Minutes
Executive Council Meeting
5 December 2022, 15:30-20:00 CET
Hybrid meeting

Online: Zoom meeting

On-site: Seminarraum 5, MPIfG, Paulstr. 3, 50676 Cologne, Germany

In attendance on-site:
Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director, non-voting)
Karen Shire
Arianna Tassinari
Kevin Young

In attendance online:
Caroline Arnold
Nina Bandelj (SASE President-elect, non-voting)
Yuri Biondi (SASE Treasurer, non-voting)
Katherine Chen
Victor Chen (NOF Representative, non-voting)
Ying Chen
Timur Ergen
Emily Erikson
Elizabeth Gorman
Alya Guseva (SER Chief editor, non-voting)
Heather Haveman
Michelle Hsieh
Monika Krause
Sébastien Lechevalier
Aldo Madariaga
Eunmi Mun
Jackie O'Reilly (SASE Past-president, non-voting)
Kim Pernell-Gallagher
Marta dos Reis Castilho
Akos Rona-Tas (SER Chief Editor, non-voting)
Santos Ruesga (SASE President, only votes in case of tie)
Zsuzsanna Vargha

Not attending, excused:

Chiara Benassi
Nana de Graaff
Kathryn Ibata-Arens
Jeanne Lazarus
Virag Molnar
Elizabeth Thurbon
Natascha van der Zwan

1. **Welcome and greetings** - Prof. Santos Ruesga (SASE President)

Prof. Ruesga thanks everyone for being there and expresses his gratitude to the local organizing team in Rio de Janeiro, as well as the SASE staff.
He thanks the Executive Council for approving the donation from the Amitai Etzioni fund. The profound gratitude of the Executive Council for this donation is expressed.
He wishes great success for the 35th annual meeting of SASE, SASE's first in Latin America.

2. **Approval of minutes from July 2022 meeting** - Santos Ruesga (SASE President)

Discussion: Three minor mistakes were raised and subsequently corrected.

Motion: Motion to approve corrected version of minutes from July 2022 Executive Council meeting.
Vote: 14 voting, all in favor. Motion passed.

3. **SASE budget** - Yuri Biondi (SASE Treasurer) and Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)

Discussion: The final figures for the 2022 Amsterdam conference and the period 1 September 2021 - 31 August 2022 were presented. An explanation was given regarding changes in the way the budget is presented. Some questions were raised regarding the cost of catering and bank charges, general satisfaction was expressed that despite the late addition of a satellite location, the period ended with a small surplus. It is highlighted that the Executive Council decision to place $46,750 per year in reserves has been respected, with the goal of having two times the amount of SASE overhead in reserves, and this is warmly welcomed. It is stressed how important these reserves are for covering SASE's overhead in the event of a canceled or reduced conference. No motions were made.

4. **Conference location for 2025 (N. America)** - Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)

Alain Carbonneau, from Business Events Montréal, who helped put together the bid from the Palais des Congrès in Montréal, was also available to answer questions.

The options for 2025 presented were Montréal (Palais des Congrès), Ottawa (Shaw Centre and Westin Hotel), and Halifax (no concrete proposal).
The Montréal bid was highlighted as favorable, due to the highly discounted rental fee offered by the Palais des Congrès, and the fact that funding from Business Events Montréal is not dependent on SASE committing to room blocks in local hotels - it is merely based on the number of participants who attend the conference, regardless of where they stay. In addition, the low food and beverage minimums, in addition to reasonable A/V costs, was highlighted as favorable.
There are a variety of hotels available, with university residencies offering the most cost-efficient option.
By contrast, the Ottawa bid requires a complex set of room blocks, in addition to very high food and beverage minimums in two separate locations.
By working directly with Convention and Visitors Bureaus, the SASE conference will be recognized by border authorities, such that visa application processes should be easier.
If the Montréal location were to be approved, a non-binding agreement would be signed, followed by a contract that would be approved by the Executive Council at its July 2023 meeting.

