

Fall 2019 AAG Council Meeting

November 15-17

Washington, DC

Minutes

Present:

David Kaplan, President; Amy Lobben, Vice President; Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, Past President; Deborah Thomas, Treasurer, GPRM Councilor; Karen Johnson-Webb, Secretary, East Lakes Councilor; Jennifer Collins, National Councilor Chair; Lorraine Dowler; LaToya Eaves; Wendy Jepson; Wei Li; Jamie Winders; Rebecca Kelly, Middle Atlantic; Lindsay Naylor, Middle States; Richard Kujawa, NESTVAL; Yolonda Youngs, APCG; John Kupfer, SEDAAG ; Michaela Buenemann, SWAAG and Regional Councilor Chair; Woonsup Choi, West Lakes; Sarah Stinard-Kiel, Student Councilor; Gary Langham, Executive Director, Ex Officio.

Staff:

Candida Mannozi, Director of Operations; Teri Martin, Director of Finance and Accounting; Candice Luebbering, Director of Outreach and Engagement; Becky Pendergast, Director of Communications and Design; Oscar Larson, Director of AAG Meetings.

Visitors:

Gray Coyner, CPA, Thompson & Greenspon; Thomas Gletner, SunTrust Investment Advisor

Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM

1. Opening

Kaplan welcomed everyone and introduced the general format for the Fall 2019 AAG Council meeting, indicating that the Agenda now also featured time-slots assigned to various topics and discussion items, to ensure that the many items before the Council would all be successfully covered in the time the Council was in session.

1.1. Adopt the Agenda: **Naylor moved to adopt the Agenda, Winders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

1.2. Council Meeting Minutes: ratification. **Kupfer moved to ratify the previously approved Spring 2019 Council Meeting Minutes. Dowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

1.3. Adoption of Consent Agenda:

Ratify any Committee Appointees – Johnson-Webb

Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces – Kaplan

AAG Journals Operations – Langham, Cassidento

AAG Review of Books – Langham

AAG International Encyclopedia of Geography – Langham

Guide to Programs in the Americas – Langham, Revell

Update on AAG Communications and Membership Services – Langham,
Pendergast, Luebbering

Jepson moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, Eaves seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1.4. Regional Division updates:

- 1.4.1. Buenemann provided a summary of Regional Division reports (see **Appendix A**).
- 1.4.2. President's Comments: David Kaplan summarized some of his areas of priority, including outreach and inclusion of underserved academic institutions (i.e., community colleges, R2 and R3 institutions), as well as his focus on outreach to non-academic AAG members, and a focus on the AAG regions.
- 1.4.3. Vice President's Comments: Amy Lobben pointed to two priorities she intends to focus on during her term on Council: focus on developing tangible ways to enhance undergraduate student advising and mentoring as a means to securing the AAG's and the discipline's future; and accessibility for persons with disabilities, specifically moving beyond ADA, and encouraging the AAG to implement specific practices and an overall culture aimed at enhancing accessibility. Her initial focus will be to ensure universal design (design for all) for the AAG website and the AAG conference venues, as well as at Meridian Place, which she hopes will eventually exemplify the AAG's aim to provide universal access.
- 1.4.4. Past President's Comments: Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach welcomed everyone and especially new AAG Executive Director Gary Langham, who was attending his first AAG Council meeting. She stated that she will continue working on her science and human rights theme, which will also be a focus of her Past President's address at the 2020 AAG Annual Meeting in Denver. She mentioned representing the AAG by giving a keynote address at the Chinese Association for Science and Technology in Harbin China in the summer of 2019 as a guest of the Geographical Society of China, and representing the AAG at the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition's 10th anniversary conference in Washington DC.
- 1.4.5. Student Councilor's Comments: Sarah Stinard-Kiel stated that she was honored to serve as first Student Councilor. She noted that the experience was professionally rewarding. She suggested encouraging more generational diversity on the Council, perhaps by including an observer from the Undergraduate Student Affinity Group at Council meetings, to bring their perspectives to the discussion.
- 1.4.6. Executive Director's Comments: Gary Langham thanked all the Councilors for volunteering their time and service to the AAG, and for selecting him to lead the Association. He summarized his first three months in office and mentioned the many meetings he's held with the staff, financial advisors, representatives of other geography and social science organizations, and at one AAG regional meeting (NESTVAL). His assessment is that the AAG is on very strong footing. He credited former Executive Director Doug Richardson for his financial acumen and successful approach to bringing and keeping the AAG on solid financial ground. Langham drew parallels between his experience at the Audubon Society, and his observations to date on the organization and nature of the AAG. He indicated wanting to focus on the shared values of everyone involved in the AAG, from Specialty Groups, to Regional Divisions, to disciplinary subfields. Langham stated that the AAG is in a

solid financial position with 75% of its income based on membership dues, Annual Meeting attendance, and the annual journals' royalties from Routledge/Taylor & Francis. He indicated that the AAG now also has opportunities to expand its revenue sources to include foundation support, improved member services, infrastructure, and communications.

2. Finance

Langham introduced Teri Martin, Director of Finance and Accounting; Tom Gletner Investment Advisor from SunTrust; and Gray Coyner, CPA from Thompson & Greenspon. AAG Treasurer Deb Thomas stated she thoroughly enjoyed her service as Councilor and AAG Treasurer, and she especially thanked Teri Martin for all her hard work.

Langham stated that he expects the AAG to again finish in the positive even this year, notwithstanding the (anticipated) costs associated with the Executive Director transition which occurred in the summer.

Gletner stated that the financials of the AAG grew solidly since he began consulting with the AAG in 2004. He stated that almost \$4M came in from market appreciation alone over 17 years. He stated the AAG's balance sheet is among the strongest of similar organizations he's been working with.

Socially responsible/clean energy funds: Gletner stated that these recent additions to the portfolio have been doing well, though they are not performing at stellar levels. He pointed out that Clean Energy ETF (ICLN) has been performing well and is up 30% this year.

Winders asked about plans for the future or "perpetuity" of restricted donations to the AAG.

Langham confirmed that the AAG currently manages approximately 35 endowed funds. He stated that, for future donation solicitations, the AAG will encourage unrestricted donations, as these allow more flexibility, can be applied to areas of greatest need, and don't "age out" over time in the same way that many named and restricted funds do over time. He mentioned wishing to set minimum levels required for restricted donations to the AAG, to ensure their longevity. He plans a complete review of restricted funds at the AAG, to identify ways to simplify their management.

