AAAS Council Meeting, 1979

Catherine Borras

The AAAS Council held its 1979 meeting on 7 January in Houston, Texas, in the Emerald Room of the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, with 60 of its 85 members in attendance at the morning session and 54 at the afternoon session. President Edward E. David, Jr., presided.

AAAS Activities, 1978

William D. Carey, executive officer, gave a brief summary of his report of 1978 activities, which appears on pages 867-870 of this issue, and presented the operating budget for 1979 (page 868). In calling attention to the recommendations of the Committee on Future Directions, he expressed hope for a consensus that the five objectives stated in the Association's Constitution would be the binding force that legitimizes whatever new initiatives may be taken on.

The highlight of the year was the Board's fall visit to the People's Republic of China as guests of the Scientific and Technical Association of the People's Republic of China. Emilio Q. Daddario, Board chairman, described the structure and programs of the scientific establishment in China and reported the terms of an agreement between the AAAS and the STAPRC that had been formulated during the visit:

1) The Chinese will send a return delegation to the United States for an equivalent 3-week visit in May or June, which AAAS will host.

2) AAAS will make *Science* more widely available to the Chinese and has contributed subscriptions to a number of their universities and institutions.

3) AAAS has invited the Chinese to attend and participate in Annual Meetings and special symposia.

4) The Chinese will make available reports of their scientific meetings and symposia.

5) Articles on Chinese science and technology will, so far as possible, be submitted in certain fields to *Science*.

6) The Chinese wish to work closely with AAAS on methods of popularizing science in the United States.

7) An exchange of primary documents on medical science is already under way as a result of the visit to China.

8) Further discussions will be carried on, looking toward cooperation in social science research and in science education.

9) AAAS will help the Chinese to find outstanding American scientists and experts who will be willing to go to China to give lectures.

Further information about the trip was given in Mr. Carey's articles in the 9 February issue of *Science* and the earlier note in the AAAS News section, 1 December 1978, page 965.

Future Directions

Leonard M. Rieser, chairman of the Committee on Future Directions, presented the draft of the Committee's final report and summarized its recommendations in several areas:

1) Style of Operation and Impact. *The Convenor Role*: AAAS should emphasize its role as catalyst in converging a variety of sectors and institutions around topics of general importance to the advancement and application of science and technology. *The Collaborator Role*: AAAS should seek opportunities for collaborative activities with organizations which are representative of other sectors of society, using the joint program with the American Bar Association as a prototype.

2) Communication. *Public Understanding of Science*: AAAS should be more active in (i) improving and extending its existing publications, awards, and public education efforts; (ii) influencing the policy and programs of other institutions; and (iii) improving science programming in commercial television. *Proposed New Journal and "Constituency Building"*: Providing that the market exists and financing can be secured, AAAS should develop the proposed new popular science magazine (see *Science*, 1 December 1978, page 965). The new journal would take a step toward "constituency building" and lay a base for other ventures in public understanding of science.

3) Science Education. *The Formal Aspect*: AAAS should acquire the capacity to identify and analyze fundamental problems in science education, help chart new directions for government and private organizations working on these problems, and monitor the progress and policies of agencies and organizations. *The Informed Citizenry Aspect*: AAAS should make a stronger effort to inform the general population about complex, technologically related questions of public policy. *Science Education and Youth*: AAAS should seek effective ways to get young people excited about science as an intrinsically interesting matter.

4) International Science and Technology. AAAS should increase dramatically its commitment to international activities by (i) strengthening the international network of science institutions, (ii) initiating major long-range science policy efforts of international consequence, (iii) increasing initiatives to promote scientific freedom, and (iv) influencing national policy on international scientific affairs.

5) Topics for Further Deliberation. *Diversifying the Membership*: AAAS should increase its appeal to the social sciences and the humanities and seek greater participation of industrial managers, lawyers, and public service professionals in order to enhance communication on issues of critical importance to a technological society. *An Alerting Function*: AAAS should have a formal alerting function to identify and explicate controversial scientific and technological issues early enough in their development to influence the decision-making process. *Normative Science—Facts and Values*: The time may be ripe for AAAS to provide a forum for the analysis of complex questions involving factual uncertainties and value judgments. *Scientific Responsibility*: Problems arise when scientists speak with implied authority on questions outside their areas of expertise, or make premature or misleading public announcements. Should AAAS address the ethical implications of the public role of the scientist? *Concern for Basic Science*: The environment for basic science is inherently unstable, with overdependence on federal support. Should AAAS assume a strong public policy role on behalf of fundamental research?