Discussion: The level of implication of local universities was raised. It was highlighted that a number of SASE members are based in Montreal, and some have already expressed interest in participating as local organizers. The possibility of collaborating with local universities (instead of the Palais des Congrès) for organizing the Early Career Workshop and the Executive Council meeting was also brought forward, which would have the additional benefit of bringing costs down further.
General enthusiasm was expressed for the Montreal location, and the Palais des Congrès specifically. It was stated that Ottawa is more difficult to get to, Halifax very difficult.
The Network Organizer Forum expressed a preference for Montreal over Ottawa, in part due to the fact that more direct international flights land in Montréal as opposed to Ottawa.
A concern was raised regarding alternating N. American and European locations systematically, given that attendance is lower at N. American conferences. A suggestion was made that SASE stay in Europe for 2 years in a row, only going to N. America every 3 years. This would mean a European location in 2026 and 2027, returning to N. America in 2028. However, to keep N. American membership high, the conference would need to be in N. America on a regular basis. It was agreed that more information on geographic data from conference participation would be presented in July 2023, and a decision would be taken about whether SASE should continue to rotate annually between Europe and N. America.

Motion: Approve the Montréal Palais des Congrès as conference location for 2025.

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Vote: 16 voting, 15 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

No motions on Ottawa or Halifax.

5. **Conference location for 2026 (Europe)** - Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)

No decision on 2026 was needed at this point, but the options were presented to see if any should be eliminated from consideration, or if other options could be considered. The options discussed were Lisbon (conference center or university), University of Aarhus, and the Bologna conference center. A final decision on 2026 should be made at the July 2023 Executive Council meeting.

Discussion: Bologna was discussed favorably, and a possibility of collaboration with the university was evoked. However, the conference center is unfortunately not in the historic part of the city, it is rather a bit outside the city. SASE has several members at the University of Bologna who have expressed interest in supporting SASE coming to Bologna. All three locations were seen positively, and it was agreed that the Executive Director should continue discussions with them. Some additional ideas were also fielded: Budapest, Prague (Charles University), and Tallinn - Eastern Europe more generally.
It was requested that the cost for participants be included in calculations - include general information on food costs and hotels, such that the total costs for participants would be part of the decision.
No motions were made.

6. **Conference location for 2027** - Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)

The option of bringing the SASE conference to UBC-Vancouver was presented.

Discussion: It could be advantageous to bring SASE to the N. American west coast, especially to attract Asian members. It may be that 2028 would be a better year for Vancouver, if the conference were to stay in Europe in 2026 and 2027. It was agreed that the Executive Director would find out if UBC-Vancouver could host the conference in 2028. The possibility of recruiting new members by going to this location was mentioned, however, Vancouver is an expensive city, and very far from Europe - thus the environmental cost should be considered. Given SASE's desire to expand its membership, and given that there are SASE members on site who would support this bid, it was agreed that this would remain in play and be voted on in the July 2023 meeting.
No motions were made.

7. **Updated bylaws** - Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)

The last round of by-law changes were not approved, because quorum (two-thirds of voting members) was not reached. Hence bringing this to the table again now.

The proposed new bylaws represent a complete overhaul of the SASE bylaws, with the hope of creating bylaws that are both compliant with regulations regarding Washington DC-based non-profit organizations (which SASE is) and that are simple enough to support the organization without requiring changes for small details. The model for these new bylaws is the ASA bylaws, as this is also a DC-based non-profit organization with a mission similar to that of SASE.

Here is a summary of the major changes:

1. Information about meetings of members is included, as per the requirements for a Washington, DC based non-profit. The ASA's language has been copied in this respect, as it is also a DC-based non-profit (see Article IV, section 3: Meetings of Members). These meetings would require 10% of members to participate if matters are to be voted upon, and voting can also take place by electronic means.