Coyner stated that he's been auditing the AAG for the past seven years. He explained to Council the handouts he distributed, including "Accounting for Contributions," and pointed out several new government norms that have recently been issued regarding revenue recognition standards. He congratulated the AAG and Teri Martin for obtaining clean audit statements every year. He stated that the excellent internal controls at the AAG set it apart from most other organizations his company audits. The Council applauded Teri Martin. Coyner pointed out that the \$10M unrestricted Richardson Fund I and II and the annual royalties set the AAG on very strong footing and give it a great advantage compared to other non-profits his company audits. As of 12/31/2019 and 12/31/2020 new revenue recognition standards will affect the AAG audit and our financial statements. Coyner will work with Teri to ensure compliance, but no significant implications affect AAG beyond reporting changes.

Thomas described what the AAG Finance Committee reviews during its annual meeting in early spring: the recently concluded audit and the proposed budget. She indicated that the Treasurer then reports the main takeaways from the Finance Committee meeting to the Council at its subsequent Spring meeting.

Kupfer asked about the significant drop in grants & contract funds in the past year, as reported on the Budget Worksheet. Langham acknowledged that several externally funded grants and awards have concluded, and that he is considering some new staff hires to assist in developing externally funded activities (a full-fledged Development Program, in fact), but that he would like the focus for these new revenue sources to be on grants or funding that does not compete with what AAG members may also be pursuing through their own proposals to funding agencies such as NSF, NIH and others.

Jepson thanked the Finance Committee for taking on the request that came to Council to move a portion of the AAG's investments into clean energy funds. She asked that the AAG request the Investment Advisor to report on the composition of its investments by sector, not just by fund, as this could more clearly show the number of green and/or socially responsible funds in the AAG portfolio. Luzzadder-Beach agreed with this proposal. Winders cautioned the Council about sharing the details of AAG financials widely. Naylor seconded this caution. Lobben argued that as a member-serving organization, the AAG's finances should be transparent.

Li suggested providing the Councilors with a summary financial sheet they could use to report to the membership. This suggestion met with much consensus.

2.4 Investment Proposal

Executive Director Langham summarized his investment proposal to the Council.

Langham stated that Meridian Place needs not only to be brought up to current codes and made universally accessible; it also needs to be redesigned to fit all AAG staff under the same roof, in order to move out of the rented office space, which is costing the AAG \$68,000 annually. He'd like the Council to allow the AAG office to plan a building renovation that will serve the AAG for 25-30 years into the future.

Langham mentioned that the AAG website and database need to better serve the AAG, to provide AAG members with world-class services. He stated that the Council can vote to allow the AAG to invest from its reserves in these structures and to give staff the opportunity to explore a variety of options for how best to achieve these needed improvements, overhauls, and updates.

Database: Langham stated that while the AAG counts a total of over 12,000 members, the current database carries more than 90,000 records. He stated that this is not an unusual situation for non-profits he has led, as their custom-coded database will, over time, develop these complications. He indicated the need for the AAG to migrate to a new database that can be customized to fit AAG needs. By shifting to an enterprise model that

is configured rather than coded, we can avoid the current predicament of being tied to an outside firm to make changes.

Langham asked the Council to consider approving his request to allow him to draw up to \$3M for a renovation of Meridian Place and draw up to \$2M for website/database overhauls. He indicated that he hopes to actually spend less than the requested amounts. He stated that if the Council voted to approve these investments, he and the staff will bring concrete, vendor-driven options for rebuilding Meridian Place, the website and the database to the Executive Committee for a final choice.

He summarized the expected future cycles for infrastructure investments as follows: 3-7 years for web updates; 10-15 years for the member database; and 10-15 years to update Meridian Place in order to comply with anticipated software developments, building and occupancy code changes.

Langham stated that he plans to work with our investment advisor to invest reserves in anticipation of these future infrastructure costs and timelines. He stated that the AAG can also seek to replenish these funds through the efforts of a soon to be hired AAG Development Director, via targeted fundraising campaigns, and other efforts.

The draft resolutions regarding investments were circulated to the Council for review. Discussion ensued. Jepson suggested that the Council, not the Executive Committee alone, be involved in reviewing the options Langham and the staff develop. This suggestion met with general consensus.

Jepson and Kujawa suggested clear communication and transparency on these investments with the Council and the membership. Luzzadder-Beach also mentioned that fundraising possibilities may offer themselves in the course of the infrastructure investments (i.e., naming the Meridian Place Library, naming other portions or features of the building, etc.).

Resolutions on AAG Infrastructure Investments:

The AAG Council hereby authorizes AAG Executive Director Gary Langham to draw up to but no more than \$3,000,000 (USD three million) from the Richardson Fund I (DFL-181684), and identified on the AAG's audited financial statements as "Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future," for the purpose of a complete structural renovation of AAG Meridian Place. The detailed architectural, structural, and design plans and proposed budgets for the renovation will be presented to the AAG Council for review and advice, and then to the AAG Executive Committee for review and approval by its Spring 2020 meeting.

Luzzadder-Beach moved to approve this resolution, Buenemann seconded it. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The AAG Council hereby authorizes AAG Executive Director Gary Langham to draw up to but no more than \$2,000,000 (USD two million) from the Richardson Fund I (DFL-181684), and identified on the AAG's audited financial statements as "Douglas

Richardson Endowment for Geography’s Future,” for the purpose of redesigning and launching a new AAG flagship website, and migrating the AAG member database. The detailed work plan, budgets, and options will be presented to the AAG Council for review and advice, and then to the AAG Executive Committee for review and approval by its Spring 2020 meeting.

Choi moved to approve this resolution, Buenemann seconded it. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Committees and Specialty/Affinity Groups

3.1. Winders suggested revisiting the overall structure of all AAG Committees, to assess how well they reflect and serve the AAG membership interests.

3.1.1. IRSE Committee – Council volunteer? No volunteers: discussion centered on perhaps revisiting committees’ charges and purposes.

3.1.2. The Honors and Nominating Committee slate was distributed. The lack of diversity of Honors A candidates was discussed (mostly white, male). There was a suggestion to ask the Chairs of these two committees to create a boilerplate description of general activities and time requirements for service on both the Honors and Nominating Committees, to share with potential candidates. Li volunteered to assist with this.

3.1.3. Nominating Committee: Dowler suggested providing better guidance to the Nominating Committee on accepting nominations and carrying names forward from previous cycles. She also suggested wider membership outreach to encourage nominations and encouraged the Committee to avoid proposing two candidates from the same institution in the same year.

Collins raised the question why Councilors who served a full term were not allowed to run for another elected position on Council immediately following their term. (CM: Look at what other associations do in terms of 3-year term limit before re-serving on Council. Look at elections and bylaws.)

