

1990

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American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

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February 25, 1990

Phyllis Jo Baunach

Ft. Washington, Maryland 20744

Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind, Chair
Division on Women and Crime
Center for Youth Research
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Meda,

Enclosed are the revisions for the Division constitution. Additional material is underlined; bracketed material will be deleted. The revisions are based on the committee's work last year and on our discussions at the Division meeting last November.

Instead of simply including the materials to be changed, I typed up the entire constitution to give you the context within which the changes will be made. In addition, I don't think there is an updated copy of the constitution since it was approved by the ASC Executive Board in 1984; changes made previously were simply appended.

As Section VII., the section dealing with amendments, states we must first submit the changes to the Division membership for approval, then to the ASC Executive Board for approval. The changes cannot be implemented until two months after the 1990 ASC Annual Meeting.

With respect to the election of Executive Counselors for the Division, attendees at the Division meeting requested that we have two or three year staggered terms. I included two year terms, since each counselor may serve twice in succession; past experience demonstrates that most people who work for the Division are, in fact, reelected. Under the new procedures, this means that theoretically they could serve for four consecutive years. That is asking our members for a substantial commitment. If the term of office were to be three years, then we would be asking for six years of their time. Personally, this is asking too much. We might discourage members from serving. Hence, I used two year terms.

Reference to "staggered" terms for Executive Counselors is noticeably absent from the revisions. We do not have to burden either the constitution or bylaws with such procedural details. Rather, as in the first version of the Division constitution, I have simply added a statement regarding the length of term for the newly elected Counselors the first time this procedure is

used. Thereafter, all newly elected Executive Counselors will be elected for two year terms.

Since the new procedures will not take effect until after the 1990 meetings, we will have to elect Counselors from the floor to ensure that we have Counselors for the Board.

I hope the new decade finds you in good spirits and health.

Let me know if these changes are adequate.

Stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Jo Baunach

cc: Chris Rasche, Division Vice-Chairperson
Brenda Miller, Constitution and Bylaws Committee

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

NOTE: Underlined material to be added; bracketed material, to be deleted.

II. Purposes and Objectives:

The Division on Women and Crime will be a constituent unit of the American Society of Criminology and will function in accordance with the Constitution, bylaws and policies of that Society.

The purposes and objectives of the Division are:

- 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 and crime.
- 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 issues.

III. Membership:

Membership in this Division will be open to all American Society of Criminology members in good standing. Members in good standing who have paid Divisional dues will be considered eligible for voting at Divisional meetings, for election of Divisional officers and eligible to hold office.

IV. Officers and Executive Board:

A. Officers:

1. Chairperson:

- a. The Chairperson will provide executive direction for the Division and will preside over Division meetings.
- b. The Chairperson will serve as a liaison with the Annual American Society of Criminology Program Chairperson to ensure the inclusion of panels relating to issues on women and crime on the program.
- c. The Chairperson will be selected by Division members and will serve for two years.

[However, the Chairperson elected for the first time will serve for three years. This will ensure that all officers are not elected at the same time following the first election.]

- d. The Chairperson or the Chairperson's 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.

2. Vice-Chairperson:

- a. The Vice-Chairperson will preside over Division meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Division if the office of Chairperson is vacant or if the Chairperson is disabled.

[b. The Vice-Chairperson will be responsible for the creation, publication and dissemination of the Division Newsletter.]

- c. The Vice-Chairperson will be elected by Division members and will serve for two years.

3. **Secretary:**

- a. The Secretary will keep the records and minutes of the Division.
- b. The Secretary will maintain contact with the Treasurer of The American Society of Criminology who will maintain a separate account in The American Society of Criminology Treasury for the Division. The Secretary will make sure the Division is informed of the Division's balance, debts, credits, etc. and financial issues that may arise.
- c. The Secretary will record minutes of each meeting of the Division and will forward a copy of to each of the other two officers and the Executive Board.
- d. The Secretary will serve as Chairperson of the Membership Committee.
- e. The Secretary will be elected by Division members in good standing.

4. **Newsletter Editor:**

- a. The Newsletter Editor will be responsible for the creation, publication, and dissemination of the Division Newsletter.
- b. The Newsletter Editor will be selected by the Executive Board and will serve for three years.
- c. The Newsletter Editor may be reappointed.
- d. The Newsletter Editor will be a voting member of the Executive Board.

- B. Nominees and elected officers must be members of the Division in good standing.
- C. The term of office of each incoming officer will begin with the close of the Annual Meeting following his/her election. Elected officers may serve as 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.

D. Executive Board:

There will be an Executive Board comprised of the Division's current officers, immediate past Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and three executive counselors nominated and elected by members of the Division. This Board will form policies for the Division, provide advice and decide the budget for the Division, and select committee members by majority vote.

Executive Counselors will serve a [one] two year term and may serve two consecutive terms in this office. Upon completion of the second term, a person must wait for a period of at least one full term before running again for the same office.