2. Roles of officers are much less detailed (see Article V, Section 3: Officers).

3. All standing committees are included - one change: the Membership and Diversity Committee (see Article VII, section 5) would be formed every other year, since it is tasked with looking at long-term trends. This is intended to ease the burden slightly of committee work for Executive Council members. This detail could also be left out, and simply have the committees under the authority of the Council (which is the case), and the Council would determine each year which committees should be formed - this is technically the case anyway.

4. Change in the way bylaws are amended (see Article X) - would require only 10% of the membership voting. The same would be true for elections generally (this is modeled after the ASA requirements). This is a significant change from the current bylaws, which require a two-thirds majority of all members for by-law changes (we did not achieve this last year, hence revisiting the bylaws again now).

5. An article on SER governance is included (Article VI), as per the changes approved last year by the Executive Council.

6. A category of institutional membership is included, as per the changes approved last year by the Executive Council (Article IV, Section 1: Membership Categories).

7. An indemnification clause is included - this is standard. For information, SASE also now has insurance to protect the executive director and officers in case of litigation associated with their position in SASE (Director and officers insurance).

If the Executive Council were to approve these changes, a lawyer would be contracted to review the bylaws before they are given to the SASE membership for approval. As per the previous bylaws, this would require a two-thirds majority of members to pass.

Discussion: A concern is raised regarding how quorum will be reached to pass the new version of the bylaws. The Executive Director explains that the vote would be attached to the registration process for a future conference, in the hope that quorum would be reached in this way. It was pointed out that an information campaign should be conducted before registration opens, as this is a complex document with significant effects for the organization going forward. A short rationale should be provided to clarify what changes are included, with links to documents showing the changes. It was pointed out that registration on-site could be a place for this vote to take place as well.

Questions were asked about how quorum is calculated. Standard practice seems to be that quorum is calculated based on incumbent members, and this should be clarified in the new version of the bylaws. It was proposed that the number of members on the 1st day of the conference could be used to calculate quorum. The concept of "voting member" also needs to be defined clearly.

The 10% threshold for member petitions or quorum for bylaw changes was seen with concern by some, as being too low, and too drastic a change. A higher threshold may be preferable. Other voices were raised supporting the 10% threshold. A middle road was proposed: member petitions would require 10% of voting members, with a quorum requirement of 20% or higher. There are also two separate mentions of petitions (member petitions and petitions for changes of by-laws), and it needs to be clarified if they follow the same procedure or not.

Motion: Approve updated bylaws, with a revised document (define voting members, how quorum is calculated, and how petitions for bylaws are governed) to be submitted to the Executive Council after the lawyer's review. Actual quorum should be reviewed in a second step. **Vote: 16 voting, all in favor. Motion passed.**

8. **Update on annual conference in Rio 2023** - Marta dos Reis Castilho (chair of local organizing committee) and Annelies Fryberger (Executive Director)

The Executive Director reported on her site visit to Rio, with an overall positive perspective. Direct links will be available on the website for hotel reservations, and shuttles will be organized from these hotels to the conference location. Organization is moving forward, submissions are coming in and the new submissions system seems to be working well. There were significantly more mini-conferences submitted for the Rio conference than for the previous conference in Amsterdam, which is seen as a sign of enthusiasm for this conference location.

Unfortunately, hybrid conferencing is not possible due to the bandwidth capacity of the on-site wireless network, hence the decision to offer limited virtual sessions in the week before the conference.

One new item on the budget is brought to the attention of the Council: a local events agency, who will oversee the on-the-ground organization of the conference. It represents an expense of about $10,000. This agency was recommended to SASE by the Rio Convention Bureau. A similar expense was incurred for the Amsterdam conference, in that case the events agency was part of the university. One part of their role is to manage the budget, and they will also manage hotel room blocks and the shuttle service for participants.

The chair of the local organizing committee highlighted that they have received funds from a scientific foundation and from the host university - this financial contribution is significantly higher than what host organizations have offered SASE in the past. Some of these funds can be used to pay the fee of the events agency.