3.1.4. Enhancing Diversity Committee – revised charge proposal: Johnson-Webb asked for a discussion of this petition. **Jepson moved to accept the proposed name change, the proposed membership, and the proposed mission for this Committee, but not to approve the request for AAG staff. Kaplan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

3.2. Summary of Specialty Group reports:

3.2.1. Collins provided a summary to Council and asked Mannozi to provide the Council responses or feedback to the various Specialty Groups. Lobben agreed to reach out to the Disability Specialty Group with an update on the Accessibility Task Force. Landscape SG requests: point them to Enrichment Funds.

3.2.2. Urban SG: we will take under advisement and look at business impact.

3.2.3. Two SG name change requests:

3.2.3.1. The Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group requested approval to change their name to Feminist Geographies Specialty Group. **Thomas moved to approve the proposed name change; Collins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

3.2.3.2. The Sexuality and Space Specialty Group requested permission to change their group's name to Queer and Trans Geographies Specialty Group. **Thomas moved to approve this name change; Naylor seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.**

3.2.4. Protected Areas SG petition:

3.2.4.1. Youngs provided some background on this new SG petition. **Kupfer moved to approve the creation of the Protected Areas Specialty Group. Eaves seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote.**

3.2.4.2. CO2 Footprint Task Force update. Jepson provided an update in the course of the Annual meeting discussion.

4. Harassment and Bylaws review

Langham introduced this topic and summarized a few items for discussion:

- the reported harassment incidents that occurred at the 2019 Annual Meeting and steps the AAG took to address these,
- the need to identify a Y3 charge for the Harassment-Free Task Force, and
- the proposed changes to AAG Constitution and Bylaws, as well as updates needed to the AAG procedures.

4.1. Harassment-Free Task Force update:

Dowler thanked the AAG for providing several different teams (Executive Committee, Executive Director, onsite advocate, ombudsperson, and others) to support the task force on its activities. Johnson-Webb asked about providing statistics to the AAG membership on the number of reported instances and the types of harassment incidents that occurred at the most recent meeting.

Dowler stated that the task force hopes that once a new AAG website is launched that offers better capabilities, the AAG can develop and offer resources for its members that are similar to what the AGU provides on its site. Collins mentioned the need to make sure that all AAG-sponsored conferences apply the AAG conduct policy and provide that information to their attendees.

Dowler mentioned the need to provide information on substance abuse prevention and other similar support services in Denver for 2020 meeting attendees. A question was raised about potential legal exposure for the AAG in recommending certain local services?

Kelly suggested publishing a set of guidelines for consequences of potential infractions. Langham stated that the AAG office will create a group tasked to develop these guidelines and present them to the Council in the spring.

Dowler also mentioned that the task force will be hosting an open “meet the task force” event at the Denver Annual Meeting, in order to get additional feedback from members for their third year.

Naylor/Jepson asked whether, with NSF grants, the AAG is required to report on anti-harassment incidents/policies to the NSF as well.

Dowler mentioned that the Harassment-Free Task force will compare what other organizations are doing about providing (or reducing the presence of) alcohol and other substances at their events.

Kupfer also encouraged the AAG to have the task force efforts trickle down to the Regional Divisions as well. Council reviewed the proposed changes.

Dowler also stated that the AAG will need to inform the membership that stripping some members of their Lifetime Achievement Awards is not legally possible for the AAG to carry out.

- 4.2. Proposed changes to AAG Governance Documents: Kaplan introduced the topic and asked Langham to illustrate the reasoning behind the proposed changes, to allow the AAG to act more nimbly in response to future infractions. Luzzadder-Beach alerted the Council that the AAG Council alone cannot change the Bylaws or Constitution, according to the AAG Bylaws.

Luzzadder-Beach moved that the AAG Council take action on approving the proposed changes to the Constitution, in order to put these changes before the AAG membership for a vote. Eaves seconded the motion.

Kujawa also alerted the Council that Article 10 of the Bylaws does not allow Council to change them, but that this needs to occur at an AAG Business meeting. There was general consensus to obtain a legal opinion on Article 10 of the Bylaws, before moving forward on this motion.

Luzzadder-Beach withdrew the motion. (Please see section 4.3 for the resolution of this issue on the following day).

5. Publications

- 5.1. Redefine roles of editorial boards: Naylor gave Council some background on how these proposals came forth in previous Council discussions and from the Publications Committee, in consultation with the AAG’s Publications Director. Jepson asked for Council’s opinion on whether to encourage the editorial boards to meet with the editors on feedback, meaningful direction, etc.

Winders added that the editorial board’s diversity is a key element to informing the editor as to the topics and new trends (disciplinary frontiers) for AAG journals to pursue. Naylor stated that she will report the Council’s feedback on the role of editorial boards

to the Publications Committee and will work on implementing some of these suggested practices with the Publications Director.

6. Communications and Membership Services

6.1. Website and Digital Products – Pendergast

Pendergast illustrated the current state of the AAG flagship website. She described plans that have been developed for the transitional website (WordPress) to be implemented right away. Langham also pointed out the possibility of the AAG offering web hosting for the Regions in the future. Pendergast echoed this and mentioned that a WordPress site would integrate relatively easily with the KCs and database. She gave the history of the launch of the AM website and pointed out that the flagship website transition will be a more complex and time-consuming procedure, as it is happening at the same time as the ramp-up in preparation for the 2020 Annual Meeting, and other regular duties.

Winders asked about a fix for duplicate messaging of members who belong to more than one KC.

Eaves asked about donations to SGs and whether SGs can collect donations online vs. receiving checks in the mail. Pendergast mentioned that the database overhaul should allow this improvement.

6.2. Disciplinary Data Dashboard: Luebbering conveyed AAG colleague Mark Revell's regrets for not being present due to a family emergency. A question was raised about the meaning of "disciplinary dashboard" and whether it relates to the discipline of geography, vs. "disciplinary" intended as a punitive decision. Luebbering stated that this dashboard collects and presents data on the discipline of geography and the AAG membership. She gave a brief summary of the data being collected, and current staff plans for expanding both the nature of data being collected, and the kinds of analyses that will, in the future, be run from this data to help inform AAG initiatives aimed at better serving members, diversifying membership, and more.