However, for the first election to select Counselors for two year terms, two Counselors will be elected for two year terms, and one Counselor for a one year term to ensure that all Counselors are not elected at the same time in the future.

V. Committees:

- A. Program Committee:** The Program Committee will consist of the Division Chairperson and two other members of the Division in good standing. The Division Chairperson will serve as liaison to the Program Committee of the American Society of Criminology.
- B. Membership Committee:** The Membership Committee will consist of the Division Secretary as Chair and two other members of the Division in good standing. This Committee will solicit new members and update the membership list as needed.
- C. Newsletter Committee:** The Newsletter Committee will consist of the [Vice-Chairperson of the Division] Newsletter Editor and two other members of the Division in good standing. This Committee will obtain items for publication and compile the newsletter at least twice a year. The newsletter will include, at a minimum, minutes of the previous Annual Division meeting, summaries of committee reports, election results, call for nominations, information pertaining to the upcoming Annual Meeting.

This Committee will also develop other information, such as a list of names and addresses of persons engaged in various types of research on women and

crime, and will disseminate this material in response to requests from the field.

D. The membership of these committees will be determined by the Executive Board and announced at the Annual Meeting of the Division. Committee members will serve for one year and may be reappointed.

E. The Executive Board shall appoint such other committees that it deems appropriate to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Division.

VI. Dues:

Initial annual dues will be five dollars (\$5.00), subject to the approval of the Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology, and will be due at the time annual dues to the American Society of Criminology are paid.

VII. Amending the Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Division, but the written support of a fifth of the Divisional membership in good standing is required for further action.
2. A qualified proposal for amendment, determined qualified by the Executive Board, will be approved when it receives a two-thirds vote by mail ballot submitted to members in good standing. The results will be reported the Chair of the Division and the Executive Board.
3. Approved amendments shall take effect two months after the next Annual Meeting of The American Society of Criminology. Amendments are subject to the approval of The American Society of Criminology Executive Board.

BY-LAWS FOR THE DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME
OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

I. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. Officers:

The Chairperson will appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of two people who are members of the Division in good standing. This committee will receive names in nomination for each office to be vacant. From these names the Division's Executive Board 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 ballot. Completed ballots will be returned to the ASC Executive Office and counted by members who count the ASC ballots.

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

Voting will be limited to Division members in good standing.

B. Executive Counselors:

[Executive Counselors will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Division. Nominations will be taken by the Chairperson from the floor. A plurality of the votes of those present will determine the winners.]

Executive Counselors will be elected in the same manner as Officers.

II. BUSINESS MEETINGS:

A. Rules of Order:

Robert's Rules of Order will be used in conducting meetings.

B. Quorum:

In conducting business, a quorum will consist of one-fifth of the Division's members in good standing. In voting, decisions will be on the basis of a simple majority.

Division on Women and Crime


American Society of Criminology

c/o Women's Studies Program, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Memorandum

November 17, 1990

To: Women and Crime Division
Task Force Chairs

From: Meda Chesney-Lind 
Chair

RE: Recent meetings

The Baltimore meeting was noteworthy in a number of respects. Perhaps most significant for me were the large number of innovative panels that grew out of our 1989 meeting. Also exciting to me were the number of these sessions that were co-sponsored by other ASC committees. Much of this success was a product of your hard work. Division Task Forces organized sessions, roundtables, and in some cases initiated policy recommendations regarding their concerns.

As a result of these successes, a number of Task Forces have decided to keep meeting. One Task Force that was formed to investigate the criminalization of pregnancy has initiated efforts on the part of the Division to generate an ASC policy statement on the problem. A new Lesbian Task Force has been organized and the Task Force on Sexual Harassment will be conducting a survey of our Division on the extensiveness of the problem among our own members. The Women of Color Task Force meeting was one of the most well attended sessions of the conference and marks a first for our Division. The list could go on and on.

I have enclosed, for your information, a summary of the Executive Committee meeting that was held on Friday, November 9th. In these materials, some information about current and future Task Force activity is noted as well as other information about Division plans.

Again, thank you for all your hard work. Please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Executive Committee as you continue your work next year. Attached is a

list of the active Task Forces that I have in my notes along with their convenors.

cc: Executive Committee

**American Society of Criminology
Division on Women and Crime
Division Task Forces
November 1990**

1. Pregnancy, Drugs, and the Criminal Justice System:
Criminalizing Pregnancy
Co-Chairs: Roslyn Muraskin/Drew Humphries
2. Sexual Harassment
Chair: Betsy Stanko
3. The Status of Women in Criminology and the Criminal
Justice System
Chair: Imogene Moyer
4. The Status of Women-Criminologists in Non-Academic
Settings
Chair: Brenda Miller
5. Women in Prison
Chair: Angela Browne
6. Women of Color
Chair: Kayleen Richards-Ekeh
7. Lesbian Task Force
Chair: Jo Belknap