Discussion: It is mentioned that, unfortunately, Network I will not be present in Rio. Distress was expressed that this was not communicated in advance to the Executive Council. It is emphasized that when the Executive Council approves a new network, it does so in thinking about the overall structure of the organization and how the different networks balance each other, and how the new network might help SASE diversify its membership or its interdisciplinarity. Even though there is nothing in the bylaws preventing a network from taking a hiatus, a desire is expressed to have the Executive Council formally communicate its distress and disapproval of this decision with the organizers of Network I.

It was proposed that the Network Oversight Committee might create a document of more explicit rules for networks, which could include recommendations on the number of network organizers per network and guidance for rotation. However, reservations are expressed regarding the creation of additional rules, especially since network organizers are giving their labor in a volunteer capacity. Burnout is an issue for network organizers, and delegating tasks is more difficult than it may seem - network organizing is indeed a significant amount of work. It is important to maintain the structure of SASE in that it is a community of communities, with an aim for inclusivity - with this in mind, top-down control should likely be avoided. Overall, networks function very well.

Motion: Mandate for Network Oversight Committee: to write to Network I expressing the disappointment of the Executive Council regarding their decision to put their network on hiatus for 2023, with a request that the Network Oversight committee reflect on this with the Network Organizers Forum and bring results to the Executive Council.

Vote: 18 voting, 17 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Rio budget

Discussion: The budget is the same as was presented in Amsterdam, with the addition of the fee for the events agency. The contribution of the UFRJ is significantly more than that of host

institutions in previous years. It is clarified that this is the budget that is being given to local organizers, and that there is an expectation that this budget will be respected.

Motion: Approve budget as presented for Rio conference.
Vote: 15 voting, all in favor. Motion passed.

   9. **Fees for virtual participants at 2023 meeting** - Nina Bandelj and Annelies Fryberger

The fees for Rio 2023 were presented:

Registration rates - SASE/Rio 2023
These rates INCLUDE membership fees unless otherwise specified.

Category*	Rate
OECD Non-student	$415
OECD Non-student early bird	$365
OECD Emeritus	$325
OECD Emeritus early bird	$280
OECD Student registration	$230
OECD Student early bird	$205
Non-OECD Non-Student	$160
Non-OECD Emeritus	$120
Non-OECD Student	$80
Community-sponsored reduced fee	$50 *membership not required*
Auditor registration	Free
Faculty and staff from host institutions (UFRJ and Fluminense)	Membership only (see below for rates)

*All of these categories INCLUDE SASE Membership, unless otherwise specified.

SASE membership rates

Category	Rate
OECD Non-student	$130
OECD Emeritus	$100
OECD Student	$65
Non-OECD Non-Student	$50
Non-OECD Emeritus	$40
Non-OECD Student	$25

The Executive Committee voted to offer limited virtual-only sessions for the conference, since hybrid options are not possible in Rio (the wireless network cannot support multiple, simultaneous zoom meetings). Each network was offered the option of organizing 2 virtual sessions, each mini-conference one. These will take place in the week before the Rio conference. The vast majority of theme tracks elected to organize virtual sessions.

It is being made clear to participants that the virtual option is limited, and only for those who could not attend the conference at all otherwise. It is not possible to switch participation modes after the submission deadline has passed. The question now is: what fees should be charged for virtual participants?

The following options were discussed by the Executive Committee meeting and with the Network Organizers Forum:

1. fees the same for virtual and on-site participants
2. small discount for virtual participants, essentially to offset catering expenses (20% discount was proposed)
3. virtual participants only pay membership, not registration

Given the burden that this presents for SASE staff (organizing up to 60 virtual sessions), the staff expressed a strong preference for the first option. The local organizing committee also expressed distress that an alternative is being proposed to on-site participation, which is discouraging for those working hard to make the conference a success. Thus the local organizers support the first option, in order to avoid giving a financial incentive for virtual participation. The network organizers generally expressed support for the third option. The conference dinner will be billed separately, so virtual participants will not be contributing to that regardless.

