

2009 National Membership Meeting

Of the

National Association of Graduate-Professional Students



Member Information Packet

16-17 November 2009 at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2009 NAGPS National Membership Meeting
Lincoln, Nebraska

Julia Mortyakova, President
Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Administrator of the National Membership Meeting
Alex Evans, Chairman of the National Membership Meeting



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National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

2009 NAGPS National Membership Meeting
Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IV. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

V. BOARD OF DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. President..... Julia Mortyakova
2. Vice President..... Nancy Graves
3. Secretary Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins
4. Treasurer Diana Hechavarria
5. Ombudsman Alex Evans

B. Committee Chairs

1. Employment Concerns (vacant)
2. International Student Concerns..... Manish Madan
3. Legislative Concerns..... James Hodgson
4. Public Relations..... Kristi Kremers
5. Social Justice Leslie Martinez

C. Regional Coordinators

1. Midwest (vacant)
2. Northeast..... Kevin McComber
3. Southcentral Kristin Javorsky
4. Southeastern Svetlana Tyutina
5. Western..... Eric Sawyer

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Constitution & Bylaws Proposals

1. Overview
2. **Motion 2009.1:** Submittal of Board of Directors



3. **Motion 2009.2:** Submittal of Lachowicz-Scroggins
4. **Motion 2009.3:** Submittal of Northeast Region

B. **Motion 2009.4:** 2010 Legislative Platform

C. Elections

1. Executive Committee
2. Committee Chairs

D. **Motion 2009.5:** 2010 NAGPS Budget

E. National Conference Bids

VIII. OPEN FLOOR

IX. QUESTIONS¹

¹ Any questions or comments?

E-mail us as a group at: board@nagps.org or call us at (202) 543-0812

Or, e-mail us individually at:

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NAGPS webpage: <http://www.nagps.org>



NAGPS National Membership Meeting

Motion 2009.1 *Amended* *Constitution & By-Laws Proposal*

Submitted by
Board of Directors

Proposed
Official Documents

Of the

National Association of Graduate-Professional Students



Constitution and Bylaws

To be Approved by the Membership of NAGPS
XX November 2009 at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2009 NAGPS National Membership Meeting
Lincoln, Nebraska

Julia Mortyakova, President
Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Administrator of the National Membership Meeting
Alex Evans, Chairman of the National Membership Meeting

Constitution

of the

National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

Article I. Name

The name of this not-for-profit organization [501(c)(3)] shall be the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, hereafter referred to as "the Association."

Article II. Purpose

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

Article III. Membership and Voting

Section 1. There shall be three tiers of membership: organizational, individual, and affiliate.

Section 2. A "council" is defined as a group of graduate/professionalgraduate and/or professional students that advise, govern, and/or represent all graduate/professionalgraduate and/or professional students at its respective institution and is recognized by their institution as a representative group. Organizational membership is available to any council of graduate/professionalgraduate and/or professional students at a college or a university in the United States of America.

Section 3. Graduate/ProfessionalGraduate and/or professional students not represented by an organizational member shall be eligible to join the Association as an individual member.

Section 4. Affiliate membership is available to any person, corporation, organization, or institution interested in supporting the mission of the Association and otherwise ineligible for membership.

Section 5. No qualified council will be denied membership nor will any individual be subjected to discriminatory treatment or be excluded from participation in any activity or program of the Association on the basis of age, socioeconomic status, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, political orientation, race, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation. The Association shall not tolerate such actions by its Board of Directors, Regions, or Members.

Section 6. Only organizational and individual members shall have voting privileges.

Section 7. No person shall be entitled to more than one vote, regardless of affiliation.

Article IV. National Organizational Structure & Elections

Section 1. The national organizational structure shall consist of a Board of Directors charged with the coordination of all Association business and activities in accordance with the guidelines established in this document. The Board of Directors shall be accountable to the membership.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall act between meetings of the Board of Directors with its full authority as necessary, with respect to all matters, except as required by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and By-Laws to be taken by a supermajority of the Board of Directors or at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. All Officers, Regional Coordinators, and Chairs of Standing Committees as defined in the By-Laws shall serve as a Director and shall constitute the voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Association: the President, Vice President, Director of Finance, Director of Communications, Director of Administration, Director of Outreach, and Director of Relations.

Section 5. All Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees shall be elected by a majority vote of all members at the National Membership Meeting.

Section 6. The terms of office for ~~the Board of Directors~~ Officers and the Chairs of Standing Committees shall follow the fiscal year, 1 January to 31 December.

Section 7. ~~If an~~ Whenever there is a vacancy, temporary or permanent, of an Officer, Regional Coordinator, or Chair of a Standing Committee ~~is unable to finish the term of office~~, the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term by a majority vote, with the exception for the President, of which the replacement shall be selected among the remaining members of the Board of Directors by a majority vote. The vote shall occur at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Any replacement shall be confirmed by their electorate at the next membership meeting. If a replacement is not confirmed or no replacement has been selected, an election shall be held immediately.

Section 9. A majority of the membership shall have the right to overturn any decision made by a Director, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee.

Section 10. A majority of the Board of Directors shall have the right to overturn any decision made by the Executive Committee.

Section 11. A two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors shall have the right to overturn any decision made by a Director.

Section 12. No person shall hold more than one voting position on the Board of Directors.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. Official business meetings shall be defined as meetings where the membership, Executive Committee, or Board of Directors discuss issues relating to their functions as defined in this Constitution and in the By-Laws of the Association.

Section 2. An absolute majority, more than half, shall constitute a quorum for all official business meetings.

Section 3. A "membership meeting" shall be defined as an official business meeting where the membership discuss issues relating to their functions as defined in this Constitution and in the By-Laws of the Association.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall have the right to actively participate and set motions before the floor during membership meetings.

Section 5. 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 6. Each region shall conduct a Regional Conference annually. At that time, the Annual Regional Membership Meeting shall be held.

Article VI. Supremacy

Section 1. This Constitution shall be the supreme authority of the Association. All acts made in pursuance thereto shall take precedence over all other constitutions, by-laws, resolutions, or decrees passed by any Region, board, committee, or entity of the Association.

Article VII. Amendments

Section 1. Any member in good-standing, Region, or the Board of Directors shall propose amendments to this Constitution at least sixty (60) days prior to the vote, which shall be valid as part of this Constitution, when ratified at a National Membership Meeting, or by a mail ballot, by two thirds of the membership in good-standing.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be sent in writing to all members at least forty-five (45) days prior to voting.

Section 3. The By-Laws shall be amended by a majority vote of the 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.

By-Laws
of the
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

Article I. Finances

Section 1. Budget

- A. The Board of Directors shall prepare the budget for the next fiscal year to be voted upon by the membership at the National Membership Meeting.
- B. The budget and financial reports of the Association shall be presented at the National Membership Meeting.
- C. All expenditures not outlined in the budget shall require approval by three-fourths of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Signatory

The Treasurer and President shall have full signature authority on all financial instruments of the Association.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Organizational Members

A. Legacy Organizational Members shall:

1. Have been a member in good-standing for two or more consecutive years.
2. Submit an endowment membership application approved by a majority vote of approval by the Board of Directors.
3. Not be assessed annual dues.

B. Regular Organizational Members shall:

1. Complete a membership application.
2. Submit either a copy of their current constitution or documentation of an independent funding source, upon request.

C. Developing Organizational Members shall:

1. Complete a membership application.
2. Form or seek to form an organization which represents graduate/professionalgraduate and/or professional students on a broad scale on a campus.
3. Have a campus wide graduate/professionalgraduate and/or professional student population of no more than two hundred (200) or can document an annual operating budget of no more than \$3000.
4. Submit either a copy of their current constitution or documentation of an independent funding source, upon request.

Section 2. Individual Members

A. Individual Members shall:

1. Complete a membership application.
2. Submit proof of registration at recognized college or university upon request.
3. Be entitled to vote as a caucus with no more than one vote per forty (40) Individual Members in attendance.

Section 3. Affiliate Members

- A. Non-institutional Affiliate Members shall:
 - 1. Complete a membership application.
 - 2. Be a person not representing a corporation, organization, or institution.
- B. Institutional Affiliate Members shall:
 - 1. Support the mission of NAGPS
 - 2. Complete a membership application.

Section 4. Dues

- A. All members shall be assessed dues unless otherwise specified.
- B. Members in good-standing are those whose membership dues are current.
- C. The Board of Directors shall set the dues structure for all designations and tiers of membership.
- D. The Board of Directors shall have the right to extend limited periods of grace 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 5. Membership Suspension and Revocation

- A. A two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors shall have the right to suspend or revoke membership status for a malfeasance for a period as determined.
 - 1. Reasons for, and period of, suspension shall be remitted in writing to the member by the Director of Administration within fifteen (15) days of the vote to suspend.
 - 2. Revoked members shall have the right to submit a written petition for reinstatement to the membership at the National Membership Meeting.
 - i. Petitions shall be submitted in writing to the Director of Administration forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the National Conference.
 - 3. A two-thirds majority vote of the membership at the National Membership Meeting shall be required to approve the petition for reinstatement.

