

Putting it All Together

NAGPS

Scholarship, Leadership & Activism in Graduate & Professional Education

22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

29 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2008

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA – TWIN CITIES



NAGPS

National Association of Graduate-Professional Students



**WELCOME TO THE NAGPS
22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

HOSTED BY:

**THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT ASSEMBLY**

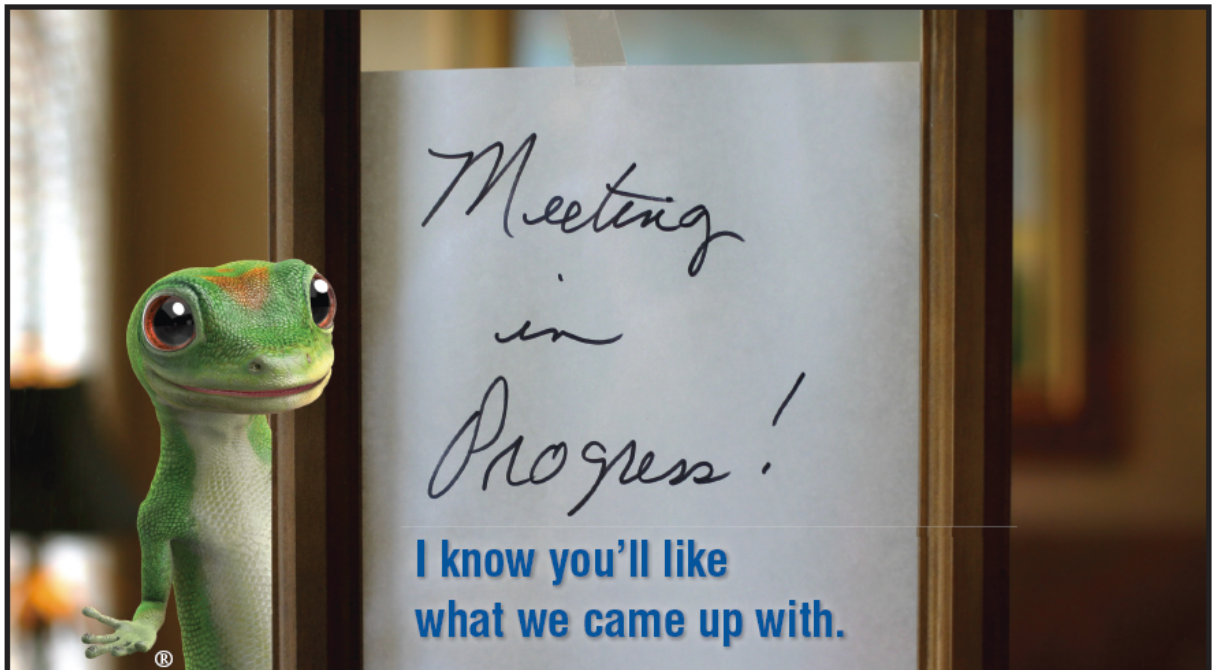
UNIVERSITY OF MINNEAPOLIS-TWIN CITIES

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Dear Graduate and Professional Students:

Welcome to the NAGPS 22nd annual National Conference. We are delighted to have you with us in the Twin Cities. The NAGPS conference is always an exciting time, providing graduate and professional student leaders from across the country with the opportunity to interact, share ideas and solutions, discuss current issues, and, of course, have at least a little fun.

The theme for this year's conference is "Putting it All Together: Scholarship, Leadership, and Activism in Graduate and Professional Education." As a student leader, it's easy to get overwhelmed trying to fit everything in—research, teaching, coursework, leadership responsibilities, family life, and community involvement. It's our goal to talk about the ways in which we can combine these many roles and still maintain our sanity, and to provide you with some resources to help along the way.

We're very excited about the presentations we have scheduled for the conference, including great work being done by our peers across the country. We're also bringing you some special sessions, including our Spotlight on Social Justice and Environmental Responsibility with Better World Books and a release party for the fourth edition of the NAGPS booklet, 101 Ways to Build an Effective Graduate and Professional Student Organization.

We are privileged to have a representative from Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak's office as our luncheon speaker on Friday. Mayor Rybak's initiatives in the city, including efforts to eradicate homelessness and be more environmentally responsible, touch us all, regardless of where we live. His address will give us an opportunity to think about greater involvement in our own communities.

We are pleased to bring back to the NAGPS conference Mr. Scott Jaschik, editor of Inside HigherEd. Those of you who were able to participate in last year's conference will remember that Mr. Jaschik's insightful understanding of the most pressing issues facing graduate and professional education prompted us all to become more aware of how legislation and campus administrative efforts impact the student communities of which we are a part.

We have some exciting social events planned for the conference as well. We couldn't pass up the opportunity to do a little teaching, so we hope that you'll take advantage of free salsa and improv classes on Thursday evening. And of course, what's Halloween without a Halloween party? We've planned great food, games, and entertainment for Friday night, including a special guest appearance that you won't want to miss. Think wildlife and NAGPS sponsorship.

No conference would be complete without a final event to celebrate the accomplishments of the year, and to that end we've planned an evening at the amazing Weismann Museum. We'll have

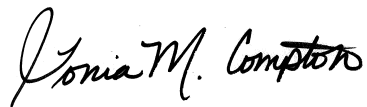
dinner, present our annual awards, and close the evening with some entertainment by comedian Jeff Havens.

We will also be conducting NAGPS business throughout the conference. We'll introduce you to the Legislative Platform on Thursday, and spend time at our regular business meeting thoroughly reviewing, revising, and updating the platform. We'll also be electing the NAGPS Board of Directors for 2009. Please plan now to become involved in the national leadership—we need the best and the brightest student leaders, and they're gathered here this week.

Conferences require a great deal of time, energy, and effort, and this one would not be complete without the work of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly here at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and the NAGPS Board of Directors. Be sure to pay special attention to the list of conference sponsors, as their generosity helps make it possible for us to bring you such a fantastic event.

Again, welcome to Minneapolis and the 22nd annual NAGPS National Conference.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonia M. Compton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tonia M. Compton
President & CEO
NAGPS



Greetings!

Welcome to the University of Minnesota! As President of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (commonly referred to as GAPSA) I would like to extend a warm Minnesota welcome from the Executive Board and the broader campus community.

We hope that the conference will enrich your toolkit for your graduate student association, while also being a fantastically good time. I encourage you to meet as many fellow student leaders as possible and connect as this will not only enhance your experience, but also heighten the dialogue on the issues that affect GSAs most.

I hope that you will consider running for a position in the NAGPS Executive Board. We need strong leaders from across the country to address the difficult problems ahead as many of our institutions need to reconfigure their budgets, and in turn, support of our student organizations.

I hope that you will have time to make the most of your trip here. The Twin Cities are home to many wonderful sights, views and shopping destinations. If you need recommendations on where to go for some exploring around, please talk to me or our wonderful conference organizer, Lexie Hunzie.

Thank you for coming and participating in this important endeavor!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kristi Kremers".

Kristi Kremers
GAPSA President



EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION

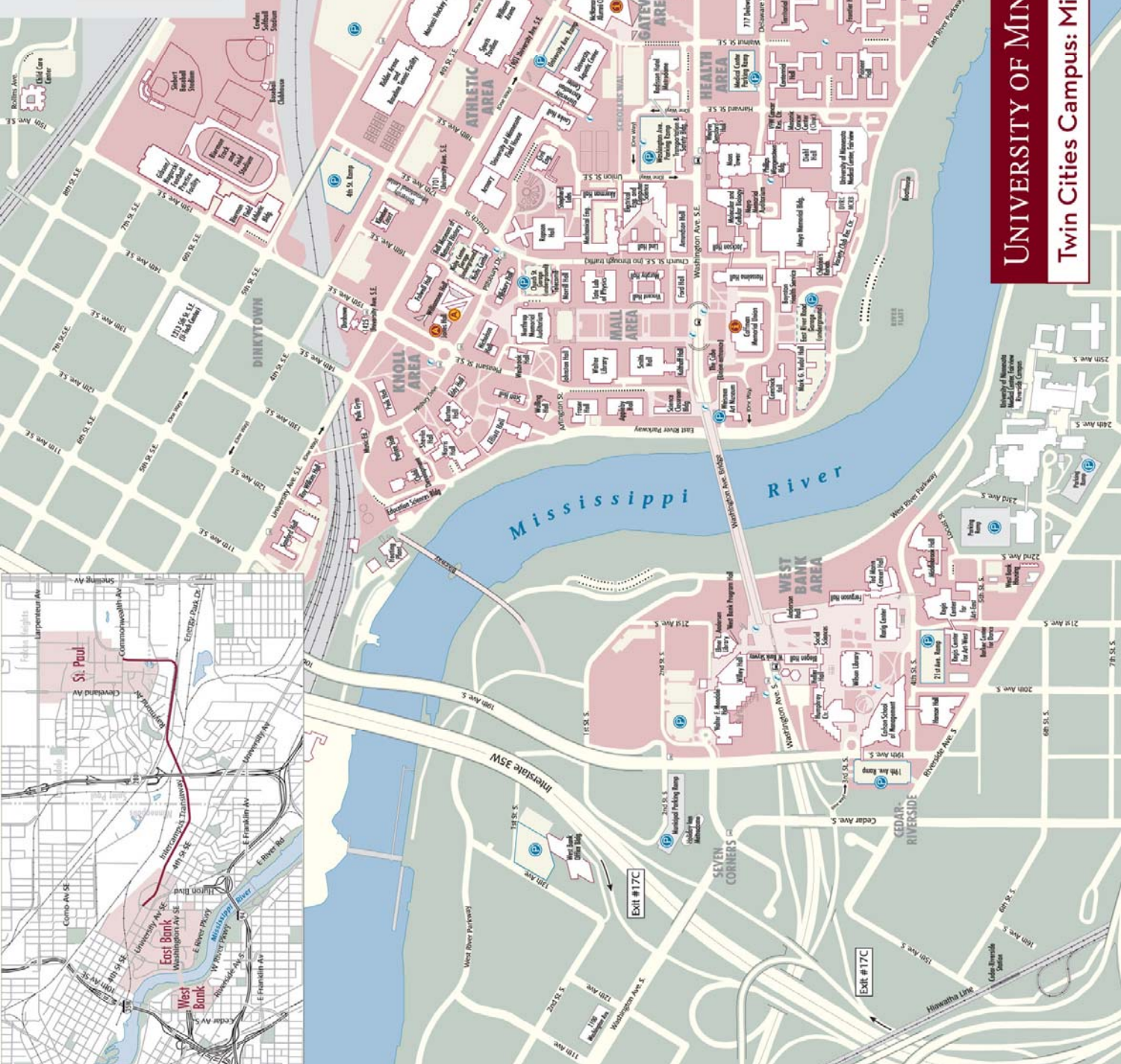
NAGPS Cell phone	NAGPS Board	202.277.7817
Tonia M. Compton	NAGPS President	402.890.5232
Kristi Kramer	GAPSA President	320.761.4744
Amy Meyers	NAGPS CFO	256.508.8177
Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins	NAGPS CIO	480.678.5515
James Hodgson	NAGPS Ombuds	530.574.4205
Brent Laabs	NAGPS Leg. Con.	805.701.1123
Lexie Hunzie	GAPSA Conference Organizer	307.679.5092
Days Inn	Hotel	612.623.9303
Holiday Inn	Hotel	612.333.4646



Twin Cities Campus in Minneapolis

- Freshman Admissions Welcome Center
- Transfer & International Admissions Welcome Center
- Information centers
- Meter parking
- Public parking
- Code blue emergency telephones
- Campus Connector
- Express
- Campus Circulator









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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Twin Cities Campus: Minneapolis



Legend:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Freshman Admissions Welcome Center |  Meter parking |
|  Transfer & International Admissions Welcome Center |  Public parking |
|  Information centers |  Public parking (events only) |
|  Major intercampus bus stops with connections to intracampus circulators |  Code blue emergency telephones |

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

All events at Coffman Memorial Union (CMU) unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

- 1:00 -5:00 p.m. Pre-Conference Workshop: *Effective Lobbying Strategies for Campus, Community, State and Nation* (CMU, President’s Board Room)
- 6:30-9:30 p.m. Welcome Reception with live performance by Big Stoop (CMU, Campus Club)

Thursday, October 30, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. Registration (CMU Mississippi Room)
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Session (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 10:00 a.m. Grad Crisis (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 11:00 a.m. Workshops
- *Fostering Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Presentation and Workshop* (CMU 323)
 - *Graduate Student and Family Housing Closure in the University of Cincinnati* (CMU 324)
 - *Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Barrier-Free Presentations: Thinking about sensory dis/abilities* (CMU 326)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 12:30 p.m. NAGPS Legislative Platform (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 2:00 p.m. Workshops
- *Management and Enhancing Performance as a Graduate Student* (CMU 323)
 - *Student Leaders - Landed Straight from Mars or Just a “Hybrid”?* (CMU 324)
 - *To Communicate You Have to Connect* (CMU 325)
 - *Fostering Interdisciplinary Collaboration* (CMU, room TBA)
- 3:00 p.m. Regional Meetings: (CMU, rooms TBA)
- Northeast
 - Southeast
 - Midwest
 - Southcentral
 - Western

- 6:30 p.m. Evening entertainment at Guthrie Learning Center
- Salsa Class
 - Improv Class
 - Rush tickets to the plays *A View From the Bridge* and *The Caretaker* are available at the Guthrie for \$15 each.

