2018 NASSS Elections Committee (EC) Final Report

Committee Members: Jessica Chin (chair), Anna Baeth, Robin Hughes, jay johnson, Matt Masucci, Callie Maddox

Prepared and submitted by Jessica Chin

The EC welcomed new members Matt Masucci and Callie Maddox.

Thanks to the EC for their efforts in canvassing the membership for nominees and the Graduate Student Reps (GSR), Katie Esmonde and Sophy Chan, for reaching out to the graduate students for the GSR election. Thanks to other NASSS board members who reached out to potential candidates and sent names our way.

A wellspring of gratitude to Robert Pitter (membership liaison), Jen McGovern (web master) and Dave Blackwell (technical support) for their work and support during the elections.

2018 Ballot: Candidates who stood for office are listed below.

President-elect
1) **Jeffrey Montez de Oca (elected)**

Secretary
1) **Beth Cavalier (elected)**

Member at large (MAL)
1) Oliver Rick (US)
2) **Robert J. Lake (CAN) (elected)**

Diversity and Conference Climate Committee (DCCC) Chair
1) **F. Michelle Richardson (elected)**
2) Emmett L. Gill, Jr

GSR (separate ballot sent only to grad students)
1) Doo Jae Park
2) Mitchell McSweeney
3) Thomas Fabian
4) **Jesse Couture (elected)**
5) Simon Barrick

Candidates were sent a template from which to construct their bios. Bios were limited to one (1) page to keep consistency among candidate statements. The bios were posted on the NASSS website so that members could read and contemplate their decision prior to opening their electronic ballot.

Names were listed in reverse alphabetical order by last name on the ballot, to change from the alphabetical listing in the prior year (2017).

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.

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

Participation:
61 voters in general election (-3 from last year (64))
19 voters in GSR (+1 from last year (18))

After results were certified by the board, the 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.

2018 Elections Timeline

2018 Elections Committee Timeline (actual)

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 9-March 2: nominating period (3 weeks)

4. March 13: draft of slate to Board

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

6. March 19-30, 11:59 pm Pacific Time: Elections (2 work weeks)

7. April 4: results reported to board for approval and certification

Elections Chair informed each candidate of the results, reminding the winners of their responsibilities at the forthcoming conference. The EC chair subsequently reported the results to the general membership.

The elections went smoothly this year and voter participation was about the same as last year (-3 for general elections; +1 for GSR). The following challenges remain: 1) difficulty finding two people to run per position (per the bylaws) for the general election ballot; 2) getting people to renew their NASSS memberships before ballots are sent; 3) low voter participation in general elections (N=61) and GSR (N=19). Though, the GSR ballot has had a full slate of candidates for the past two years (8 in 2017; 5 in 2018), which is great!

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.

2019 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)
- Treasurer (2 year position)
- Member-at-Large (2 positions; at least one US) (2 year position)
- Graduate Student Representative (elected by the graduate students)(2 year position)