



division on women and crime
american society of criminology

established 1984

CHAIR REPORT

Submitted to the American Society of Criminology Executive Board
April 8, 2021

Submitted by Venessa Garcia, Chair *pro tem*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair pro tem: Venessa Garcia

Executive Counselor (Sr): Michelle Hughes Miller

Executive Counselor (Jr): Aneesa Baboolal

Executive Counselor (Jr): Sean Wilson

Executive Counselor (Grad): Sarah Murray

Feminist Criminology Editor: Kristy Holtfreter (*ex officio*)

IT Guru: Leslie-Dawn Quick (*ex officio*)

The Division on Women & Crime (DWC) has undergone structural instability beginning in early 2020, when the elected chair stepped down after a couple of months for personal reasons. As a result, Vice Chair Elaine Arnall took on the role of Acting Chair. It should be noted that the DWC Constitution is vague about how to fill the role of Chair if it becomes vacant. The Executive Board decided not to have another election. Following the murder of George Floyd and the national demands for racial justice and the publications of a transphobic article in the DWC's journal, the membership called for diversity and transparency within the Executive Board. The 2020 elections were a failed attempt to accomplish this. As a result, the Executive Board, under Elaine Arnall elected three Executive Counselors (Aneesa Baboolal, Venessa Garcia, and Sean Wilson). With the continued unrest within the DWC, the Acting Chair resigned from her role, immediately followed by the resignations of the Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and one Executive Counselor (Junior). During the first meeting of the remaining Executive Board (3/3/21), by Executive Board election, Senior Executive Counselor Michelle Hughes Miller took on the duties of Chair. During this meeting Senior Executive Counselor Venessa Garcia was elected as Chair *pro tem*, since she is a Past Chair. During the March 8th meeting, the Executive Board decided that the Chair *pro tem* would not make unilateral decisions, especially since she was not elected by the full membership. We decided to follow Robert's Rules to ensure that everyone had a voice and that all discussions and decisions would be part of the record, and set out to call an emergency election.

Transparency

Following Robert's Rules, various motions were made, discussed, and passed by majority vote (most passed unanimously). Part of the difficulty the Executive Board had is that the Constitution does not have a procedure for creating policy. Much of our earlier decisions were focused on ensuring transparency. To that end the Executive Board passed motions on the following:

1. All meeting Executive Board Minutes will be recorded in detail.
2. All Executive Board Agenda and Minutes and DWC Committee Reports will be posted to the DWC website.
3. The Secretary will keep a log of all Motions that will be posted to the DWC website.
4. All election calls, candidates, and results will be posted to the DWC website.
5. The 3/3/21 meeting the DWC Executive Board will be recorded and distributed to the membership via email.

Accomplishing Changes

Prior to the Acting Chair's resignation, Vice Chair Leslie Gordon Simmons called two Executive Board meetings, filling the duties of Chair. This was imperative because the DWC was undergoing a crisis with *Feminist Criminology* and the absence of an Executive Board response to the membership. The Executive Board quickly learned that the DWC Constitution does not include procedure for policy or for making statements. It was decided that we would pass motions that would become policy for the current Executive Board until such time the Constitutional Revision Committee could meet and make recommendations to update the Constitution. This document has not been updated since 2013. In order to ensure we could move forward the Executive Board passed the following motions:

1. A quorum of majority plus one voting members is required to hold a meeting.
2. A vote of two-thirds of voting members of Executive Board is required to pass policies; votes can be cast electronically or in-person/virtually, before or during the meeting.
3. Reconvened the Constitutional Revision Committee with a detailed charge to ensure policy procedure, clarification, and policies surrounding the Executive Board to ensure continuity, transparency, and diversity.
4. Convening the Internal Elections Committee to hold an emergency election to fill the four vacant positions.
5. The listserv administrator, Christina DeJong, who was removed from this duty was invited back and accepted.

Diversity & Inclusion

As mentioned above, the DWC membership was demanding greater BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ within the leadership. Because the 2020 elections did not achieve this, three BIPOC members were elected by the Executive Board to serve as Executive Counselors. Regardless, all members of the Executive Board are dedicated ensuring inclusion and voice. To that end the following motions were passed:

1. Election candidates were required to identify activities of inclusivity
2. Committee volunteers were further requested.

3. Committee assignments were made with an attempt to diversity via BIPOC and LGBTQIA+.
4. Co-chairs were appointed ensuring at least one co-chair was BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+. We sent out a survey to all volunteers to obtain their BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ status. This will ensure that these marginalized groups are given the opportunity to hold leadership roles that can ensure qualification to serve on the DWC Executive Board.
5. Committee membership was diversified when possible.
6. The D&I was involved in the emergency election as well as the Committee assignments.
7. Executive Board nominations of DWC members to the 2022 ASC Committees was organized to ensure only one nomination per committee to ensure that all members who identified as BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+.

