

2017 NASSS Elections Committee (EC) Final Report

Committee Members: Jessica Chin (chair), Anna Baeth, Robin Hughes, jay johnson

Submitted by Jessica Chin

The EC welcomes new members Robin Hughes and Anna Baeth (graduate student). Thanks to the EC for their work this year and all the members outside of the EC who provided invaluable support in the elections process. Thank you to Robert Pitter for helping with the membership lists and Jen McGovern for keeping all information current on the website. Many thanks to Dave Blackwell for creating and sending the ballots, helping me trouble shoot issues, and tallying results. This process would not work without the great teamwork of all involved behind the scenes.

2017 Ballot: Candidates who stood for office are listed below.

President-elect

- 1) Akilah Carter-Francique (elected)
- 2) Eddie Comeaux
- 3) James Satterfield

Treasurer

- 1) Brenda Riemer (elected)

Member at large (MAL) – 2 candidates elected

- 1) Aly Ezzeldin (US)
- 2) Courtney Flowers (US) (elected)
- 3) Ronald Mower (US)
- 4) Parissa Safai (CAN) (elected)

GSR:

- 1) Anna Baeth
- 2) Simon Barrick
- 3) Sophy Chan (elected)
- 4) Alexander Deeb
- 5) AJ Newton
- 6) Latrice Sales
- 7) Bahar Tajrobehkar
- 8) Anthony Williams

Candidates were sent a template from which to construct their bios. Bios were limited to one (1) page to keep consistency among candidate statements.

Names were listed in alphabetical order by last name on the ballot, to change from the reverse alphabetical listing in the prior year (2016).

As a member of the EC, Anna Baeth recused herself from any part of the process dealing with the GSR until the results were finalized.

Elections were run electronically with technical support from Robert Pitter and David Blackwell. For those who renewed membership after the ballots were sent, they were instructed to contact Jessica Chin (Elections Chair) to request a ballot. Jessica had temporary access to the current membership list so that she could verify membership status for voting purposes. Once a member's status was verified, a ballot was sent to that member via email by David Blackwell on behalf of Jessica.

2017 Elections Timeline

1. Jan/Feb Canvass membership for nominations
2. Early Feb, send out call for nominations (CFN) and contact grad student reps (GSR) to discuss process for GSR election
3. Feb 8 -March 1 nominating period
4. March 8 draft of slate to Board
5. March14 final slate to Jen McGovern (web chair) and Dave Blackwell (who prepares ballots)
6. March15-April 5 Elections 11:59 pm (Pacific Daylight Savings Time).
(3 weeks)*
7. April 11 results reported to NASSS Board; NASSS Board certified and approved results
8. Elections Chair informed the candidates of the results, reminding the winners of their responsibilities at the forthcoming conference. The EC chair subsequently reported the results to the general membership.

*during the elections period, Jessica works with Dave Blackwell to troubleshoot any issues with ballots or ballot links. This year the main issue was that after the elections had already

started, we realized that we had not included the prior year's members (per the Board's motion passed in 2016). This was an issue because a new list had to be generated that ensured members did not receive double ballots when the second round of ballots were sent. This was tricky because of the number of changing membership statuses and the date in which these changes occurred (e.g., there was a mix of last year's members who were current and those who were not; those who had paid for membership after the first round of ballots were sent, those who had paid earlier; some who had voted already and those who had not from each of the aforementioned groups). Much gratitude to Robert Pitter for the extra hours of sorting through the membership lists and dates to maintain the integrity of the process.

Recommendations from EC

- 1) Continue to send message to grad students, alerting them that they will receive two separate ballots. This addresses confusion in receiving two ballots (or not) and helps to ensure they vote in both the general and GSR election.
- 2) Encourage the GSR candidates to campaign for themselves to drum up participation in the election process
- 3) Encourage members to start thinking early about running for a position

Issues and recommendations to be presented to Board for discussion

- 1) Continue to push for members to renew membership early to avoid issues with providing ballots to members who join AFTER the ballots have already been sent. Perhaps send out renewal notices before Dec. 31 and then after Jan 1.
 - a) Need to set cut-off date for membership renewal be in order to receive ballot
- 2) Rethink motion passed by Board last year (2016) to include prior year's members as "current members" for elections. This has presented a number of issues.
 - a) How do we account for students who are no longer students in new year for GSR ballot?
 - b) Will we have to manually sort through last year's membership list and this year's to ensure ballots are only sent a single time to each member? (see above)

2018 elections slate. 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)

- Graduate Student Representative (elected by the graduate students)(2 year position)
- DCCC Chair (3 year position)