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Membership

Carol Rogers, head of membership recruitment and public information, reported a year-end membership of about 128,000. The average retention rate for the year was 82 percent: 86 percent for regular members and 50 percent for student members. The group life insurance program now being offered to members should have a positive effect on retention. AAAS continues to rely on direct mail as the backbone of its recruitment activities. Other strategies include membership nomination campaigns, tear-out cards in *Science*, and student posters and flyers. By the end of 1979, the membership is projected to rise to 135,000.

Fellowship

By a straw vote of 19,102 to 9,880, AAAS members went on record last fall as favoring continuation of the practice of electing Fellows. A proposal for revising the fellowship nomination process, which was presented jointly by the Council Committee on Fellows and the Committee on Council Affairs, was adopted by the Council, with one change, and the Bylaws were amended appropriately (see the section on Bylaw Amendments in this report). Information about the new procedures will be published in the AAAS News section of *Science*, 9 March.

Affiliates

The Council was informed that the Society for Economic Botany had changed its name to Society for the Study of Economic Botany, and that two organizations—the American Society of Safety Engineers and the Institutes of Religion and Health—had withdrawn from affiliation.

As new affiliates, the Council elected the International Studies Association and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, bringing to 287 the number of organizations affiliated with AAAS.

The International Studies Association was founded in 1959 "to serve the needs and enhance the capacities of scholars, practitioners, and others with a professional interest in expanding, disseminating, and applying knowledge of interrelations among nations and peoples." It has about 2100 members; holds an annual convention; and publishes *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Studies Notes*, *International Studies Newsletter*, and teaching materials.

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences has been the primary professional organization for educators in the field of criminal justice since its founding in 1963. Its some 1200 members come from a wide range of academic disciplines, including chemistry, anthropology, psychology, and sociology. The ACJS is presently engaged in developing minimum standards for post-secondary education programs in criminal justice and criminology. It publishes committee reports and papers delivered at its annual meetings.

Proposed New AAAS Magazine

Allen L. Hammond, consulting editor of *Science*, presented the case for AAAS publication of a popular magazine of science, tentatively entitled *Science 79*, as a vehicle for enhancing public understanding of science. The results of a direct mail test of the market, now under way, will be reported to the Board at its April meeting. If at that time the Board decides to launch the magazine, the first issue will be published in late September or early October 1979. Council members expressed lively interest in the possibility and urged the Board to take positive action on the proposal, if the results of the market test are favorable.

Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The Council approved a revised charter for the Committee that assigns to it the following duties on behalf of the Association:

i. Formulate and adopt principles and procedures to guide the Association in a continuing study of issues that affect scientific freedom or scientific responsibility, and search for means that will effectively educate both scientists and others on these matters.

ii. Monitor the policies and actions of the government of the United States, the governments of other nations, and private organizations that circumscribe or restrict the freedom of scientists or restrict the ability of scientists to exercise their responsibilities as scientists.

iii. Encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to adopt policies and procedures designed to encourage scientists to assume their professional responsibilities, including a concern for the integrity of science and the application of science in the promotion of human welfare.

iv. Encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to adopt policies and procedures designed to protect scientists against infringements upon scientific freedom; monitor the procedures of affiliated societies for dealing with documented allegations of infringements of principles of scientific freedom; facilitate communication among the societies to encourage strengthening of these procedures; and in exceptional circumstances, and within criteria developed by the Committee, conduct an analytic review of cases whose ramifications are deemed to be highly significant for the scientific community at large.

v. Establish and supervise the work of a clearinghouse of information for scientists and scientific societies interested in taking action to counter restrictions on scientific freedom or on the ability of scientists to exercise their responsibilities.

vi. Report annually to the Association, through the Council, on the work of the Committee and on the Committee's assessment of favorable and unfavorable developments affecting scientific freedom and scientific responsibility.

vii. Actively communicate with the scientific and technological communities and, as appropriate, with other communities and with the general public concerning the nature and function of the Committee and concerning significant developments affecting scientific freedom and scientific responsibility that call for examination and discussion.

Bylaw Amendments

Article VI, Section 5, next-to-last paragraph, was amended to correct inconsistencies with Article IX of the Constitution and Bylaw Article XVI. The new wording follows:

Any matter taken up by the Council shall be considered adopted if a majority of the members present vote in favor of it, with four exceptions: (i) A resolution shall require an affirmative vote of two thirds of the members present. (ii) A proposed amendment to the Bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the entire Council. (iii) A proposed amendment to the Constitution shall require for its submission to the Members of the Association for mail ballot an affirmative vote of a majority of the entire Council. (iv) A motion to recall an elective member of the Board shall require for its submission to the Members of the Association for mail ballot an affirmative vote of three fourths of the members present.

The Council adopted the following series of Bylaw amendments to take account of the revised procedures agreed upon for nominating AAAS Fellows.