6.3. Membership Services, Strategy and Investments – Luebbering

Luebbering stated that the AAG wishes to become "more than a meeting for our members, more than an academic org., more than maps and atlases." She illustrated that the primary goal is to provide valuable and meaningful services to our members by creating an "AAG community," and moving beyond simple transactional relations with our members. She underscored that the AAG plans to strengthen its diversity (member demographics, disciplinary diversity, and outreach outside academia). She described the strategy will involve taking a hard look at ourselves via data and analysis; use our data to show us our gaps and our strengths. She wants to answer the question: What is the value of an AAG membership compared to other geography organizations, other social science organizations (i.e., dues, benefits, etc.)? How competitive are we? Luebbering plans to dig into our membership trends & numbers – who are we reaching, who are we not, etc.? Luebbering stated that finding the answers to these questions will help us conclude whether we need to change our membership model and if so, how.

Langham explained that as part of staff reorganization, Luebbering will lead a new group that includes current Membership Director, Ledoux, Workforce Development Specialist, Revell, Government Relations Manager, Kinzer, and Senior Geography Researcher, Dony. Collectively, this team will help provide better services to members in conjunction with new website and database.

12. Miscellaneous

- 12.1. Geography and Military Study Committee report: Langham summarized the findings and questions that were addressed by the Committee's report. Dowler developed a set of comments and suggestions on the task force's recommendations and circulated them to the Council for review. She suggested providing the task force feedback on their recommendations and asking them to reply to the AAG Council questions and suggestions by its Spring 2020 meeting.
- 12.2. Volunteer Faculty Program proposal and report: Langham summarized the findings of Joe Woods' report on the faculty proposal submitted to Council by Stanley Brunn. Johnson-Webb also provided a summary of Woods' recommendations. Thomas stated that the Council never expressed an interest in pursuing the recommendations coming from this proposal and the subsequent report. Kaplan mentioned the encroachment on young faculty and students, should retired faculty be invited and paid to teach at their departments, per this proposal. **Thomas moved to express the Council's gratitude to Joe Woods for his service to the AAG Council in producing a report with helpful suggestions for the Council. Winders seconded the motion which met with general consensus.**

7. Annual Meetings

7.1. Denver

Langham introduced Oscar Larson and asked him to summarize some of the changes happening at the Denver meeting and their background. Larson mentioned developing a virtual attendance pilot (i.e., remote attendance, hybrid meeting model, nodes, etc.). A number of sessions and presentations will be viewable remotely and accessible at an inexpensive registration rate. He stated that the Climate Action Task Force chaired by Jepson is working with him to identify these sessions. He mentioned trying to balance keeping the in-person meeting beneficial, while also expanding virtual meeting access.

Larson also mentioned the shorter presentation times implemented for the Denver meeting. There will be fewer concurrent sessions, and it is expected that Denver will be a smaller meeting than DC, which will contribute to reducing the number of concurrent sessions as well. He mentioned that increasing the number of poster presentations will also work towards reducing the number of concurrent sessions.

Jepson also mentioned that the Climate Action Task Force had been discussing carbon offsets and other sponsored events for Denver. She stated that the task force will solicit feedback from AAG members on the initiatives the task force is rolling out. She praised Larson for being open to the many new suggestions, for being a leader on redefining the

business model of the Annual Meeting, and for keeping financial implications to the AAG at the forefront of these efforts.

Winders asked whether some of the recorded or aired sessions could be re-broadcast to additional audiences. Langham mentioned wanting to study the possibility of offering a hybrid meeting model for the AAG Regions, as well. Larson mentioned needing to roll this out without affecting the bottom line, as well as ensuring that any recorded sessions are accompanied with the necessary context or detail, to avoid misinterpretation when being viewed after the actual, live event.

Jepson also underscored the importance of rolling out comprehensive communication to the membership about the AAG responding to the request for reducing the Annual Meeting carbon footprint, evaluating options, and rolling out these first pilots. She mentioned that the task force will prepare a report to the Council which will include an evaluation of these first initiatives.

Mannozi asked the Councilors to familiarize themselves with the Preliminary Master Schedule for Denver provided in the Council packet. She pointed out that highlighted sessions in that document indicate events the Councilors should plan to participate in as much as their schedules will allow. She also pointed out a few events (i.e., Past Presidents' Breakfast, Awards Luncheon, and AAG Business Meeting) that require Executive Committee participation.

7.2. Future Meetings:

Langham asked Larson to describe how the AAG carried out site selections in the past. Eaves also asked that the AAG consider the opportunities for giving back to the local community at each future meeting location, and to also consider impacts on the local communities in the deliberations about future meeting locations.

Arizona State University Geography has expressed interest in hosting a future AAG Annual meeting. Phoenix has a light rail for better public transit.

Kelly mentioned being keen on seeing nodes at the regional division meetings, as another means to revitalize the regions and give them another opportunity to gather and give presentations. Winders mentioned that this is an excellent research opportunity. Jepson invited Councilors to encourage their graduate students to participate in the research component of the task force's activities, as a few survey questions on transport/travel to the meeting are being included in the Annual Meeting survey for Denver. Langham agreed and mentioned that this is another opportunity for the AAG to raise funds with foundations or other sponsors to support further development of hybrid meetings.

8. **Honors & Awards**

8.1. AAG Fellows: **Kupfer moved to ratify the proposed slate of 2020 AAG Fellows as presented to Council. Naylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 8.2. AAG Honors: **Collins moved to approve the proposed 2020 AAG Honorees; Choi seconded the motion, which passed with 17 votes in favor and two abstentions.** Report from Honors Committee and suggestions: Li shared her experience as former Honors Committee chair, including benefiting from active members of the committee, who actively encouraged nominations from other AAG members who were not committee members. Jepson suggested rewriting the guidelines to require a minimum of three supporting letters not to exceed 2 pages each.

8.2.1.1. Additional 2020 AAG awardees were announced:

- Honorary Geographer – Katherine Sullivan
- Brunn Creativity Award – Brian Berry
- Presidential Achievement Award: announcement pending.
- 2021 Atlas Award suggestions: none from Council.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM on Saturday, November 16.

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The Council reconvened at 8:00 AM on Sunday, November 17.

#### 4. Harassment and Bylaws review (cont.)

##### 4.1. Harassment-Free Task Force update (cont.):

Dowler presented the following items to the Council, seeking an approval/vote. Johnson-Webb pointed out the task force's proposed discussions planned by the Socialist Specialty Group for the Denver meeting that will focus on non-punitive and restorative justice solutions for harassment at the meeting. Johnson-Webb stated that these discussions would be valuable and commended the task force for these efforts.