Section 6. Membership Term & Prorated Dues

- A. Membership terms shall begin with the start of the National Conference and conclude the following year at the start of the National Conference.
- B. The membership fee shall be reduced by fifty percent (50%) for all members that join NAGPS after the start of the Regional Conference or May 1.

Article III. Board of Directors

Section 1. Qualifications

The Board of Directors shall be selected from those 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 or appointment.

Section 2. Terms of Office

~~Persons elected to the Board of Directors, with the exception of Regional Coordinators, shall serve from the completion of the National Membership Meeting at which they were elected to the end of term.~~
Regional Coordinators shall serve from the completion of the Regional Membership ~~meeting~~ Meeting at which they were elected to the completion of the next Annual Regional Membership Meeting.

Section 3. Duties of the Board of Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for developing recommendations for amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws to better define the roles and to optimize the operations of the Association.
- B. Each Director shall prepare an annual report and maintain documentation of management procedures and recommendations for succeeding board members one month prior to the national conference.
- C. The Board of Directors shall provide an unbiased person, with Association experience, who is knowledgeable of Robert's Rules of Order to preside over the National Membership Meeting.
- D. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for determining the Mission Statement and individual positional objectives at the first Board of Directors in-person meeting.
- E. The Board of Directors shall publish immediately the Mission Statement and positional objectives on the Association website and through proper channels.
- F. Members of the Board of Directors, with a majority approval of the Board of Directors, shall be permitted under law to enter into contracts which are necessary to execute the duties of their office. Members of the Board of Directors shall be considered to be acting on behalf of the Association as agents thereof.
- G. Each Director shall actively participate in meetings of the Board of Directors including, but not limited to presenting a report of their activities.
- H. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to create committees within the Board of Directors, as necessary, to manage duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- I. The Board of Directors shall:
 1. Manage NAGPS by the stated purposes of Article II of the Constitution;
 2. Set a date and location for the National Membership Meeting, at least 120 days before the Meeting;
 3. Notify the membership via mail ~~of the meeting~~ at least ninety (90) days prior to the National Membership Meeting;
 4. Establish dues and membership guidelines;
 5. Coordinate and establish the content for the National Conference;
 6. Review and ~~approve and~~ appoint the Chair of each ad hoc committee;
 7. Assign duties and authorities to Directors, the Executive Committee and Staff as necessary;
 8. Prepare a quarterly report summarizing the activities of each Director to be distributed to the appropriate constituencies.

Section 4. Duties of the President

The President shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To serve as the Association's Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
- B. To create and dissolve ad hoc committees as needed;
- C. To stay abreast of all business to ensure the Board acts in accordance with the purpose as stated in the Constitution and duties defined in these by-laws;
- D. To coordinate the responsibilities, duties, and activities of the Board;
- E. To act as the official spokesperson of the Association;
- F. To chair the meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee;
- ~~A. To approve all contracts entered into by the Association;~~
- G. To be accountable for progress towards adaptation of outstanding charges or mandates from the National Membership Meeting and Board of Directors in a manner that maximizes productivity;
- H. To serve, for the year following the term as President, as a member of the Advisory Board and as an ~~an~~ Ex-Officio-officio member of the Board of Directors with the right to attend meetings of the Executive Committee, for the year following their term as President;
- I. To prepare an agenda for meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors;
- J. To publish objectives ~~for of~~ the Board of Directors during the first month of the term within one month of the first Board of Directors in-person meeting.

Section 5. Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To perform the duties of the President in the President's absence;
- B. To coordinate all nominations and elections;
- C. To oversee the content planning for the National Conference;
- D. To act as the liaison for the Board of Directors to the National Conference Coordinating Council;
- E. To oversee the process of amending the By-Laws and Constitution in accordance with the goals of the Association;
- F. To oversee the job performance of each Director.

Section 6. Duties of the Director of Finance

The Director of Finance shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To serve as the Association's Chief Financial Officer (CFO);
- B. To administer the general operating funds of the Association;
- ~~A. To manage the collection of dues from members;~~
- C. To keep accurate records of all monies, accounts, and properties of the Association;
- D. To ~~oversee~~ manage the collection and distribution of all funds;
- E. To coordinate with the Board of Directors in preparing an annual budget financial statement;
- F. To send monthly financial statements to the Board of Directors;
- G. To prepare financial reports for the Board of Directors at each meeting and the membership at the National Membership Meeting;
- H. To prepare, by and with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, a projected budget for the next fiscal year and to present the projected budget at the National Membership Meeting for approval;
- I. To have the proper material and documentation available at the National Conference in order for the incoming Board of Directors to assign signature access to the appropriate persons.

Section 7. Duties of the Director of Communications

The Director of Communications shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To serve as the Association's Chief Communication Officer (CCO);
- B. To oversee publication and distribution of a national newsletter at least ~~twice~~ four times a year;
- ~~A. To chair the Communications Committee;~~
- C. To manage and direct internal and external communications of the Board;
- D. To implement communication strategies that promote the purpose and agenda of the Association;
- E. To oversee public relations for the Association;
- F. To manage all publications of the Association;
- G. To strive to produce a positive image of the Association by providing assistance to the President in his/her duty as the official spokesperson of the Association;
- H. To compile the annual written reports of each Director to submit to the organization at the National Conference.

Section 8. Duties of the Director of Administration

The Director of Administration shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To serve as the Association's Secretary & Chief Information Officer (CIO);
- B. To file the Two-Year Report for Non-Profit Corporations with the District of Columbia Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs by 15 January of even-numbered years;
- C. To record the proceedings of all official business meetings and distribute them to the Board of Directors within five (5) working days;
- D. To oversee the establishment, maintain maintenance, and administer administration of electronic mail distribution lists, internet account, and webpage;
- E. To manage a clearinghouse of information for the membership including a membership database;

- F. To conduct all mail-balloting for the Association;
- G. To make available online a comprehensive database of membership information in coordination with the Director of Outreach;
- H. To prepare a report, including text, of all resolutions of the current Board of Directors ~~to~~ for the membership at the National Membership Meeting.

Section 9. Duties of the Director of Outreach

The Director of Outreach shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To serve as Chair of the Outreach Board;
- B. To create and maintain a comprehensive database of membership information to be made available online by the Director of Administration;
- C. To assess member needs and present conclusions and recommendations to the Board of Directors and membership;
- D. To devise and execute a national strategy for recruitment and retention of members;
- E. To work in conjunction with regional officers to promote the Association to potential members;
- F. To promote Association activities, programs, and services to members;
- G. To acknowledge excellence in member activities through an awards program.

Section 10. Duties of the Director of Relations

The Director of Relations shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To initiate, maintain, and improve relations between the Association and other professional organizations and companies;
- B. To strive to produce a positive image of the Association by providing assistance to the President in his/her duty as the official spokesperson of the Association;
- C. To investigate opportunities for outside support of Association activities;
- D. To contact companies and professional organizations for financial support of the Association;
- E. To develop and sustain a comprehensive strategy for corporate solicitation including corporate solicitation materials to be developed in conjunction with the Director of Communications and Director of Administration;
- F. To provide guidance for the National Conference Coordinator on solicitation and solicitation policy of the Association;
- G. To keep the Board of Directors abreast of companies contacted and activities involving professional organizations.

Section 11. Duties of the Regional Coordinators

The Regional Coordinators shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To represent interests of the members of their Region to the Board of Directors;
- B. To be responsible for the recruitment and retention of members within their region;
- C. To promote the Association to potential members in conjunction with the Director of Outreach;
- D. To provide monthly updates on Association activities to members within their region via their electronic Regional discussion list, and/or the production of a Regional newsletter;
- E. To coordinate efforts of regional and state volunteers;
- F. To serve or appoint a regional representative to serve on the Outreach Board.

Section 12. Duties of the Committee Chairs

The Committee Chairs shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To be responsible for coordination of Association efforts regarding their Committee issues at the national level;

- B. To advise the Board of Directors on issues of concern to their Committees;
- C. To represent interests of the members of their Committee to the Board of Directors;
- D. To provide regular updates on Association activities to the members of their Committee via their electronic Committee discussion list, and/or the production of a Committee newsletter.
- E. To serve on the Advocacy Board.

Article IV. Nominations and Elections

Section 1.

All candidates for the Board of Directors shall meet the qualifications for the Board of Directors.

Section 2.

Nominations shall be made by members present at the National Membership Meeting, or nominations for a Chair of the Standing Committee shall be made by the ~~standing~~ Standing committee ~~Committee~~.

