

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
February 2 – 4, 2010
Washington, D.C.**

**Action: Diversity Committee Survey of Members
(Submitted by the SAA Diversity Committee)**

BACKGROUND

The Diversity Committee seeks permission from the SAA Council to develop and implement a survey of the SAA membership. The aim of the survey would be to ascertain member understanding of, attitudes about, and desires for professional action concerning diversity. The Diversity Committee would design the survey (probably with professional assistance), interpret the results, and report on the results to the Council.

DISCUSSION

Diversity is one of SAA's three strategic priorities. It involves a significant part of SAA Council's, SAA staff's, and SAA groups' work. Much of that work, however, has been undertaken without a clear sense of the needs and/or roles of the SAA membership in the process of promoting diversity. The Diversity Committee believes that SAA leadership, especially SAA Council and the Diversity Committee, would benefit from a better understanding of the membership.

The survey will focus on three areas. The first is to determine if there is a general understanding of diversity among the membership and if so, what its nature is. The second is to identify member attitudes toward diversity and its role in SAA and profession. And the third is to identify membership desires for professional action concerning diversity.

The Diversity Committee would seek assistance in developing and administering the survey. Committee members believe that this subject is complex and getting useful information will require more expertise than they possess. The intent would be to gather data that would be immediately useful to analyze for its own and for SAA Council's use. But it would also like to capture data that would be more generally useful to persons interested in researching organizational and professional diversity.

The Diversity Committee would like to have survey results, analyze them, and formally report on them to SAA Council at its August meeting.

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RECOMMENDATION

THAT the SAA Council authorize the Diversity Committee to develop and distribute a survey to SAA membership in order to ascertain member understanding of, attitudes about, and desires for professional action concerning diversity.

Support Statement: Consistent with SAA's Diversity strategic priority, the proposed survey would provide SAA leadership with valuable context for its decision making.

Fiscal Impact: To be determined based on need for professional assistance and distribution strategy.