



Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

17 DECEMBER 2020, VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT

- **President:** Sigrid Quack
- **President-Elect:** Jacqueline O'Reilly
- **Past-President:** Nitsan Chorev
- **Treasurer:** Nina Bandelj
- **Executive Director:** Annelies Fryberger
- **Executive Director Emerita:** Martha Zuber

EC Members

- Bruno Amable
- Caroline Arnold
- Dorothee Bohle
- Katherine Chen
- Nana de Graaff
- Timur Ergen
- Elizabeth Gorman
- Alya Guseva
- Heather Haveman
- Jeanne Lazarus
- Virág Molnár
- Eunmi Mun
- Franklin Obeng-Odoom
- Kim Pernell
- Karen Shire
- Julimar da Silva Bichara
- Zsuzsanna Vargha

SASE Staff

- Jacob Bromberg
- Pat Zraidi

MEETING OPENED AT 5PM CET BY SIGRID QUACK

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Sigrid Quack opened the meeting by speaking briefly on the overall agenda once the meeting reached quorum.

2. GOING VIRTUAL IN 2021

Proposal: Due to the global health situation, cuts in university budgets, and unpredictable travel options, the Executive Committee requested that the Executive Council approve moving the 2021 SASE Annual Meeting from an on-site to a virtual conference, and to extend the length of the conference to four days.

Explanation: The decision between online and on-site was deemed pressing partially because submissions were going to open soon, but also because of administrative needs to prepare for one format or another. Estimates seemed to suggest that vaccination levels in Europe and the US would not reach 70% until September 2021. Extending the conference by one day would help to mitigate issues related to time zones. SASE staff would be tasked to work more on the socializing/networking aspect of the conference.

No Discussion.

VOTE – MOTION: TO MOVE THE 2021 CONFERENCE ONLINE AND EXTEND THE CONFERENCE LENGTH TO FOUR DAYS

- Yea - #
- Abstain - #
- Nay - #
- Absent - #
- **Motion passed unanimously**

3. CONFERENCE LOCATION FOR 2022

Proposal: The Executive Committee proposed that the 2022 annual conference be held at the University of Amsterdam (UvA).

Explanation: The proposal was made under the assumption that a physical conference would be possible in 2022. There were other sites under consideration, which the Executive Committee said would be explored for 2023 or 2024. A local organizer from Amsterdam who was not available for 2021 has said they would be available for 2022. UvA presented many other advantages.

Discussion: Discussion touched on whether other sites were considered competitive for hosting the 2022 conference. The President replied that UvA had been planning to host SASE for two years running, their bid was inherently advantageous, and it also allowed SASE to build up a pipeline of sites for future years, which would enable greater visibility and better advance communication for future conferences.

Concerns were raised over whether UvA was particularly cheap or beneficial for SASE. Discussion made clear that there was great interest from the SASE public to come to Amsterdam (per 2019 submission numbers) and that the university would waive fees for room rentals.

VOTE – MOTION: TO HOLD THE 2022 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM, IF THE SITUATION ALLOWS

- Yea - #
- Nay - #
- **Motion passed unanimously**
- Abstain - #
- Absent - #

4. 2021 SASE/RISE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

(see written report) – Santos Ruesga and Julimar da Silva Bichara

Proposal: The SASE-RISE organizers proposed that the next SASE regional conference take place in Lima, Peru, at the National University of San Marcos in December 2021, if the global health situation allowed. Otherwise, the conference would be held virtually.

Explanation: This item was not voted on at the 2020 Executive Council meeting, as the meeting was abridged due to its virtual format. The decision to hold the regional conference on-site or online would be made at the end of March 2021.

Discussion: Questions were raised as to whether regional conferences were held in two languages, and how relationships develop in terms of annual conference presence. The SASE-RISE organizers answered that participants mostly spoke Spanish, but there were also Portuguese-speaking participants and a handful of English speakers. In terms of overlap, they replied that some scholars from the larger universities in Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula who attend the regional conference also participate in the annual SASE conference.

VOTE – MOTION: TO HOLD THE 2021 REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN LIMA, PERU IN DECEMBER, IF THE SITUATION ALLOWS

- Yea - 15
- Abstain - 1
- Nay - 0
- Absent - #
- **Motion passed**

5. 2021 CONFERENCE FEE STRUCTURE

(See proposed fee structure) – Ad-hoc Finance Committee (Chair: Mari Sako)

Topic: Raise conference fees to avoid insolvency pre-2022 conference.

Explanation: If SASE were to use the fee structure from 2020, the treasury would be fully wiped out going into the 2022 conference, even with 1,000 participants for the 2021 virtual conference. Producing an online conference was cheaper than an in-person one, but also generated less revenue. The move online in 2020 cut into SASE’s budget, and the fee structure created for that conference was low so as to not put off members. Online fatigue was considered a factor that had the potential to stifle 2021 participation rates. The ad-hoc Finance Committee proposed a fee structure for the 2021 annual conference such that non-OECD participant fees remained the same as in 2020, while OECD participation fees would increase to \$155 minimum for non-student registration and \$80 for student registration. The Network Organizer Forum agreed to raising the fee structure. It was estimated that even with raising the fees as described, the association would barely skate by until July 2022.

Discussion: It was noted that there was no need to vote on this item, but rather that it was important to announce the change to the fee structure. The ad-hoc Finance Committee estimated that the proposed fee structure would allow SASE to break even for the year 2021. The ad-hoc Finance Committee also committed to making a concrete proposal for additional revenue streams at the next Executive Council meeting.

It was noted that SASE was looking for other ways to raise money, such as donations. Ideas on how to encourage non-participant attendance were also introduced. It was recalled that the time horizon on which the organization required funding precluded the possibility of outside funding delivering SASE from its financial predicament. Other longer-term ideas were raised, such as holding extra events over the course of the year, both for cohesion and SASE finances, and collaborations with large research centers with funding for workshops.

Concerned were raised over how fee structure categories were determined. There was general agreement that going forward, the fee structure should be based on income bracket.

6. SASE LOCAL INITIATIVE

Circulated: Many people expressed interest in organizing local networking events prior to the 2021 virtual conference. The SASE staff is to help coordinate and advertise these events, which are to form a network of events called “SASE Local”. The format and content were to be decided by local organizers, in collaboration with the SASE staff if desired.

Discussion: Discussion centered around the benefits of local meet-ups—especially for younger scholars—in countries with better public health situations.