Section 3.

Regional Coordinators shall be elected by their respective regions at their Regional Membership Meeting, ~~and shall be seated at the conclusion of the Regional Membership Meeting.~~

Section 4.

The order of election shall be: President, Vice President, Director of Finance, Director of Communications, Director of Administration, Director of Outreach, Director of Relations, and ~~remaining the Chair of~~ Standing Committees ~~Chairs~~ in alphabetical order.

Section 5.

During the elections, each candidate shall be allotted three minutes to speak on his/her behalf. Three minutes shall be allotted for questions.

Section 6.

If a candidate is not elected for a particular position, he/she shall be eligible to run for another position that has not yet been filled. During elections, the mentioned candidate shall have two minutes to speak on his/her behalf and two minutes shall be allotted for questions.

Section 7.

Prior to voting for each position, five (5) minutes shall be allotted for a closed discussion by the membership. No candidate for the position under consideration shall be present during this time. Except as provided by a unanimous vote at the National Membership Meeting, the vote shall be by secret ballot, the votes shall be tallied in full view of the membership, and the results of the election disclosed immediately.

Section 8.

For all elections, if there are more than two candidates for a position, Preferential Voting shall be used.

A. Preferential Voting

1. Each voter shall rank the candidates in order of preference.
2. No candidate shall be ranked twice and no candidates shall be ranked equally.
3. The candidate that receives a majority of the first preference ranking shall win the election.
4. In the case that no candidate receives a majority of the first preference ranking, the candidate with the fewest number of first preference ranking shall be eliminated and the candidate's ballots shall be redistributed at full value to the remaining candidates according to the next ranking on each ballot.

If a ballot has no more available choices ranked on it, the ballot shall be declared "exhausted" and not counted. This process shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes.

Section 9.

In the event that there are no nominations for a given Board of Directors position, Board of Directors shall fill this vacant position by a majority vote at a Board of Directors meeting.

Article V. National Conference Coordinating Council

Section 1. Qualifications

To become a candidate for the National Conference Coordinating Council, a member organization shall submit a letter of approval from their council to the Board of Directors. The letter shall include the appointment of a member of the organization to serve as the Director of National Conference.

Section 2. Bid Proposal Selection Process

- A. A National Conference bid proposal selection process shall be conducted at the National Membership Meeting. Each candidate for the National Conference Coordinating Council shall present a proposal for the National Conference including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Dates of conference.
 - 2. Location and member organization overview.
 - 3. Conference schedule and overview.
 - 4. Meeting facilities.
 - 5. Accommodations.
 - 6. Projected budget.
 - 7. Projected expenses for an attending organization.
 - 8. Name of the Director of National Conference.
 - 9. Required assistance from the Association.
- B. Five (5) minutes shall be allotted for questions.
- C. Prior to voting, a five-minute closed discussion will be held by the membership. No candidate shall be present during this time. The vote shall be by secret ballot, the votes shall be tallied in full view of the membership, and the results of the vote disclosed immediately.
- D. The National Conference Coordinating Council shall be elected by a majority vote.

Section 3. Extended Deadline

In the event no member submits a bid proposal to be the National Conference Coordinating Council, the Board of Directors shall accept written bid proposals for an additional two months from the ~~original deadline~~ National Membership Meeting. Bid proposals received shall be distributed to all tenured members for comment. After a two-week period following the extended deadline, the Board of Directors shall select a bid for proposal.

Section 4. No Bid Proposals

In the event no member has submitted a bid proposal by the date of the extended deadline, the Board of Directors shall select a Director of National Conference. ~~The newly appointed Director of National Conference shall ensure an opportunity for a National Membership Meeting at the National Conference.~~

Section 5. Responsibilities

The National Conference Coordinating Council shall assist the Director of National Conference in completing all tasks necessary to carry out conference proceedings. The National Conference Coordinating Council shall assemble a conference notebook containing information about the activities and structure of the National Conference.

Section 6. Dates

The National Conference Coordinating Council shall ensure that the National Conference occurs between **15 October and 1 December each year.**

~~Section 7.~~**Section 1.** Benefits

The National Conference Coordinating Council shall not be assessed dues for the membership term ~~following of~~ the National Conference.

~~Article VI.~~**Article V. Association Advocacy Board, Outreach Board, and Committees**

Section 1. Advocacy Board

The Advocacy Board shall be comprised of the Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Association. The Advocacy Board shall serve to coordinate advocacy campaigns and exchange information between the Standing Committees. The Chair of the Legislative Concerns Committee shall serve as Chair of the Advocacy Board.

Section 2. Outreach Board

The Outreach Board shall be comprised of Director of Outreach, Regional Coordinators or Regional designees, Director of Communications, and any NAGPS members in good standing who indicates interest in serving on the Committee. The Outreach Board shall designate appropriate membership categories for each applicant and certify satisfaction of requirements for membership. The committee shall advise the Board of Directors concerning strategies for member recruitment and retention. The Director of Outreach shall serve as Chair of the Outreach Board and a simple majority of Regions shall constitute quorum.

Section 3. Committee Membership

Any member in good-standing shall have the right to serve on any Standing Committee of the Association.

Section 4. Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of the Association shall be the:

- A. Employment Concerns Committee.
- B. International Student Concerns Committee.
- C. Legislative Concerns Committee.
- D. Social Justice Committee.

~~Section 1. Communications Committee~~

~~—The Communications Committee shall work to ensure that members are informed of Association events, activities, and notices. The committee will promote the Association among members, sponsors, and media with the responsibility to represent the Association with distinction, professionalism, and courtesy.~~

~~Section 3.~~**Section 5.** Employment Concerns Committee

The Employment Concerns Committee shall plan and formulate action concerning the issues of employment during and after the attainment of a ~~graduate/professional~~graduate and/or professional degree.

~~Section 4.~~**Section 6.** International Student Concerns Committee

The International Student Concerns Committee shall monitor campus issues and legislative developments that affect the ability of ~~graduate/professional~~graduate and/or 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 the Association.

~~Section 5.~~**Section 7.** Legislative Concerns Committee

The Legislative Concerns Committee shall monitor pending federal legislation, recommend advocacy efforts, issue policy statements, provide analysis, issue calls to action when needed, and coordinate grassroots efforts to support the legislative mission of the Association. The Committee shall coordinate the development of its Legislative Platform each year at the National Membership Meeting.

Section 6:Section 8. Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee shall work to ensure that the Association 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 shall coordinate the development and advocacy of policies and programs which provide for a diverse learning environment for graduate/professionalgraduate and/or professional students and shall recommend such policies for implementation to the Board of Directors.

Section 7:Section 9. Ad Hoc Committees

The President shall have the right to establish ad hoc committees to pursue specific goals of the Association. The Chair of each ad hoc committee must meet the qualifications of a Director and shall serve as a non-voting Director of the Board of Directors. All ad hoc committees shall terminate with the Board of Directors under whom it was established.

Section 8:Section 10. Suspension of Committees

A majority of the membership shall have the right to initiate an inquiry into the proceedings of any committee and suspend a committee until such a time as a majority vote is cast by the membership to return the committee to active status.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. Call

- A. The membership shall convene at the request of the Board of Directors or three member organizations.
- B. The Board of Directors shall convene at the request of the President, two members of the Board of Directors, or two member organizations.
- C. The Executive Committee shall convene at the request of a Director or two member organizations.

Section 2. Board of Directors Meeting Provisions

- A. The Chair shall have the right to vote when his/her vote affects the outcome.
- B. A majority vote at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall determine the outcome of any matter, unless otherwise specified.
- C. A copy of the minutes from each meeting shall be sent to all members within two (2) months-weeks of the meeting.
- D. An agenda shall be sent to the Board of Directors at least twenty-one (21) days prior to any physical meeting and fourteen (14) days prior to any non-physical meeting.
- E. The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly and shall meet physically at least twice per year, once outside of the National Conference.
- F. A Region or Regional Coordinator shall have the right to appoint a person to act as proxy for that region, in writing. The proxy shall not be a Board member and shall be a member or member constituent of the respective region. The proxy shall be valid when approved by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority at the respective regional membership meeting.

Section 3. Executive Committee Meeting Provisions

- A. The Chair shall have the right to vote when his/her vote affects the outcome.

- B. A majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall determine the outcome of any matter, unless otherwise specified.
- C. The Executive Committee shall meet at least monthly.
- D. An agenda shall be sent to the Executive Committee at least (7) days in advance.

Section 4. National Membership Meeting Provisions

- A. A majority vote at a meeting of the membership shall determine the outcome of any matter, unless otherwise specified.

Section 5. Regional Membership Meeting Provisions

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

Article VIII. Regions

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

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

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

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

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

Western: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, ~~U. S. Marshall Islands~~, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and all other territories of the United States.