Motion: Vote on the three proposed options for fees for virtual participants, 2023 conference.
Voting: 15 voting, no abstentions.
Option 1: Fees shall be the same for on-site and virtual participants. **11 votes**
Option 2: 20% discount for virtual participants. **3 votes**
Option 3: Virtual participants shall only pay membership (not registration). **1 vote**

Option 1 passes.

10. Update on Limerick 2024 - Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)

It was shared that planning was continuing apace, and that a contract with the University of Limerick for Executive Council approval will be presented at the July 2023 Executive Council meeting. The SASE Executive Director will travel to Limerick for a site visit and contract negotiations in March of 2023 - this trip is funded by the Limerick Convention Bureau, with no additional costs for SASE.
No discussion, no motions.

11. Network Oversight Committee - Arianna Tassinari (NOC member)

Two network proposals were submitted to the Network Oversight Committee (NOC): Health and Decolonizing Development.

Recommendation of the NOC:
1. The Health network proposal presents no significant overlaps with existing networks and makes a strong argument for expanding membership. The NOC recommends that the EC approve this new network.
2. The Decolonizing Development application does not address the strong overlap with existing SASE Network B (Globalization and Socio-Economic Development), and the NOC recommends that the committee approach the submitters and ask them to address this overlap, after which a dialogue could be established with Network B to foster a potential collaboration.

Discussion: Overlap with Network B is indeed an issue, but the submitters have significantly contributed to diversifying the perspectives presented at SASE. The EC would welcome the perspective of the submitters on this point.
The issue was raised of Network Organizers not having any input on the selection of mini-conferences, which can lead to a situation where applications for networks can arise without existing networks being aware of this. Communication between existing networks and new network submissions needs to be better established. Frustration was expressed that network organizers do not have a vote on, and are not requested to provide input for, new network and mini-conference applications. It was proposed that the Network Oversight Committee consult with Network Organizers when a significant overlap is identified between a network application and an existing network.
The Decolonizing Development application created some disarray, as it was pointed out that scholars unfamiliar with SASE would have difficulty deciding if they should apply to a network on development, or rather a network on decolonizing development. Network B (via input in

writing from the Network Organizer Forum collected before the EC meeting) expressed a desire to work with the submitters, and opposed splintering the development topic into two separate networks. The EC felt that it was important to be sensitive to asking the submitters to work with Network B, without asking them to first complete their application by addressing the perceived overlap with Network B from their perspective.

Motion: Request that the submitters of the Decolonizing Development network application address the overlap with network B.
Vote: 14 voting: 13 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

The stated closing time (20:00 CET) for the meeting was reached at this point, and several members had to leave. Quorum was no longer reached. The following points were discussed and voted upon electronically (via email and a Google form) in the 2 weeks after the meeting.

Motion: Approve Health network application.
Vote: 16 voting, all in favor. Motion passed.

12. **Use of funds from Amitai Etzioni** - Nina Bandelj (SASE President-Elect) and Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)

The Executive Council previously approved the grant from the Amitai Etzioni Fund in the amount of $100,000. The Executive Council may now weigh in on how these funds should be used.

The SASE Executive Committee would like to propose 3 ideas to the Executive Council for the use of these funds.
1. Network A paper award and travel stipend
2. Award of seed money for research
3. Funds for SS4RW to bring in speakers for their annual event

The Executive Director would like to propose that a portion of these funds ($25,000) be reserved for a re-design of the SASE website. The SASE team is currently moving all membership database management off of the SASE website, and thus the SASE website will function more as a billboard/brochure, not as a place where payments will be processed and memberships managed. This will be on a third-party site moving forward. It is proposed to solicit estimates from web design firms, which the Executive Director would present to the Council at its July 2023 meeting for approval. No funds would be disbursed without Executive Council approval. If the Executive Council deems that the SASE website is not in need of improvement, it can remain as is.