Friday, October 31, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. NAGPS Committee Meetings:
Social Justice (CMU 325)
International Student Concerns (CMU 319)
Public Relations (CMU 323)
Employment Concerns (CMU 324)
Legislative Concerns (CMU 326)
- 10:00 a.m. Spotlight on Social Justice and Environmental Responsibility: Better World Books (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 11:30 a.m. Legislative Lunch (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 1:30 p.m. Election of 2009 NAGPS Board of Directors (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Halloween Party at the Union: Appetizers, games, costume contest (CMU, Mississippi Room)

Saturday, November 1, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. NAGPS Business Meeting (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 12:00 a.m. Lunch: Higher Education Now with Scott Jaschick, *InsideHigherEd* (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 1:30 p.m. Workshops
- “*Collaborations and College Readiness for Low-Income Students, Education: A Matter of Equity*” (CMU 323)
 - *Ready for Life: What Youth Development Means for Graduate and Professional Students* (CMU 324)
 - *Publishing Informational Resources for Students Councils of Graduate Students* (CMU 325)
- 2:30 p.m. 101 Ways Release Party (CMU, Mississippi Room)
- 5:00 p.m. Exclusive NAGPS viewing at Weisman Art Museum
- 6:00 p.m. NAGPS Gala Awards Dinner and entertainment by Jeff Havens (Weisman Art Museum)

Sunday, November 2, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. NAGPS Transitional Board Meeting (CMU, President’s Board Room)

Come try our Flavor of the Day!



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

*Charles Dickens,
A Tale of Two Cities*



Was Dickens thinking of graduate school?

WELCOME TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Better equip yourself by receiving free articles and resources – stress, advisor relationships, time management, etc. – to help you through your program.

Check out the Grad Resources web site at www.gradresources.org to find out more. Get involved!

Keep this number handy if grad school becomes "the worst of times":
1-877-GRAD-HLP (National Graduate Student Crisis Line)



GRAD RESOURCES

a faith-based service organization addressing the needs of graduate students
SUPPORTING GRADS ON LIFE'S JOURNEY



PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

Stress Management and Enhancing Performance as a Graduate Student

Since it is impossible to eliminate stress in graduate and professional school, we must learn to deal with our stress effectively. This session will provide suggestions and tools to cope with potential stressors in order for you to make the most out of your graduate experience. In order to achieve excellence in our profession we must find ways to take control of our stress and use it in a positive manner.

Sheila Kelly
Michigan State University
kellyshe@msu.edu

Graduate Student and Family Housing Closure in the University of Cincinnati

Presentation on the advocacy work done by GSGA of University of Cincinnati in the advent of the Graduate Student & Family Housing Closure.

Ezgi Akpınar, Manoj Dhanotiya, Diana Hechavarría
Eastern Illinois University
akpinae@email.uc.edu

Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Barrier-Free Presentations: Thinking about sensory dis/abilities

The ability to effectively communicate your work is crucial for presenting research, giving job talks, and shining as a graduate or professional student. Come learn simple tips and ideas to create barrier-free presentations that reach and impress everyone in your audience, whatever their sensory abilities and disabilities. We will explore colorblindness and sign-language interpretation as case studies to think about a wide range of dis/abilities.

Daniel A. Nidzgorski
University of Minnesota
nidzg001@umn.edu

Fostering Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Presentation and Workshop

This session will feature a PowerPoint presentation addressing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration of graduate students both for their professional, as well as personal relationship building, and offer suggestions of how such collaboration can be

established. The session will be followed by an interactive workshop, with the goal of sharing ideas about forming active interdisciplinary communities where grads can learn from each other, collaborate on various projects, and find common causes which they can advocate.

Julia Mortyakova
University of Miami
mortyakova@gmail.com

To Communicate You Have to Connect

Come and share ideas about what has worked and not worked on your campus to communicate with all graduate students. Do you have a communication plan that is working? Come and share your success. Are you struggling to reach all students? Come and get some ideas. This is a brainstorming and discussion session open to everyone. There is no formal presentation.

Kristine Wildeboer
Grand Valley State University
kwildeboer@hotmail.com/wildebok@gvsu.edu

Student Leaders - Landed Straight from Mars or Just a “Hybrid”?

Leadership and the life of a graduate student.

Manish Madan
Michigan State University
madan@msu.edu

“Collaborations and College Readiness for Low-Income Students, Education: A Matter of Equity”

This was a two part project that included a literature review and a subsequent focus group. The purpose of this work was to explore and describe the challenges facing students from low income families who seek to enter and graduate from some form of post-secondary education.

Jasmine L. Blanks
University of Minnesota
Blan0255@umn.edu

Ready for Life: What Youth Development Means for Graduate and Professional Students

What is youth development? Who counts as a youth? What does youth development mean for graduate and professional students? This presentation will explore basic concepts of youth development, including preparation for all levels of higher education and for work and life as adults. It will make use of the Forum for Youth Investment’s Ready by 21 framework to demonstrate how support for youth development can translate to better preparation for graduate and professional students.

Monica R. Howell
University of Minnesota
howe0096@umn.edu

Fostering Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Interdisciplinary collaboration is the exciting answer to the circumventing of scope that accompanies specialization in graduate work. At Duke, intellectual collaboration is fostered for its ability to keep researchers focused on the broader impacts of their research. I would speak on the joint degree I created between the divinity school and a PhD in clinical psychology. I would close by asking the audience how ideas from other fields might be translated to their own study.

Laura Barnard
Duke University
LBarnard2007@gmail.com

Publishing Informational Resources for Students Councils of Graduate Students

Panel will share their experiences with how they publish their publications for graduate students, why they publish them, and the type of info provided in the guides.

Eden Kaiser, Andy Exley, Mandy Stahre, & Tonya Cothran
University of Minnesota
cogs@umn.edu

Spotlight on Social Justice and Environmental Responsibility: Better World Books

The Book Drives for Better Lives™ program has raised millions of dollars for literacy, diverted millions of books from landfills, created jobs for hundreds of people, and provided wonderful books to millions of readers worldwide. The rest of the story is still being written. We invite you to join us on our journey. It's only going to get better. Better World Books collects and sells books online to fund literacy initiatives worldwide.

Walter Sears
Director, ReUse First

Grad Crisis

The Facts: Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for college age students. A presentation by the founder of 1-800-SUICIDE will explain the 1- 800 GRADHLP (472-3457) program and how his organization (the Kristin Brooks Hope Center) in partnership with Grad Resources brings help and hope to College Students. The program helps students in crisis reach confidential, free telephone counseling, crisis intervention, suicide prevention, information and referral services provided by specially trained call takers. Caring, professional staff and well-trained volunteers answer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

To help raise awareness of the program and inspire colleges and universities to establish progressive mental health policies a music tour called Pick Up the Phone is being launched. After 6 successful North American tours, over 500,000 CDs sold with the message of help and hope to the club circuit, the Hope Center is bringing the same message plus real life tools to the US college and university communities in 2009. If your school is interested in having a music

tour with the message of suicide prevention this presentation will give you the tools to get your campus involved.

Reese Butler, Grad Crisis
reese@hopeline.com

Nick Repak, Grad Resources
nick@gradresources.org

Higher Education Now

Scott Jaschik, editor, is one of the three founders of *Inside Higher Ed*. With Doug Lederman, he leads the editorial operations of *Inside Higher Ed*, overseeing news content, opinion pieces, resources, and interactive features. Scott is a leading voice on higher education issues, quoted regularly in publications nationwide, and publishing articles on colleges in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *Salon*, and elsewhere. He has been a judge or screener for the National Magazine Awards, the Online Journalism Awards, the Folio Editorial Excellence Awards, and the Education Writers Association Awards. From 1999-2003, Scott was editor of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, leading the news operations for its weekly newspaper and daily Web site during a period in which the publication received four nominations for National Magazine Awards and numerous other honors. Previously at *The Chronicle*, he held numerous other positions and his reporting work was honored by Investigative Reporters and Editors and *The Washington Monthly*. Scott grew up in Rochester, N.Y., and graduated from Cornell University in 1985. He lives in Washington.

ARE YOU PART OF THE CONVERSATION?

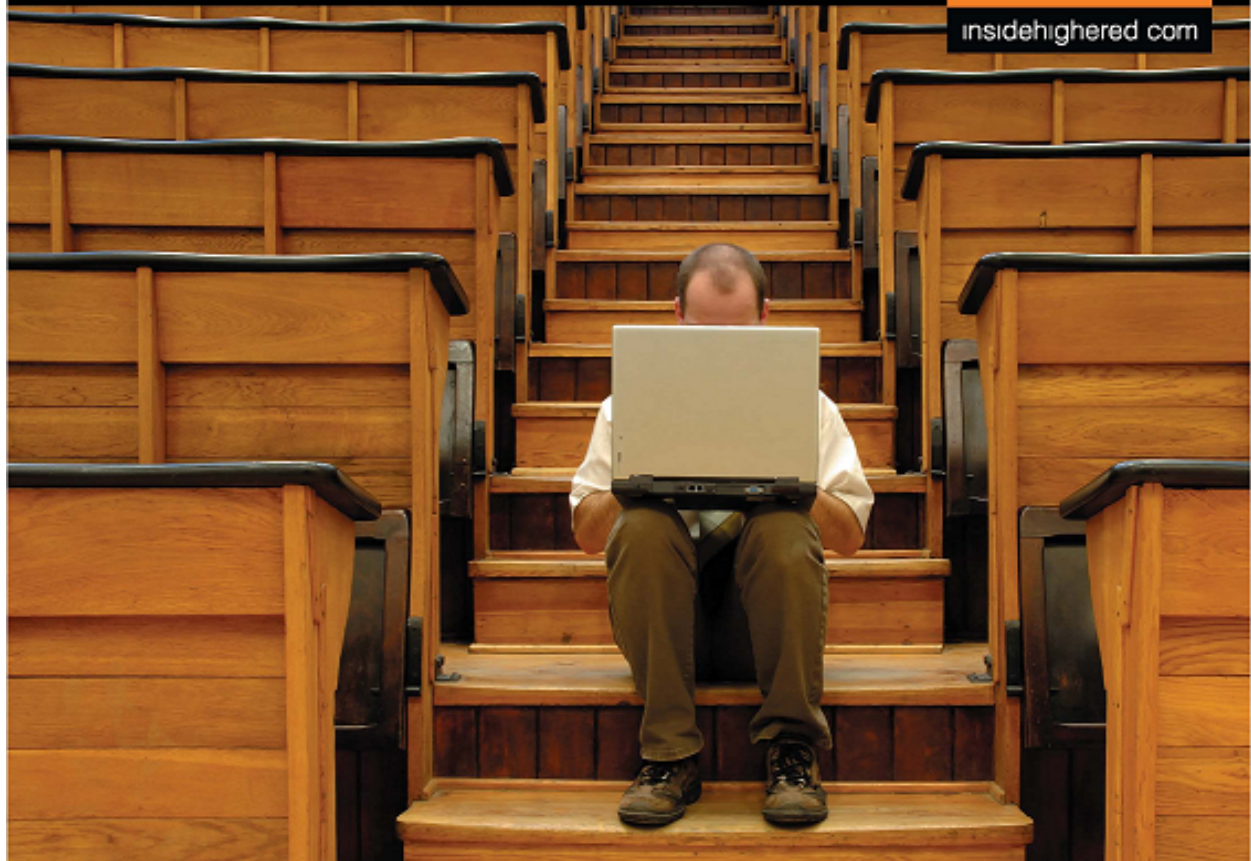
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NAGPS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Executive Board

President
 Tonia M. Compton
 University of Nebraska-
 Lincoln

Vice President
 Ruqaiyah S. Rogers
 Grand Valley State
 University

CIO
 Marrah Scroggins
 University of California-Davis

CFO
 Amy Myers
 Baylor University

Ombudsman
 James Hodgson
 University of California-Davis

Regional Coordinators

Southcentral
 Kristin Javorsky
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Midwest
 Samara Cahill
 University of Notre Dame

Western
 Ryan Peacock
 Stanford University

Southeast
 VACANT

Northeast
 VACANT

Committee Chairs

**Legislative
 Concerns**
 Brent Laabs
 University of California-Davis

**International Student
 Concerns**
 Gautham Pandiyan
 Duke University

Social Justice
 Alethea Duncan
 Duke University

Public Relations
 Julia Mortyakova
 University of Miami

[19]

**Employment
 Concerns**
 Rachel Hansen
 Brigham Young University



HigherEdJobs.com



BetterWorldBooks
WWW.BETTERWORLD.COM



2008 NAGPS BOARD REPORTS

President & CEO

Tonia M. Compton

NAGPS continues to grow under the leadership of the 2008 board of directors. As a group, we adopted several priorities for the organization, including increased membership, revision of important internal documents, growth of the NAGPS endowment, and increased interaction with other national organizations.

