

AAAS Council Meeting, 1971

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The AAAS Council met in Philadelphia in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel. The morning session was called to order at 9 a.m. and concluded at noon; the afternoon session convened at 1:30 p.m. and adjourned at 4:40 p.m. President Mina Rees presided at both sessions. There were 225 members who attended the morning session and 185 in the afternoon.

A single report on the year's activities was presented to Council in written form by the chairman of the Board of Directors and the executive officer. It is reproduced for the membership at large on pages 800-803 of this issue of *Science*.

Elections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections reported that the Council had elected the following new officers and committee members in its annual balloting conducted between 10 November and 10 December:

President-Elect

Leonard M. Rieser, Vice President and Dean of the Faculty, Dartmouth College

Members of the Board of Directors

Ward H. Goodenough, Professor of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania

Daniel P. Moynihan, Professor of Education and Urban Politics, Harvard University

Members of the Committee on Council Affairs

Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr., Chancellor, University of California, Irvine

Garrett Hardin, Professor of Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara

Homer Newell, Jr., Associate Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Committee on Council Affairs

reported that the Council had elected three persons to the Committee on Nominations and Elections in the same balloting:

Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr., Chancellor, University of California, Irvine

Herman R. Branson, President, Lincoln University

Lora M. Shields, Professor and Head, Department of Biology, New Mexico Highlands University

Appointments

The Board of Directors reported the appointment of one person and the reappointment of two as section secretaries:

Section on Physics (B)

Rolf M. Sinclair, Program Director for Atomic, Molecular, and Plasma Physics, Physics Section, National Science Foundation

Section on Education (Q)

Phillip R. Fordyce, Dean, College of Education, Florida State University, Tallahassee

Section on Information and

Communication (T)

Scott Adams, Special Assistant to the Foreign Secretary, National Academy of Sciences

The President announced that Council would be informed by mail of members-at-large elected to section committees as soon as such elections were completed.

Governance

The major item of business before Council at this meeting was the proposed new constitution and bylaws (*AAAS Bulletin*, November 1971) prepared during some 14 months of intensive work by the Committee on Governance, a special joint committee of

the Board of Directors and the Committee on Council Affairs. The documents presented to Council constituted the eighth draft and were the result not only of the committee's thoughtful deliberation but of extremely helpful evaluative comment by members of the Association, the Council, the Committee on Council Affairs, and the Board of Directors. Draft 8 was presented to Council with the formal approval of the Committee on Council Affairs and the Board.

After a review by Dr. Leonard M. Rieser, chairman of the Committee on Governance, of an informal discussion session of Council on 27 December, attended by 97 members, and of modifications of Draft 8 prepared by the committee following that session, Council decided to act on the proposed constitution, article by article, in sequence.

In the course of its deliberations, proposals to change the name of the Association to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology and to extend its objectives to include furtherance of the work of engineers, improvement of the effectiveness of technology in the promotion of human welfare, and promotion of the public understanding of technology were defeated.

Council modified the article on administrative officers to provide for the election of section secretaries by the section committees, terminating the present procedure of appointment by the Board of Directors.

The article on membership of Council was modified to provide for representation from the affiliated societies through the section committees, and for at least two members from the state academies of science.

Action was taken to place the new constitution in effect when the necessary implementing bylaws are adopted by Council.

After article-by-article approval, the constitution was adopted by unanimous vote.

Attention then turned to the bylaws. Special concern focused upon the problem of the mechanism for the election of Council members and the role of sections in this process. After some discussion, it became clear that it was the Council's view that no action on the bylaws should be taken until the sectional system could be carefully studied. Accordingly, the Committee on Council Affairs was requested to prepare revised bylaws for consideration at the next regular meeting of Council.

cil, giving special attention to the structure and role of the sections in governance, the size of Council, the constitution of the Committee on Nominations, and the process of nomination by petition. The committee was instructed to mail a proposed set of by-laws for comment and straw vote at an appropriate time in advance of the 1972 Council meeting.

Resolutions

In the absence of Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Committee on Council Affairs, Dr. Merrill M. Flood reported that three resolutions had been presented to the committee for possible inclusion on the Council agenda and that one was being reported out. This, a statement on metric education, authored by John M. Flowers of the University of Southern Mississippi and revised with his approval by the committee, is as follows:

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce has recommended to the Congress of the United States "that early priority be given to educating every American schoolchild and the public at large to think in metric terms," and

Whereas the AAAS has requested the Federal Government to implement a voluntary national program of conversion, and

Whereas the AAAS has urged its members to use the metric system (SI) in their published work,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the AAAS and its individual members lend their influence to promote an active program for the teaching of the metric system (SI) as the primary system of measurement at all levels of education.