Seeking Council Approval for the Following Action Items:

1. Swearingen Consulting and Training to conduct the following programs:
  - Bystander Intervention - 2 sessions (1 for Graduate Student Affinity Group). Professional Education Programs titled: *It's Everyone's Responsibility: Concrete Response Strategies for Harassing or Discriminatory Situations*

Disclosure Program - 2 sessions (1 to be sponsored and included in a suite of sessions by the newly named Diversity and Inclusion Committee).

*Preparing for Disclosures: How to Respond when Individuals Share That They Have Experienced Discrimination, Harassment or Violence*

2. *Mental Health First Aid Colorado*
3. Harassment-Free Poster Campaign
4. Development of Website Materials for a Harassment-Free Web Page
5. Providing information for session chairs in an email that outlines the best practices on keeping discussions academically productive and modulating attendees who adopt bullying practices.
6. AAG publishes on the website the step by step procedures of how to file a complaint and who will review the case (i.e., Committee on AAG Annual Meeting Attendee Disciplinary Matters), and how complainant and accused will be informed of the Committee's decision in the matter.

**Winders moved to approve the above-listed six items, Naylor seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

Johnson-Webb mentioned a booklet recommended by the task force called the *Trans\* Ally Workbook* and she suggested the AAG purchase it for all Councilors. Langham agreed with the suggestion.

Dowler then also presented a list of activities that the task force suggests needs to continue after discussion with Council and which will be presented at the Spring Council meeting

1. How to report back to the membership about sanctions for members who violate the Code of Conduct (AAG Staff).
2. AAG creates a list of weighted sanctions for specific violations of the harassment policy for publication (AAG staff).

3. How to provide support for membership around issues of drugs and alcohol.

For further discussion:

1. Moving forward from task force for survey report to match the publication of new AAG Bylaws.
2. How to best support the Sexuality and Space Specialty Group's concerns as listed in their petition. Should the task force continue to examine education programs to best support our non-binary, two-spirit, gender non-conforming members?

Year 3

1. The movement from task force towards an affinity group
2. Possible qualitative research project about experiences of meeting
3. Create three-year benchmarks/goals for AAG for hosting a harassment-free meeting

4.2.1 Sexuality and Space SG request for better inclusion of non-binary, two-spirit, and gender non-conforming members: Langham stated that the AAG is already addressing this question and that he and staff will communicate with the SG leadership to update them on AAG activities in response to their questions.

4.2.2 Code of Conduct revisions: Langham stated that he and AAG staff will work to develop a set of procedures for the AAG to implement when an official report is filed of an incident of harassment taking place at an AAG-sponsored event.

#### 4.3 Proposed changes to AAG Governance Documents (cont.):

Having obtained input from the AAG lawyer, Kaplan invited Luzzadder-Beach to recap the procedures whereby the Council will be able to propose changes to the AAG Constitution and Bylaws:

- a. Legal counsel confirmed the Council can approve a change to the Constitution, then inform the membership about this proposed change and invite ratification via a member vote.
- b. The Council can propose a change to the Bylaws. The proposal must be brought forth at the AAG Business Meeting (next one in Denver, CO) and the members present will be asked to vote on it. If approved at the Business meeting, then the proposed change has to be mailed to the members for a vote of approval.
- c. The Council can implement a change to the Standing Rules without membership involvement.

Because all three motions before the Council pertain to the same issue, it was deemed advisable to proceed with steps a. and c. as outlined and carry out step b. at the AAG Business Meeting in Denver.

**Thomas moved to adopt the AAG Standing Rule changes as follows, contingent upon the Constitution and Bylaws changes as needed:**

*The Council hereby resolves that the current **Standing Committee on AAG Annual Meeting Attendee Disciplinary Matters** shall serve as the **Standing Committee on Disciplinary and Eligibility Matters for AAG Members** and appoints the members of the Executive Committee*

to serve as the members of the Standing Committee. The Executive Director is an *ex officio* member of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is charged with investigating all complaints referred to it by the Executive Director that relate to violations by Association members of the Standing Rules on Professional Conduct, violations of other Association policies or Standing Rules, or that otherwise allege dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct by an Association member in relation to the Association or its activities, or to the professional role of the Association member. The Committee may also determine that a prospective member who has engaged in conduct in connection with the prospective member's professional role that is contrary to the values of AAG, as reflected in its policies and Standing Rules, is ineligible for membership, based on a referral from the Executive Director. A determination by the Standing Committee that any such allegation is supported by the evidence shall warrant disciplinary action against a member as determined at the discretion of the Standing Committee, which may include but is not limited to suspension or temporary or permanent revocation of the membership and eligibility for membership in the Association of the subject of the complaint or restrictions on the member's privileges and rights as a member, including temporary or permanent loss of eligibility to attend future AAG Annual Meetings or to hold leadership or Committee roles within AAG. With respect to prospective members, the Standing Committee may find the prospective member temporarily or permanently ineligible for membership. The Standing Committee shall establish procedures for review of and decision on such matters that provide to the subject notice of the nature of the allegations and an opportunity to respond in writing. A member or prospective member may appeal to the Council a decision by the Standing Committee to impose a disciplinary revocation of membership or finding of temporary or permanent ineligibility for membership, by notifying the AAG Executive Director in writing within 30 days of being informed of the sanctions by the Standing Committee. If a decision of the Standing Committee is appealed, the Council will review the written record related to the matter and affirm, modify, or reverse the imposition of sanctions based on that review. Additional material that was available to the subject of the sanction but was not submitted to the Standing Committee will not be included in the record on appeal.

**Winders seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Kujawa commented that the rollout of these changes will require thorough education of the membership, especially in regards to the Standing Rules, where the punitive provisions are enclosed.

**Thomas moved to approve the following changes to Article III of the AAG Constitution and, if approved, to circulate these changes to the AAG membership for a vote:**

**Changes to Article III of the Constitution**

*Section 1. Individual Members.* Persons who are interested in the objectives of the Association are eligible for membership and may become Members upon payment of dues and satisfaction of the Association's Member eligibility policies. Membership in the Association may be conditioned on continued payment of dues and on compliance with the Association's policies and rules applicable to Members.

*Section 3. Individual Membership Rights.* Unless such rights are restricted, suspended, or revoked in accordance with Association rules, policies and procedures, Members shall have

full rights to nominate candidates for the Association and its regional officers, vote thereon, and hold such offices if duly elected, **and**; shall be entitled to participate, under applicable rules, in meetings, programs, and other activities and services of the Association and its regional divisions.

