

American Association of Geographers
KEY DECISIONS
January 2026 Special Council Meeting
Virtual / Zoom
Friday, January 30, 2026
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST

Councilors in Attendance:

William (Bill) Moseley (*President*), Sara Smith (*Vice President*), Patricia Ehrkamp (*Past President*), Adriana (Didi) Martinez (*National Councilor; Secretary*), Antoinette WinklerPrins (*National Councilor; Treasurer*)

§Mark Barnes (*National Councilor Chair*), Rebecca (Becky) Buller (*Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Councilor*), Andrew Curley (*National Councilor*), Anindita Datta (*International Councilor*), Michael (Mike) DeVivo (*East Lakes Councilor*), Amy Frazier (*National Councilor*), Nathaniel (Nate) Gabriel (*Middle States Councilor*), Heidi Lannon (*Southeast Councilor; Regional Councilor Chair*), Matthew (Matt) McCourt (*New England-St. Lawrence Valley Councilor*), Patricia (Tish) Lopez (*National Councilor*), Alyson Mabie (*Student Councilor*), Michael Pretes (*Pacific Coast Councilor*), Eric Sarmiento (*Southwest Councilor*), Jeremy Tasch (*Middle Atlantic Councilor*), Hyejin Yoon (*West Lakes Councilor*)

AAG Staff Present†: Gary Langham (*Executive Director*), Elin Thorlund (*Chief Operating Officer*), Ashley Wallace (*Awards and Governance Manager*)

§Alphabetical Order

PART I: INTRODUCTION

- Council adopted the January 2026 Special Council Meeting Agenda.

PART II: FOUR ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE MEMBER PETITION

- Council approved establishing the *Displaced Scholars Program Fund* as an endowed fund to support the *Displaced Scholars Program* with sustained benefits.
- Council approved the proposed AAG Investment Policy in accordance with the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Implementation Philosophy and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- Council approved the International Policy Partnership in principle but assigned the operational details of the policy to a Rapid Response Working Group to bring before Council within one year.
- Council approved the AAG Statement “A Call for a Just and Lasting Peace: Protecting Higher Education in Gaza as Essential to Human Rights and Self-Determination.”

PART III: FORMAL RESPONSE TO PETITION

Council approved that the 4 actions [approved during the January 2026 Special Council Meeting] constitute the AAG’s full and complete response to the Spring 2025 AAG Member Petition.

PART IV: CONCLUSION

Council approved the amended slate for Vice President for the 2026 AAG General Election as selected by the Nominating Committee.