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From: **Peter Neal Peregrine** <peter.n.peregrine@lawrence.edu>

Date: Tue, Nov 23, 2010 at 4:28 PM

Subject: AAA drops science from its mission statement

To: Peter Neal Peregrine <peter.n.peregrine@lawrence.edu>

Dear Supporters of Anthropological Science,

I write as President of the Society for Anthropological Sciences (SAS) to inform you of a troubling development that occurred at the Executive Board (EB) meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) this past weekend. The EB adopted a new Long-Range Plan (LRP) that includes a significant changes to the AAA mission statement—it removes all mention of science. The old and new versions of the AAA mission statement are reproduced below. Members of SAS feel these changes undermine American anthropology, and we passed a resolution at our business meeting condemning them. That resolution is also reproduced below. If you are concerned about this, I encourage you to contact the AAA. I would also urge you to renew your membership in the Society for Anthropological Sciences (<http://anthrosciences.org/csac/SASci/sasci.tabs/Members>).

Thank you,

Peter N. Peregrine, President

Society for Anthropological Sciences

Mission Statement in the new LRP (additions underlined; deletions in strikethrough)

Section 1. The purposes of the Association shall be to advance ~~anthropology as the science that studies~~ public understanding of humankind in all its aspects, ~~through~~ This includes, but is not limited to, archeological, biological, ~~ethnological,~~ social, cultural, economic, political, historical, medical, visual, and linguistic anthropological research; The Association also commits itself and to further the professional interests of ~~American~~ anthropologists, including the dissemination of anthropological knowledge, expertise, and interpretation. ~~and its use to solve human problems.~~

Section 2. To advance ~~the science of anthropology~~ the public understanding of humankind, the Association shall: ~~Foster and support the development of special anthropological societies organized on a regional or functional basis;~~ Publish and promote the publication of anthropological monographs and journals; Encourage anthropological teaching, research, and practice; ~~act to coordinate activities of members of the Association with those of other organizations concerned with anthropology,~~ and maintain effective liaison with related sciences knowledge disciplines and their organizations.

Section 3. To further the professional interests of anthropologists, the Association shall, ~~in addition to those activities described under Section 2: Take action on behalf of the entire profession and integrate the professional activities of anthropologists in the special aspects of the science; and~~ promote the widespread recognition and constant improvement of professional standards in anthropology.

Society for Anthropological Sciences resolution

We object to the change in the mission statement included in the long range plan because it abandons the core principles of and rationale for the association and because it abandons support of the membership. We urge the executive board to amend the long range plan so that it is in accordance with the core principles and rationale of the association and does not abandon support of the membership.

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