*Section 5. Non-Discrimination.* The Association shall not discriminate **in the execution of its purposes** on grounds unrelated to professional competence **or to Association values, as expressed in the rules and policies adopted by the Association.**

**Luzzadder-Beach seconded the motion to approve these changes, which passed by a unanimous vote.**

**Thomas moved to approve changes to the AAG Bylaws, as follows, to present these changes at the next AAG Business Meeting for a vote, and if approved there, to circulate these changes to the AAG membership for a vote.**

Add a new *Section 2(d):* **Officers, Councilors, and Committee members must be Members with unrestricted rights to be eligible for those positions, and shall automatically be removed from those positions upon loss of Membership for any reason.**

*Section 3. Honors.* **The Association may adopt policies setting criteria for awarding of honors and providing procedures for revocation of honors.**

**Luzzadder-Beach seconded the motion to approve these changes. The motion was passed unanimously.**

## **5. Publications (cont.)**

5.2. *Annals Human Geography* editor choice: After interviewing three candidates, the Council held a straw poll and narrowed their selection down to two finalists. **Thomas moved to hold a vote. Luzzadder-Beach seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Kendra Strauss was elected to serve as editor and will be offered the position.**

*Annals Nature Society* editor choice: After interviewing four candidates, the Council held a straw poll and narrowed their selection down to two finalists. **Thomas moved to hold a vote. Collins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Katie Meehan was elected to serve as editor and will be offered the position.**

Johnson-Webb remarked that the pool of qualified candidates from under-represented groups must be deepened. Li proposed that mentorship could be used for the editor positions. Another suggestion was that an associate editor position could be developed.

## **12. Miscellaneous (cont.)**

### **12.3. Regional Division Task Force**

Kaplan provided background on the work of the task force, and its meetings since the Spring 2019 Council meeting (see **Appendix B**).



Winders asked what the underlying mission was for having instituted Regional Divisions at the AAG, and she suggested that the task force should explore the history behind the formation of AAG Regional Divisions, for context to their proposals.

Kujawa enthusiastically supported the proposals presented by the task force, and he suggested amending the AAG support for the attendance of Regional Chair/President at the Annual Meeting Regional Division Chairs Breakfast to include a designee from the regional board, should the Chair/President not be able to attend.

Youngs suggested more and better communication to existing Regional Councilors and boards about the task force and their work. She asked for an executive summary about the task force and its intent/purpose, etc. She also requested to be added to the task force.

Kupfer suggested thinking about ways to encourage others outside the AAG to attend regional meetings (i.e., NCGE, Audubon Society chapters, local teachers, non-geographers, other?).

Langham cautioned about the task force's proposal for increases to the annual payments to Regional Divisions with no term-end. He also asked about the strategic goals behind this effort and whether or how we are allocating resources towards those goals.

Winders endorsed the idea of pursuing a strategic plan for the Regions. She asked that the three-year AAG strategic plan being developed by Langham and staff also include the Regions and their strategies. Kelly also cautioned about issuing funds to the regions without a strategic plan in place. She asked about how the Regional Division survey was conducted and whether there has been an effort to find out why some regions may be more disconnected and not participating.

Thomas mentioned the very extensive processes undertaken by the Mental Health and Harassment-Free Task Forces and stated that she feels the recommendations coming from the Regional Division Task Force are premature and could benefit from a more systematic survey and analysis of the Regions' needs, desires, and vision. Jepson agreed with this caution.

Collins suggested having Council consider adopting the two proposals to:

- waive Regional Chair/Presidents' registration fees, to facilitate attendance at the Regional Division Breakfast meeting at the Annual meetings, and to:
- expand the AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Division Meeting to also include Undergraduate Student Papers. She also asked that the task force work up a larger strategic vision for the Regions.

**Thomas moved to table this conversation until the Spring Council meeting, giving the Regional Division Task Force the time to more robustly survey/study the question of AAG Regional Divisions before presenting proposals or recommendations to the Council. Naylor seconded the motion. The motion passed with 14 ayes, one nay, and two abstentions.**

#### 12.4 International Councilor:

Kaplan provided some background on this idea. Li provided some input and stated that developing guidelines for implementing this position on Council will be challenging and must be approached carefully and thoroughly. Winders suggested creating a subcommittee to study this question, compare practices at other organizations, and bring back a report and suggestions to Council. There was general consensus to this suggestion.

### 10. Future Council Meetings

10.1. Fall 2020 Council Meeting: no location identified. Langham encouraged the Councilors to review the currently known 2020 Fall Regional Division meetings, with a view to perhaps co-locating the AAG Council meeting at one such location.

### 9. Projects & Programs (there was insufficient time to cover this Agenda item).

### 11. New Business

11.3. Improve accessibility (website, AM, etc.): Lobben presented to Council her proposal for an Accessibility Task Force and the need to formalize this process at the AAG (see Appendix C).

**Kaplan moved to approve the creation of an Accessibility Task Force. Thomas seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote.**

The Fall 2019 Council Meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 12:15 PM on Sunday, November 17.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Karen Johnson-Webb, East Lakes Councilor and AAG Secretary  
 Candida Mannozi, AAG Director of Operations

## Appendix A:

### AAG Regional Divisions Update, Fall 2019

Michaela Buenemann, Chair of the Regional Councilors, solicited updates from the Regional Councilors and reported the following main points at the Fall 2019 AAG Council meeting.

The **East Lakes Division** regional meeting was held Saginaw Valley State University on October 10-11, 2019. It was hosted by the Geography Department under the leadership of Dr. Julie Cummerford. **Councilor Karen Johnson Webb** reported that pre-registration totals indicate that 105 attended from 16 institutions. Many awards were made to students who made excellent presentations. In other regional news, two 2-year colleges were selected in July as finalists for the AAG Award for Associate's Program Excellence: the Geography Program within the Social Sciences Department at Grand Rapids Community College and the Geography and Geospatial Technology Department at Lakeland Community College. Bowling Green State University will host the 2020 ELDAAG meeting. The AAG has pledged \$30,000 to the Advancing Geography Through Diversity Program (AGTDP), which was developed at the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences at Michigan State University. AGTDP seeks to recruit, retain and academically, financially and socially support underrepresented minorities in the discipline of Geography. Karen Johnson-Webb, in her capacity as AAG Secretary, travelled to East Lansing, MI to present the first installment of that pledge, a check for \$10,000, at their Geography Awareness Week Event on November 14, 2019. The first cohort for the program began in the fall of 2018.

The **Pacific Coast Division** held its 82<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting October 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> in Flagstaff, AZ, hosted by the Northern Arizona University's Department of Geography, Planning, and Recreation. The theme was "The Interpretation of Landscapes." The meeting included an Awards Banquet and Presidential Address held on Saturday evening. **Councilor Yolonda Youngs** reported that 37 students received undergraduate or graduate awards at the meeting, including 23 travel grant awards, 7 paper or poster competition award winners, and 7 other grant awards. NAU faculty held five field trips in the Flagstaff area on the October 17<sup>th</sup> including one to Grand Canyon National Park. The APCG 2020 meeting will take place at the California State University San Marcos from October 21 to 24.