Article I, Section 2, Fellows. The following wording is to be substituted: "A Member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished may, by virtue of such meritorious contribution, be elected a Fellow by the Council. The Executive Officer shall annually present to the Council a slate of nominees for such election. Nominations may be made by the Section Committees; by the Executive Officer; and by any three Fellows, provided that at least one of the three is not affiliated with the institution of the nominee.

"To be included on the slate, a nomination—whatever its source—must have the approval of a majority of the following members of the Section Committee: the retiring Section Chairman, the Section Chairman, the

Section Chairman-Elect, the Section Secretary, and the four members-at-large. However, if the Section Committee fails to approve a nomination by three Fellows or by the Executive Officer, the nominator(s) may appeal to the Committee on Council Affairs for review and possible reversal of the Section Committee's action. The number of nominees on the slate may not exceed 0.5 percent of the membership of the Association. The number of persons nominated annually by a Section Committee may not exceed 0.4 percent of the membership of the corresponding Electorate."

Article IV, Section 1 (d), on duties of the Executive Officer. In the list of committees of which the Executive Officer is a member, "of the Council Committee on Fellows" is to be deleted.

Article V, Section 1 (a), on function of the Committee on Nominations. In paragraph 2, the material in brackets is to be deleted: "In addition, the Committee shall annually present to members of the Council for election by mail ballot at least two nominations for each position to be filled on the Committee on Council Affairs [and on the Council Committee on Fellows] by vote of the Council."

Article VI, Section 1 (a), on function of the Committee on Council Affairs. After the third duty listed ("review applications for affiliation with the Association and make recommendations thereon to the Council"), a fourth duty is to be added: "at three-year intervals, review the process for nominating and electing Fellows, and make recommendations thereon to the Council." The present fourth duty is to be renumbered.

Article XI, Section 1, Standing Committees. Subparagraph (c), "Council Committee on Fellows," is to be deleted.

Resolutions

1) *Science education in the National Science Foundation*. The Council adopted the following resolution submitted by the Section Committee of Section Q (Education):

Whereas the American Association for the Advancement of Science has long recognized the need for effective education in the sciences and for the public understanding of science, and

Whereas the continuing collaboration of scientists and educators within the structure of the National Science Foundation has contributed to the identification and resolution of issues in science education, and

Whereas the transfer of the educational activities of the National Science Foundation to the proposed Department of Education would sever this close working relationship between the scientific and educational communities,

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science supports the retention of science education as an integral part of the National Science Foundation.

2) *Foundation for International Technological Cooperation*. The Council adopted the following resolution submitted by Nancie L. Gonzalez, Council delegate from Electorate H (Anthropology):

Whereas the American Association for the Advancement of Science has long recognized the need for research and development in science and technology on a global basis and the cooperative efforts of the United States in advancing the capacities of developing countries, and considers it essential that the physical, biological and social sciences serve as the basis of efforts to improve basic science skills and research and development capacities in developing countries, and

Whereas President Carter has now taken the initiative to plan and establish a Foundation for International Technological Cooperation to strengthen and improve the research and technological base on which the approach to development problems affecting people in developing countries depends, and

Whereas the planning efforts leading to the establishment of the Foundation in 1979 indicate an organization with purposes and simplified processes which would encourage international technological cooperation so as to sustain programs of assistance to developing countries and support research on problems of mutual importance such as energy conservation and alternative sources development, environmental and natural resource planning and management, industrialization, tropical disease prevention and treatment, reducing population growth rates, increasing agricultural productivity, promotion of information and communications, and basic and life skills education,

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science supports the general concept of the creation of a Foundation for International Technological Cooperation.

3) *Warren Weaver, 1894-1978*. The Council adopted the following memorial resolution drafted by Dael Wolfle on behalf of the Board:

Warren Weaver will be remembered for many reasons. During World War II, he headed the Applied Mathematics Panel where many mathematicians got the experiences that led to the outburst of new areas of application. He early understood how greatly the tools and techniques of physics and chemistry could advance knowledge of biological processes, and used his position in the Rockefeller Foundation to identify, support, and encourage the young scientists who years later earned Nobel Prizes and other honors for their contributions to genetics or molecular biology.

As a skilled interpreter of science, he helped many audiences to understand the sweep and nature of scientific work. His collaboration with Claude E. Shannon on *The Mathematical Theory of Communication* introduced scientists from a broad range of interests to the power and usefulness of communication theory. His deep personal commitment to improving the public understanding of science was honored in 1965 by award of the first Arches of Science Medal for outstanding contributions to the public understanding of the meaning of science to contemporary men and women, and in the same year by award of Unesco's Kalinga Prize for distinguished contributions to the popular understanding of science.

