommendations listed here will be discussed by the Association Operations Committee and then considered at the EB meeting for possible action.

It would seem that we are continuing to experience problems with regard to the AAAs commitment to geographic diversity and moderating costs of meetings, on the one hand, and its commitment to fair labor practices and a preference for union venues, on the other. Perhaps a planned meeting in 2014 between key members of AAA, EB, and CLR would be helpful.

Question 5

Please identify one or more of the 12 objectives of the AAA Long Range Plan (LRP) that your group’s activities have fulfilled over the last five years. In many cases those objectives are identified in the various Strategic Implementation Plans. There is no need to provide specific details on individual activities; summary statements should suffice. The purpose of this question is to evaluate whether the group continues to meet stated Association objectives.
Our Resolution on Part-Time and Contingent Faculty fulfilled objective 2: "The AAA will foster the discussion and dissemination of research on social and policy issues in the society at large, and respond in a timely fashion when events call for the application of relevant anthropological knowledge, expertise, and interpretation."

Our special session on labor issues in Chicago fulfilled two dimensions of objective 7: "The AAA will organize the Annual Meeting to meet the following objectives: 7.2. To serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas; the dissemination of research, expertise, and interpretation within and across sub-disciplines, emerging scholarly communities, and thematic networks; and discussion and debate on key topical and theoretical issues. 7.3. To provide a venue for informal networking and interaction both within and across sections and interest groups, for all members at all stages of their careers."

**Question 6**

Please briefly discuss any projects or activities over the last five years that cannot be directly tied to LRP objectives or your committee’s charge but are of value to the Association. The purpose of this question is to assess how the group is adapting to the changing needs of the discipline and the Association, and whether the group charge or the LRP should be modified.

The AAA might consider including as an objective "the promotion of fair labor conditions for anthropologists working in academic and other settings." If this were the case, our resolution would have directly fulfilled that objective. The CLR (or a task force) could be more pointedly directed to explore this issue broadly.

**Question 7**

In reviewing the Annual Reports of the last five years, do you see continuing or emerging problems regarding the group’s ability to meet its responsibilities? Do you have recommendations to the Executive Board for changes or any reservations about re-authorization of the group with its current structure, composition, and charge?

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**Question 8**

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NA