The **Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Division** held a successful annual meeting on October 11-12 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. **Councilor Deb Thomas** reported that 141 people attended the meeting with 60 papers, 15 posters, and 28 student presentations. AAG Vice President Amy Lobben was the keynote speaker. The 2020 meeting will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Shannon O'Lear, Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science at the University of Kansas, was elected as the in-coming GP/RM Councilor. The by-laws, which had called for business meeting elections at the annual division meeting, were updated to align with the new AAG resolution that elections for councilors will occur by email ballot for all members in the region.

**SEDAAG's** annual meeting will be held in Wilmington, NC from November 24-25 with AAG President David Kaplan giving the plenary address. The meeting will feature 27 paper sessions and nearly 90 posters in five different sessions, as well as panels on "Public Writing and Media

Engagement in Geography” and “Involving Undergraduates in Geoscience Research” and a workshop on “AAG Geography Student Recruitment and Career Resources” led by Emily Fekete and Coline Dony of the AAG. Attendance is expected to be between 350 and 400. **Councilor John Kupfer** also announced results of SEDAAG’s election of Lynn Resler as President and Amy Potter as Treasurer this fall. Finally, as the *Southeastern Geographer* prepares to publish its 60th volume, Paul Knapp and Selima Sultana from UNC-Greensboro took over as new editors.

The **MAD** annual meeting will be held November 15, 2019, at the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center in Catonsville, MD. **Councilor Rebecca Kelly** reported that elections for new officers have not yet been held, but nominations have been solicited for the open positions of president (currently vacant), secretary (election some years overdue), treasurer (currently vacant), and regional councilor (vacant in July 2020). Several departments in the region have added or are in the process of adding tenure-track faculty positions. The American Geographical Society is hosting an event at the NGA headquarters in Springfield, Virginia, on Friday February 28, 2020. It will include talks and panels on the future of geography that is tied to the Geography 2050 symposium that AGS runs.

**SWAAG**'s annual meeting was hosted by Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, October 10-12. **Councilor Michaela Buenemann** reported that the meeting had about 200 attendees with 24 paper and poster sessions and 1 field trip. A Graduate Program Information Session featured representatives from 11 graduate programs in the region. AAG President Dave Kaplan gave the keynote address. The Division awarded six graduate and 6 undergraduate presentation awards, six GeoBowl awards, three summer field research scholarships, and three student travel scholarships. The Geography Bowl was held for the first time with the region's own buzzer system. The next annual meeting will be co-organized by the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University and held in Oklahoma City.

The Annual Meeting of the **MSAAG** was held October 17-18 at Kutztown University, with more than 100 people in attendance. **Councilor Lindsay Naylor** reported that there were concurrent paper sessions, a large number of posters, and a keynote from Vice President Amy Lobben. 10 students received paper and poster awards. The Department at the University of Delaware reported a name change, now the Department of Geography & Spatial Sciences, a new BS program in GIScience and Environmental Data Analytics, and the hire of three new faculty members.

The 2019 **West Lakes Division** meeting was held at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA on Oct 24-26. **Councilor Woonsup Choi** reported that 129 individuals registered and 31 institutions were represented. Three field trips and two workshops were offered. The AAG Council Award for Best Graduate Student Paper went to Junghwan Kim from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Six students were selected for the Geography Bowl. AAG president David H. Kaplan gave a luncheon talk and a report at the business meeting. Katharine Hayhoe, a renowned climatologist, gave a keynote speech. The 2020 division meeting will be hosted by Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville during 12-14 November. The meeting in 2021 will be a joint meeting with the East Lakes division and the Applied Geography Conference. DePaul University Department of Geography offers a new graduate certificate program in Sustainable Urban Food Systems. Southern Illinois University-Carbondale is in the

midst of a large-scale reorganization, with departments being reorganized into schools and department chairs being replaced by school directors. A new school called the School of Earth Systems and Sustainability includes Geography and Environmental Resources and several other programs.

**NESTVAL** continues to publish *The Northeastern Geographer*. An upcoming special issue on Quebec Hydropower will be edited by Eve Vogel from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Laura Stroup, Saint Michael's College, was awarded the NESTVAL faculty research grant for her work on environmental restoration. **Councilor Richard Kujawa** reported that Geographic Information Science continues to be an important component of many departments across the region with successful certificate programs, new hires, and community partnerships. The University of Maine system is pursuing its accreditation based on a system-wide approach as opposed to campus by campus. Enrollment challenges are being faced by several institutions but it's a very mixed picture with Geography and associated programs doing well in some locations with replacement and new positions being created. The niche of Geography continues to vary in the region with links to Tourism Studies, Sustainable Agriculture, GIS and other applied approaches, and environmental studies/science. The 2019 Annual Meeting took place at Framingham State with an array of paper sessions. Total attendance neared 100 with about a quarter being student presenters. An award was given to a graduate student and undergraduate student for their papers at the conference. NESTVAL looks forward to building a strong relationship with AAG central especially with regard to shared services/support.

Two additional items were raised briefly for more in-depth discussion during the Regional Division Task Force update and proposal.

**The Regional Divisions Task Force conducted a survey of the regions. The main findings are:**

- The election process is highly variable across regions, ranging from as needed to one-, two-, and three-year terms.
- Regional membership eligibility requirements also vary, ranging from "must be AAG member" to "must reside in the region" to "must pay dues".
- Of the nine regions, three require annual dues between \$15 to \$25 for students and \$25 to \$50 for professionals.
- Of the nine regions, six to eight have websites (conflicting information - John Hayes' Report vs. Regions Survey), two have social media accounts, three have annual or biannual newsletters, and five have journals.
- All regions host a geography bowl.
- Eight of the regions have at one point or another co-hosted a meeting.
- Meeting registration costs range from \$15 to \$55 for students and \$55 to \$160 for professionals.
- Attendance at meetings ranges from a low 60 in MAD to 420 in SEEDAG.