The Executive Director proposed that the remaining funds, along with the SASE reserves generally, would be placed in an interest-paying savings account, with some portion of the reserves also placed in CDs (certificates of deposit).

Discussion: What follows are the comments collected online after the Executive Council meeting itself:

- Here are the priorities to me: re-design of the SASE website, and funds for the Social Sciences for the Real World (SS4RW) to bring in an outside speaker
- Would vote for sharing between redesign of webpage, paper award, funds for SS4RW
- I support the re-design of the website. Using part of the funds on something that honors Etzioni's wider agenda would be good.
- Updating the website and a paper award for Etzioni's network sounds good
- Start an endowment for an award. Rather than spend this down, I'd like to see it conserved & the income from it used for something like an award.
- What about travel grants to pay some of the costs to SASE conferences? SASE is going to confront an increasing conflict between its desire to maintain an international membership and the costs of travel (at least if we want to have in-person meetings).
- Improve website, save portion in "rainy day" fund.
- I support the paper award for network A, as it is Etzioni's original network. Another idea is to support conference expenses of emerging scholars. I do not think funds for SS4RW is appropriate as this is an outside group and is likely to benefit a more advantaged group (recognized speakers).
- I think we should re-table this discussion for July and solicit more well thought out, ambitious proposals between now and then. I am in favour of allocating part of the donation for the website but am not sure about the other two proposals - they seem a bit random.
- We should consider treating the entire amount as an endowment.
- I opt for a paper award for Network A and funds for SS4RW. The award of seed money for research is also a good idea, but I suggest to call for applications for the types of new research that SASE hopes to encourage.
- I think all of these ideas have merit and are worth considering further.
- Potentially: paper award Network A (e.g. $500) or network A seed money from this list of options, but whatever the use is, I could envision only using half of the donated amount. The other half could become part of the reserves as a core endowment, placed in CDs (see below item 12).

- I agree with the the initiative on the website reformulation and the award for Etzioni's network. Granting funds for research sounds good to me, but at this time I have not enough knowledge on the SS4RW initiative nor on what the "award of seed money for research" is.
- Some academic associations (Lasa, for ex) used to give some funds for participants in the Congress coming from developing or less developed countries. This could be an idea... We should take a look at their rules to propose something.
- These are good ideas. I am much less sure about the 'seed money for research', given the fact that there are always other opportunities for that and it could be quite unwieldy to govern. I also don't like very much the idea of spending $$ for an outside speaker. We should promote our own people whenever possible. As an alternative proposal I would think that any initiative that helps graduate students - or activists (or both) - connect with the SASE, any such efforts could use a modest amount of these funds, and a small amount of such funds could probably go a long way.

This discussion will be continued with a vote at the July 2023 Executive Council meeting.

Discussion regarding placing a portion of the reserves in Certificates of Deposit (CD):
These are secure, short-term (typically between 1 and 5 years), relatively high-yield investment vehicles (currently between 3-8% depending on the financial institution). The proposal is to place half of SASE's reserves in such a vehicle, with the other half in an interest-yielding savings account.
Generally, the discussion was favorable toward this option, but more information and precise figures are needed. This will be revisited at the July 2023 Executive Council meeting.

13. Addendum to Executive Director contract - Santos Ruesga (SASE President)

Executive Director Annelies Fryberger requested that the Executive Council increase the hours in her contract to full time (39 hours per week) for the months of May, June, and July 2023. The initial expectation was that her time worked would balance out to part time (19.5 hours per week) over the course of the year, but experience has proved that the position actually requires 19.5 hours per week for the bulk of the year, and full-time (39+ hours per week) in the months leading up to the conference. This request is made only for the 2022-2023 cycle, to be reevaluated in December 2023.

Discussion: Wholehearted approval on the short term. On the medium to long term, it would be good to revisit the Organizational Review Committee's investigations on different models,

whether it makes sense for the SASE staff to keep being involved in conference organization this heavily, and if this is the model SASE wants going forward.

