Federation of Small Anthropology Programs (FOSAP)
A Committee of the General Anthropology Division (GAD)
of the American Anthropological Association

September, 1992

FOSAP DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS:

FOSAP's organization, our request to become a standing committee of GAD (General Anthropology Division), and our petition for a seat on the GAD Board of Directors have come at an "awkward" time. As those of you who have plodded through the June Special Edition of the Anthropology Newsletter can attest, the restructuring of the AAA has left FOSAP in a bit of a quandary. The changes of the Bylaws that would put the AAA restructuring into effect will probably be implemented and will undoubtedly have an effect on our future.

In the meantime, FOSAP must operate under current AAA rules. In the spring, GAD approved FOSAP as a standing committee. A petition for membership on the Board of Directors, along with the required list of 100+ names of FOSAP "members," has been sent to GAD's officers, and we hope that a FOSAP representative will join the Board at the San Francisco meetings. As of this writing, no word has been received from GAD; the petition was sent in early August and the GAD officers were probably on vacation. We expect to hear the results of their decision soon.

We are assuming that the restructuring of AAA will be passed. As for our future, FOSAP cannot become a Section (the largest unit under restructuring) because there is no "intellectual area around which it is formed." FOSAP must therefore become an Interest Group, formed around "professional concerns, primarily for the purpose of informal exchange of information and networking." But, there are two choices here: 1) FOSAP can stay with GAD (which will change from a Division to a Section) and become an Interest Group of GAD; or 2) FOSAP can become an independent Interest Group with no parent affiliation.

Interest Groups appear to benefit by being part of a larger Section, and we recommend that at least for now, FOSAP stay within the organization of GAD. We would have an identity and representation with GAD that we would not have if we were an independent Interest Group. As long as an Interest Group has 100 "members" (and FOSAP does), it will be guaranteed a minimum of one session at national meetings; this will be policy regardless of whether the Interest Group is independent or part of a Section. However, Sections will be guaranteed additional slots at meetings, based on their relative proportion of membership. If FOSAP is in GAD, it will be able to compete for additional slots, a competition somewhat easier than competing in the general arena. Another reason to stay with GAD is financial. If FOSAP continues to "network" during the year through two Newsletters, we would have to think about assessing a fee for mailing purposes. Both the University of San Diego and West Virginia University have absorbed the costs this year, but this kind of altruism is not likely to continue. Assessing "members" of an independent Interest Group a dollar a year seems a bit awkward, and passing the hat unproductive, but asking GAD for $250 a year for Newsletters seems likely to be acceptable, and costs for Newsletters are allowed under restructuring. Even though the proposed restructuring will apparently decrease some of GAD's power and clout, the Chair of the new GAD will have a seat on the Executive Board of the restructured AAA. FOSAP with a seat on the GAD Board will have direct access to the GAD Chair. Although an elected representative of FOSAP will meet annually with the AAA Executive Board, being part of GAD will give FOSAP two avenues to AAA decision making. A final reason to stay with GAD is an emotional one: most FOSAP members will probably join the new General Anthropology Section or GAS (oh no!) since most of us are committed to anthropological holism and/or teaching and research interests beyond a single sub-discipline. GAD appears to be the intellectual "home" for most FOSAP interests and "members".

If you can wade through such items, be sure to read the June Anthropology Newsletter that provides details of these restructuring changes. We can discuss FOSAP's position at our Business Meeting in December. At present, it appears that staying with GAD is in our best interest, but the situation can change before December.
SAN FRANCISCO MEETINGS:

We have just received word that the Special Event we proposed for the December meetings was accepted. Since it went in under the sponsorship of GAD, we are assuming that being part of GAD paid off already. (A similar topic was proposed several years ago with no parent affiliation and was turned down.) That Special Event -- title is "Problems and Issues for Small Programs" will be on Saturday, December 5 from noon to 1:30 in the Continental Ballroom I. All of our panelists are "on board:"

Michael Higgins ... Multicultural Movements and the Small Program
Pat Rice ... Curricular Holism and the Small Program
Frank Young ... Combined Programs: Living with Sociology
Angelo Orona ... Tenure, Promotion, and the Small Program
Paul Brown ... Selling the Small Program to Peers and Administrators
Dan Moeriman ... Funding Perks in Small Programs

Frank Young is chairing that session, which means he will be doing the announcements and getting everyone "off" when their time is up. We have planned time at the end for discussion. Please plan to come even if you are munching a sandwich.

FOSAP's Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3 from 7:15 - 8. The "odd" time is because the schedule person scheduled both our Special Event and the Business Meeting at the same time! A hurried phone call got the Business Meeting changed, but we had our choice of a good day but a short session (things are very tight) or Wednesday -- when no one has arrived yet -- or Sunday -- when everyone has left. So, we are stuck with the good day but short time period. Frank Young will be in touch with a lot of you about what you think we should do at that session. If you have any ideas of how we can best use our 45 minutes, please let one of us know. One thing we must do at the meeting is to hold elections for "officers." GAD will be telling us what the administration would be, but at a minimum we will elect a 1993 chairperson and a representative to the GAD Board of Directors. Keeping Thursday night open for dinner, after 8, would be one way to extend our time together.

Although FOSAP is not sponsoring the following session, we feel it is of such potential interest to FOSAP "members" that we want to call it to your attention. Every year for at least the past five or so years, SCC (Society for Community Colleges) has sponsored a Session titled "Five Field Update." Many people think, because it is sponsored by SCC, that the "level" of presentation is junior college, but it is not. SCC asks a "top" person in each field to come and talk about what has happened in that sub-discipline during the last year. Every talk is not gold plated, but many are. For those of us who teach four-field intro anthro or do research across the discipline and find keeping up with the field to be difficult, this session is a "must."

SEPTEMBER BALLOTS:

Anyone who is a "member" of FOSAP is also a "member" of GAD and there are two elected offices coming up on this fall's ballot (September) with FOSAP people in the running. David McCurdy (Macalester) is a FOSAP "member" and is running for President of GAD. Pat Rice (West Virginia) is a FOSAP co-founder and currently acting co-chairperson and is running for Secretary-Treasurer of GAD. Two people in pivotal positions in GAD would make FOSAP representation really count, so as the adage goes, vote early and vote often.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS:

The FOSAP questionnaire was sent out last March to 151 small (five or fewer) programs, as listed in the AAA Guide. Sixty programs responded, but three had grown beyond the maximum five faculty, so 57 programs were used for the tabulations. As promised in Frank Young's original questionnaire request, the results of the tabulations were sent out to all responding programs. This was completed by July 31. For the benefit of those who will be attending either or both FOSAP sessions in San Francisco, copies of the survey results will be made available. Some of these data will be used in presentations at the Special Event. For information or a copy of the questionnaire earlier than December, write to Frank Young, Dept. of Anthropology, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego CA 92110 (or call 619 260 4600, ext. 4470; Fax number is 619 260 4619.

We hope to see you in early December in San Francisco.

Pat Rice .... West Virginia University
Frank Young .... University of San Diego
(Acting co-chairpersons)