

NANAS Constitution

I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the North American Network in Aging Studies (NANAS).

II. PURPOSE

II.A. Mission

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.

II.B. Program and Activities

The program of NANAS aims to make manifest and put into action the organization's mission. The areas of activity listed below, and others appropriate to the organization, may be developed by NANAS constituents and constituent groups.

- i. Research and research dissemination
- ii. Outreach and public information
- iii. Curriculum and program development, evaluation, and consultation
- iv. Communication.

No program of NANAS shall be developed solely for the purpose of legislative lobbying or for intervening in any political campaign supporting or opposing a candidate who seeks public office.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the organization will be available to individuals and groups involved in age studies¹ teaching, learning, research, administration, activism, and service.

Academic, non-profit, NGO, and professional groups and programs may join.

No one will be denied membership based on the inability to pay dues.

IV. CONSTITUENT GROUPS

IV.A. Individual Members

- i. Any person involved in age studies scholarship, teaching, training, application, or related activities may become a member of NANAS.
- ii. Only Individual Members may vote.

¹ The term *age studies* includes ideas of anocriticism, critical gerontology, cultural gerontology, gerastology, health humanities and age, humanistic gerontology, and social gerontology.

IV.B. Institutional Members

- i. Any group, organization, or institution affiliated with age studies may become an Institutional Member of NANAS.
- ii. Each Institutional Membership will include at least one Individual Membership.

V. COMMITTEES

V.A. Standing Committees

The standing committees of the organization are as follows:

- i. The Student Committee, chaired by a student member of the Governing Council;
- ii. The Conference Committee, chaired by a member of the local conference team; at least one additional Governing Council member shall also serve on this committee;
- iii. The Membership Committee, chaired by a member of the Governing Council; and
- iv. The Grants, Fundraising, and Public Relations Committee, chaired by the Governing Council Vice Chair.

V.B. Ad-Hoc Committees

By vote of the Governing Council, ad-hoc committees of the organization may be formed for up to three years, after which they are eligible to become standing committees via a constitutional amendment.

VI. CONFERENCE

The organization will hold regular conferences, whether independently or in collaboration with other organizations.

The purposes of the conference are to serve as an educational and inspirational force in and of itself, to stimulate new research and promote collaboration among NANAS members, and to allow the governing body and the committees to meet.

Participation is open to all.

VII. GOVERNANCE

VII.A. Governing Council Roles

The Governing Council will consist of the following twelve members, each of whom has one vote:

- i. Eight members-at-large, elected by the general membership, responsible for communicating to the organization the needs and ideas of the members-at-large.

Commented [HJ1]: We propose increasing the number of members-at-large from 7 to 8 (to assist with workload)

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- ii. One institutional member-at-large, elected by the general membership, responsible for communicating to the organization the needs and ideas of Institutional Members.
- iii. One student member-at-large, **elected by the students**, responsible for communicating to the organization the needs and ideas of the students.
- iv. One member selected by the institution hosting the next conference, responsible for communicating to the organization the needs and ideas of the conference hosts.
- v. One member selected by ENAS, responsible for communicating to the organization the needs and ideas of ENAS members.

Commented [HJ2]: Because we currently have so few student members, the GC proposed that entire NANAS membership vote on the student position, as reflected in this wording change (to remove the phrase "elected by students")

VII.B. Governing Council Member Responsibilities

- i. Ensuring the smooth operations of the organization, as detailed in the Bylaws.
- ii. Representing NANAS to other groups and at other disciplinary and interdisciplinary gatherings.

VII.C. Governing Council Leadership

Each year, from among its members, the Governing Council will **elect** people to the following positions: ~~Treasurer~~, Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair or Co-Chairs. Responsibilities are as outlined in the Bylaws.

The Treasurer will be an ex officio (non-voting) member of the governing council.

Commented [HJ3]: The GC has approved that the Treasurer role will be an ex officio member of governing council so that NANAS funds can remain in a stable account at one institution. This allows the Treasurer to continue on governing council longer than the terms of elected members.

VII.D. Governing Council Meetings

The Governing Council members will meet regularly, no fewer than two times a year, through electronic means and in person at each NANAS-sponsored conference. Between meetings, business may be conducted through other means, such as email, conference calls, and video conferencing.

All in-person meetings of the Governing Council are open to all of the organization's members. All attendees may contribute to debate, but only Governing Council members may make formal motions and vote.

For the operations of the Governing Council, a quorum consists of two-thirds or more of the Governing Council members.

Votes of the Governing Council will be public unless two-thirds or more of the Governing Council members vote to have a secret ballot.

VII.E. Advisory Board

In addition to the Governing Council, the organization shall be supported by an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board shall consist of five members. Advisory Board members are responsible for providing useful feedback to the organization as requested.

VIII. AFFILIATIONS

The organization may affiliate with other groups and organizations as outlined in the bylaws.

IX. FINANCES

The organization may collect dues as stipulated in the bylaws.

Unless prohibited by the funding source, individuals or groups submitting funding proposals that include NANAS must include NANAS in the budget of the proposal.

X. ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Elections shall be held regularly as detailed in the Bylaws.

XI. RATIFICATIONS and AMENDMENTS

XI.A. Constitution

Once ratified, the Constitution may be amended by a vote of the Individual Members. The full membership must be notified at least 30 days in advance of the proposed change(s).

The Constitution and subsequent constitutional amendments will be ratified by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership that votes on adoption.

The constitution will be reviewed by an ad-hoc committee at least every fifth year.

XI.B Bylaws

Once ratified, the Bylaws may be amended by a vote of the Individual Members. The full membership must be notified at least 30 days in advance of the proposed change(s).

Amendments to the Bylaws will be ratified by an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the membership that votes on adoption.

Bylaws will be reviewed by an ad-hoc committee at least every fifth year.