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1997 Report of the Division on Women and Crime.

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American Society of Criminology. Division on Women and Crime

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REPORT OF THE DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME
November 21, 1997
submitted by Chris Rasche, Division Chair 1995-97

The Division has had another successful year. The latest membership lists indicates that we have about 370 members (rough count). At least 200 people attended the Division's Social Event on Wednesday evening this year, despite many competing events at the same time; many attendees once again remarked how important it was for them to have this kind of event the very first night in order to met people and network. This seems to be even more important for new members and people attending ASC for the first time. The two Division Business Meetings also had hearty turn-outs of at least 40-50 members each morning, despite the fact that there were several gender-related panels scheduled for the same time. We continue to hope that gender-related panels will NOT be scheduled for the same times as our Business Meetings, though we realize that this is a difficult request.

In its latest election, the Division elected Nicole Rafter as its new Chair for 1997-99, and she assumed office at the end of the second Business Meeting on Friday. The Division also voted to approve a revised Constitution and Bylaws, which we hereby submit for the ASC Board's approval (see attached).

For next year, the Division has voted to adopt a special focus on the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender and crime. In keeping with this focus, the Division is planning to invite the Division on People of Color to join in with us on our Social Event next year, which we would like to still schedule for the first night (Wednesday) of the ASC meetings. We would also like to have a Plenary Session on this focus, if possible right before the Social Event on Wednesday afternoon. A Division Program Committee will be working on those plans.

The Division has at least a dozen other committees which already have volunteers and some of which are meeting here in San Diego to get organized. We anticipate an active year once again, and look forward to the meetings in Washington, D.C.

Changes to DWC Constitution and By-laws

While changes are extensive, the bulk of them are not substantive, but designed to make the document clearer, better organized, and more internally consistent. For example, the older document contains language about elections in the sections on officers; the new Constitution creates a section that is exclusively about elections.

Substantive changes:

- timing of officer election -
chair / vice in
same year (for
continuity)
1. Section added naming the organization.
 2. Office of Newsletter Editor is eliminated (in keeping with practice) and the newsletter has become one of the standing committees.
 3. Provision has been made for filling vacancies.
 4. Procedures for amending the Constitution and By-laws have been clarified; a provision has been added allowing the Executive Comm. to instigate the process by creating an ad-hoc committee
 5. The amount of the dues has been removed, so that an amendment would not be needed to make a change.
 6. Several standing committees have been created (again, in keeping with practice.)
 7. Provision is made for action taken without a quorum. (Any action taken without a quorum, **if contested**, will require a ratification vote.)

Susan Krumholz

CONSTITUTION FOR THE DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

I. Name of the Organization:

The name of the organization is The Division on Women and Crime.

The Division is a constituent unit of the American Society of Criminology [hereinafter ASC] and will function in accordance with the Constitution, bylaws and policies of the ASC.

II. Purposes and Objectives:

- A. To bring together members of both sexes interested in discussing issues related to women of all ages who are professionals, victims and/or offenders in the criminal justice system.
- B. To facilitate and encourage research and theory development about women of all ages as professionals, victims and/or offenders in the criminal justice system.
- C. To encourage appropriate and effective teaching techniques and practices and to stimulate the development of curricula for courses on women/gender and crime, and/or curricular materials about women/gender and crime for inclusion in mainstream criminology/criminal justice courses.
- D. To serve as a resource network for, and encourage interaction among, academic, research, practitioner and policy-making sectors in order to further the understanding of problems faced by women of all ages who are professionals, victims and/or offenders in the criminal justice system.
- E. To organize conference sessions related to issues on women and crime.
- F. To raise awareness of issues regarding gender and crime among members of ASC, to bring these issues to the attention of the ASC Executive Board and/or appropriate ASC committees, and to recommend appropriate courses of action to resolve these matters.

III. Membership:

Membership in this Division will be open to all ASC members in good standing. A member in good standing is one who is current in their dues. Members who have paid Divisional dues will be considered eligible for voting at Divisional meetings, for the election of Divisional officers and to hold office.

IV. Executive Board:

There will be an Executive Board comprised of the Division's current officers, immediate past Chair and three Executive Counselors. This Board will form policies for the Division, provide advice and decide the budget for the Division, and approve committees and committee chairs.

The Division Chair will serve as the convener of the Executive Board.

V. Officers:

A. Chair

1. The Chair will provide executive direction for the Division and will preside over Division meetings.
2. The Chair or their designee will serve as liaison with the ASC Annual Meeting Program Chair to ensure the inclusion of panels relating to issues on women and crime in the program.
3. The Chair or their designee shall bring issues regarding gender and crime, and recommendations for their resolution, as decided by the Division, to the attention of the ASC Executive Board and/or appropriate ASC committees for their consideration.
4. The Chair will appoint all committees and committee chairs, with the approval of the Executive Board.

B. Vice-Chair

1. The Vice-Chair will preside over Division meetings in the absence of the Chair and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Division if the office of Chair is vacant or if the Chair is unable to serve.
2. The Vice-Chair or their designee will be responsible for assistance to, and oversight of, the Newsletter Committee.