Article IX. Removal and Absence of Directors

Section 1.

A majority of the electorate shall have the right to remove a member of the Board of Directors for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance.

Section 2.

Any member of the Board of Directors shall have the right to impeach, with formal allegations, another member of the Board of Directors for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance. A two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors shall have the right to remove a member of the Board of Directors within a one-

week calendar period from the date of impeachment. The Board of Directors shall immediately make known the outcome of the vote and the allegations to the membership.

Section 3.

In the event that a Director shall have a temporary incapacity to perform the duties of the office, the Director, with the exception of the President, shall have the right to request a leave of absence from the President. The Board of Directors shall have the right, by a majority vote, to grant a leave of absence to the President. In no event shall any leave of absence exceed four months, nor shall a leave of absence extend beyond the end of the term of office. The categories of leave of absence are as follows:

- A. Finite leave of absence - a Director shall have the right to request a finite leave of absence if the end-date of the temporary incapacity is known. On completion of the term of leave, the Director shall resume the office or submit a resignation.
- B. Indefinite leave of absence - a Director shall have the right to request an indefinite leave of absence if the member does not know the end-date of the incapacity.

Section 4.

The President or Board of Directors, on granting a leave of absence, shall nominate within thirty (30) days a qualified person to serve in the position on an interim basis, subject to approval by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 5.

In the event that a Director on a leave of absence is unable to resume the office at the end of a finite leave of absence or after four months on an indefinite leave of absence, the Director shall be considered as resigned from office and the interim Director shall assume the office without need for a ratification from the Board.

Section 6.

Removal 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.

Article X. Compensation

Section 1.

A majority of the Board of Directors shall have the right to pay the President a stipend. The Association shall not pay any other Director a salary.

Section 2.

A majority of the Board of Directors shall have the right to reimburse any Director or Member for expenses incurred in furthering the purpose of the Association, as defined in Article II of the Constitution.

Section 3. Related Compensation

No Director shall receive compensation from any company with a current working relationship with the Association from the time of election until one year after leaving the Board of Directors.

Article XI. Indemnification

For the Association to indemnify a Director for the reasonable expenses of a legal action, the individual shall have acted in furtherance of the purpose of the Association, as defined in Article II of the Constitution, 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. Dissolution

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

|

Motion 2009.1.1:
Eliminate Director of Relations

Whereas, the duties of the Director of Relations can be encompassed by other Directors,

Whereas, the President should act as the liaison between the Association and other professional organizations,

Whereas, the Director of Finance should maintain all fiscal relationships of the Association including fundraising and partnership efforts,

Whereas, the Director of Administration should maintain all written and electronic databases of membership information,

Whereas, a dedicated Board is required to facilitate communication between the Board of Directors and the membership, to devise recruitment strategies and efforts to retain members, as well as service to the membership,

Therefore Be It Resolved, the position of the Director of Relations be eliminated.

Let It Be Further Resolved, the responsibility "To initiate, maintain, and improve relations between the Association and other professional organizations," be assigned to the President in the By-Laws.

Let It Be Further Resolved, the following responsibilities be assigned to the Director of Finance in the By-Laws:

"To investigate opportunities for outside support of Association activities;
To contact companies and professional organizations for financial support of the Association;
To develop and sustain a comprehensive strategy for corporate solicitation including corporate solicitation materials to be developed in conjunction with the Director of Communications and Director of Administration;
To provide guidance for the National Conference Coordinator on solicitation and solicitation policy of the Association."

Respectfully Submitted,

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins
NAGPS Secretary

Motion 2009.1.2:
Rename Officers

Whereas, the names of the Officers to do not interfere with the ability to execute their duties,

Whereas, the proposed name changes are standard the nomenclature assigned to the administration and/or Board of Directors for other graduate-professional organizations and societies,

Whereas, the continued solvency and legacy of the Association is best served by maintaining the historical officer names,

Therefore Be It Resolved, the "Director of Administration" shall be renamed "Secretary".

Let It Be Further Resolved, the "Director of Communications" shall be renamed "Public Relations Officer".

Let It Be Further Resolved, the "Director of Finance" shall be renamed "Treasurer".

Let It Be Further Resolved, the "Director of Outreach" shall be renamed "Membership Coordinator".

Let It Be Further Resolved, the "Outreach Board" shall be renamed "Membership Board".

Respectfully Submitted,

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins
NAGPS Secretary

Motion 2009.1.3:
Rename Regional Coordinator

Whereas, the current name of "Regional Coordinator" is ambiguous,

Whereas, an intuitive naming scheme is desirable,

Therefore Be It Resolved, each "Regional Coordinator" shall be renamed "Regional Chair".

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Evans
NAGPS Ombudsman

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins
NAGPS Secretary



NAGPS National Membership Meeting

Motion 2009.2

Constitution & By-Laws Proposal

Submitted by

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins,

Individual Member

Constitutional Amendment #1

An NAGPS Constitutional Amendment to amend Article I of the NAGPS Constitution to bring NAGPS in compliance with Internal Revenue Code.

BACKGROUND: NAGPS is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation. In order to maintain our tax-exempt status, we need to comply with all federal laws and regulations concerning 501(c)3 status. The one requirement for our organizing document is a provision that our organization be dedicated to exclusively tax-exempt purposes (<http://www.irs.gov/charities/charitable/article/0,,id=123368,00.html>). At least one student government the author knows has been audited and forced by the IRS to include a similar statement in their constitution. We might as well avoid the whole audit part of that process.

Incidentally, gender and sex do not mean the same thing. Gender refers the social roles connected with masculinity and femininity, while sex refers to a biological state. Since gender is mentioned later on, the word gender is replaced with sex to satisfy our sociologically inclined members.

Underlined text is inserted into the existing text, and strikethrough text is deleted from the existing text.

SEC. 1. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article I, Section 2 of the NAGPS Constitution as follows:

Section 3. Activities

- A. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)3, Internal Revenue Code.
- B. 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~~ sex, marital status, political orientation, race, religion, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation.
- C. No activity of the Association shall directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Constitutional Amendment #2

An NAGPS Constitutional Amendment to strengthen our membership process while increasing the flexibility available to the Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND: The term "member" is typically defined in nonprofit law as a person with some level of voting rights in an organization. This amendment is intended to preserve what most believe to be the status quo, but is currently undermined by vague language. The most important parts are retained in the Constitution – who has voting rights and who does not – while other powers are delegated to the board to ensure future flexibility.

Underlined text is inserted into the existing text, and strikethrough text is deleted from the existing text.

SEC. 1. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article II of the NAGPS Constitution as follows:

Article II. Membership

Section 1.

Membership is available to any organization of ~~graduate/professional~~ graduate and/or professional students at a college or a university in the United States of America. Membership is also available to any individual, corporation, organization, or institution interested in supporting the mission of the Association.

~~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.~~

Section 2.

Organizations representing graduate and/or professional students on a broad scale at a college or university in the United States, with membership in good standing in the Association, are voting members of the Association. Individual students enrolled in a college or university in the United States, with membership in good standing in the Association, are voting members of the Association. The Board of Directors shall enact By-Laws to determine the relative voting power of individual and organizational members.

Section 3.

Any member that does not meet the requirements of Section 2 above shall not be a voting member of the Association. They may engage in any other activity of the Association, except as limited by the By-Laws.

Section 4.

The Board of Directors shall enact By-Laws and/or policies detailing membership categories and fees.

Constitutional Amendment #3

An NAGPS Constitutional Amendment to amend the Constitutional Amendment process.

BACKGROUND: The current process for vote-by-mail constitutional amendments takes a full 60 days prior to voting, and then an undetermined time until at least two-thirds of members mail back a yes vote or one-third mail back a no vote. Also, the current language is at least a little unclear on whether amendments may be passed with 2/3 of regular members in attendance at a National Conference, or still requires 2/3 of the entire membership.

This amendment seeks to clarify that only 2/3 of the entire membership may approve constitutional amendments at a National Conference. It also limits how long an amendment will remain pending before the membership in a mail ballot. The final vote will be calculated based on how many members cast a ballot in sixty days of voting. The organization will thus reward participation and avoid the prospect of apathy crippling the association's ability to change.

Note: One can still abstain from a vote by just mailing a blank or undervoted ballot.

Underlined text is inserted into the existing text, and strikethrough text is deleted from the existing text.

SEC. 1. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VI of the NAGPS Constitution as follows:

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.~~

Section 1. General Provisions

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any voting member, region, or director of the Association. On approval, Constitutional Amendments shall take effect immediately unless otherwise specified.