## More specifically, the results were as follows:

| Region                   | MAD          | Middle States                           | NESTVAL                                      | East Lakes                                     | West Lakes                        | GPRM                                  | Southwest                                                     | Southeast                     | Pacific Coast                                    |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Election Process</b>  | as needed    | annual for VP, Sec; Councilor in Fall   | biennial for VP, Sec, Treasurer              | 3-year terms                                   | annual for chair                  | at business meeting; changing in 2019 | by ballot                                                     | staggered 2 yr. terms in Fall | VP and P for one year, Sec and Treas for 2 years |
| <b>Eligibility</b>       | AAG member   | AAG member                              | academic, dues paying, must reside in region | AAG members must reside in region              | AAG members must reside in region | Must reside in region                 | AAG members must reside in region                             | Dues paying                   | Dues paying                                      |
| <b>Dues?</b>             | no           | no                                      | \$35 / \$15                                  | no                                             | no                                | no                                    | no                                                            | \$50, \$25                    | \$25, \$15                                       |
| <b>Website</b>           | yes          | yes                                     | yes                                          | no                                             | no                                | no                                    | yes                                                           | yes                           | yes                                              |
| <b>Newsletter</b>        | no           | biannual                                | no                                           | no                                             | no                                | no                                    | once per year                                                 | no                            | twice a year                                     |
| <b>Journal</b>           | no           | Middle States Geographer, annual online | Northeastern Geographer, annual both         | no                                             | no                                | no                                    | online continuous                                             | Southeastern 4 times a year   | Pacific Coast annual, print/online               |
| <b>Geog Bowl</b>         | yes          | yes                                     | yes                                          | yes                                            | yes                               | yes                                   | yes                                                           | yes                           | yes                                              |
| <b>Joint?</b>            | Applied 2013 | Penn GeogSoc 2016                       | yes, not specific                            | West Lakes - 2016, 2014, 2012<br>CAGONT - 2013 | East Lakes - 2016, 2014, 2012     | SWAAG - 2014                          | Texas map - 2017<br>Applied - 2015<br>GPRM - 2014             | no                            | yes, not specified                               |
| <b>Registration Cost</b> | \$55/ \$25   | \$120 / \$55                            | \$135 / \$15                                 | \$100 / \$45                                   | \$130 / \$75                      | \$135 / \$40                          | \$160 / \$50                                                  | \$125 / \$40                  | \$125 / \$50                                     |
| <b>Support</b>           | no           | no                                      | yes for national bowl members                | no                                             | yes for national bowl members     | no                                    | yes to reg by need; yes to natl for geobowl and paper winners | no                            | yes to participating students at reg             |

|                      |            |            |                              |                                                  |                                                         |            |            |                                                         |            |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Attendance #s</b> | 2018 - 87  | 2018 - 192 | 2018 - 100                   | 2018 - 102                                       | 2018 - 218                                              | 2018 - 175 | 2018 - 151 | 2018 - 350                                              | 2018 - 236 |
|                      | 2017 - 60  | 2017 - 160 | 2017 - 110                   | 2017 - 140                                       | 2017 - 60                                               | 2017 - 195 | 2017 - 164 | 2017 - 370                                              | 2017 - 210 |
|                      | 2016 - 134 | 2016 - 141 | 2016 - 139                   | 2016 (j) - 194                                   | 2016 (j) - 190                                          | 2016 - 165 | 2016 - 230 | 2016 - 420                                              | 2016 - 255 |
| <b>Other</b>         |            |            | annual<br>research<br>grants | discuss<br>possible<br>merger with<br>West Lakes | AAG could<br>think of travel<br>funds for<br>undergrads |            |            | attendance<br>depends on<br>how central<br>the location |            |

**Karen D. Johnson-Webb, East Lakes Councilor and Council Secretary, shared the following concerns in writing with the AAG Council:**

Given that

- there is a movement to pledge / boycott the AAG national meetings due to the climate footprint of those meetings, and
- the primary concern is the distance needed to fly for most attendees of AAG national meetings, and
- AAG national meetings are notoriously huge, overwhelming, and concurrent-session-heavy, and
- the AAG has an established structure of regional meetings, which allow participants to carpool, and
- regional meetings are renowned for providing a supportive, encouraging environment for young scholars and networking opportunities, and
- regional meetings suffer from irregular registration, and
- we, as AAG members and academic and practicing geographers, are deeply committed to both regional phenomena and global sustainability, we feel strongly that now is the perfect time for the AAG to double-down on its commitment to regional meetings. Unlike national meetings, they are, by definition, regional, lessening the carbon footprint of attendance.

This will probably require:

- investments in the regional meetings to ensure “heavy hitters” attend and therefore attract attendees,
- a shift in attitude about the regional meetings [may be warranted], and
- focus by the Regional Division Task Force to pitch the regionals as, among other things, an intellectually rigorous and less carbon-demanding way for the majority of geographers to meet regularly.



**Appendix B:**

## Regional Division Task Force Members:

Michaela Buenemann  
 Emily Fekete  
 Shawn Hutchinson  
 John Kelly  
 Rebecca Kelly  
 John Kupfer

Patrick Lawrence  
 Cathleen McAnney  
 Lindsay Naylor  
 Cynthia Pope  
 Michael Pretes  
 Erik Prout

*Proposal Items to be voted on:*

1. General Increase in Regional Subsidy from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00. This additional money should be used to devise additional student competitions, prizes, or grants to be awarded at the regional meetings. Perhaps use to offset cost of going to annual meeting. Total cost: \$13,500
2. Development of a \$10,000 fund out of which regional divisions can apply for Meeting Enhancement monies for the purposes of trying a new venue, bringing in a renowned speaker, or other options. This money would require an application from meeting organizers. Total cost: \$10,000
3. Waiver of AAG Annual Meeting Registration for President and/or Chair of Regional Division during time that President/Chair is in office. Total cost: c \$3,000
4. Creation of an AAG Council Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper or Poster at a Regional Meeting for \$1,000.00. Total cost: \$9,000

If all of these proposals are adopted, the additional yearly cost to the AAG will be about \$35,500

**Appendix C:**

Proposed Name: Accessibility Task Force

Proposed Mission: The aim of the Accessibility Task Force is to develop, promote, and maintain accessible practices in the Association through universal design and to increase the participation of and advocate on the behalf of people with disabilities in the American Association of Geographers. The task force will provide recommendations to the Executive Director and the Council regarding prioritization of accessibility issues as well as potential solutions for reducing barriers (including physical, perceptual, electronic, and social). In addition to recommendations, the task force may actively assist, when expertise and resources allow, in developing accessible materials and practices that reduce barriers to access for people with disabilities in the Association.

Proposed Membership: At least one member from Council, at least one member from AAG staff, Chair of Disability Specialty Group will be invited, the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be invited, additional ad hoc members to be invited???

Universal access at website, conference, field trips, virtual participation, Meridian Place, etc.