American Association of Geographers KEY DECISIONS

September Council Meeting

AAG Headquarters (Washington, D.C.)

3rd Floor Conference Center

DAY 1: Friday, September 12, 2025

DAY 2: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Councilors in Attendance:

Patricia Ehrkamp (*Past President*), William (Bill) Moseley (*President*), Sara Smith* (*Vice President*), Adriana (Didi) Martinez (*National Councilor; Secretary*), Antoinette WinklerPrins (*National Councilor; Treasurer*), Mark Barnes (*National Councilor Chair*), Andrew Curley* (*National Councilor*), Amy Frazier (*National Councilor*), Patricia (Tish) Lopez (*National Councilor*), Rebecca (Becky) Buller (*Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Councilor*), Michael (Mike) DeVivo (*East Lakes Councilor*), Nathaniel (Nate) Gabriel (*Middle States Councilor*), Heidi Lannon (*Southeast Councilor*), Matthew (Matt) McCourt (New England-St. Lawrence Valley Councilor), Michael Pretes (*Pacific Coast Councilor*), Eric Sarmiento (*Southwest Councilor*), Jeremy Tasch (*Middle Atlantic Councilor*), Hyejin Yoon (*West Lakes Councilor*), Alyson Mabie (*Student Councilor*)

Regrets: Anindita Datta (International Councilor)

<u>AAG Staff Present</u>[§]: Gary Langham (*Executive Director*), Jennifer Cassidento^{*} (*Director of Publications*), Coline Dony (*Director of Research Development*), Eddie McInerney (*Community Impact Coordinator*), Betsy Orgodol (*Controller*), Elin Thorlund (*Chief Operating Officer*), Ashley Wallace (*Awards and Governance Manager*)

*Virtual Participant

Opening

- Council unanimously approved the agenda and consent agenda.
- Council approved the June 2025 Council Meeting minutes with a majority vote (13 yea's, 1 nay, 4 abstentions).
- Council ratified the June 2025 meeting minutes.

President's Comments

• The Generation Alpha Task Force met in June 2025 to examine the decline in geography majors.

Vice President's Comments

 Vice President Sara Smith and Danielle Purifoy have a collective endeavor to engage with faculty and students about what "justice" looks like. Smith welcomed suggestions from council for this work.

State of the AAG

• 2026 Annual Meeting (San Francisco) registration numbers are the strongest since 2019.

Finance

- Treasurer WinklerPrins stated that the AAG is currently in the "**Scenario 1**" budgeting scenario.
- Financial contributions are lower than usual to date.
- The AAG needs to build up its endowment and operational reserve.

Annual Meeting

- For the 2026 Annual Meeting (San Francisco), the current in-person versus virtual split for registrations is 97%/3%.
- Jennifer Clapp (Waterloo, Canada) will be the 2026 Honorary Geographer
- President Moseley welcomed recommendations for speakers for his presidential plenary from Latin America and Asia.
- President Moseley recommended Governor Tim Walz for the Atlas Award.

Communities

- Improvements include: developing a new orientation meeting; revising and updating a handbook; better tracking.
- The former department chairs listserv has been replaced with the *Knowledge Communities*—a free resource to those who would like to join.
- The formation of the Critical Islands, Archipelagos, and Oceans Specialty Group was approved by Council (16 yea's, 0 nay's, 2 abstention1, 1 not present).

Publications

- Council approved Rachel Franklin's proposed 2028 Special Issue in the *Annals* with a majority vote (18 yea's, 1 not present).
- Council unanimously voted to retain Jörn Seeman on the AAG Review of Books editorial board (19 yea's).
- Council voted to extend Josh Inwood's length of service as GeoHumanities editor

Petition Response Review

- Council voted to approve two separately hosted meetings in response to the member petition, with one being open to the members at-large (9 yea's, 7 nay's, and 3 abstentions).
- Council voted for the Executive Committee to draft a statement on the existing humanitarian crisis (16 yea's, 0 nay's, and 3 abstentions).

Strategic and JEDI Plans

 A 10-year Strategic Plan will be drafted and presented at the November 2025 Council meeting. • The 3-year Truth and Transformation Task Force is aiming to launch in January 2026. The scope of their work is the AAG and its first 100-year history rather than geography at-large.

New Business

- President Moseley and Executive Director Langham will write a letter to the Geographical and Geospatial Sciences Committee (GGSC) at the National Academy of Sciences.
- President Moseley recommended that the AAG financially contribute to the International Geographical Union (IGU) since the NSF has not done so.