Section 2. National Membership Meeting

Constitutional Amendments shall be proposed thirty (30) days prior to voting at a National Membership Meeting, in order to be considered at that meeting. The Board of Directors shall ensure that each member attending

receive a copy of the proposed amendment at the start of the conference in which the National Membership Meeting takes place. The Constitutional Amendment may be amended by majority vote of the National Membership Meeting. Amendments to this constitution offered at the National Membership meeting shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Association. The National Membership Meeting may by majority vote forward the Constitutional Amendment to a mail ballot; in that case, a member may vote either in person or by mail.

Section 3. Mail Ballots

Constitutional Amendments may be proposed at any time to be available by a mail ballot. All members shall be sent a mail ballot, unless they had otherwise voted in person on the same measure at a National Membership Meeting. Amendments to this constitution shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting membership of the Association that has cast a ballot within sixty (60) days of the date of mailing.

FAQ on CA #3

Why did I get rid of the notification requirements?

When thinking about this, the first question I asked is: what is the original purpose of the sixty day notification period? The original idea has to be so that a constitutional amendment doesn't just come from nowhere, with no discussion to be had on the issue. I suppose the original intent of the writer is to promote discussion and keep the board from controlling the debate.

However, as the system is now, I don't think that it accomplishes either of those goals. As it is, it is very difficult for someone who is not an officer of the organization to mount any resistance to a constitutional amendment, because of the difficulty in contacting other schools. While I suppose extra time does help such a situation, it isn't a very strong way to mount an opposition. Other changes to the bylaws would make the situation much better, such as providing a short time to prepare opposition statements, or allowing proponents and opponents access to contact members. I didn't write anything here, but it's certainly a good idea for the board to consider.

So far as encouraging debate, it's likely that the sixty day provision stifles debate. Think about it: You're a proponent, and an opponent convinces you to make a minor change that will make it more palatable, more than a month into the waiting period. In order to make the change, you'd have to restart the whole process, contact everyone again, and go through the whole waiting period. Add on another 90 or so days to collect mail responses, and you've just taken 180 days to pass an amendment. Since most of our terms in student government are only twice that, it makes it hard to care. So if I'm writing the amendment, I'm unlikely to want to compromise. That's a great deal of the logic behind allowing the National Conference to amend the bill as well – compromise can occur there, because there are enough people to make a difference.

And if an amendment gets pulled while people are still discussing it, it's no big deal. This assumes that a discussion will take place. While I can't ensure that your board won't try to undermine your membership, or that the amendment proponents will attempt to negotiate their proposal first, these are basic features of republican governance. We have to take it on faith that our elected representatives will act in our best interest, and that grad students will seek compromise before confrontation. And, despite everything I experienced as an officer of NAGPS, I sure have enough faith to believe in that.

I still want to add a pre-vote notification, but otherwise like the changes.

Write a bylaw adding the notification back in. If the board were to suspend that bylaw, they'd have to give a pretty good explanation not to have the amendment fail. Again, I don't recommend this, but it is an option.

Why a sixty day time limit to vote?

Ultimately, a democracy should favor those who participate. The current system can favor nonparticipation by opponents of a measure, which is always way easier than asking people to participate. The time limit eliminates this degenerate case, and gives a level playing field. Even during slow times like the summer, two months should be more than enough time for someone to respond. And seriously, we've had amendments die due to not enough mail ballots being sent back.

What's up with these snail mail ballots? Get with the times.

Electronic voting works well with many schools. It also has been known to cause problems at other schools, such as voter fraud or technical errors. This amendment leaves open the possibility of electronic mail ballots, though, in the absence of any bylaws on the topic, the Ombuds has traditionally interpreted "mail" as postal mail. I should warn, however, that email headers are fairly easy to fake, if you have an open SMTP server to use. The real issue here is the technical competence of the NAGPS organization. Given that the resources of the organization are already stretched by maintaining a website, opening the possibility of electronic voting didn't seem like a good idea at this time.

Constitutional Amendment #4

The NAGPS Executive/Board Reform Act (NEBRA) of 2009, a Constitutional Amendment to restructure the NAGPS Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND: The NAGPS Board of Directors currently has sixteen voting members, which leads to long and frequently unfocused meetings. This Act keeps the existing officers, but restructures the NAGPS into three working groups: the Board of Directors, the Advocacy Committee, and the Membership Committee.

Under this plan, the Board of Directors will be the highest decision-making body in NAGPS, and will be responsible for basic organization and finances. They will also be responsible for ensuring services, such as membership benefits or health care, continue to be offered. The Board of Directors will be composed of the current membership of the Executive Committee: President, Vice President, Secretary, Financial Controller, and Ombuds Coordinator.

The Advocacy Committee combines the existing committee chairs, to be lead by the NAGPS President. As advocacy, either on campus or in DC are major components of Social Justice/Human Concerns, Legislative action, International Student welfare, and Employment rights, this committee serves to coordinate such efforts. Members of this committee will not have to be concerned with Board business, though they (and the Regional Coordinators) will be nonvoting members of the Board, and may participate if they wish.

The Membership Committee is already extant, and will serve as the primary meeting for Regional Coordinators. This group will be able to concentrate on membership through recruitment, networking, and events. It will be led by the Vice President, and remain similar to the current structure, but with a more limited voting membership. Regional Coordinators will also be nonvoting members of the Board.

The amendment also removes superfluous titles from the Constitution. The Secretary alone is currently also called Information Exchange Coordinator and Chief Information Officer in the Constitution and Bylaws.

A section is added to ensure basic tenets of the election process are added to the Constitution, including insuring the right of members to elect officers, and stating the procedure for interim appointments.

Underlined text is inserted into the existing text, and strikethrough text is deleted from the existing text.

SEC. 1. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VI of the NAGPS Constitution as follows:

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. Members

~~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.~~

Voting members of the Board of Directors of the Association shall be the following officers of the Association:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Financial Controller
- D. Secretary
- E. Ombuds Coordinator

Section 3. Quorum.

A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

Section 4. Term of Office

Officers shall take office thirty (30) days after the date of their election, and shall serve until replaced.

SEC. 2. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article V of the NAGPS Constitution as follows:

Article V. Officers-Elections

~~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.~~

Section 1.

National Officers of the Association shall be elected annually at the National Membership Meeting. The NAGPS shall enact By-Laws to ensure that elections proceed in a fair and impartial manner.

Section 2.

Regional Officers of the Association shall be elected annually at the their respective Regional Membership Meetings. The NAGPS shall enact By-Laws to ensure that elections proceed in a fair and impartial manner.

Section 3.

In the event that a national officer position or regional coordinator position becomes vacant, the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement officer, who shall hold office until the end of that position's term.

SEC. 3. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article V of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

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 the end of term.
- B. The term of Office for the Board of Directors, with the exception of the Regional Coordinators, shall coincide with the fiscal year. Regional Coordinators 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.

Section 3. Duties

- A. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall:
 - 1. Manage NAGPS by the stated purposes of Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution;
 - 2. Set a date and location for the 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. 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.~~

- ~~C. 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.~~
- ~~D. 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.~~
- ~~E. 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.~~
- ~~F. 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.~~

- ~~G. 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;~~
- ~~H. 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 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 National Membership Meeting and shall be elected at that National Membership Meeting.~~
- ~~C. Regional Coordinators shall be elected by their respective regions at their Regional Membership Meeting and be seated at the conclusion of the Regional Membership Meeting.~~
- ~~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.
- C. Notification
1. The ~~Executive Coordinator~~ President 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~~

- ~~1. 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.~~

- ~~CB.~~ 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.

Section 7. Membership

- A. The following officers, enumerated in the NAGPS Constitution, are voting members of the Board of Directors:
 1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Secretary
 4. Financial Controller
 5. Ombuds Coordinator
- B. The following officers are ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board of Directors:
 1. All nationally elected Committee Chairs
 2. All Regional Coordinators
 3. The immediate past President

SEC. 4. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students enacts Article VI of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows. All subsequent articles shall be renumbered appropriately:

Article VI - Officers

Section 1. Election Guidelines

- A. The following officers shall be elected annually at the National Membership Meeting:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Ombuds Coordinator
 - f. Human Concerns Chair
 - g. Legislative Concerns Chair
 - h. Employment Concerns Chair
 - i. International Student Concerns Chair
 - j. Public Relations Chair

- B. The following officers shall be elected annually at their respective regions, and are seated immediately at the conclusion of the Regional Membership Meeting:
 - a. Regional Coordinator
- C. Chairs of standing committees, with the exception of the Advocacy and Membership Committees, may be nominated by their committees as well as by any member present at the National Membership Meeting. All other officers may be nominated by any member at the National Membership Meeting.
- 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.
- E. No person may hold more than one nationally elected office or regional coordinator office simultaneously. Regional offices other than regional coordinator are not subject to this limitation, though it is the intent of NAGPS to involve as many members as possible.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

- A. All national officers and regional coordinators shall:
 - 1. Prepare and submit an annual written report and financial statement (if appropriate) to the organization at the National Conference.
- B. The President 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 President;
- C. The Vice President shall:
 - 1. Assume the position of President, should the position become vacant mid-term, as defined in Article X, Section 10;
 - 2. Chair the Board of Directors in the absence of the President.
 - 3. Chair the Membership Committee as Membership Coordinator, as described in Article VIII, Section 4;
 - 4. Assist the President and Ombuds Coordinator in new officer orientation;
- D. The Secretary 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. Collect reports from all standing committees of the Association.
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.

