2019 NASSS Elections Committee (EC) Final Report

Committee Members: Rachel Allison, Anna Baeth, Jessica Chin (chair), jay johnson, Callie Maddox, Matthew Masucci

Prepared and submitted by Jessica Chin

The EC welcomed new member Rachel Allison.

Thanks to the EC for their work in canvassing the membership for qualified candidates for the ballot. Many thanks to all of the members who ran for a position and those who participated in the elections. Much appreciation also to those who helped with the logistics, including William Bridel, Jen McGovern, and David Blackwell; and to Sophy Chan and Jesse Couture for their work on the Graduate Student Representative (GSR) election. Thanks to Akilah Carter-Francique and the board for their support throughout the election process.

2019 Ballot: Candidates who stood for office are listed below.

President-elect

1) **Algerian Hart (elected)**
2) Mark Schuster

Treasurer

1) open

Member at large (MAL)

1) **Guy Harrison (US) (elected)**
2) **Tricia McGuire-Adams (CAN) (elected)**
3) Jorge Moraga (US)
4) Oliver Rick (US)

GSR (separate ballot sent only to grad students)

1) Simon Barrick
2) **Mustafa Karacam (elected)**
3) Anna Posbergh

All candidates were instructed to follow a 1-page template for writing their bio. They were sent the template by one of the EC members. GSRs approved and sent a modified version of the bio template specific for the grad students. Jen McGovern posted the bios on the NASSS website prior to ballots being sent.

Names were listed in alphabetical order by last name on the ballot, to change from the reverse alphabetical listing in the prior year (2018).

Elections were run electronically with technical support from Dave Blackwell. Jessica C. notified the membership via the NASSS listserv that current members as of March 15 would be sent an electronic ballot (this is when the final list was sent to Dave Blackwell for the creation of the ballots). William Bridel took care of memberships and sent the updated list.

For those who renewed membership after the ballots were sent, they were instructed to contact Jessica Chin to request a ballot. Current members who did not receive a ballot were also instructed to contact Jessica C., who helped to troubleshoot the issues (i.e., locate the ballot in the spam folder, identify if member had selected opt-out of notifications, work with Dave Blackwell to resolve technical issues). After verifying the member's status, a ballot was sent to that member via email by Dave Blackwell on behalf of Jessica.

Graduate students were sent two ballots, one for the general election and one for the GSR election.

Participation:
69 voters in general election (+8 from last year)
30 voters in GSR (+11 from last year)

Table I: total number voters

	2017	2018	2019
General Election	64	61	69
Grad Student Rep (GSR) Election	18	19	30

GSR candidates on ballot	8	5	3

After results were certified by the board, the Elections Chair informed the candidates of the results, reminding the newly elected board members of their responsibilities at the upcoming conference. The EC chair subsequently reported the results to the general membership.

2019 Elections Timeline

1. Jan/Feb: Canvass membership for nominations

2. Mid-Feb: send out call for nominations (CFN) and contact grad student reps (GSR) to discuss process for GSR election

3. Feb 22-March 8: nominating period (3 weeks)

4. March 13: draft of slate to Board

5. March 15: Final slate to Jen M. (web chair) and Dave Blackwell (ballot preparation)

6. March 19-April 2, 11:59 pm Pacific Time: Elections (2 full weeks)

7. April 5: results reported to board for approval and certification

For the most part, the elections went smoothly and no run-off elections were required.

There were two issues that were resolved in consultation with the bylaws and the NASSS Board.

1. Candidate withdrawal after commencement of voting.
    a. After the ballots had already been produced and delivered, one of the candidates withdrew from the elections. As some members had already voted and we could not feasibly restart the voting with an updated ballot, in consultation with the NASSS Board, Jessica sent an email (3/22) through the NASSS listserv notifying members of the candidate's decision to withdraw. The message to the membership also indicated that all votes cast for that particular candidate would not be counted.

2. Open seat for Treasurer. The EC was unsuccessful in getting candidates to run for Treasurer in time for the elections. The ballot went out with the Treasurer position remaining open with no candidates listed.
    a. To cover the duties of the Treasurer in the absence of an elected Treasurer, with the Board approved the appointment of Michael Friedman as an interim Treasurer. Brenda Riemer (current NASSS Treasurer) graciously agreed to work with Mike F. in this role. This will allow the position to stay in rotation compliance for election purposes (next election for treasurer to take place in 2021)
    b. Article IV: Directors, Section 6: Vacancies.
        i. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term except that a vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Past President.

ii. *In this case, if there is a vacancy because of resignation ("or otherwise") then the Board of Directors can appoint a person ("may be filled by the Board of Directors").*

Recommendations from EC

1) Verify that GSR election duties are updated in GSR section of PPM. Historically, the GSR elections were run by the GSRs in person at the conference. Now that we've switched to electronic voting, need to ensure incoming GSRs are prepared to work with Elections Chair for a smooth GSR election process. This has not been an issue in the past, but want to be sure there are as few surprises as possible for the new GSRs.
2) Advertise upcoming open positions early to members, then encourage members to start thinking about running for a position, consulting current and past board members for further information.
3) Send reminders for members to renew/join early in the year; also reminding them that all memberships expire Dec 31. Members mostly join just before elections and just before the conference, not realizing perhaps that memberships run the calendar year.

2020 Elections. The Elections Committee will oversee an election for the following positions:

- President-Elect (1 year position, followed by 1 year as President, and 1 year as Past-President)
- Secretary (2 year position)
- Member-at-Large (1 position; US or Canada) (2 year position)
- Graduate Student Representative (elected by the graduate students)(2 year position)

[2021 elections slate to include DCCC (3-year term)]

Last, Jessica's 3-year term as elections chair (EC) is up this year. Prior to this term, Jessica was appointed to two 1-year appointments. In 2017, the board approved the change from a 1-year appointment to a 3-year appointment. Jessica C. is helping to identify someone to fill the elections chair role and is happy and willing to train and mentor the incoming EC.