Government, other foundations, and many scientific institutions and societies called upon him to fill posts of major responsibility. AAAS was fortunate to have him as President in 1954 and Chairman of the Board in 1955; as a member or chairman of numerous boards and committees; and as the primary author of the Arden House Statement, a 1951 declaration of principle that has since served as valued guide in setting the goals, the plans, and the procedures of the Association.

Be it resolved that the Board and the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science record their lasting appreciation of Dr. Weaver's wise counsel and his versatile and far-sighted leadership.

4) *National Medal of Science*. The Council adopted the following resolution submitted by Nancy S. Anderson, Council delegate from Electorate J (Psychology):

Be it resolved that AAAS supports a legislative amendment to correct a limitation in P.L. 86-209, which in 1959 established a National Medal of Science to be awarded by the President of the United States to individuals by reason of their outstanding contribution to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, or engineering sciences. The AAAS proposes that the law be amended to read "by reason of their outstanding contribution to knowlege in the physical, biological, mathematical, engineering, *behavioral, and social* sciences" (italicized words to be added).

5) *Argentine scientists*. The Council adopted the following resolution submitted by the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility:

Whereas, although the Government of Argentina asserts that there has been no significant leftist terrorism in Argentina for over a year, "disappearances" (kidnappings by paramilitary forces) of scientists and other Argentinians continue, while almost all of those previously arrested remain imprisoned under what is known as P.E.N. detention (detention by order of the Executive with no charges specified), and

Whereas the disappearances and continued imprisonment of so many persons, including many members of the Argentine scientific community, clearly violate universally recognized standards of human rights, as embodied in the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights and other international agreements, and

Whereas the AAAS Clearinghouse on Persecuted Foreign Scientists has documented the violations of human rights of nearly forty specific Argentine scientists and has concluded that there exists a clear pattern of violations of scientific freedom as well as human rights in Argentina, and

Whereas a recent report prepared by Bruce Alan Kiernan, Human Rights Coordinator of AAAS, who visited Argentina in October 1978, concludes that the human rights situation for scientists in Argentina today remains extremely bad, a conclusion also reached by former AAAS President Emilio Q. Daddario as a result of his December 1977 visit to Argentina,

Therefore be it resolved that the AAAS calls upon scientists and scientific organizations to join it in its concern for the plight of science and scientists in Argentina, and upon such organizations to initiate on-site investigations in Argentina, on an urgent basis, and to make their reports on these investigations available to their respective governments, and

Further be it resolved that the AAAS calls

upon scientists and scientific organizations to join it in urging the release and resettlement of imprisoned Argentine scientists who have been denied due process of the law.

6) *Science in state programs.* The Council adopted the following resolution submitted by John Cain and Urban L. Diener, both of Auburn University:

Whereas the American Association for the Advancement of Science is concerned about the important issues which include science policy, and

Whereas the Association is cognizant of the effects of science in meeting human needs and expectations, and

Whereas state and local governments, as well as the federal government, are confronted by increasing numbers of problems that require consideration of science and technology, and

Whereas the integration of science in the development of public policy needs to be strengthened at state and local levels in order to provide appropriate capacity for decision making, and

Whereas in order to meet responsibilities to the public, state capabilities must be improved to encompass a greater recognition of the importance of the scientific and technological elements of public policy issues, some of which are intergovernmental, and

Whereas the State, Science, Engineering, and Technology grants of the National Science Foundation have been welcomed as a cooperative intergovernmental effort to build a greater capacity for resolving public policy issues which have significant scientific and technological content,

Therefore be it resolved that the Association encourage the Administration and the Congress to continue to provide incentives for the states to develop systems which integrate science and technology in the policy development process, and

Further be it resolved that the Association encourage its members and affiliates to engage in state programs to bring scientific knowledge and information to bear on public issues and policies.

AAAS Officers, Staff, Committees, and Representatives for 1979

Listed below are members of the Board of Directors, staff, and Editorial Board of *Science*; officers of the three regional divisions, the National Association of Academies of Science, and the AAAS sections; members of committees; and representatives to other organizations.

Members of the Council are listed under the groups they represent: the divisions, the National Association of Academies of Science, or the sections. Section representatives include the delegates elected by the electorates and the retiring section chairpersons. Members of the Board of Directors also serve on the Council.

Terms of election or appointment expire as follows: Editorial Board—31 December of the years indicated; AAAS representatives to other organizations—at various times in the years indicated; all others—on 8 January of the years indicated.

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Renee C. Fox (1981), Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 19104

Anna J. Harrison (1983), Department of Chemistry, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass. 01075

Mike McCormack (1980), U.S. House of Representatives, 2352 Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Russell W. Peterson (1982), Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C. 20510

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