C. Secretary

1. The Secretary will keep the records and minutes of the Division.
2. The Secretary will record minutes of each meeting of the Division and will forward a copy to each member of the Executive Committee and the Newsletter Committee Chair for publication in the next issue of the Division newsletter.

3. The Secretary will maintain contact with the Treasurer of ASC who will maintain a separate account in the ASC treasury for the Division. The Secretary will inform the Division membership of the Division's balance, debts, credits, etc. at the Division's Annual Membership Meeting. The Secretary will notify the Executive Board of any financial issues that arise between Annual Membership Meetings.

D. Executive Counselors:

1. There will be three Executive Counselors, elected in alternating years. At least one Executive Counselor shall be selected from among members who are untenured or otherwise in the early stages of their careers.
2. Executive Counselors will assist the Chair with executive decisions for the Division, and each will chair at least one committee of the Division.

VI. Elections:

A. Nominations:

The Executive Board will appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of two members in good standing of the Division. The Committee will receive names in nomination for each office to be filled the following year. From these names, the Nominating Committee will select two names to be included on the ballot for each office. These names will be forwarded to the ASC Executive Office for inclusion on the Division ballots.

B. Qualifications:

Nominees and elected officers must be members in good standing of the Division.

C. Term of Office:

The term of office for all officers and Executive Counselors will be two years.

The term of office of each incoming officer will begin with the close of the Division's Annual Membership Meeting following their election.

Elected officers may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in the same office. Upon completion of the second consecutive term of office, a person must wait for a period of at least one full term before running again for the same office.

Elections of Officers and Executive Counselors shall be staggered in the following manner: Year One elections will be held for Chair, Vice-Chair, and one (1) Executive Counselor. Year Two (or alternating year) elections will be held for Secretary and two (2) Executive Counselors.

D. Procedure:

Names of those nominated will be placed on the Division ballot and sent to all members in good standing by the Executive Office of the ASC. Completed ballots will be returned to the ASC Executive Office and counted by ASC staff.

The ASC Executive Office will notify the Division Chair of the election results. Results will be published in the Division Newsletter.

E. Vacancies:

Vacancies which occur during the term of office for the Vice-Chair, Secretary or Executive Counselor of the Division, shall be filled until the next election by appointment of the Chair, with the approval of the Executive Board.

Vacancies may be filled in either Year One or Year Two elections, and shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office.

VII. Amending the Constitution and Bylaws:

A. Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Division, but all such proposed amendments may only go forward under one of the following conditions:

1. The petitioner receives the written support of one-fifth of the Division membership in good standing;
 2. The proposed amendment is introduced at the Division's Annual Membership Meeting, and receives a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present to refer the proposal to a Constitutional Revision Committee;
- or
3. The Executive Board creates a Constitutional Revision Committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws and to make appropriate recommendations.

A proposal for amendment which meets any of the requirements above shall be determined to be qualified by the Executive Board.

B. An amendment will be approved when it receives a two-thirds vote by mail ballot submitted to Division members in good standing. The results will be reported to the Executive Board no later than the next Annual Membership Meeting.

- C. Approved amendments shall take effect immediately following the next Annual Membership Meeting. Amendments are subject to the approval of the ASC Executive Board.

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BYLAWS FOR THE DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

I. Dues:

Dues will be determined by the Executive Board. Any increases must be ratified by vote of the members at the Division's Annual Membership Meeting.

Dues are subject to the approval of the Executive Board of the ASC, and will be due at the time annual dues to the ASC are paid.

II. Committees:

A. Standing Committees:

V. Lee Lewis *Kim Lewis*
There will be six standing committees: Nominations Committee, Newsletter Committee, Outreach Committee, Programming Committee, Student Affairs Committee, and Special Events Committee.

B. Other Committees:

The Executive Board will create such committees as it deems appropriate to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Division. Members of such committees will be appointed by the Chair of the Division with the approval of the Executive Board.

C. Committee Chairs:

Committee Chairs will be appointed by the Division Chair with the approval of the Executive Board, and announced at the Division's Annual Membership Meeting. Committee Chairs will serve for one year and may be reappointed.

III. Meetings:

A. Executive Board:

The Executive Board shall meet at least once a year, on the first day of the ASC Annual Meeting. Such other meetings may be called as are needed.

B. Membership

The general membership of the Division shall meet once a year, at the time and place of the ASC's Annual Meeting. Such meeting shall be designated the Division's Annual Membership Meeting.

C. Rules of Order:

Meetings will be conducted in a manner determined by the Chair.
In the event of a conflict, Robert's Rules of Order will be determinative.

D. Quorum:

A quorum will consist of one-fifth of the Division's members in good standing. All votes will be determined by a simple majority of those present, unless provided otherwise by this document.

In the event a quorum is not present at the general membership meeting(s), a majority of those present will be sufficient for action. Such action may be challenged by a member in good standing not in attendance at the ASC Annual Meeting. In case of a challenge, a ratification vote will be offered to the general membership in the next Division Newsletter.