**NANAS Governing Council Meeting Minutes**

**September 18, 2015**

In attendance: Annabelle Arbogast, Suzanne Bailey, Tom Cole, Erin Lamb, Valerie Lipscomb, Leni Marshall, Kate de Medeiros, Cynthia Port

* **Conference follow-up:** Who are we? Where do we go from here?
  + GC members revisited the mission statement and discussed the organization’s identifying characteristics.
    - “NANAS’s mission is to facilitate sustainable interdisciplinary collaborations and methodologies that bridge the medical and social sciences and the humanities, supporting research that increases understandings of the cultural meanings of the aging processes across the lifespan in order to challenge stereotypes and provide creative approaches that improve the health, care, and quality of life for people aging into old age.”
  + Valerie stressed the cultural and interdisciplinary components of NANAS’s mission statement as distinguishing factors.
  + Re: cultural – Kate identified the Association for Anthropology and Gerontology (AAGE) as another organization in the U.S. with a cultural emphasis, but with a distinct approach to “culture.”
  + Re: interdisciplinary – GC members discussed the meaning and scope of interdisciplinarity for NANAS.
    - Erin and Cindy argued that NANAS aims to be broad and inclusive.
    - Kate argued that NANAS and ENAS cfps fall into a distinct genre that might not intuitively make sense to some researchers in the social and natural sciences, but added that this isn’t necessarily a problem.
    - Suzanne noted that the cfp for Galway, which emphasized aging and the life course, attracted a wide range of scholars.
    - Cindy introduced the idea of circulating two separate cfps to draw from a wider range of aging researchers.
    - Tom noted that attending a NANAS or ENAS conference would not advance the career interests of many of the researchers who were underrepresented at NANAS’s inaugural conference.
    - Valerie asked how the GC would describe those who are “at home” in NANAS to the media, the public, administrators, and funding agencies.
    - Kate reported that this was a challenge she encountered when advertising the NANAS conference.
    - Leni shared the explanation she provides at GSA, which identifies age studies as a humanities-based methodology.
    - Tom recommended that the GC spend more time improving what NANAS *does* and less time worrying about what NANAS doesn’t do.
* **Committee updates**
  + Conference Committee
    - Suzanne reported no updates on the 2018 conference in Peterborough.
  + Grants, Fundraising, and PR Committee
    - Valerie reported that the committee’s top priorities are A) creating media information to be released once NANAS incorporates and B) moving forward with plans for the new NANAS website.
    - Another goal is developing policies: What are the requirements for NANAS grant sponsorship? Who can speak on behalf of NANAS?
    - Leni volunteered to help with policy development.
  + Student Committee
    - Annabelle reported that the committee plans to survey student members regarding their interest and involvement in NANAS.
* **Membership**
* Incorporating NANAS and collecting dues
  + Kate reported that no decisions have been made concerning incorporation in the U.S. and/or Canada.
  + Kate will follow up on this matter at a later date.
* Attracting members and incentivizing membership
  + Cindy reported that the NANAS Facebook page has had a lot of traffic in recent months.
  + Valerie suggested posting a link to the membership form on the Facebook page.
  + Leni noted that membership is required in order to apply for grants, etc. in NANAS’s name.
  + Kate asked how ENAS incentivizes membership.
  + Cindy reported that ENAS actively promoted membership at the Galway conference.
  + Kate suggested treating listserv membership as NANAS membership.
  + The Grants, Fundraising, and PR Committee will review the membership form and make any necessary revisions.
* **Coordinating with existing organizations and projects** 
  + ACT Meeting in September
    - NANAS will not have a representative on-site.
    - Cindy will consult with ACT leadership to identify key sessions in which a NANAS representative might participate via Skype.
  + ENAS Meeting in October
    - Kate asked GC members for items that NANAS would like to add to the agenda for this event.
    - Valerie asked that ENAS revise the Graz 2017 cfp on their website to acknowledge joint sponsorship.
    - Kate will circulate the agenda for this meeting to the GC once it becomes available.
  + CAG meeting in October
    - Suzanne will take NANAS membership forms.
  + NWSA Conference in November
    - Leni will take NANAS membership forms.
  + GSA Meeting in November (2016 abstracts due in March)
    - Kate will take NANAS membership forms and *Age, Culture, Humanities* materials.
    - Annabelle will advertise NANAS to GSA student members in ESPO.
  + MLA Convention in January
    - Cindy will take NANAS membership forms and look into becoming affiliated with MLA.
  + Others?
    - Erin volunteered to promote NANAS at the 2016 Health Humanities Conference in April.
    - Pam Gravagne and Melanie Cattrell were identified as potential NANAS representatives at PCA/ACA in March.
* **Short term and long term goals**
  + Define and articulate NANAS’s identity for diverse audiences
  + Identify value-added aspects of NANAS membership
  + Build NANAS listserv and membership counts
  + Promote NANAS at upcoming events and conferences
  + Move forward with committee business (student survey, PR materials, website)
  + Investigate funding sources for the website (ACT, Haystack, etc.)
  + Investigate procedures for incorporating in the U.S. and Canada
* **Advisory Board**
  + Leni will consult with the Advisory Board about NANAS’s short-term and long-term goals and report back to the GC.

Respectfully submitted by Annabelle Arbogast, NANAS GC Secretary

September 26, 2015