Feminist Criminology

In the summer of 2020, the DWC membership learned that its journal, *Feminist Criminology*, published a transphobic article. At that point, the membership demanded action from the journal's editor to denounce the article. This did not happen to the satisfaction of the membership or the current Executive Board. The membership also started to learn that the Editorial Board lacked diversity, especially among the Deputy Editors, and that Editors were being removed without notice. The Executive Board then learned that the contract between the DWC and the journal's publisher, Sage, gave the power to determine make up and duties of the Editorial Board, but not the Deputy Editors. As a result, the Executive Board made the following motions:

1. Passed an Executive Board Statement of Inclusivity (condemning exclusion, including transphobia and racism).
2. Created the Feminist Criminology Editorial Board Committee with the following charge,
 - a. To make recommendations to the Executive Board on the size, composition, term of service of the Editorial Board,
 - b. To make recommendations to the Executive Board of the duties of the Deputy Editors and the Editorial Board,
 - c. To recommend to the Executive Board the members to serve on the Editorial Board, and
 - d. To keep a record of appointments and terms in order to continue a rotation and recommendation of Editorial Board members.
3. The journal Editor was instructed not to remove Editorial Board members without notice. This will change once the policies and procedures are put into place.

The Executive Board also determined that the next Editor contract will hold the Editor accountable to the DWC.

COMMITTEE WORK

Constitutional Revision Committee (CRC)

Members: Amy D'Unger and Amanda Burgess-Proctor

The CRC was convened mid-year in 2020 to make recommendations to the revision of the Constitution. The Executive Board, via communication with DWC Acting Chair Elaine Arnall, rejected the recommendations. Unfortunately, this rejection did not follow Constitutional procedure. The CRC has been reconvened and will begin by reviewing recommendations of past

CRCs (2016, 2019 and 2020). The Executive Board will bring recommendations before the membership for a vote. The current CRC members are: Michelle Hughes Miller (Chair), Amanda Burgess-Proctor, Cara Rabe-Hemp, Eryn Oneal, Jordana Navarro, Vera Lopez

Diversity & Inclusion Committee (D&I)

The D&I meet several times over the year. This Committee also includes the Anti-Racist Action Sub-committee. The committee has taken on the following activities, including 1) developing a slate of new diversity/inclusion initiatives that the DWC funded; 2) all work associated with the DCW travel awards and the newly created engaged scholar award; 3) conducted DWC diversity and inclusion panels at Crimcon and the UN NGO forum; 4) working cooperatively with the Anti-Racist Action Sub-committee to organize a June 4th forum. The purpose of the forum is to enable (virtual) face-to-face preliminary discussions to advance ideas, share resources, learn from one another, and make plans to take action. Currently, the Executive Board is reviewing the D&I application to create a community-engaged scholar award to recognize and celebrate a scholar's accomplishment that often gets overlooked, service, and giving back to their communities. In order to push inclusivity, the D&I initiated a new section of the DWC newsletter to specifically highlight a scholar of color whose work helps advance diversity and inclusion in criminal justice/ criminology broadly conceived.

Internal Nominations Committee

2020 Committee: Sarah Koon-Magnin

This Committee held 2020 elections for Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Senior Executive Counselor, and Junior Executive Counselor. The call for nominations was sent on November 16 (-23), 2020 and voting was open December 8-14, 2020. Elected individuals included:

- Vice Chair – Leslie Gordon Simons (2021-2022)
- Secretary/Treasurer – Janne Gaub (2021-2022)
- Senior Executive Counselor – Michelle Hughes Miller (2020-2022)
- Junior Executive Counselor – Valerie Anderson (2021-2022)

2021 Committee: Sean Wilson, Chair, Chris Smith, Claire Renzetti, Elaina Behounek, Eryn Oneal, Samantha M. Gavin, Sarah Rodgers, Shavonne Arthurs, Prit Kaur

In February 2021, the DWC Acting Chair Elaine Arnull, Vice Chair Leslie Gordon Simons, Secretary/Treasurer Janne Gaub, Junior Executive Counselor Valerie Anderson resigned. As a result, the Internal Nominations Committee, whose membership the Executive Board expanded was convened to hold a special election to fill these positions. The nominations were open March 22-29, 2021 and voting was open April 1-8, 2021.

- Chair – Catherine Kaukinen (unopposed) (2021-2023)
- Vice Chair – Maria Joao Lobo Antunes (unopposed) (2021-2022)
- Secretary/Treasurer – TBD (2021-2022)
- Junior Executive Counselor – Danielle Slakoff (unopposed) (2021-2022)

Newsletter Committee

Special Editor: Jordana Navarro, Deshonna Collier-Goubil, Eryn O’Neal, Samantha Clinkinbeard, Venessa Garcia, and Reneè Lamphere

The Newsletter Committee released a Special Issue: #Sayhername (<https://ascdwc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DWC-Special-Edition-Newsletter-1.pdf>) in January of 2021. The newsletter was dedicated to racial justice and injustice, especially in relation to gender. As per an Executive Board vote in 2020, the DWC will be paying a member to ensure BIPOC coverage within the Newsletter. The new Newsletter Co-Editors Samantha Clinkinbeard and Rimonda Maroun will be working with their staff (Amanda Goodson, Amy Poland, Janice Clifford, Julia Dillavou, Shuai WEi Tara Sutton, Venessa Garcia) to ensure inclusivity of issues and member news. <https://ascdwc.com/divisionews/>

Programming Committee

The 2020 Programming Committee was inactive since the ASC meeting was canceled. The newly formed Committee (Joan Antunes, Chair, Jackie Lee, Nicole Wilkes) is working to organize DWC sponsored roundtables.

Teaching & Pedagogy Committee

The Teaching & Pedagogy Committee continues to develop resources for the DWC membership and the committee at-large. In 2020, the Committee initiated the DWC Teach-in. The Teach-in provides pre-recorded webinars for online teaching on issues of race and gender during the global pandemic. There are currently eight sessions posted to the DWC webpage: <https://ascdwc.com/dwc-teach-in/>