E. 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.

F. 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, 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.

G. 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 and Advocacy Committee;
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;
5. Prepare a report and submit it via e-mail or mail to the Secretary by

the day that occurs five (5) days prior to the Advocacy Committee meeting.

6. Any Committee Chair who fails to participate in at least 2 Advocacy Committee meetings may be considered in nonfeasance.

H. 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 President and Secretary 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 3. Resignation

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

SEC. 5. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VI of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

Article ~~VI~~-VII. Standing 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
5. International Student Concerns Committee

~~B. Committee Chairs shall issue an annual report and a financial statement, if appropriate, at the 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.~~

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

B. Each standing committee shall elect from among their membership a Vice Chair, who shall represent the committee to the Advocacy Committee or chair the committee meetings in the absence of the Chair.

SEC. 6. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VII, Section 1 of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

Section 1.

A. _____ 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~~
- ~~B₁. Finance Committee~~
- ~~C. Membership Committee~~
- ~~D₂. Personnel Committee~~
- B. The following are internal standing committees of NAGPS:
 - 1. Advocacy Committee
 - 2. Membership Committee

SEC. 7. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VII, Section 4 of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

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, Public Relations Chair, 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.
- C. Quorum for this committee shall be a simple majority of Regions represented by a member.

SEC. 8. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VII, Section 2 of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

~~*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 2. Advocacy Committee

- A. The Advocacy Committee shall be composed of the President, Legislative Concerns Committee Chair, Employment Concerns Committee Chair, International Student Concerns Committee, Human Concerns Chair, and Public Relations Chair. The President shall serve as chair of the committee.
- B. The Advocacy Committee shall coordinate advocacy campaigns and exchange information between standing committees.
- C. The committee shall meet regularly.

SEC. 9. All references to "Executive Coordinator" in the By-Laws shall be replaced with "President".

SEC. 10. Any sections displaced shall be renumbered accordingly. The NAGPS Secretary is empowered to correct typos and formatting.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about NEBRA (CA #4):

Why did you delete that important section?

It's probably not actually gone, just somewhat reorganized. Since many officers are no longer on the Board of Directors, it no longer makes sense to be in the Board of Directors article of the bylaws. There's also a slight reorganization to note that committee chairs and regional coordinators are still considered officers, even though they are not directors.

Here's a quick index of struck sections, and where they have been moved to:

Struck	Replacement
Const V Sec. 1-4	Bylaws VI, Sec 3., sub. B-E
Bylaws V Sec. 3, sub. B-H	Bylaws VI, Sec. 2, sub. B-H
Bylaws V, Sec. 4	Bylaws VI, Sec. 1
Bylaws V, Sec. 5, sub. A(2)	omitted (odd number of votes)
Bylaws V, Sec. 6, sub. B(1)	Bylaws VI, Sec. 3
Bylaws VII, Sec. 1, sub. B	Bylaws VI, Sec. 2, sub A
Bylaws VII, Sec. 1, sub. C-D	Bylaws VI, Sec. 2, sub. G(5) and G(6)
Bylaws VII, Sec. 2	omitted (same composition as Board now)

Note: These are using the new numbering system (a new Section VI is inserted). Other sections struck should be replaced immediately below with modified language.

Why do you want to make the Board of Directors smaller?

Worrying about a small board is a legitimate concern. I know that, as Legislative Concerns Chair of NAGPS last year, I felt that I was occasionally left out by the Executive Committee (*statement referring to Brent Laabs*). I don't know if it's actually true, but having a small board can feel like you're being led by an elite club. However, I feel that these obstacles can be overcome for the greater good of the organization (more on how later).

The Board meetings, as of now, are somewhat long and inefficient. Everyone makes their report, and topics range from the regional meeting in Timbuktu to employment policy at Guam State University (hyperbolically, anyway). By separating the process into different groups, it allows each set to develop their strengths without having to deal with the administration of the Board of Directors.

As for leaving people out, there was a simple solution for that: allow other officers of the board to serve as *ex officio* members of the Board, so that anyone can participate in the discussions if need be. Trust me – from all of my experience as a grad student in an undergraduate student government, you do not need to have a vote to be influential. You just need a voice in the conversation, and this amendment provides that.

Three committees – were you trying to replicate the federal three-branch model?

Actually, not really. While I've spent a lot of time looking at student governments that use a three branch model (primarily undergraduate), it doesn't seem useful or appropriate here. While this plan may evoke some healthy competition between the

“branches”, the main goal here is to divide labor evenly, and allow officers to concentrate on their particular tasks.

Following the model of the Membership Committee, I just decided to create a space for the remaining officers. The main purpose of the Committee Chairs seems to be advocacy, and this is a large reason why many members join NAGPS. The idea seemed to fit perfectly within the new structure.

At a deeper level, this grouping of three matches the Harms- Laabs model of student government. We believe that student government has three fundamental purposes: (1) Services and activities, (2) Personal and professional development (education), and (3) Advocacy on behalf of students. The Advocacy portion will clearly be led by the Advocacy Committee. Services and administration will be handled by the Board. And finally, personal and professional development is a large part of the goal of our Regional Conferences, making this a primary purpose of the Membership Committee. The networking function of the regions could also be considered professional development. While there will certainly be crossover outside the core purpose of each group, this model still helps NAGPS to accomplish its goals.

Wouldn't a larger Board of Directors be better? Why change?

The sad truth is that most of the reason work doesn't get done in NAGPS is due to a lack of time commitment on the part of its officers. As my friend from Davis once said to me, “[student government] would be a lot better if people just did their jobs.” So really, the main question in this restructuring should be: does this help/persuade people to do their jobs more?

Obviously, I believe that it does, or I wouldn't have written up this whole amendment. If a person takes a job like International Student Concerns Chair, it's because they want to dig in and really advocate for international students. They probably aren't as concerned with finance or recruitment, and hey, that's cool. But if they are, they can put in extra time to be a part of the other committees as well.

I see this change as eliminating the distractions, and giving our officers a chance to really concentrate on their area of expertise. Instead of talking about website contracts, the Membership Committee could be talking about how to get member schools to network. And more than that, it should make our officers happier about their jobs. Right now, no one really looks forward to the Board phone call. But if I had a phone call where we help mobilize students to action – I know I would enjoy that call, even if it took a couple hours. This change better uses our officers' time, which will lead to a more effective association.

Won't we lose the benefits of having a large Board of Directors?

Possibly yes, but we can mitigate those costs. In theory, having everyone gather on one phone call should allow for information to be shared from any avenue in the organization. In reality, the long meeting is not a conducive environment for sharing information effectively. In the new system, certain members will be the main avenues for information moving between the committees and the board: The President for the Advocacy Committee, the Vice President for the Membership Committee, and the Public Relations Chair between the two committees.

Before moving on, we should ask the question: why do we have a large board in the first place? As I said above, it seems good for sharing information at first glance. Additionally, it may feel more appropriate for all officers to have equal voting rights.

Most graduate or professional student governments are operated as councils, where all officers have equal voting rights. It is likely the form of self-governance with which we are most familiar, so we have chosen it for NAGPS. However, 16-member boards are just too large for a nonprofit organization. I personally believe that over ten members is clumsy, while less than 5 (legal minimum 3) feels too elite. Given the current structure, I felt that 5-7 is a good target size for the Board and all of our committees.

Why get rid of the title "Executive Coordinator"?

I assume the original intent was to show that the President is just another officer, and shouldn't have undue influence on the organization. While this may be a noble idea, it's just not true. The President has a wide range of powers, not the least of which is setting the agenda of the Board of Directors. Until we hire staff, the President will remain the big kahuna of the association. A large part of the President's job involves interacting with outside organizations. I wouldn't know *a priori* what an Executive Coordinator does – are they staff? An officer? An assistant? I don't expect anyone else would either. I would expect any major dude off the street would tell you what a President does.

Constitutional Amendment #5

An NAGPS Constitutional Amendment to create an Advocacy Coordinator and a Membership Coordinator.

BACKGROUND: This amendment seeks to expand on the new three-committee structure, proposed in NEBRA, to make add new officers and make better use of existing board members.