Dr. Flood then reported that the Committee, acting within the prerogatives of its charge, had responded directly to a proposal from Dr. Ward Pigman of New York Medical College to create an Ad Hoc Committee on Support of Scientific Research. The membership of the new committee is given on page 808 of this issue of *Science*. Its role will be to study needs and trends in the support of scientific research from all sources and to make recommendations to Council for action.

New Business

Following Dr. Flood's report, President Rees invited the introduction of items of new business. Affirmative ac-

tion was taken on the following three motions.

Alleged mistreatment of academics in Mexico. Dr. Dudley Shapere of the University of Chicago, acting on behalf of the American Philosophical Association and the Philosophy of Science Association, presented the following statement and motion:

In September 1968 two prominent Mexican philosophers of science, Eli de Gortari and Nicolas Molina Flores, were arrested by policemen who entered their houses by force, without a formal warrant for arrest. Subsequently they were held without trial for over two years; it is not clear whether one has been released even yet. During their prolonged imprisonment, "criminal (nonpolitical) prisoners in the same prison, who had hostile feelings against the (segregated) political prisoners, had at one time invaded their barracks, had stolen or destroyed some of their possessions, and had even wounded some of the political prisoners." Included among destroyed possessions was a nearly completed manuscript by one of the philosophers. One of these men, in protest to their incarceration, participated in a 40-day hunger strike, without results. Upon discovering this situation on a visit to Mexico in January 1970, the late Rudolf Carnap, one of the leading philosophers of science of this century, reported the situation to the American Philosophical Association and the Philosophy of Science Association. No replies were received to letters from the American Philosophical Association Board and from a number of distinguished philosophers to various authorities in Mexico, and to the Mexican Ambassador in Washington. The International Federation of Philosophical Societies also attempted to act, without results. A committee of investigation was appointed by the American Philosophical Association, and, after a number of ambiguities, it was ultimately found that at least one of the philosophers in question had been freed. However, disquieting reports concerning "the conditions imposed upon academicians" continued to come from Mexico; the situation is still ambiguous and the committee was not dissolved.

Members of the two associations have not yet been polled with regard to the question of participation in the forthcoming AAAS conference in Mexico, although the PSA Governing Board were, with the following results: no one said "participate." One wished to decline without comment, four to decline with a letter of protest, and three to get more information from the AAAS. Further consultation with officers and members of the associations indicate strongly that the two associations feel that unless a satisfactory account of the situation in Mexico be obtained, it is unlikely that they would be able to agree to participation. As representative of these organizations, I have been asked by the president of the Philosophy of

Science Association and by the chairman of the American Philosophical Association to make the following motion: that the Board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science investigate the political condition of Mexican academicians, not only with regard to the treatment of the two philosophers of science in question, but also in general, before finalizing plans for the conference in Mexico.

Women in science. Dr. Hazel Fox of the University of Nebraska, representing the AAAS Women's Caucus, introduced a motion on the improvement of opportunities for women in science which, when modified following discussion, was worded as follows:

Whereas the talents and contributions of women in science are not fully recognized, and

Whereas there is no central listing of women in science,

I move that the Council request the Board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to consider establishing an Office for Women's Equality to work toward full representation and opportunity for women in scientific training and employment, affairs of the Association, and in the direction of national science policy.

Smoking at AAAS Meetings. Dr. M. V. L. Bennett of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine moved the following statement on smoking at the annual meeting:

Whereas the association between smoking and lung cancer and other diseases, and

Whereas the contribution of air pollution to a variety of serious diseases is well established, a matter with which the AAAS has recently concerned itself, and

Whereas smoking in confined areas such as meeting rooms leads to significant pollution with attendant discomfort and possible danger to nonsmokers as well as smokers, and

Whereas current social mores discourage individual efforts to limit smoking by others in public places,

The Council requests the Board of Directors to prohibit smoking at AAAS Council meetings, at scientific and public sessions, and in hallways immediately adjacent to the meeting rooms.

The meeting ended with a commendation of the Council by the President for its careful and patient attention to the matter of governance and an expression by Dr. F. A. Ficken of New York University, Bronx, of appreciation on behalf of the Council for the effective work of the Committee on Governance on a complex and difficult matter.