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.

Last year, the Committee on Public Policy successfully conferred the first annual Anthropology in Public Policy Award (AiPP) to Dr. Nancy Scheper-Hughes from the University of California, Berkley. The Anthropology in Public Policy Award (AiPP) was established in 2012 by the Committee on Public Policy (COPP) to honor anthropologists whose work has had a significant, positive influence on the course of government decision-making and action. Dr. Scheper-Hughes’ body of work and research, especially in the area of organ trafficking, has shaped how governments and international bodies address the issues of illegal transplantation.

The PUBLIC POLICY ISSUE OF U.S. IMMIGRATION DETENTION AND DEPORTATION and AFTER CHÁVEZ?, respectively. The Committee also successfully, through the work of Susan Hyatt, produced columns for both the online and print versions of Anthropology News. Merrill Singer, a COPP member, produced the installation, "The Legacy of Anthropology's Engagement with Policy: A History in Pictures and Texts" on behalf of the committee.

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.

COPP is in the process of outlining a new nomination process for the AiPP award, and is also seeking to revamp marketing efforts for its promotion. The committee is especially interested in ensuring an executive session for winners for the award.

A separate effort is underway to investigate the viability of reviving the Congressional Fellows program. COPP plans to have a reunion of Congressional Fellows at the 2014 AAA annual meeting in Washington, DC.

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.

2.1 Committee on Public Policy

2.1.4 The CoPP will work with the Committee on World Anthropologies (CWA) to develop means of soliciting Public Policy award nominations for anthropologists based outside the United States or whose work has had an impact on public policy outside the United States.

COPP plans to fulfill this objective in 2014, in preparation for conferring the award in 2015.

2.2.4 AAA staff and the Committee on Public Policy will recommend to the EB by May 2014 a series of events designed to create opportunities for anthropologists to interact with policy makers in a variety of settings, including but not limited to events at the annual meeting, via the internet or social media, through face-to-face meetings and advocacy events, or through the creation of policy statements.

COPP plans to submit proposals for anthropologists to interface with policymakers at the 2014 annual meeting, and also has tentative plans to work with staff to conduct a series of meetings with Congressional staff during the course of the annual meeting.
2.2.5 The Committee will prepare an annual report to the EB (beginning Q1 2014), identifying key areas of public policy to which the Association should allocate resources.

COPP is willing to prepare such a report, but would like to delay the submission of the initial report until Q3 2014, to allow the committee additional time to identify key areas of policy to which AAA should devote resources.

2.2.6 The Committee on Public Policy will report to the EB by Q1 2014 the results of its assessment of the public policy-related-activities of other professional associations.

COPP is willing to conduct such an assessment, but would like to delay the submission of the assessment until Q3 2014, to allow the committee additional time to conduct such an assessment.

2.2.7 The Committee will report its recommendations for EB approval no later than May 2014 on the feasibility of plans for creating a national Anthropology Week designed to raise awareness of the relevance of anthropology to U.S. public policy.

This task/function is currently being handled by AAA staff, and a proposal was submitted to the Executive Director in Q4 2013. A detailed outline of proposed activities and events will be submitted to the EB in May 2014.

2.3.6 The Committee on Public Policy will report to the EB by November 2013 on the feasibility of creating a web-based directory of anthropologists engaged in particular policy arenas, including the resource requirements and potential external funding strategies.

This report will be provided to the EB by December 2014.

Part III

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.

The issue of annual meeting waivers has been discussed many times over the past several years, and has not been resolved. It is difficult for COPP to fulfill its mission to facilitate interactions between anthropologists and policymakers (of any level of importance) if said policymakers are required to register for the meeting. Reasonable accommodations should be made to allow policymakers and legislators to attend the meetings without them being hampered by onerous and rigid AAA registration requirements.

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.

Most of the objectives in the AAA long-range plan don’t directly mention public policy or public policy impacts, but 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) seems to come the closest, and COPP has, over the past five years provided opportunities for members to hold forums to discuss current (or emerging) public policy issues.

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 most direct example of such a project described above would be the AiPP award. It is of tremendous value to not only the discipline, but also to individual anthropologists.

**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?

Committee resources continue to be an issue, whether it is the question of providing waivers for annual meeting participation, or presenting poster/portrait sessions. Simply providing COPP with resources to partly reimburse members for meeting expenses is insufficient, especially given the scope of responsibilities in both the committee’s charge and in the SIP.

**Question 8**
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?

Obviously, these plans are still being developed, and committee agendas change from year to year, but a long-term strategy to revive the Congressional Fellows program is of great interest to COPP, and would greatly benefit the AAA as a whole. The committee has also discussed the importance of bringing the importance of anthropology and policy work to students and early career anthropologists and is interested in developing strategies to do so.