Motion: Approve the addendum to the Executive Director contract, for the period 2022-2023. **Vote: 16 voting, all in favor. Motion passed.**

    14. Creation of a committee on SASE-RISE - Santos Ruesga (SASE President)

Proposal to create a committee to evaluate the SASE-RISE regional meetings. This committee would be active during the 2023-2024 period, and would thus be able to attend the 2023 SASE-RISE meeting and give its report and recommendations at the 2024 Executive Council meeting in Limerick.

The following is the result of the online vote:

Agenda item 14: Creation of a committee on SASE-RISE. This committee would run during the 2023-2024 cycle, with the purpose of information gathering and formulating recommendations.
16 responses

The last point, not fully reproduced in the image, is the following: "I am not sure I understand the purpose, sorry. There was no time for Santos to explain. Would it be possible to have more information? What has given rise to the need for this committee, and on what would it be gathering information? If need be, yes but we are also trying to reduce the number of committees. In addition, who would pay for the committee to travel to the RISE conference?"

Given the mixed results of the vote and the lack of clarity, this will be revisited at the July 2023 Executive Council meeting.

    15. Fixed date for December Executive Council meetings - Annelies Fryberger (SASE Executive Director)
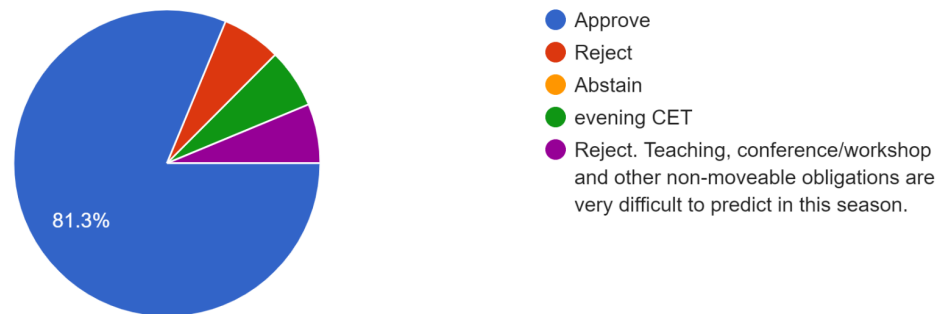
Would the Executive Council agree to setting a fixed date for the December Executive Council meetings?
Proposal by the Executive Director: Afternoon (CET) of the first Tuesday in December.

The result of the online vote was as follows:

Agenda item 15: Fixed date for December EC meetings. Proposal: First Tuesday in December, afternoon CET.
16 responses

- Approve
- Reject
- Abstain
- evening CET
- Reject. Teaching, conference/workshop and other non-moveable obligations are very difficult to predict in this season.

81.3%

The majority of voting members was in favor, nonetheless the Executive Director will ask for final approval of this at the July 2023 Executive Council meeting.

16. AOB - Santos Ruesga (SASE President)

The following points were raised in the online survey after the meeting:

- At virtually every meeting the executive council deals with questions of network formation and governance. These discussions are only partly open and focused, and they are regularly cut off. As it remains a source of constant conflict and irritation, the EC should find some way to bring peace into the network question.
- I would like an update on the plan to provide network listservs or some form of electronic communication among network members. We have been waiting for this for a long time!
- Further discussion of network organizer responsibilities and guidance, as well as executive committee member responsibilities
- The discussion at the last EC meeting raised for me the tricky issue of how the SASE networks are approved. I was unaware of the 3-mini-conference criteria, and I think that overall the conditions for introducing a new network are too strict compared to what they

could be. Furthermore, given the approval process there are too many opportunities for vetoing proposals based on technicalities rather than the substantive overall intellectual content of a proposal and what a given network proposal could offer the SASE community. I thus submit that SASE network approval criteria be loosened if we are to become a more pluralistic organization that keeps growing.