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Dear ACAS Exec,

We have been able to reschedule our teleconference to Saturday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m. west coast time, 1 p.m. east coast time. It will last a maximum of one hour.

There are three topics to cover in this order: (1) how we stand at the moment (10 minutes); (2) the "new blood" commission (25 minutes); (3) ACAS at the ASA meeting in St. Louis (25 minutes). Suggested discussion time for each topic is in brackets. I'll chair discussion for topics 1 and 3, and Dave Wiley will do 2.

Enclosed is an agenda for my topics; Dave will make the agenda for his topic. As well, he is sending you beforehand the summary of responses and proposals made to/by the "new blood" commission. At the opening of the teleconference we will ask for additional agenda items.

I am also enclosing the following material for discussion under topic # 1: (a) a letter to ACAS from Randall Robinson asking ACAS for a contribution to TransAfrica Forum; (b) Table A and Table B giving data on our current membership.

The rest of the enclosed material is simply background information: copies of summer ACAS correspondence and some news items on steps being taken to rollback divestment legislation (Oregon is now the first state to do so; Jean Mayer, President of Tufts, argues for universities to do it).

Hope this isn't too bureaucratic! Until Saturday,

Ed

Agenda Topic #1: How We Stand
(Suggested discussion time: 10 minutes)

Item 1. Randall Robinson's request for an ACAS essay. How do we respond? (See his letter.)

Item 2. Membership: decline in numbers, income and activism. What is the source of the problem? (See Table A and Table B.) Here is additional background information.

Currently we have 252 members. Dues are our sole source of income; this number brings in a total of approximately \$6,090 yearly. (Table A)

We are on the verge of our sharpest-ever decline in membership. We have gained only 14 new members since the Baltimore ASA. We are losing (or have lost) 40 members who have not renewed this year; they are letting their membership lapse. In financial terms, amounts to a loss of approximately \$1,000. (Table B)

Over the past two years we have lost two institutional members (Indiana and Cornell U. libraries), and we are losing the Field Museum. There has been only one new institutional membership (Uppsala), and 6 libraries have renewed (Boston, MSU, Northwestern, Hoover Institution, Yale and UCLA).

There has been a sharp decline in the number of members who volunteer for PAC and research when renewing. This summer, for example, of the 60 persons who renewed membership, there was a 50% decline in the number willing to do research and a 36% decline in the number wanting to work with the PAC, compared with their responses one year ago.

Here are three additional bits of information that illustrate the decline in ACAS activism: (1) The PAC solicited ideas, etc., from our membership in the Winter Bulletin and nobody responded; (2) Not a single member volunteered themselves for an Exec position when asked to do so by the "new blood" commission in both the Winter and Spring/Summer issues of the Bulletin; (3) not a single member has come forward and offered to write something on "Academic Freedom in Africa" for the Fall Bulletin, eventhough they have been asked to do so in the two earlier issues and in one (renewal) letter I sent out to 90 members.

It has been suggested that we try and recruit more African-American scholars of Africa. This summer I sent out four letters, but only one person (Margaret Lee) has joined as a result. (See enclosed letters to Cummings, Keller, Lee and Turner.)

Item 3. Additional items?

Agenda Topic #3: ACAS at ASA in St. Louis
(Suggested discussion time: 25 minutes)

Item 1. We need two volunteers to coordinate ACAS meetings in St. Louis. Who will they be? (Background: I will not be going to St. Louis; I understand that Candice Goucher and Bill Minter will not be going either.)

This involves: arranging for the Friday lunch for Exec and Board (which is not prearranged through the ASA); working out details for the two ACAS meetings which have been prearranged (See ASA Prelim. Prog, p. 4: general meeting on Saturday afternoon and new Exec/Board meeting on Sunday morning); see that agendas for all three are prepared and distributed; arrange for chair at all three events; assume general responsibilities for the success of ACAS activities at St. Louis.

Item 2. We need two volunteers to coordinate the ACAS literature table at St. Louis. Who will they be?

This involves: arranging for, and coordinating, the ACAS literature table (it has been requested, but no response to date from ASA); preparing an information sheet about ACAS (we have run out of brochures and rather than incur the expense of printing new ones it has been suggested that we prepare a statement that is easily reproduced for general distribution. We do have lots of the "Membership Renewal Form" which could be altered to "Membership Form" for recruiting purposes.

Item 3. When will the agendas for all three ACAS business meetings be put together and by whom?

This involves: actually soliciting agenda items and putting it together. Ideally, that for the Friday Exec/Board meeting, and the Saturday general meeting should be put together in the next month; and the general meeting agenda should appear in the next Bulletin which goes to press in early November.

Item 4. ACAS panels at ASA.

Bill Martin had to cancel his; Nancy Klepper's was rejected by Levine (See enclosed final correspondence on the matter); and we are left with 4: Manley's (III-10); Ihonvbere's (V-12); Kofi's (VIII-12); and Thompson's (X-12). All are in ASA Prelim Program.

Item 5. Additional items?