Currently, President and Vice President are two of our most overtaxed positions, with a lot of duties chairing meetings, writing letters, advocating, and recruiting. These are precisely the positions that should be the most flexible, as they should be able to support and oversee the operations of all of NAGPS.

This bill creates two new positions to increase the effectiveness of the Advocacy Committee and Membership Committee: The Advocacy Coordinator and the Membership Coordinator, respectively. This change gives each committee a voice on the Board of Directors, should provide better communication to the committees, and allow the President and Vice President the time to take a wider role in the Association.

SEC. 1. This bill shall only be enacted if the NEBRA Act of 2009 is enacted. This bill shall then be enacted subsequently to the NEBRA Act.

SEC. 2. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article IV, Section 2 of the NAGPS Constitution as follows:

Section 2. Members

Voting members of the Board of Directors of the Association shall be the following officers of the Association:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Financial Controller
- D. Secretary
- E. Ombuds Coordinator
- F. Advocacy Coordinator
- G. Membership Coordinator

SEC. 3. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article V, Section 7 of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

Section 7. Membership

- C. The following officers, enumerated in the NAGPS Constitution, are voting members of the Board of Directors:
 1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Secretary

4. Financial Controller
5. Ombuds Coordinator
6. Advocacy Coordinator
7. Membership Coordinator

SEC. 4. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VII, Section 2(A) of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

- A. The Advocacy Committee shall be composed of the ~~President-Advocacy Coordinator~~, Legislative Concerns Committee Chair, Employment Concerns Committee Chair, International Student Concerns Committee, Human Concerns Chair, and Public Relations Chair. The ~~President-Advocacy Coordinator~~ shall serve as chair of the committee.

SEC. 5. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VII, Section 2(A) of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

- A. The Membership Committee shall be composed of the ~~Vice President-Membership Coordinator~~, 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.

SEC. 6. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VI, Section 2(B) and 2(C) of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

- B. The President 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 President;
 5. ~~Serve as chair of the Advocacy Committee, described in Article VII, Section 2.~~
 6. Assist, coordinate, and enable NAGPS officers in fulfilling the mission of NAGPS.
- C. The Vice President shall:
 1. Assume the position of President, should the position become vacant mid-term, as defined in Article IX, Section 10;
 2. ~~Chair the Membership Committee as Membership Coordinator, as described in Article VII, Section 4;~~
 3. ~~Assist the President and Ombuds Coordinator in new officer orientation;~~
 3. Assist, coordinate, and enable NAGPS officers in fulfilling the mission of NAGPS.

SEC. 7. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students enacts Article VI, Section 2(I) and 2(J) of the NAGPS Bylaws as follows:

- I. The Membership Coordinator shall:
 1. Serve as chair of the Membership Committee.
 2. Coordinate NAGPS Regions and assist Regional Coordinators in fulfilling their duties.
 3. Inform the Board of Directors on activities of the Membership Committee and regional activities.
 4. Inform the Membership Committee on activities of the Board of Directors.
- J. The Advocacy Coordinator shall:
 1. Serve as chair of the Advocacy Committee.
 2. Coordinate NAGPS Standing Committees and assist Committee Chairs in fulfilling their duties.
 3. Inform the Board of Directors on activities of the Advocacy Committee and advocacy activities.
 4. Inform the Advocacy Committee on activities of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 7. Any sections displaced shall be renumbered accordingly. The NAGPS Secretary is empowered to correct typos and formatting.

FAQ about CA #4:

Why isn't this included in NEBRA?

The NEBRA Act was intended to preserve as much as our organizational structure as possible, while reducing the voting members of the Board of Directors. Ultimately, that required the creation and elevation of the Advocacy Committee and Membership Committee, respectively, in order to coordinate officers. Since this changes the structure of NAGPS in a different way, I believe that the membership deserves a chance to vote on these provisions separately.

I like the restructuring in NEBRA above, but I do not want any more officers? Will it work without this bill too?

I like to think of NEBRA and this bill as being some cowbell. The restructuring is good on its own, but hey, it could always use more cowbell. Christopher Walken says so. If you feel that NAGPS works fine with its current set of officers, and that adding redundant officers would be bad, you can vote for NEBRA and against this amendment. The Association will work well without a Membership Coordinator and Advocacy Coordinator, but I believe even better with them.

What was that about redundancy? Will this bill add unnecessary redundancy to the officers of NAGPS?

Not really. If anything, it adds necessary redundancy. In my experience on the NAGPS board, you get some good officers, you get some okay officers, and you get an occasional bad one. NAGPS is a very diverse group of member schools with officers that change every year, with not much personal communication outside the conferences, whose officers are full-time students with other student government commitments. Given that, officer failure is an unavoidable consequence of being the type of organization that we are. This is not intended to be a statement of blame – people often have very good reasons why they cannot commit their time the originally envisioned – but merely a statement of fact.

And it's not like there's a lot of room for error. On the current board, the only officer who does not chair a committee or chair at a conference is the Secretary. If one of our volunteer officers has a problem, then the many of the job duties are just dropped. There are some existing redundancies between the Vice President and the Regional Coordinators in recruitment, and the President takes on some advocacy roles. Only the Ombudsperson has a lot of time to take on a flexible role and assist other officers.

Therefore, we should plan to compensate for cases where officers get swamped with exams for a month, or just plain go AWOL. We allow our officers at the top – the President and Vice President – to be much more flexible and assist other officers. They can help to coordinate the entire organization, and take a broader and longer view on NAGPS strategy. The Advocacy and Membership Coordinators, as well as chairing a committee, can assist officers in their respective domains, and pick up the slack whenever necessary.

So why include these new officers on the Board of Directors?

There are several reasons here. First and foremost, I believe that these officers will

better represent their committee's interests to the Board. You know, the place where the money comes from. Additionally, as somewhat "higher" positions, they are more likely to attract experienced candidates that can provide mentorship to members of their committees. Finally, having a seven member board just makes me feel a little more comfortable than a five member board.

It doesn't seem like the new Vice President has much to do. What's up with that?

In the end, I've always sort of liked the "useless Vice President" model. Ultimately, that VP can become one of many things: A capable assistant to the President (The Adams), a less capable officer given the runner-up prize to keep them happy (The Quayle), a replacement for a less capable Prez who can keep things running (The Cheney). This model works successfully with many Graduate-Professional Organizations where the Vice-Prez (Vice-Chair) has little autonomy or individual roles other than to serve as co-captain. Either way, the redundancy at the top doesn't hurt matters. Additionally it allows the VP to determine what areas need support within the organization. It's not like we pay our officers anything.

Ultimately, the main purpose of the Prez and Veep is to provide both leadership and mentorship for the other officers. Experienced members will naturally drift towards both of these offices. If they have the time and commitment to take on roles like this, they can train, assist, and lead other members more easily with more freedom. Mentorship is the real key here. In an organization with ~50% annual turnover in officers (almost as bad as undergrads, yikes!), keeping experienced officers in leadership roles can help to train the next generation of NAGPS.

Bill #6

The Geography Awareness Act, a bill to amend the NAGPS Bylaws.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Marshall Islands do not exist, and have not existed for some time now. The Marshall Islands became a sovereign nation in 1986, and has been in a Compact of Free Association with the United States ever since. Apparently, no one has looked at a map since the organization began, so let's solve this U.S. territories issue once and for all.

An insular area is a part of the United States not in one of the 50 states or the federal district. The vast majority of insular areas of the United States are in the Pacific Ocean, with the exceptions of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Underlined text is inserted into the existing text, and strikethrough text is deleted from the existing text.

SEC. 1. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students amends Article VIII of the Bylaws as follows:

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, and all other insular areas of the United States.

SEC. 2. NAGPS recognizes the following factoid as fun and educational: The farthest two universities in the Western Region are over 6500 miles apart, one quarter of the Earth's circumference. Hopefully, they will both be members one day.

About the Sponsor

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins serves at the NAGPS Secretary/CIO and is also part of a member school in good standing, the University of California-Davis, Graduate Student Association. You can contact Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, UCD GSA External Chair, at gsaexternalchair@ucdavis.edu.

About the Corresponding Author

Brent Laabs served as Western Regional Coordinator and Legislative Concerns Chair of NAGPS in 2008. In addition to working on the UC Davis Graduate Student Association's bylaws, he has written over fifty bills, constitutional amendments, and resolutions for UC Davis' undergraduate association, ASUCD. He first became interested in other organizations' bylaws when the ASUCD Internal Affairs Commission placed him on a special committee to investigate the UC Student Association's bylaws, and has studied many other organizations' bylaws since. Brent is currently in a professional certificate program at Ventura College, Ventura, California. You can contact Brent at bslaabs@gmail.com.

Document Draft, In Consultation

Dr. Elizabeth Olson, current lecturer at the University of California-Merced. Dr. Olson served as NAGPS President in 2007-2008 and an active Ex Officio in 2008-2009. Dr. Olson also currently serves on the NAGPS advisory board. You can contact Dr. Olson at elizabethaolson@gmail.com.