One of the first tasks undertaken by the BOD was a review of key NAGPS documents. Under the leadership of our ombuds coordinator, the constitution and by-laws underwent a thorough review, resulting in changes to the by-laws by the BOD and the proposed changes to the constitution submitted to the membership for voting at this year's business meeting.

The board also reviewed all existing NAGPS standing policies. This process called for the elimination of policies no longer relevant to the organization, and significant revision to key policies, including travel, conference hosting, and sponsorships. In addition, the board identified key areas where new policies need to be adopted, including one on elections procedures.

One of the chief accomplishments of this board has been the adoption of a NAGPS Advisory Board. After careful consideration, the board adopted a new standing policy on the advisory board. We then worked to identify leaders and administrators in graduate and professional education and related fields, and have invited several to serve on the new advisory board. This new group will prove to be a key resource for NAGPS, providing the organization with important connections to other leaders in graduate and professional education, and helping to build and sustain institutional memory.

In 2008 NAGPS has secured important new partnerships, including those with HigherEd Jobs and Better World Books. In addition, we have worked to re-establish and strengthen existing partnerships with GEICO, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and United HealthCare Student Resources.

Our partnership with UHC/SR has led to the addition of a new insurance plan for NAGPS members. For the first time, NAGPS now offers an insurance plan for international students and their families. This has been an objective of the organization for the last several years, and it is with a great deal of pride that we announced its availability beginning in August.

The hard work of the NAGPS board has also resulted in an increase to the endowment, largely through a newly proposed long-term membership. As part of this process, the board reviewed existing membership categories and rates, and has proposed key changes to these areas for the members to consider at the annual business meeting. These changes will continue to grow the NAGPS endowment, as well as clarify member benefits at all levels.

We have made it a priority to increase our communication with NAGPS members and potential members. To that end, we undertook the task of completing a major renovation of the NAGPS website, a project that is now complete. This necessitated a great deal of technical work, including a new hosting service, as well as building a new platform for the site. The work that remains is a full review and updating of the site content, a project already underway by the current board.

We are also proud to bring to the NAGPS membership two new documents. First, the Social Justice Committee has worked to draft a proposed Graduate and Professional Student Bill of Rights, a document that will be presented to the membership for approval and will then stand as a starting point for graduate and professional student associations to use in adopting a similar document for their campuses.

We are also releasing the fourth edition of 101 Ways to Build an Effective Graduate and Professional Student Organization. Under the leadership of immediate past-president Liz Olson, the board worked to update this document, adding new ideas and suggestions that reflect the primacy of electronic and digital communications.

NAGPS conducted two successful Legislative Action Days events, one in February and another in September. These events have helped us to build important connections in Washington, DC, and NAGPS continues its efforts to connect with other organizations who share our concerns about the key issues facing graduate and professional education.

Finally, as president, I worked diligently to coordinate the above efforts, and was privileged to work with a dedicated board of directors who shared these priorities for NAGPS. As part of the commitment to recruitment of new members, treasurer Amy Myers and I worked with UHC/SR to create new recruitment materials, as well as traveling on several occasions for in-person meetings with potential members.

I also established relationships with the leaders of our peer groups, including the American Medical Student Association, Student Bar Association, National Post-Doctoral Association, and the National Black Graduate Student Association. Together, these student leaders and I began a discussion about the need for increased awareness of and the destigmatization of mental health needs and care for graduate and professional students. This will hopefully prove to be the beginning of a national effort to raise awareness of these issues.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the president of NAGPS for the past year. While there are many more things that I would have liked to accomplish, it is my hope that the work the board of directors completed over the last year has strengthened the foundation for NAGPS and will provide a solid base for continued growth and success.

Vice-President
Ruqaiyah S. Rogers
No report submitted.

Treasurer & CFO
Amy Myers

I am happy to present to you the FY2008 Chief Financial Officer's Annual Report. I hope that you will find it a useful reference tool. This has been a very busy year for NAGPS.

2007 was a year of progress and challenges for NAGPS as there were many changes in leadership and in the foundation of the organization, yet I believe that with each change we became a stronger organization and in the end a better clearinghouse of information for our members. Although we made progress in several areas, my main focus as the CFO was focused on three areas: 1) improving the flow of monetary flow from within the organization, 2) establishing a more stabilized endowment, 3) establishing lasting corporate partnerships that will benefit graduate student members and organizations.

NAGPS has two sources of revenues: membership dues and the financial support from corporate partners. These companies allow NAGPS to present discounted offers and benefits to our members; in turn, NAGPS promotes their products and services through its website, newsletter, and conferences. We have continued to successfully foster the relationships with these companies to guarantee the benefits to our members, as well as the organization. We have added three new sponsors this year who not only assist NAGPS financially, but also offer benefits to our membership to also extend discounts and special offers to individual members.

This past year, I also performed a "return on investment" (ROI) analysis on our endowment to examine future endeavors and ideas for the advancement of the financial security of the organization. In September, the executive board spent two intensive days updating our strategic plan and constitution, while making sure that we continue to execute on our existing strategic initiatives. Some organizational assessments were conducted to promote efficiencies and mitigate risk. In some cases they provided assurance that our practices are sound, and in others highlighted opportunities to improve. A second, and most important assessment on funds control was also conducted that proved very useful in making sure that our financial processes are sound and of the highest ethical standards. Overall, we were able to keep the organization's financial health and the operations running smoothly. That was done successfully by keeping a close relationship with the executive board members and our member schools and sponsors.

I look forward to seeing what the next NAGPS CFO does in the following year of challenges and opportunities to better support the resources and information embodied in NAGPS.

Secretary & CIO
Katie Vahey & Marrah Scroggins

(Katie) Over the course of the past year, my priorities included wrapping up National conference proceedings, contributing to updates of official policies and documents, including all programming and public relations material from the 2007 year. Since my election in November 2007, my first priority of the year was to convert all NAGPS email accounts to newly elected officers, and to help new officers become familiar with their accounts. Since the newly elected

public relations chair was graduating that December and wasn't able to officially start until January, I took care of all press related material requested of the NAGPS board in support of members and their schools who received 2007 awards. With Liz Olson, I assisted with writing the conference proceedings as I acted as primary note taker throughout the 2007 National Conference. After January 1, I created a template and researched the most cost effective production of business cards for all board members and general thank you cards with the NAGPS Logo. After updating the NAGPS Fedex account, I was able to work out a deal with the Kinkos/Fedex of Boulder that provided a cost effective way for NAGPS to stock up on these items necessary for conferences and legislative action days.

For the first set of legislative action days in February, I assisted with organization and set up for the event. For the first in person board meeting that Saturday after LAD, I was the primary notetaker for the February meeting. I have also participated in and taken notes for all exec council and all board meetings since my election to this position.

One of the issues for the CIO position that I inherited upon election was the update of the NAGPS website. There were many concerns regarding website management and the hiring of previous web managers at the 2007 election, and my recommendation to hire Ben Perove to this position was supported by the board at large. Unbeknown at the time of his hire, the issues were extensively more complex than previously expected, and because of the time required to sort through the matrix of concerns, the project took Ben much longer than his previous contract had been set for. Although Ben was local in Boulder so I could work with him in person, I felt that some of the concerns he had in order to complete the job were beyond my scope, and I recommended that Tonia work with him directly.

In the early months of 2008, I worked with the GSA at the University of Reno in support of their hosting of the 2008 Western Regional Conference. Through regular emails and phone calls I acted as the exec council representative for the western regional conference, in addition to offering a conference presentation. I believe this conference went very well and I was happy to be a part of it.

In early summer of 2008, I had an advising meeting for my doctoral course of action. After this meeting, I realized I had a tough decision to make. After being an active part of NAGPS since March of 2006, I realized that my school/work load for the 2008-2009 school year was not compatible with the NAGPS in person event schedule, nor for the time I was able to commit to NAGPS. This was a difficult decision for me, but I realized that it was because I am a graduate student I am able to participate in NAGPS, so my role as a student must be my first priority over working for NAGPS. Upon discussion of my predicament with the President and others, I continued to participate in conference calls and to record meeting minutes until a CIO replacement could be found. I was excited to pass my role to Marrah, after I had met her at the western regional conference in March, and I knew she would support NAGPS in a way that I was no longer able. My 2 1/2 years of participation with NAGPS was a positive experience particularly in the people I was able to form professional relationships with, and I hope Marrah will be able to find the same experience as she continues with her CIO role.

(Marrah) I was selected in August 2008 by the NAGPS BOD as the interim secretary-CIO to complete Ms. Vahey's elected term. I was serving as state coordinator for AZ/CA/MT/HI and Western Regional Legislative Coordinator for NAGPS at the time of my selection to the executive council. I made a visit to Arizona State University's GSA to talk about NAGPS and the 2009 Western Regional Conference my home university will hold. I also made contact with NAU and Midwestern University in Arizona, with no response. I have also maintained regular email communication with California schools about NAGPS events such as LAD and the annual meeting. My first action as secretary/CIO was attending LAD in September supporting the national NAGPS legislative platform and representing the interests of my local GSA/California graduate students. In D.C. I also participated in the in person BOD meeting. At this meeting I was responsible for completing changes to the SOP and changes submitted to the membership in our constitution/bylaws. These changes will be voted on at the annual meeting. These changes included changing the membership classes as well as the official names of the executive officers. I will also assist in the 22nd annual meeting held in October at the University of MN Minnesota. An additional charge requested by the BOD is to update the website which has transitioned from the .net to .org site; a goal I will continue to work on throughout the month of October. I have started this website update by storing minutes from the BOD meetings from the past year. I have regularly communicated questions at large from the office.org email address and forward questions to the appropriate BOD member when necessary. I have also updated the Secretary/CIO job description for the 2008-2009 elections in October.

Ombuds

James Hodgson

This year I advised the board on retention, recruitment, governing documents, and performed projections for appropriate endowed membership levels. I am particularly excited about the formation of the advisory board to aid us in securing a strong future for graduate education. Financially graduate students are under more pressure now than ever before. The subsidization levels of public higher education continue to shrink Nationwide. Healthcare to dependents of graduate students is not widely available and existing programs are being cut. The current climate on immigration and limited number of visas make it difficult for nonresident graduate students to stay in the USA and contribute to our economy and the public good. Federal student loan packages are modeled after a 4 year undergraduate degree rather than a 5 year graduate program. Legislators are considering make a change to address time to degree due to our speaking truth to power. These are the issues that I have lobbied for on your behalf (many thanks to everyone from NAGPS who participated in lobby days). In my 40+ lobby visits the reception to these issues has been favorable but transitioning that favorable reception to legislation will require building on our relationships with our representatives and presence on the hill. I would like to establish an unpaid internship program using our DC office to help apply this consistent presence. Additionally, a nationwide survey of graduate student dependent care could help us bring national attention to the plight of graduate students with dependents. I am proud that our advocacy contributes to building a strong future for graduate education.

Public Relations Chair

Armen Shaomian and Julia Mortyakova

(Armen) The position of PR chair was created and voted on at our last annual meeting in Austin, TX in order to have a point person to deal with some of the image and logistics of the Association. The PR chair is also a liaison between the national board and the conference organizers. As I graduated in May and started my full-time employment, I resigned respectfully in order to make sure that the next person can truly dedicate the time needed for this position.

On the Public Relations side of NAGPS, I worked with designer/consultant Jessica Adanich to design the logo for our national conference. Jessica has worked for NAGPS and done logos in the past. Our past President, Liz Olson, recommended her and it was definitely the right choice.

Jessica designed several logos and allowed us to choose from a variety of them. As you know, the board voted and the winning logo was then put on the conference material that is to be used from now on. I also produced newsletters with the help of Tonia Compton, our current President, that we emailed to the membership as well as put on the website. The idea of the newsletter is to reach as many graduate and professional students and their organizations as we can, while being informative and keep up to date on current issues. I believe we can work more towards creating a better database of students and graduate organizations across campuses to truly reach out. This is something that should be collaborated more with the VP who is also in charge of membership. (Armen Shaomian)

(Julia) In mid - September, when I was appointed by the NAGPS Board as the PR Chair, the main project which NAGPS was working on was the 2008 National Conference at the University of Minnesota. Minneapolis. I was in charge of ordering magnets and pens with the NAGPS logo for the conference. I was also involved in helping to plan and execute the event, as well as the carrying out the task of being the photographer.

Other PR projects which I was charged with, which are currently in process, include creating a style guide for NAGPS, including improving the NAGPS letterhead, as well as creating specific consistent ways the NAGPS logo and signature is presented on all official correspondences and documents. I am also in charge of the NAGPS Facebook page. In the coming weeks, I will also be creating a NAGPS newsletter to send to the general membership.

Social Justice Chair

Alethea Duncan

It has been a great pleasure serving as the Social Justice Coordinator for the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students this year. I have learned a great deal of information and have many opportunities to interact with graduate and professional students across the United States.

The Social Justice Chair (SJC) was a newly created position in November 2007 at the National Conference in Austin, TX. It was created to replace the Human Diversity Chair position and expand the goals of the organization with changing terminology. In taking this position I had four goals: create a job description for SJC, create a Bill of Rights for NAGPS, recruit members to the Social Justice Committee, and participate and contribute to the NAGPS board.

The description for SJC and the Social Justice Committee was created during the February 2008 in board meeting in conjunction with the Ombudsperson. The duties of the SJC are:

1. Monitor national campus issues and legislative developments that affect the ability of graduate and professional students to study and research.
2. Contact diverse groups of campus and national graduate organizations to inform them of NAGPS.
3. Oversee the gathering and distribution of information relevant to diverse groups.
4. Promote involvement from organizations and individuals representing diverse lifestyles in NAGPS.
5. Formulate resolutions, support legislative bills, and create awareness and acceptance of different ideas or points of view at the local, regional, and national levels.
6. Support the needs and interest of non-traditional and under-represented groups.
7. Chair the Social Justice Committee.

My second goal was to create a Bill of Rights for NAGPS. This is important not only because graduate and professional students deserve and have a right to certain standards throughout their academic pursuits, but as an umbrella organization, NAGPS should provide a template to its constituents of rights they should advocate for. The proposed Bill of Rights will be presented to the assembly during the Business Section of the November 2008 National Conference.

I was unable to generate much interest in the NAGPS Social Justice Committee because the necessary connections or transfer was not made during the 2007 National Conference. I was able to generate more interest during the Midwestern National Conference, but wanted members from each region. I hope during the Committee breakout sessions I will generate enough interest to have a large, sustainable, and diverse committee.

I participated in the monthly board phone calls as well as attended the February Legislative Action Days and in-person board meetings in February and September. Additionally, I had the opportunity to attend the NAGPS Midwestern Regional Conference at Michigan State University. Lastly, I coordinated the NAGPS Awards for 2008.

In the future I would like to see the SJC reach out to diverse groups, advocate and support legislation pertinent to social justice, join additional groups and list serves that focus on diversity in higher education, and stay connected to NAGPS members to better address relevant issues.

International Student Concerns Chair

Gautham Pandiyan

A large number of graduate and professional students in the USA are international students, from all across the globe. The International Student Concerns Committee of NAGPS is charged with tackling issues of concern to international students. This year the International Student Concerns Committee has accomplished several important goals set out at the beginning of the year.

During the Legislative Action Days (LAD) in Washington, D.C., in September 2007 and February 2008, the ISCC chair made continuing to advocate for the F-4 visa, one of our focus items in discussions with politicians and legislators. This proposed visa will allow international students more flexibility in working during and after studies, easier access to permanent residency and so on. The ISCC chair drafted a fact-filled talking points sheet that was used to brief all LAD attendees, and used to spread awareness of this issue.

The ISCC Chair in partnership with the NAGPS secretary updated the ISCC section of the NAGPS website to reflect the new efforts and goals. The abovementioned talking points PDF file is also available on this website, along with a survey discussed below.

The ISCC Chair regularly liaised and communicated with Dr. Daniel Denecke, from the Council of Graduate Schools, and other people to discuss various issues of concern to international students. These discussions resulted in the creation of a brief survey to examine international student concerns, and determine what were the best programs being conducted for international students across the country. This information has now been collected. The survey finds several best practices amongst international student offices at different institutions and also finds that the primary concern of international students in the US is employment after graduation. To reflect that the ISCC Chair has posted some relevant career information to the ISCC section of the website and initiated programming efforts in concert with the Employment Concerns Chair to address this issue.

Keeping in line with one of the institutional objectives in our newly drafted strategic plan, the ISCC chair renewed membership for NAGPS in the National Association of International Educators (NAFSA), the main professional society for international student advisors. As a result of this the ISCC chair has kept abreast of the latest news and trends, including the news of extensions to international students' OPT (optional practical training) duration as it unfolded. The ISCC Chair also published an editorial piece on international student issues and difficulties with respect to employment in *Inside Higher Ed*, a leading online higher educational publication, in February 2008.

Finally, the ISCC chair helped formalize a proposal for a NAGPS Advisory Board. This advisory board is to be comprised of prominent academic and higher educational leaders, and will help NAGPS formulate strategy moving forward. We strongly welcome student participation at the grass-roots and at the national level. Students interested in any concerns relating to international students, ISCC Chair to become involved in this new committee, to be the agents of change and advocacy in the future on these issues.

Employment Concerns Chair

Rachel Hansen

One year ago, as I was elected Employment Concerns Chair, my goal was to determine what concerns graduate students have regarding employment in order to determine in what ways they can be most benefited by this position. I discussed with representatives of universities from across the US and students from varying universities to see what issues were on their minds. One issue that came up consistently was health insurance. Using their input, I wrote an informational survey dealing with health care and employment concerns. That survey was piloted at the end of this summer at Brigham Young University. The results of that survey showed:

Graduate culture (unrelated information but interesting)

- 52.6% of graduate students did not feel a part of the graduate students culture and suggestions for improving that culture included: a central location for graduate students to gather (68.4%), more frequent events (52.6%), smaller events (29.8%) and more structured events (24.6%).

Employment

- 88.7% of graduate students are employed. (68.6% are employed by their department, 19.8% by the school, 24.4% off-campus)
- Of those not employed, 54.5% are not allowed by their program and do not have time.
- 64.9% have taken out loans (88.1% feel confident to repay their loans)

Health Insurance

- 75.5% are on the university health plan. (21.4% are on a health insurance from employment, 4.1% are in a private out-of-pocket insurance, 1% are on government, and 2% are uninsured)
- 21.9% have dependents on the university plan, 13.5% are on a private plan through employment, 9.4% are on a private out-of-pocket plan, 8.3% are on a government plan and 6.3% are uninsured. (47.9% have no dependents)
- Students are spending between \$100 and \$4,000 per year.
 - Concerns related to cost included:
 - I think that with my wife having her own insurance I shouldn't be paying for the married rate, especially since singles are more costly to insure.
 - It is almost impossible to insure spouses of international students
- Students responded that they were satisfied and dissatisfied with the following coverage of their health insurance:

	Satisfied with coverage (%)	Dissatisfied with coverage (%)
Doctor visits	96.3	10.5
Prescriptions	59.3	24.6
Maternity	42	17.5
Hospital stay	34.6	17.5
Surgery	33.3	19.3
Dental	21	75.4
Vision	18.5	66.7

The pilot study shows that the majority of graduate students really are employed by their department or not allowed to work. Employment is still not adequate to cover the costs of

graduate school and students are taking out loans which they feel confident to be able to repay. In relation to health insurance, students are likely to be on the university plan and be dissatisfied with dental, vision, and prescriptions.

This survey will be sent nation-wide to NAGPS member schools on October 31. Please send it to your graduate students and encourage them to respond in order to have a more comprehensive report. I anticipate sending the report back to NAGPS member schools by January 1, 2009.

I appreciated this opportunity to be involved on the board and participate in Legislative Action Days. I learned a lot about the good going on and also the concerns involved in the graduate student experience beyond my university. Thank you for that opportunity.

Legislative Concerns Chair

Brent Laabs

No report submitted.

Midwestern Regional Coordinator

Samara Cahill

I began working as interim MW Coordinator after the 2007 National Conference (Austin, Texas) at which Ruqaiyah Rogers, then Midwest coordinator, was elected NAGPS Vice President. At the annual Midwest Regional Conference (hosted this year by Michigan State University) in March 2008 I was officially elected Midwest Coordinator and organized a new committee of chairs (Employment – Kristine Wildeboer, International Student Concerns – Manish Madan, Publicity – Sheila Kelly and Rachel Naegele, Social Justice – Matt Boyer; the Midwest committee is still in need of a Legislative Chair).

The University of Notre Dame is hosting the 2009 Midwest Regional Conference. Kelly Martin, the Orientation Chair of the ND Graduate Student Union (GSU), has volunteered as the Conference Organizer and we have a strong group of GSU members who have volunteered to work on the conference organizing committee. We are working on coordinating the Midwest conference with the annual GSU Charity Gala and are finalizing a date (probably early April 2009).

As Midwest coordinator I attended both sessions of Legislative Action Days (LAD, February and September 2008) and am currently serving on the national conference organizing committee since the national is being hosted in the Midwest region (at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities) this year. In addition to monthly board conference calls I also participated in the in-person board meetings in Washington, D.C., during the LADs, and in the national conference organizing committee meeting in Minneapolis in August 2008.

I sought out Midwest schools to invite to join NAGPS, identifying target schools, locating contact information, and compiling a master list of prospective Midwest schools to add to our national contact list. This activity expanded NAGPS's network of contacts to disseminate information to, especially for the 2008 national conference. The Midwest committee and I also identified target Minnesota schools to contact for the national. We contacted all NAGPS previous and prospective Midwest members by email and phone regarding the national conference and its early bird registration deadline.

I have written two quarterly Midwest newsletters, which I disseminated to Midwest members via email, and have organized monthly conference calls with the Midwest committee. Thanks to the work of the Midwest Publicity Chairs Sheila Kelly and Rachel Naegele the Midwest Region also has a Facebook page with links to the NAGPS homepage and to the 2008 National Conference Facebook page. As of October 1, 2008 the Midwest Region Facebook group has over 40 members.

The Midwest committee has worked hard to consolidate the regional communication network. I look forward to the national conference and to meeting more Midwest representatives in person at the Midwest Regional business meeting.

Southcentral Regional Coordinator

Kristin Javorsky

The Southcentral Regional Coordinator position experienced turnover several times this year, presenting some challenges for the region. Elected to SCRC in ___ 2007, Amy Meyers (Baylor University) left the position to become NAGPS Treasurer in November 2007. Her successor, Suzuko Mousel Knott (Washington University) assumed this role from ___ 2007 until ___ 2008, at which time academic demands necessitated the need identify a successor. This task was problematic and the position was vacant for approximately ___ months. The executive board then appointed Kristin Javorsky (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) to SCRC in September 2008. Ms. Javorsky will serve as SCRC until the Southcentral regional meeting in Spring 2009.

Despite the challenges these personnel changes presented, efforts to maintain communication between southcentral schools and NAGPS were ongoing. During periods of SCRC vacancy, NAGPS Vice-President Ruqaiyah Rogers also emailed schools within the region frequently to ensure important information was disseminated .

Annual Report from Suzoko Knott: Since assuming the role of South Central Regional Coordinator, I have been in touch with the former coordinator, Amy Meyers, from Baylor University, in order to learn about the duties and responsibilities of the position and up-coming NAGPS events. After several email exchanges with her, I also contacted Chris Wright from Oklahoma State University regarding the up-coming regional conference. I recently made contact and exchanged information with Amanda Mollet from Oklahoma State, to coordinate planning efforts for the aforementioned conference. In an effort to reach out to schools in my region, I have also met with Assistant Dean Elaine Berland at Washington University regarding recruitment of new member institutions in both the state Missouri and throughout the region. In preparation for this year's Legislative Action Days, I met with Vice Chancellor Pamela Lokken for Government and Community Relations and Jason Van Wey, Director of Federal Relations, at Washington University to better facilitate meetings with representatives from the state of Missouri.

Annual Report from Kristin Javorsky: Within the past few weeks since becoming SCRC, I have attempted to make contact with all member schools in the region to verify contact information and spread enthusiasm for our annual conference. As a result of these efforts, I have spoken to several GSA presidents and received communication from several Graduate Studies offices. Schools appear to have felt the effects of the SCRC vacancy, as many were unaware of the conference dates and a few had even allowed their membership to expire and did not know how to reinstate. I worked with these schools on an individual basis to connect them to the proper NAGPS personnel to resolve the issues. I encouraged schools who could not attend the conference to still participate by self-nominating for NAGPS awards and contributing promotional items for attendee tote bags. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to re-unify our

region through networking and discussion at the Regional meeting during the upcoming conference!

Western Regional Coordinator

Ryan Peacock

New appointee.

Southeastern Regional Coordinator

Vacant

Northeastern Regional Coordinator

Vacant

Ex-Officio (Immediate Past President)

Elizabeth Olson

As the Ex-Officio and immediate past president of NAGPS I engaged in three main activities during the 2007-2008 term. First, I worked with the new Board of Directors in an intensive transitioning period to ensure a seamless transition. Second, I completed the Conference Proceedings of the 2007 Annual Meetings. Third, I lead the creation of the 4th Edition of "101 Ways to Build an Effective Graduate-Professional Student Organization" marking the 15th anniversary of the manual. Each of these projects and activities has helped maintain institutional memory and continuity in achieving the mission of NAGPS. I also participated on the 2008 National Conference planning committee, two Legislative Action Days (February and September) and consulted in the formation of a NAGPS Advisory Board.

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RULES OF ORDER FOR BUSINESS MEETING

Robert's Rules of Order Synopsis for our business meeting: These rules provide for majority vote based decision making after due deliberation and consideration. You may use the exact wordings of the motions but so long as your intent is made clear the chair will interpret them along the lines of the motions listed herein. Unless otherwise noted a majority vote is required.

In general an item will come up for discussion (usually off the agenda) a motion and second regarding it may be made and then the merits debated, and once debate is complete a vote. Note that silence implies consent. If debate ends the chair may say if there are no objections we will take a vote or other clear motion.

- Remarks should be directed to the Chair.
- Obtain the floor (to speak) by standing when the person speaking finishes.
- Wait to be recognized as having the floor by the meetings Chair then begin.
- No member can speak twice until everyone else who wishes speaks once.

Terms to Know:

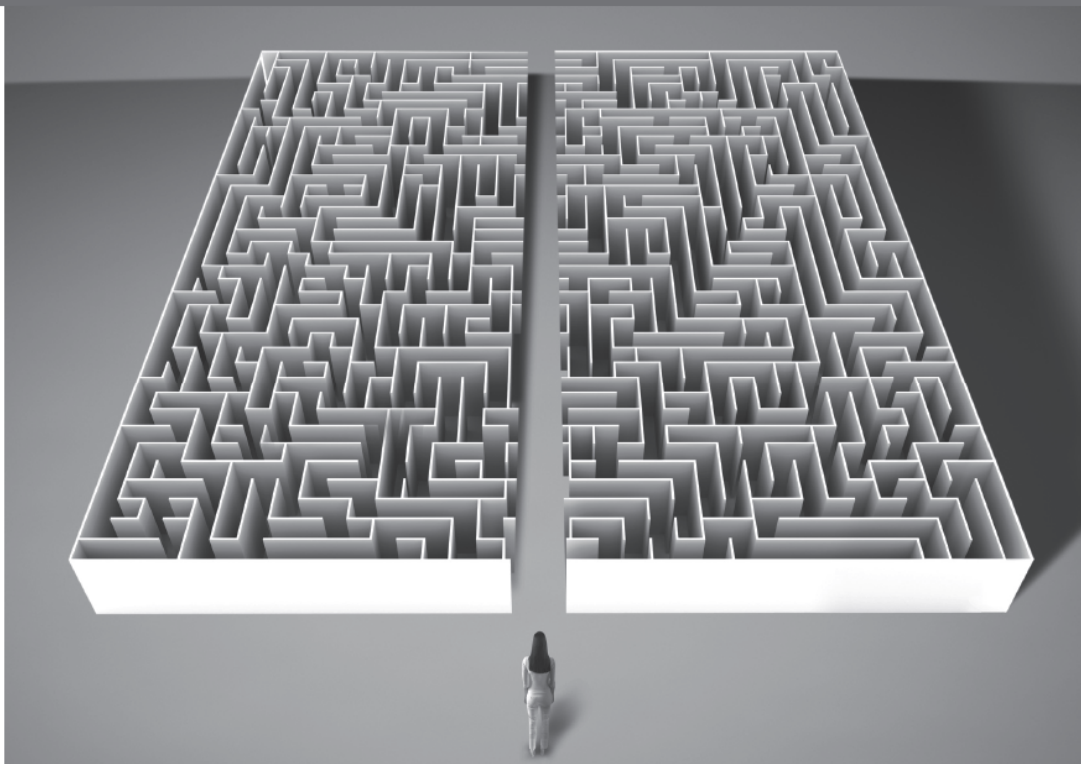
- **Point of Privilege:** Interrupt proceedings with this if you cannot hear or there is some other concern that preventing you from participation.
- **Parliamentary Inquiry:** Used to inquire regarding the correct motion to accomplish a desired result
- **Point of Information** (ask the speaker a question)
- **Suspend the Rules:** Allow assembly to violate its rules (besides its Constitution) (not debatable) **2/3** vote
- **Motion:** Bring new business to the assembly
- **Divide the Question:** Divides a motion
- **Amend:** Change something
- **Consider by Paragraph:** Debate and amend first by section then the whole.
- **Friendly Amendments:** May be made by the first motioner or if accepted as a friendly amendment by the first motioner. The motions second can withdraw if they no longer approve.
- **Debate** begins after the motion is stated by the Chair.

- The last question stated by the Chair is the “immediately pending question.”
- The motioner of the “immediately pending question” has speaking preference on the floor.
- **Withdraw/Modify Motion:** Can be withdrawn by motioner any time prior to voting. Friendly amendments can be made by the first motioner or by others if accepted as a friendly amendment by the first motioner. The motions second can withdraw if they no longer approve.
- **Motion to Close Debate and Vote (Call the question):** Closes debate if successful **2/3** vote and immediately vote.
- **Commit /Refer/Recommit to Committee or Board:** Delegate a matter to a committee or the board.
- **Extend Debate:** To extend a time limit. **2/3** vote
- **Limit Debate:** Closing debate at a certain time, or limiting to a certain period of time **2/3** vote
- **Postpone to a Certain Time:** State the time of resumption
- **Objection to Consideration:** State your objection
- **Lay on the Table:** Temporarily suspends consideration on a motion
- **Take from the Table:** Resumes consideration a motion "laid on the table"
- **Reconsider:** If you were on majority side you can make this motion to bring something back for further consideration if something has changed or come to light
- **Postpone Indefinitely:** Kills the motion for this session
- **Orders of the Day:** Call to adhere to the agenda when proceedings are perceived to be getting off topic.
- **Point of Order:** Rule being broken or impropriety in speaking, should be raised on occurrence
- **Appeal Decision of the Chair:** Appeal to the assembly to overrule a decision of the chair - must be made at the time of occurrence; it is not debatable if it relates to rules, order of business, or decorum



ELECTION PROCEDURES

- There will be 1 voting card distributed per organizational member organization. Each group must decide internally how to cast their ballot.
- There will be 1 voting card distributed for each 40 voting individual members (rounding up to the next whole vote). They must decide internally how to cast their group ballots.
- The order of elections will be:
- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Ombuds, Legislative Concerns Chair, Social Justice, Employment Concerns, Public Relations, International Student Concerns Chair.
- After National Elections are complete each region without a regional director will splinter off and under the guidance of the Ombuds or their appointee elect a new regional coordinator to serve out the remainder of the term until their next regional meeting.
- Note that all time limits are extensible by a motion with a second that receives a majority approval by the assembly.
- For each position the Ombuds or their appointee will:
 - 1) Announce the candidates
 - 2) Verify acceptance
 - 3) Call for any more nominations
 - 4) Close nominations
 - 5) Start/end the statement period. Candidates will have an opportunity to make statements limited to 2 minutes per person)
 - 6) Start/end the 5 min Question and Answer period
 - 7) Start/end discussion session. The candidates will then leave the room during the 4 minute discussion session by the committee as a whole. Speakers will be limited to 1 min each, everyone should speak once before anyone speaks twice.
 - 8) Call for votes: If there are more than 2 persons running for a single office, Instant Run-Off Voting shall be used. Each voter shall rank the candidates in order of most to least preferred. No candidate may be ranked twice, and no candidates may be ranked equally. A candidate receiving more than 50% of first choice votes wins the election. In the case that no candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, the candidate receiving the fewest number of first choice votes shall be eliminated and ballots listing that candidate as their first choice shall be recounted using their second choice candidate. If a ballot has no more available choices ranked on it, that ballot shall be declared exhausted and not counted in that round or any subsequent round. This process shall repeat until one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes. You will have 5 minutes to deliberate, cast and turn in your ballot.
 - 9) Instant run off counting will be performed by the board members and/or volunteers from the assembly at large.
 - 10) Announce Results: The results will be announced and we will then move on to the next election.



Going to school in the U.S. can be complicated, insurance doesn't have to be.

As a member of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) you have access to reliable student health insurance:

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For a full description of coverage, including costs, benefits, exclusions, any reductions and limitations, and the terms under which the coverage may remain in force, log on to www.UHCSR.com/NAGPS. This plan is underwritten by United HealthCare Insurance Company and is based on Policy #2008-485-4. Benefits may vary by state and are not available in Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Vermont and Washington.

08COL922



NAGPS CONSTITUTION

Constitution of the National Assoc. of Graduate-Professional Students

Last amended: 17 November 2007

Article 1. Name, Purpose, and Activities

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the **National Association of Graduate-Professional Students**, hereafter referred to as "the Association."

Section 2. Purpose

The Association is an educational organization which exists to share information among existing graduate/professional student organizations, to foster the development and growth of organizations, and to further the interests of graduate/professional students.

Section 3. Activities

No activities of the Association shall discriminate against any individual or group of individuals on the basis of: age, socioeconomic status, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, political orientation, race, religion, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation.

Article II. Membership

Section 1.

Membership is available to any organization of graduate/professional students at a college or a university in the United States of America.

Section 2.

Membership is available to any individual, corporation, organization, or institution interested in supporting the mission of the Association.

Section 3.

There are four designations of membership: regular organizational, developing organizational, individual and affiliate.

Article III. Conferences & Meetings

Section 1.

There shall be a National Conference each year, to be organized by the National

Conference Coordinator. At that time, a National Membership Meeting shall be held.

Section 2.

Each region shall conduct a Regional Conference each year. At that time, a Regional Membership Meeting shall be held.

Article IV. Board of Directors

Section 1.

There shall be a Board of Directors which shall act for the Association between National Membership Meetings. Such actions may be overruled by a majority vote of the membership, either at a National Membership Meeting, or by mail ballot.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Executive Coordinator, the Membership Coordinator, the Information Exchange Coordinator, the Social Justice Coordinator, the Financial Controller, the Regional Coordinators, the Ombuds Coordinator, and the Chairs of Standing Committees as defined in the By-Laws.

Article V. Officers

Section 1. President.

The Executive Coordinator shall serve as President.

Section 2. Vice-President

The Membership Coordinator shall serve as Vice-President.

Section 3. Secretary.

The Information Exchange Coordinator shall serve as Secretary.

Section 4. Treasurer.

The Financial Controller shall serve as Treasurer.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1.

Amendments may be made to this Constitution by a vote of two-thirds of Regular Members in good standing, voting either at a National Membership Meeting or by a mail ballot.

Section 2.

Amendments may be proposed by any voting member in good standing, Region, or by the Board of Directors, at least sixty (60) days prior to the vote.

Section 3.

Proposed amendments must be sent in writing to all members at least forty-five (45) days prior to voting.

Article VII. By-Laws

Section 1.

The Board of Directors shall enact By-Laws to supplement this Constitution.

Section 2.

The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Directors in office. Amendments to the By-Laws shall take effect immediately upon passage, unless otherwise specified. All such amendments shall be reported to the membership for information.

Section 3.

The By-Laws may also be amended by a majority vote of the regular members present and voting at a National Membership Meeting or by a mail ballot. Upon passage, amendments to the By-Laws shall take effect at the end of that meeting, unless otherwise specified.

Article VIII. Ratification

Section 1.

This Constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a majority of members in good standing voting at a National Membership Meeting or by a mail ballot with notary public seal.

Section 2.

Upon ratification, this Constitution shall supersede all previous Constitutions for the Association.



NAGPS BY-LAWS

Bylaws of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

Last amended: September 2008(by Board of Directors)

Article I. Finances

Section 1.

- A. A Budget must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
- B. Changes to the budget may be proposed by any NAGPS member in good standing, and are approved by a two-thirds vote of Directors present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors
- C. A majority vote of the Board of Directors is required to authorize spending in amounts which exceed a particular line item of an approved NAGPS budget.
- D. The Executive Director, Treasurer, and the President shall have signature authority for disbursement of funds from all NAGPS financial instruments.

Article II. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Endowment Members

A. Endowment Members

1. Have been a members in good standing for two or more consecutive years.
2. Submit an endowment membership application that receives a majority vote of approval by the Board of Directors.

B. Membership begins upon board approval.

Section 2. Organizational Members

A. Graduate/professional student organizations may join NAGPS as Organizational Members if they:

1. complete a membership application,
2. represent graduate/professional students on a broad scale on a particular campus, and
3. can submit either a copy of their current constitution or documentation of an independent funding source.

B. Graduate/professional student organizations may join NAGPS as Developing

Organizational Members if they:

1. complete a membership application and
 2. represent graduate/professional students on a broad scale on a particular campus, and either
 - a. are forming or seeking to form an organization which represents graduate/professional students on a broad scale on a particular campus or
 - b. represent graduate/professional students in a particular department.
 3. can submit either a copy of their current constitution or documentation of an independent funding source.
 4. have a campus wide graduate and/or professional student population of no more than 200 or can document an annual operating budget of no more than \$3000
- B. Membership begins when the payment is received for the dues arrangement set by the Board of Directors and continues for one calendar year.
- C. Organizational Members in good standing shall be entitled to vote at national and regional membership meetings.
- D.

Section 3. Individual Members

- A. Graduate/Professional students may join NAGPS as Individual Student members if they:
1. complete a membership application and
 2. can submit proof of registration at recognized college or university upon request.
- B. Other individuals, who do not qualify as Individual Student members, may join NAGPS as non-voting Individual Alumni/Support members by completing a membership application.
- C. Membership is for a one year term from the date of dues payment and continues for one calendar year.
- D. Individual Student members in good standing may speak and participate in committees, caucuses, and all non-voting events at Annual National and Regional Membership Meetings. Individual Student members may vote as a caucus at the Annual National Membership Meeting.
1. no more than one vote per 40 Individual Student members in attendance.
 2. Persons certified as organizational representatives may not join in an Individual Student member's caucus.

Section 4. Affiliate Members

- A. Other organizations that support the mission of NAGPS may join NAGPS as Affiliate Members by completing a membership application. Such organizations may include, but are not limited to, faculty or administrative units, student governments that represent non-graduate/ professional students, and companies.
- B. .
- C. Membership is for a one year term from the date of dues payment and continues for one calendar year.
- D. Affiliate Members may participate but they may not vote.

Section 4. Dues

- A. All members, shall be assessed dues..
- B. Members in good standing are those whose membership dues are current.
- C.

D. C. The Board of Directors shall set the dues structure for all designations and categories of membership annually.

E. D. Limited periods of grace may be extended by the Board of Directors if renewing members are faced with extenuating circumstances inhibiting the prompt payment of dues. However, all membership benefits, including, but not limited to voting privileges, , may be revoked at any time for non-payment of dues.

Section 6. Membership Suspension and Revocation

A. Membership status may be suspended for a malfeasance for a period as determined by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors

1. Reasons for, and period of, suspension will be remitted in writing to the member by the Ombuds within 15 days of the vote to suspend

B. Membership status may be revoked for malfeasance by at 2/3 vote of the NAGPS membership

1. Revoked members may submit a written petition for reinstatement to the NAGPS membership at the annual meeting
 - a. Petitions shall be submitted in writing to the Ombuds 45 days prior to the start date of the NAGPS annual meeting

2. A 2/3 vote of the NAGPS membership at the annual meeting is required to approve the petition for reinstatement.

Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. Annual National Membership Meeting

A. General Provisions

1. For a quorum, 20% of the Regular Organizational Membership in good-standing need to be physically present.
2. A quorum must be physically present at a meeting for a vote to take place.
3. A majority of voting members present decides the outcome of any matter except amendments to the Constitution.
4. Each individual in attendance at the meeting may have no more than one (1) vote, regardless of institutional or organizational affiliation or proxy/absentee ballots.

B. Date

1. The Annual National Membership Meeting is scheduled each year to be held in conjunction with the Annual National Conference.
2. The Executive Coordinator, at the direction of the Board of Directors, shall mail each member a notice of the meeting at least ninety (90) days before the start of the meeting.

B. Location

1. The Board of Directors shall decide the location of the Annual National Meeting.
2. Rotation should occur among the regions as defined by NAGPS.
3. No region shall host the Annual National Conference in consecutive years.
4. Each region shall host the Annual National Conference at least once every ten (10) years.

Section 2. Regional Membership Meetings

- A. Regional Membership Meetings shall be conducted in a manner agreed upon by the members of the region.
- B. Resolutions and amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws approved at Regional Meetings shall be presented and voted on at the Annual National Membership Meeting.
- C. The Regional Coordinator and any other regional officers shall be elected at the Annual Regional Membership Meeting.
- D. The Annual Regional Membership Meeting shall be scheduled each year in conjunction with the Annual Regional Conference.

Article V. Board of Directors

Section 1. Qualifications

The Board of Directors shall be selected from those individual persons duly recognized as bona fide representatives of an Organizational Member in good-standing or Individual Student members in good-standing at the time of election.

Section 2. Terms of Office

- A. National Officers and Committee Chairs shall serve from the completion of the National Meeting at which they were elected to eight weeks beyond the completion of the next Meeting.
- B. National Officers and Committee Chairs shall take office at a meeting at the end of eight weeks from the completion of the National Meeting at which they were elected.
- C. Regional Officers shall serve from the completion of the Regional Membership meeting at which they were elected to the completion of the next Annual Regional Membership Meeting or for a period of one year whichever comes earlier.
- D. Any Regional Officer appointed to the Board to serve an abbreviated term shall serve as outlined in Article IX, Section 10, except on approved leaves of absence as outlined in Article IX, Section 9.

Section 3. Duties

- A. The Board of Directors shall:
 1. manage NAGPS by the stated purposes of Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution;
 2. set a date and location for the Annual National Membership Meeting, at least 120 days before the Meeting;
 3. schedule general meetings for the Board of Directors;
 4. establish dues and membership guidelines;
 5. appoint ad hoc committees;
 6. review and approve the Chair of each ad hoc committee;
 7. review and approve the budget and plan of activities submitted by each region and committee;
 8. prepare a monthly report summarizing the activities of each Director to be distributed to the appropriate constituencies.
- B. The Executive Coordinator shall:
 1. serve as the Association's Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
 2. chair the meetings of the Board of Directors;
 3. represent NAGPS in external affairs;
 4. serve as an Ex Officio member of the Board of Directors, for the year following their term as Executive Coordinator;
 5. prepare and submit an annual written report to the organization at the National

Conference.

B. The Membership Coordinator shall:

1. Assume the position of Executive Coordinator, should the position become vacant mid-term, as defined in Article IX, Section 10;
2. Chair the Membership Committee, as described in Article VII, Section 4;
3. Assist the Executive Coordinator and Ombuds Coordinator in new board member orientation;
4. prepare and submit an annual membership report for the organization at the National Conference.

B. The Information Exchange Coordinator shall:

1. serve as the Association's Secretary & Chief Information Officer (CIO);
2. report the minutes of all Board of Directors and National meetings;
3. manage a clearinghouse of information for the membership;
4. oversee production and distribution of a National Newsletter at least twice a year;
5. promote a comprehensive electronic mail network among the membership;
6. oversee production and distribution of special topic reports as directed by the Board of Directors;
7. conduct all mail-balloting for NAGPS.

B. The Financial Controller shall:

1. serve as the Association's Chief Financial Officer (CFO);
2. prepare a budget for NAGPS and its activities;
3. oversee the collection and distribution of all funds;
4. keep appropriate records of all fiscal transactions by NAGPS;
5. prepare a report for each Board of Directors Meeting.

B. The Regional Coordinators shall:

1. be responsible for the recruitment and retention of members within their region;
2. provide monthly updates on NAGPS activities to members within their region via their electronic Regional discussion list, and/or the production of a Regional newsletter comparable to the monthly reports of the President;
3. represent interests of the members of their Region to the Board of Directors;
4. coordinate efforts of regional and state volunteers;
5. be responsible for appointing a person to act as proxy for that region in writing, who is not a Board member and a member of that region, by electronic mail or phone, subject to 2/3 approval of members of that region in good standing at a duly called regional meeting. If no proxy is given, or if the proxy is not approved by the region, the region may, by a 2/3 majority of regional attendees at a conference, appoint a temporary voting representative to the Board until the duly elected regional coordinator arrives.

B. Committee Chairs shall:

1. be responsible for coordination of NAGPS' efforts regarding Committee issues at the national level;
2. advise the Board of Directors on issues of concern to their Committees;
3. represent interests of the members of their Committee to the Board of Directors;
4. provide regular updates on NAGPS activities to the members of their Committee via their electronic Committee discussion list, and/or the production of a Committee newsletter;

B. The Ombuds Coordinator shall:

1. be responsible for maintaining channels of communication between NAGPS Committees (standing and ad hoc) and the Board of Directors;
2. oversee the process of amending and restructuring of the By-Laws and Constitution in accordance with the goals of NAGPS;
3. oversee the job performance of the Board of Directors and report to the Executive Coordinator and Information Exchange Coordinator when job performance of any member of the Board of Directors is unsatisfactory;
4. serve as the NAGPS Parliamentarian;
5. coordinate efforts of Committee volunteers.

Section 4. Election Guidelines

- A. The Executive Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Social Justice Coordinator, Information Exchange Coordinator, Financial Controller and Ombuds Coordinator shall be elected at the Annual National Membership Meeting.
- B. Chairs of standing committees, with the exception of the Executive and Membership Committees, may be nominated by their committees as well as by the members present at the Annual National Membership Meeting and shall be elected at that National Membership Meeting.
- C. Regional Coordinators shall be elected by their respective regions at their annual regional membership meeting and be seated at the conclusion of said regional conference.
- D. For all elections, if there are more than 2 persons running for a single office, Instant Run-Off Voting shall be used: Each voter shall rank the candidates in order of most to least preferred. No candidate may be ranked twice, and no candidates may be ranked equally. A candidate receiving more than 50% of first choice votes wins the election. In the case that no candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, the candidate receiving the fewest number of first choice votes shall be eliminated and ballots listing that candidate as their first choice shall be recounted using their second choice candidate. If a ballot has no more available choices ranked on it, that ballot shall be declared “exhausted” and not counted in that round or any subsequent round. This process shall repeat until one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes.

Section 5. Board of Directors Meetings

A. General Provisions

1. Each Director has one vote which may be cast in person or by electronic media.
2. The chair may vote only in the event of a tie, or in the event the chair's vote affects the outcome.
3. For a quorum, a majority of Directors must be present, either physically or by electronic media.
4. If all Directors agree in writing, a meeting is not required, to take action on a proposal.
5. If a quorum is present, a majority vote of those Directors present, physically or by electronic media, decides the outcome of any matter which does not amend the By-Laws.
6. A two-thirds vote of all Directors is required to amend the Bylaws.
7. Each director shall present a report at each board meeting, whether physical or via electronic means, which shall count as their attendance for that meeting.
8. Each director shall actively participate in meetings, by attending physical

meetings and by contributing and voting in e-mail meetings.

9. Signed, written absentee ballots for specific issues shall be allowed for physical meetings.
10. A summary of motions passed at each meeting will be sent to each member within fourteen days of the end of the meeting, and a copy of the minutes from each Board meeting will be sent to each member school within two months of the end of the meeting.

B. Frequency

1. The Board of Directors shall meet physically at least twice per year; once at any time other than the National Conference, and once at said conference.
2. The Board of Directors shall also meet regularly via e-mail between physical board meetings.

B. Notification

The Executive Coordinator must send an agenda to all Directors and Assistants at least twenty-one (21) days prior to any physical Board of Directors meeting, and at least fourteen (14) days prior to any e-mail meeting.

Section 6. Procedures

- A. Any actions taken by a Director on behalf of NAGPS may be overruled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or of members in good-standing.

B. Resignation

A Director's written resignation is effective when received by the Executive Coordinator. In the case of resignation of the Executive Coordinator, said notification is effective upon receipt by the Secretary.

- C. When the Board of Directors lets a contract for an amount in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000), the Board shall solicit bids from competing firms. Before the contract is let, the Board must receive at least three competitive bids, or show cause as to why that is not possible. The Board shall notify all members in writing and provide explanation as to why the particular bid was selected.

Article VI. Committees

Section 1. General Provisions

- A. Standing committees include the:

1. Legislative Concerns Committee
2. Human Concerns Committee
3. Employment Concerns Committee
4. Public Relations Committee

- B. Committee Chairs shall issue an annual report and a financial statement, if appropriate, at the Annual National Membership Meeting.

- C. Each Committee Chair shall prepare a report and submit it via e-mail or mail to the secretary by the day that occurs 14 days prior to the BOD meeting.

- D. Any Committee Chair who fails to participate in at least 2 BOD meetings may be considered in nonfeasance.

Section 2. Legislative Concerns Committee

- A. The Legislative Concerns Committee shall be composed of the Legislative Concerns

Committee Chair, and any NAGPS members in good standing who indicate interest in serving on the Committee.

- B. The Legislative Concerns Committee shall monitor pending federal legislation, recommend advocacy efforts, issue policy statements, provide analysis, and issue calls to action when needed. The Committee shall assist NAGPS in the development of its Legislative Platform each year, for presentation at the Annual Membership Meeting, and coordinate grassroots efforts to support NAGPS' legislative mission.

Section 3. Human Concerns Committee

- A. The Human Concerns Committee shall be comprised of the Human Concerns Committee Chair, and any NAGPS members in good standing who indicate interest in serving on the Committee.
- B. The Human Concerns Committee shall work to ensure that NAGPS membership reflects the diversity of our nation's many cultures and lifestyles through contact with student groups working for diversity on a local or national level. The Committee coordinates the development and advocacy of policies and programs which provide for a diverse learning environment for graduate and professional students, and recommends action to the Board of Directors for implementation of such policies.
- C. The Human Concerns Committee shall monitor campus issues and legislative developments that affect the ability of graduate and professional students from other countries to study in the United States. The committee shall work to ensure that international students are well-informed, fairly treated, and able to participate in the governance of NAGPS.

Section 4. Employment Concerns Committee

- A. The Employment Concerns Committee shall be composed of the elected Employment Concerns Committee Chair, and any NAGPS members in good standing who indicate interest in serving on the Committee.
- B. The Employment Concerns Committee shall plan and formulate action concerning the issues of employment during and after the attainment of a graduate/professional degree.

Section 5. Public Relations Committee

- A. The Public Relations Committee shall be composed of the Public Relations Committee Chair and any NAGPS members in good standing who indicate interest in serving on the Committee.
- B. The Public Relations Committee shall work to ensure that NAGPS members are informed of NAGPS events and notices, assisting the Information Exchange Coordinator. The committee will promote NAGPS among members, sponsors, and media, with the responsibility to represent NAGPS with distinction, professionalism and courtesy.

8. Article VII. Internal Board Committees

Section 1.

The Board of Directors shall convene the following committees of the board as necessary, with chairs and committee memberships as specified in sections 2-5:

- A. Executive Committee
- B. Finance Committee

- C. Membership Committee
- D. Personnel Committee

Section 2. Executive Committee

- A. The Executive Committee shall be composed solely of the Executive Coordinator, serving as Chair, the Membership Coordinator, the Information Exchange Coordinator, the Financial Coordinator, and the Ombuds Coordinator.
- B. The Executive Committee shall advise the Executive Coordinator as (s)he sees fit and perform such duties as given to it by actions of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Finance Committee

- A. The Finance committee shall be composed of the Treasurer, serving as Chair, the President, and any other NAGPS member in good standing that indicates interest in serving on this committee.
- B. The Finance committee shall be charged with overseeing the fiscal health of NAGPS by preparing and presenting an annual budget to the BOD prior to the monthly May meeting for the upcoming fiscal year.
- C. The Finance committee shall review any proposals for future partners and formulate a recommendation in conjunction with the advice of the Advisory Board.

Section 4. Membership Committee

- A. The Membership Committee shall be composed of the Vice President, serving as Chair, Regional Coordinators, Regional Membership Coordinators, State Coordinators, and any NAGPS members in good standing who indicate interest in serving on the Committee.
- B. The Membership Committee shall designate appropriate membership categories for applicants and certify satisfaction of requirements for membership. The committee shall also advise the Board of Directors concerning strategies for recruitment and retention of individual and organizational members.

Section 5. Personnel Committee

- A. The Personnel Committee shall be composed of the Ombuds Coordinator, serving as Chair, and other members of the Board of Directors who indicate interest in serving on the Committee.
- B. The Personnel Committee shall handle matters relating to the performance of staff hired by the Association and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Ad-hoc Committees

- A. Ad-hoc committees may be established by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- B. The chair of an ad-hoc committee shall be nominated by the Executive Coordinator and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- C. The membership of an ad-hoc committee shall be composed of the Chair and NAGPS members in good standing who indicate interest in serving on the Committee, unless the Board of Directors approves a specific committee membership by a two-thirds vote.

Article VIII. Regions

For the purposes of this Association, the United States of America will be divided into Regions as follows:

Northeast: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia;

Southeast: Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia;

Midwest: Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota;

Southcentral: Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska;

Western: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, U.S. Marshall Islands, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Article IX. Removal and Replacement of Directors

Section 1.

Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance by a majority vote of their electorate.

Section 2.

Any member of the Board of Directors may be also removed from office for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance subject to the grievance procedure outlined in Sections 3 through 6 below.

Section 3.

Any person wishing to file a grievance must submit a letter in writing to the Ombuds Coordinator (or the Executive Coordinator if the Ombuds Coordinator is named in grievance). This letter should outline the grievance and desired action.

Section 4.

The Ombuds Coordinator will then review the grievance, notify named individual(s) via registered, certified mail within three business days, and request a reply by named individual(s) to grievance. The Ombuds Coordinator will then present the grievance and reply to the Board for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting.

Section 5.

If the Board of Directors approves a simple majority motion for removal, formal notice will be given to individual(s) named, and the NAGPS membership will be polled for volunteers to serve on independent adjudication committee. Of all those who apply, one person per region will be chosen by lottery. This committee will be formed within fifteen (15) working days of the Board's vote to proceed with the grievance process. The Ombuds coordinator will then be responsible for providing a copy of the grievance, reply and other documents as needed to the independent committee for review and decision on removal.

Section 6.

Within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of grievance materials from the Ombuds coordinator, the grievance committee will vote on removal. This

committee, being composed of one member per region and chaired by the Ombuds Coordinator (or the Executive Coordinator in the event that the removal of the Ombuds Coordinator is sought) must render a two-thirds affirmative vote in order for removal to take place.

Section 7.

Should removal be necessary, the Ombuds Coordinator (or the Executive Coordinator in the event that the removal is of the Ombuds Coordinator) will notify the removed board member of their removal, and the removed board member will be replaced according to the procedure outlined in Section 9 of this article.

Section 8.

Removal and/or resignation of a Director or Regional officer shall not entitle said person to financial restitution. All property of NAGPS shall be returned upon removal or resignation.

Section 9.

- A. In the event that a Board member shall have a temporary incapacity to perform the duties of the office, the member may request a leave of absence from the Executive Coordinator.
- B. Finite leave of absence - the member may request a finite leave of absence if the end-date of the temporary incapacity is known. On completion of the term of leave, the member shall resume the office or submit a resignation.
- C. Indefinite leave of absence - the member may request an indefinite leave of absence if the member does not know at the time of the incapacity when the incapacity will end.
- D. In no event shall any leave of absence exceed four months, nor may a leave of absence extend beyond the end of the term of office.
- E. The Executive Coordinator, on granting a leave of absence, shall nominate within 30 days a person to serve in the position on an interim basis, subject to approval by a majority of the Board of Directors.
- F. In the event that on definite leave of absence is unable to resume the office at the end of the leave of absence or after four months on an indefinite leave of absence, the member shall be considered as resigned from office and the interim member shall assume the office without need for a second ratification from the Board.

Section 10. Vacancies

- A. In the event that any Board office becomes vacant, the Board shall, by majority vote, fill the position by appointment within 30 days. Such person shall assume the vacant office immediately. In the case of a Regional Coordinator, the appointed individual shall hold office until the next national or regional meeting, whichever occurs first, at which time an election shall be held. In the case of all other Board positions, the appointed individual shall hold office until the handover BOD meeting.
- B. In the event that the Executive Coordinator office becomes vacant, the Vice President of the Board shall become Executive Coordinator.

Article X. Compensation

Section 1.

The Board of Directors may vote to pay the Executive Coordinator a stipend if it determines funds are available to do so.

Section 2.

NAGPS will not pay any other Director or Member a salary.

Section 3.

NAGPS may reimburse any Director or Member for expenses incurred in furthering the NAGPS' purposes, as defined in Article I, upon approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Related Compensation

No Director may receive compensation from any company (with the exception of NAGPS Services) with a current working relationship with NAGPS, Inc., from the time of election until one year after leaving the Board of Directors of NAGPS, Inc.

Article XI. Indemnification

For NAGPS to indemnify a Director for the reasonable expenses of a legal action, the individual must have acted in furtherance of NAGPS purpose, as defined in Article I, and in accordance with directives of the Board of Directors.

Article XII. Parliamentary Procedures

All procedural matters not specified herein shall be resolved in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Article XIII. Diversity of Representation

NAGPS is strongly committed to a policy of diverse representation among its Members, Regions, and Directors. In furtherance of this objective, discrimination on the basis of age, socioeconomic status, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, political orientation, race, religion or sexual orientation is prohibited among NAGPS Membership, Regions and Directors.

Article XIV. Dissolution

Assets remaining after the dissolution of NAGPS and the satisfaction of creditors are to be transferred to organizations which have both a similar purpose to NAGPS, as defined in Article I, and which comply with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Article XV. Association Co-Sponsorship

Section 1. Co-sponsorship

Co-sponsorship of events or conferences by NAGPS does not require nor prohibit any fiscal obligations.



**DON'T FORGET
TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR
BEFORE YOU GO
TO BED ON
SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 1,
2008.**





2008 NAGPS LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

**Adopted at 21st Annual Conference
Austin, TX – November 15, 2008**

NAGPS MISSION STATEMENT

NAGPS has a threefold mission for the graduate and professional student community in the United States of America: (1) develop and sustain a member network to connect graduate and professional students and their associations, (2) provide resources and support to empower members, and (3) advocate at local and national levels on their behalf.

FOREWORD

Under NAGPS' bylaws, the NAGPS Legislative Concerns Committee is responsible for assisting NAGPS in development of its legislative policy by submitting a proposed Annual Federal Legislative Platform for consideration and approval by the membership at the general business meeting of the national conference. While the Legislative Platform is not an exclusive expression of the federal legislative issues of concern to the Association, it sets out NAGPS' main public policy priorities for the coming year.

NAGPS encourages local graduate and professional student governments to incorporate this Federal Legislative Platform in the creation of their own local legislative agendas and to formally endorse this NAGPS Legislative Platform. Further, NAGPS seeks to work with the higher education community to formulate policies affecting NAGPS' membership that advance national goals and objectives.

I. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

RESOLUTION I-1 – International Student Tracking System

Pursuant to H.R. 2202 of 1996 (Illegal Immigration Reform & Immigrant Responsibility Act), H.R. 3162 of 2001 (USA PATRIOT Act) and H.R. 3525 of 2002 (Enhanced Border Security Act), the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Bureau has implemented the new “Student and Exchange Visitor Information System” (SEVIS) to track the international student population in this country. As of January 30, 2003, SEVIS participation is mandatory for all schools issuing I-20s for foreign students.

NAGPS is concerned about students losing status due to bureaucratic failures in the SEVIS system itself. NAGPS specifically calls for the ability of international students to

transfer and continue degrees without any obstacles and to be provided a 60-day grace period to appeal a loss of status.

NAGPS urges the Federal government to bear the cost for the operation of SEVIS rather than imposing this burden on individual students or the host institutions.

RESOLUTION I-2 – Issuance of Student Visas

NAGPS strictly opposes blanket bans on international student entry based on their country of origin and/or field of study. NAGPS urges the government to reverse its decision to single out students on the basis of their country of origin and/or field of study, while remaining attentive to potential threats to the nation's security.

NAGPS supports all reasonable efforts to shorten student visa and security check processing times.

NAGPS urges university officials and higher education organizations to work for fairer student visa policies and actively advocate for their students whose visas have been unfairly denied or delayed.

NAGPS urges that all student visas, regardless of the student's country of origin and/or field of study, should be multiple-entry and of a duration consistent with that of the student's educational program. NAGPS believes that international students should be fully able to travel abroad to pursue scholarly opportunities and visit their families.

RESOLUTION I-3 – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Reform

NAGPS urges lawmakers and administrators to respect international students' civil and human rights and to uphold their rights to due process.

RESOLUTION I-4 – Legal Immigrants

NAGPS supports the right of legal immigrants to pursue a graduate or professional education without impediment and to participate in federal student aid programs. As permanent residents of the United States, legal immigrants should be entitled to participate in student aid programs.

RESOLUTION I-5 – International Students

NAGPS urges lawmakers and administrators to respect international students' civil and human rights to be allowed parental and familial leave or medical emergency leave and opposes policies that penalize graduate and professional students for fulfilling their parental responsibilities.

II. STUDENT LOANS

RESOLUTION II-1 – Student Loan Interest Taxation

As the cost of graduate and professional education continues to rise, the accompanying debt burden has also risen sharply. Expanding availability of the tax deductibility of student loan interest would ease the growing debt burden as well as reaffirm the importance of graduate and professional education as an essential investment in the future of the nation.

The Tax Relief Act of 2001 eliminated the 60-month limit on student loan interest deductions and increased the student loan interest deduction income limitation to \$65,000 for single taxpayers and from \$75,000 to \$135,000 for married taxpayers.

NAGPS urges the Congress to index the income limitation to the rate of inflation.

RESOLUTION II-2 – Student Loan Forgiveness and Forbearance

Many graduate/professional students would prefer to apply their newly acquired talents by working in nonprofit fields, public service, or underserved areas, but are precluded from making that career choice by the burden of student loan debt. NAGPS urges the adoption and implementation of policies to encourage such career choices through programs of loan forgiveness or forbearance.

RESOLUTION II-3 – Maintenance of Federal Student Loan Programs

NAGPS opposes any efforts to cut funding from the Federal student loan programs. NAGPS also opposes any measure that would result in increased loan costs to students, such as the elimination of the six-month interest grace period for graduate/professional students, increases in loan origination fees, or taxes on total loan volume at a university.

RESOLUTION II-4 – Extending Student Loan Grace Period

Currently students receive one six-month grace period after leaving post-secondary education for payment on their federal student loans. Because many graduate and professional students use the grace period between completion of their undergraduate degree and their matriculation into an advanced degree program, NAGPS calls for the implementation of another six-month grace period upon the completion of one academic year of full-time course work toward an advanced degree.

RESOLUTION II-5 – Lender Subsidies

NAGPS objects to subsidy payments to lenders and urges Congress to investigate alternative means for funding student loan programs. NAGPS further urges that the resulting available monies currently directed to lender subsidies be channeled to higher education programs, including graduate and professional fellowships.

RESOLUTION II-6 – Direct Student Loan Program

NAGPS opposes efforts to limit or eliminate the Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDSLP). NAGPS believes competition between FDSLP and the federally guaranteed Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) is beneficial to students and is the most suitable way to determine which program is better. NAGPS supports allowing students and universities to choose between the two programs, rather than having Congress decide.

RESOLUTION II-7 – Student Loan Debt

According to a study by the US Public Interest Research Group, since 1990 the amount of outstanding Stafford student loans has more than doubled. Concerns have been expressed that students are accumulating unreasonable amounts of student loan debt, constricting their career choices and preventing them from contributing to the economy as consumers.

NAGPS supports education programs to make students aware of the consequences of student loans to finance undergraduate, graduate, and professional education. NAGPS also supports increased levels of grant assistance to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, to minimize reliance on loans.

9. III. HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

RESOLUTION III-1 – Higher Education Act Reauthorization

As Congress reauthorizes the Higher Education Act, NAGPS urges it to consider the following items:

- Preserve and expand the graduate fellowship programs authorized within the Higher Education Act: the Javits, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) and Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity fellowships.

- Maintain and continue to fund both the Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDSLSP) and the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) in order to offer students the maximum spectrum of choices to suit their individual needs.
- Raise the borrowing limit for unsubsidized Stafford loans to ensure that it will cover the entire cost of attendance at a first professional program.
- Ensure that the borrowing limits for the Stafford and all other HEA-authorized student loan programs, as well as any maximum income limitations specified within the HEA, are indexed to increase with inflation.
- Preserve and expand those loan forgiveness programs that encourage new graduates to work in nonprofit and public service careers or in underserved areas, such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and the income-contingent repayment option of the FDSLSP. The maximum repayment period before loan forgiveness under these programs should not exceed fifteen years.
- Amend the regulations governing income limitations to ensure that only the income of a loan or scholarship applicant is considered, as opposed to the income of a spouse or domestic partner or other family member.
- Retain the fixed-interest-rate student loan consolidation program, so that students can continue to choose whether a fixed or variable rate loan better meets their needs.
- Permit students to consolidate loans while the students are still enrolled and to reconsolidate previously consolidated student loans at least once.

RESOLUTION III-2 – Maintenance of Federal Grant Funding

Federal grants to universities are a crucial part of graduate and professional education, which ensures the United States' competitive position in the global economy. In the face of an uncertain economic picture for the foreseeable future, NAGPS urges the Administration and Congress to maintain or increase the amount of federal funding provided for traditional and emerging fields of study at America's colleges and universities.

NAGPS urges the Congress to make it a policy that federally funded research grants give preference to proposals that include funding for graduate assistants and graduate research.

RESOLUTION III-3 – Federal Fellowships

NAGPS supports funding graduate and professional students on an individual, departmental or institutional basis in preference to funding through individual faculty grants. NAGPS strongly supports federal funding for graduate fellowships. Since the

1970s, the number of graduate fellowships offered by the federal government has decreased at the same time that the number of graduate and professional students has grown. NAGPS affirms the vital importance of graduate fellowship programs as a means of training tomorrow's scholars, scientists and leaders of industry, government and education.

NAGPS urges the Administration and Congress to provide, wherever possible, additional sources of grant funding for graduate and professional students. Specifically, NAGPS supports increased funding for the graduate fellowship programs included in the Higher Education Act (Javits Fellowships, GAANN – Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need – Fellowships, and the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program).

NAGPS also supports graduate and professional fellowship programs that are portable and that provide educational opportunities to traditionally underrepresented groups, as well as to traditionally underfunded disciplines.

NAGPS supports the reporting of educational outcomes of graduate and professional students who receive federal support. NAGPS also supports the public's access to these results from colleges and universities.

NAGPS supports the cultural and intellectual diversity of the academy to promote international understanding and collaboration, and suggests the creation of federal fellowships for international students.

RESOLUTION III-4 – Drug Provisions of the Higher Education Act

NAGPS opposes denial or delay of access to financial aid based on a student's current or prior conviction for drug-related offenses. NAGPS calls upon the Congress to overturn any and all provisions in the Higher Education Act or other Federal education legislation that authorize such denial or delay.

10. IV. TAX POLICY

RESOLUTION IV-1 – Tax Treatment of Graduate Education Expenses

Tax incentives for graduate and professional students are an investment in America's future. Such investment creates a highly trained workforce of leaders in industry, government, and education. Until 1986, graduate student funding was tax-exempt. Currently, it is not.

NAGPS will actively support and participate in efforts to broaden tax exemptions and deductions for graduate and professional education expenses and to protect all such existing exemptions and deductions.

RESOLUTION IV-2 – Higher Education Tax Provisions

NAGPS also urges the Congress and Administration to pass legislation and implement regulations that would include the following provisions:

- make institutions aware of the FICA exemption for graduate and professional students, such that students are eligible for the exemption as long as they maintain satisfactory enrollment status as defined by their colleges and universities; and
- maintain the FICA exempt status of graduate and professional students, particularly research and teaching assistants funded by universities; and
- ensure that universities, lenders, and other parties provide timely and free reports to students about qualified tuition and expenses that may be deductible under the Lifetime Learning Credit.

11. V. EDUCATIONAL POLICY

RESOLUTION V-1 – Department of Education Graduate/Professional Education Coordinator

NAGPS encourages the appointment of a graduate and professional education coordinator within the Office of Postsecondary Education in the United States Department of Education (ED) specifically charged with

- development of national strategies, federal legislation and administrative policies designed to encourage the pursuit of a graduate/professional education and to serve the nation's growing population of graduate/professional students; and
- coordination of graduate/professional education and student support services within other divisions and offices within the Department; and
- establishment of an ED Graduate/Professional Education Advisory Committee comprised of university and student representatives; and
- serving as a graduate/professional education advocate on various ED committees and projects where graduate and professional students' and schools' interests are involved.

RESOLUTION V-2 – Support for All Educational Levels

NAGPS believes that education is a continuum from kindergarten through the graduate and professional level. NAGPS believes that no one level of educational funding should be pitted against another. NAGPS therefore supports additional funding to K-12 and to undergraduate programs from sources other than graduate and professional student programs.

RESOLUTION V-3 – Civic Participation

NAGPS supports any legislative efforts that encourage U.S. permanent residency, citizenship and civic participation among graduates from institutions of higher learning.

RESOLUTION V-4 - National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week

NAGPS supports federal recognition of the first week of April as an annual celebration of Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. This event brings awareness of the contributions that graduate and professional students make to their campuses as teachers, researchers and students; the positive impact their work has on local, state, and federal economies.

12. VI. STUDENT RIGHTS

RESOLUTION VI-1 – Right of Free Expression

NAGPS firmly opposes any attempt to infringe on the First Amendment rights of students and their elected representatives to establish and fund their own programs, to publish scholarly work without fear of reprisal, and to engage in advocacy, lobbying, or debate. NAGPS supports student efforts to organize and engage in public policy debates; such acts are a vital part of the democratic process.

RESOLUTION VI-2 – Right to Adequate Childcare Benefits

Graduate and professional students have the right to adequate childcare benefits. Currently, the majority of graduate/professional student parents lacks these resources and is excluded from access to many of them by state and federal laws, even though the benefits are available to undergraduates. NAGPS strongly encourages graduate and professional students to lobby and work with the benefit-granting institutions at the state and federal level and thus significantly improve the lives of financially **overburdened** graduate/professional student parents.

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2008