NAGPS National Membership Meeting

Motion 2009.3

Constitution & By-Laws Proposal

Submitted by

Northeast Region of NAGPS

**NAGPS Northeast Region – Voting Delegates’ Meeting
2009 Regional Conference**

Motion 2009.3

Proposed Amendments for NAGPS Official Documents

Whereas, the establishment of a cohesive structure of membership terms, officer terms, and fiscal year is necessary for operational continuity and efficiency,

Whereas, the level of accountability and transparency incumbent upon a Board of Directors to its constituency is not prescribed in the governing documents of NAGPS,

Whereas, each region is entitled to a portion of dues collected from within their region to pursue the purpose of NAGPS at a regional level,

Therefore Be It Resolved, the included amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of NAGPS be submitted to the Board of Directors for a vote by the national membership at the National Membership Meeting.

Let It Be Further Resolved, the Region shall act to address the concerns herein at official meetings of the Board of Directors.

Resolved.

Approved by the Northeast Region of NAGPS

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 at the National Conference and Regional Conference.

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.

Section 3.

Any decision made by the Board of Directors may be overruled by a simple majority vote of the membership or by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting at the National Membership Meeting.

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-projected budget for the following fiscal year, prepared by the Board of Directors, must be approved by the Board of Directorsthe regular membership present and voting at the National Membership Meeting 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.~~

B. All expenditures not outlined in the budget shall require approval by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

D.C. 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/January 1 and ends on June/December 310 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 are forming or seeking to form an organization which represents graduate/professional students on a broad scale on a particular campus or 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.D. 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 5. Dues

A. All members, shall be assessed dues..

B. Members in good standing are those whose membership dues are current.

C. Each region shall be entitled to 20% of the membership dues collected within the region.

D. C. ~~The Board of Directors shall set the~~The dues structure for all designations and categories of membership annually shall be determined by a majority vote at the National Membership Meeting.

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 Term

A Membership terms shall begin with the start of the National Conference and conclude the following year at the start of the National Conference.

B. Prorated membership rates shall be made available for abbreviated membership terms.

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~~National Membership 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 aRegional~~a 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~~The term of Office for the Board of Directors shall coincide with the fiscal year. 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. ~~shall determine establish~~ establish dues and membership guidelines for abbreviated membership terms;
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.

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.



NAGPS National Membership Meeting

Motion 2009.4

Legislative Platform

Submitted by

NAGPS Legislative Concerns Committee

**National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)
Legislative Platform
For Consideration at the NAGPS National Conference
University of Nebraska Lincoln
November 14-18, 2009**

Deleted: Approved at the 23rd
Annual Conference .
October 31, 2008

Revisions submitted by the Legislative Concerns Committee September 30, 2009

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
- (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.

STUDENT RIGHTS

1. 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.
2. NAGPS supports access to affordable health care for all graduate and professional students and their dependents, including international students.
3. NAGPS supports access to affordable childcare for all graduate and professional students including international students.
4. NAGPS supports extension of benefits to graduate/professional students that are currently exclusively offered to undergraduates to the extent to which those benefits are relevant to the graduate/professional population.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

5. NAGPS supports the adoption of federal income-based loan repayment models.
6. NAGPS urges the Administration and Congress to maintain or increase the amount of federal funding provided for America's colleges and universities.
7. NAGPS urges lawmakers to adjust federal loan programs to match Graduate Student time to degree and expenses.
8. NAGPS urges lawmakers to increase borrowing limits for federal student loans and to periodically adjust for inflation and the rising cost of tuition.
9. NAGPS urges increasing tax deductibility of student loan interest. Additionally, NAGPS urges Congress to index the income limitation on student loan interest deductions to the rate of inflation.
10. NAGPS supports the maintenance and continued funding of both the Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDSLPL) and the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) in order to offer students the maximum spectrum of choices to suit their individual needs.
11. NAGPS urges the adoption of loan forgiveness/forbearance policies for workers in nonprofit fields, public service, and underserved communities such as programs like Teach for America.
12. 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.
13. Currently students receive one six-month grace period after leaving post-secondary education for payment on their federal student loans. NAGPS calls for the resetting of loan grace periods after completion of any full academic year to ensure that student with breaks in their education status are not prevented from completing their educations.
14. NAGPS objects to subsidy payments to lenders and urges Congress to investigate alternative means for funding student loan programs. NAGPS further urges that lender subsidies be channeled to higher education programs, including graduate and professional fellowships.
15. NAGPS urges support for education programs in financial literacy for higher education
16. NAGPS urges Congress to enact legislation that discourages predatory lending practices.

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17. NAGPS supports federal loan consolidation programs, and seeks more options in these programs, including additional fixed or variable interest rate choices and the ability to consolidate loans.
18. NAGPS supports graduate fellowship programs as a means of training tomorrow's scholars, scientists and leaders of industry, government and education.
19. 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).
20. 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 such as the Second Chances Act, TRIO and support of the College Affordability Act.
21. NAGPS supports cultural and intellectual diversity and suggests the expansion of federal fellowships for international students.
22. NAGPS opposes across-the-board denial of access to financial aid based on a student's convictions for a drug related offense, nor should any criminal offense prevent access to federal student loans.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ISSUES

23. NAGPS supports the DREAM Act.
24. NAGPS urges policymakers, law enforcement, and school administrators to respect international students' civil and human rights and to uphold their rights to due process.
25. 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.
26. NAGPS supports streamlining visa and immigration processes.
27. NAGPS urges lawmakers to make more visas (particularly H1-B) available to foreign students who obtain their graduate degrees in the U.S.
28. 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.
29. NAGPS supports all reasonable efforts to shorten student visa and security check processing times.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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

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educational program. NAGPS believes that international students should be fully able to travel abroad to pursue scholarly opportunities and visit their families.

33. NAGPS supports equal access for international students to parental, family, and medical leave.

34. NAGPS supports the right of legal immigrants to pursue a graduate or professional education without impediment and to participate in federal student aid programs. NAGPS supports any legislative efforts that encourage U.S. permanent residency, citizenship and civic participation among graduates from institutions of higher learning.

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EDUCATIONAL POLICY

35. NAGPS supports open access to published researched and peer-reviewed textbooks.

36. NAGPS supports legislative efforts that encourage diversity at institutions of higher learning.

37. NAGPS supports legislative efforts that address impediments in the education pipeline that are limiting diversity, such as the DREAM Act.

38. NAGPS believes that education is a continuum from pre-kindergarten through the graduate and professional level. NAGPS therefore supports additional funding to P-12 and to undergraduate programs from sources other than graduate and professional student programs.

39. NAGPS encourages establishment of an ED Graduate/Professional Education Advisory Committee comprised of university and student representatives.

40. 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 designed to encourage the pursuit of a graduate/professional education and to serve the nation's growing population of graduate/professional students.

41. 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.

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TAX POLICY

42. NAGPS urges the broadening of tax exemptions and deductions for graduate and professional education expenses and to protect all such existing exemptions and deductions. NAGPS further urges that congress restore the tax exemption for graduate student stipends eliminated in 1986.

43. NAGPS supports the FICA tax exemption offered to graduate and professional students.

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NAGPS National Membership Meeting

Reference

Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order Motions Chart

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

- Obtain the floor (the right to speak) by being the first to stand when the person speaking has finished; state Mr./Madam Chairman. Raising your hand means nothing, and standing while another has the floor is out of order! Must be recognized by the Chair before speaking!
- Debate can not begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution and asked "are you ready for the question?" If no one rises, the chair calls for the vote!
- Before the motion is stated by the Chair (the question) members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he pleases, or even withdraw the motion without consent of the seconder; if mover modifies, the seconder can withdraw the second.
- The "immediately pending question" is the last question stated by the Chair! Motion/Resolution - Amendment - Motion to Postpone
- The member moving the "immediately pending question" is entitled to preference to the floor!
- No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once!
- All remarks must be directed to the Chair. Remarks must be courteous in language and deportment - avoid all personalities, never allude to others by name or to motives!
- The agenda and all committee reports are merely recommendations! When presented to the assembly and the question is stated, debate begins and changes occur!

Part 1, Main Motions. These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion. § indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take break	I move to recess for ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

		...					
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Part 2, Incidental Motions. No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29	Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

Part 3, Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly.

No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§34	Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35	Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
§37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21 Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20 Take break	I move to recess for	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19 Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18 Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17 Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16 Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15 Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14 Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13 Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12 Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11 Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10 Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

Incidental Motions - no order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23 Enforce rules	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24 Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25 Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules which ...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26 Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27 Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29 Demand rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33 Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33 Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly - no order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending.

§34 Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35 Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 maj. w/ notice
§37 Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider the vote ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority