

## PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES, 2005

The 2004-2005 NASSS Board is proposing six changes to the NASSS bylaws. Many of the proposed changes are designed to codify practices that are already or frequently practiced within NASSS. New initiatives have come as a result of the Board's deliberations both at the Tucson annual meetings and on-line during 2005. A complete copy of the current Bylaws can be found on-line at [www.nasss.org/resources.html](http://www.nasss.org/resources.html). In constructing these proposed changes the Board drew upon extensive feedback received from the membership including the 2004 Rethinking NASSS Session at the Tucson conference, the report from the 2005 Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Climate Committee and suggestions received from the 2005 Web Committee. All of these changes seek to improve the diversity, communication, continuity, efficiency and intellectual climate of NASSS. Please note these suggested changes model the language currently in use in the NASSS Bylaws.

According to Section 2 of the NASSS Bylaws, the NASSS "Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by two-thirds of the votes cast by members with voting rights present or represented by proxy."

The 2004-2005 NASSS Board proposes the following six changes and that the proposed language listed for each Bylaw change be written into the NASSS Bylaws. (Changes in bold).

1. The Web Manager position is recognized in the Bylaws as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

### RATIONALE:

This change would allow the Bylaws to reflect current practice as NASSS has had several web managers over the years, even though this position is not mentioned in the Bylaws. Placing the Web Manager on the Board is consistent in that the Newsletter Editor, the SSJ Editor and the Archivist currently serve as ex-officio members of the Board. The inclusion of the Web Manager will help to enhance communication between this position and the Board.

### PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE IN THE BYLAWS (changes in bold):

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 1: Composition of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is comprised of the President, the President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, three (3) Members-at-Large and two (2) Graduate Student Representatives, all of whom shall serve as voting members of the Board of Directors. The Editor of the Sociology of Sport Journal, **the Web Manager**, the Editor of the NASSS Newsletter and the NASSS Archivist shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the Board, who are appointed by the Board for a three-year term.

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 2: General Powers.

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by its Board of Directors subject to instructions adopted by majority vote at any meeting of the members. Directors must be

Active members of the Society. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Editor of the Sociology of Sport Journal, an Editor of the NASSS Newsletter, the NASSS Archivist, a **Web Manager** and all standing committees.

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 3: Appointments.

The Board of Directors shall act on the recommended appointments of members of all committees, an Editor of the Sociology of Sport Journal, an Editor of the NASSS Newsletter, an Archivist and a **Web Manager**, in addition to any advisors who will serve at the pleasure of the Board.

2. The Web Committee is added to the list of standing committees within NASSS. Members will serve staggered three-year terms to enhance continuity.

RATIONALE:

This committee is not codified in the Bylaws although the Web committee currently exists to advise and assist the Web Manager. According to the current Bylaws the onus is on the President to appoint an ad hoc Web Committee that is to dissolve after one year. This current structure works against the need for long term planning and this impacts how NASSS is represented via the NASSS web page. Three-year staggered terms for committee members will provide much needed continuity.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE IN THE BYLAWS (changes in bold):

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES Section 1: Standing Committees. The standing committees of the Society shall be the Elections Committee, Finance Committee, Convention Program Committee, Outstanding Article Award Committee, Outstanding Book Award Committee, Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee, Service Excellence Award Committee **and the Web Committee**. The President, acting with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint the chairpersons and members of all standing committees. The members of all standing Committees must be members of this Society.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES Section 6: **Web Committee**. **Every three years at the annual meeting of the Society, the President shall appoint a Web Manager. The Web Manager shall be the chairperson and will serve as an ex-officio member of the Board. Every year in consultation with the Web Manager and subject to the confirmation of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint at least one member to the Web Committee for a three-year term. This committee shall consist of at least three members and advises the Web Manager in relationship to content and form of the NASSS web. If any member is unable to complete a term, the standing President shall appoint a replacement.**

[Please note subsequent sections will need to be re-numbered.]

3. Create a new elected Board member position, Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair. This position will serve as liaison to the program committee and will chair the proposed Diversity and Conference Climate Committee.

**RATIONALE:**

The Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair will help coordinate the efforts between both the President-Elect as conference program committee chair and the proposed Diversity and Conference Climate Committee while providing continuity in order to ensure diverse membership and programming, to enhance the intellectual vibrancy of the conference program, and to schedule activities that facilitate a positive conference climate for all attendees.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE IN THE BYLAWS (changes in bold)**

**ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Section 1: Composition of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is comprised of the President, the President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, **Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair**, three (3) Members-at-Large and two (2) Graduate Student Representatives, all of whom shall serve as voting members of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS** Section 1: Officers. The officers of the Society shall be a President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, **Diversity and Conference Climate Chair**, three (3) Members-at-Large and two (2) Graduate Student Representatives.

**ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS** Section 3: Terms of Office. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Members-at-Large shall be elected by the Active Members by mail ballot prior to an annual meeting for two-year terms. No more than two Members-at-Large shall be elected on the same ballot. **The Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair shall be elected by the Active Members by mail ballot prior to an annual meeting for a three-year term.** The President-Elect shall also be elected by the Active Members by mail ballot prior to an annual meeting for a one-year term. The President-Elect serves a one-year term as President-Elect prior to assuming the presidency. He/she then serves a one-year term as President. He/she then serves a one-year term as Past President. Graduate Student Representatives shall be elected by the graduate students at the annual Conference for a two year, staggered term. Terms of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting prior to which officers were elected and terminate at the close of the meeting prior to which their successors are elected.

**ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS** Section 13: **The Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair will coordinate efforts between both the President-Elect as the conference program chair and the Diversity and Conference Climate Committee to ensure diverse membership and conference programming, to enhance the intellectual vibrancy of the organization and conference program, and to schedule activities that facilitate a positive conference climate for all attendees. This position will also assist in other duties as assigned by the Board.**

**[Please note subsequent sections will need to be re-numbered.]**

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES Section 1: Standing Committees. The standing committees of the Society shall be the Elections Committee, Finance Committee, Convention Program Committee, Outstanding Article Award Committee, Outstanding Book Award Committee, Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee and Service Excellence Award Committee. **With the exception of the Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair**, the chairpersons and members of all standing committees shall be appointed by the President, acting with the approval of the Board of Directors. The members of all standing Committees must be members of this Society.

4. The Diversity and Conference Climate Committee is added to the list of standing committees within NASSS. Members will serve staggered three-year terms to enhance continuity.

**RATIONALE:**

This committee is not codified in the Bylaws although there have been various diversity committees over the years. According to the current Bylaws, the onus is on the President to appoint an ad hoc Diversity Committee which then dissolves after one year. This current structure works against the need for long term planning and coordination. This year's committee is addressing a reoccurring issue by focusing on eradicating racism within NASSS and by providing the Board with suggestions to help NASSS improve the climate for scholars of color and ethnic "minorities." This focus will continue and the committee will also make recommendations to the Board about how to rework dominant practices around race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, and ability and their interactions in order to make NASSS a more inclusive and intellectually vibrant space.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE IN THE BYLAWS (changes in bold)**

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES Section 1: Standing Committees.

Add to the committee list: the **Diversity and Conference Climate Committee**

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES **Section 7: Diversity and Conference Climate Committee. The Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair shall be the chairperson. Every year in consultation with the Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair and subject to the confirmation of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint at least one member for a three-year term. The committee shall consist of at least four members. It will make recommendations to the Board about how best to rework dominant practices around race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, and ability and their intersections in order to make NASSS a more inclusive and intellectually vibrant space. If any member is unable to complete a term, the standing President shall appoint a replacement.**

**[Please note subsequent sections will need to be re-numbered.]**

5. Conduct annual election of officers electronically.

RATIONALE:

This procedure will save money in surface mailing cost and will save time in preparation. Some organizations that use electronic voting report higher voting participation rates.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE IN THE BYLAWS (changes in bold)

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS OF MEMBERS Section 7: Voting **Electronically**. The election of officers shall be conducted **electronically** by the Elections Committee in such a manner as the Board of Directors shall determine. **The Elections Committee will ensure an alternative method of voting for members who do not have access to electronic means.** Furthermore, any action which may be taken at a meeting of members may be taken without **electronic** vote provided it is conducted in such manner as the Board of Directors shall determine, provided, however, that **either** e-mail, **electronic or** mail voting shall **[delete not] be required** upon proposals to merge or consolidate, to sell, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all the assets of the Society or to dissolve the Society.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS Section 3: Terms of Office. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Members-at-Large shall be elected by the Active Members by **electronic** ballot prior to an annual meeting for two-year terms. No more than two Members-at-Large shall be elected on the same ballot. **The Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair shall be elected by the Active Members by electronic ballot prior to an annual meeting for a three-year term.** The President-Elect shall also be elected by the Active Members by **electronic** ballot prior to an annual meeting for a one-year term. The President-Elect serves a one-year term as President-Elect prior to assuming the presidency. He/she then serves a one-year term as President. He/she then serves a one-year term as Past President. Graduate Student Representatives shall be elected by the graduate students at the annual Conference for a two year, staggered term. Terms of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting prior to which officers were elected and terminate at the close of the meeting prior to which their successors are elected.

**[Please note if both Motion 3 (Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair) and Motion 5 (Voting Electronically) are adopted by the membership, then the language in Motion 5, ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS Section 3: Terms of Office, will supersede the language in Motion 3, ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS Section 3: Terms of Office]**

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS Section 4: Election. Elections shall be conducted in the following manner: Each January the Elections Committee shall canvass the membership and the Board of Directors for nomination suggestions and shall then prepare, after having secured the permission of each nominee, a slate of

nomination for the election of officers. The slate shall contain at least two candidates for each office. The Elections Committee Chairperson shall forward this slate to the Treasurer who will **electronically** mail to each member no later than March 1 **an invitation to vote that will include the slate of candidates, instructions for voting, and a link to an electronic ballot.** The slate shall include, but not be limited to: (a) a list of candidates for each office, (b) a brief statement by each candidate expressing his or her qualifications for the office, (c) a summary of his or her publications, (d) a report on his or her other professional activities, and (e) a brief statement on his or her desired vision for NASSS. The ballot may also include other pertinent information on candidates and offices, as long as the additions are the same for each candidate for each office. The ballots **must be completed** no later than April 1. [~~Each ballot is to be sealed individually in an unsigned and unmarked envelope.~~] The nominees receiving the majority of the votes will be elected, provided that ballots are returned by twenty percent (20%) of the Active Members. In the case of a tie, ballots for a run-off election shall be **electronically** mailed out to the membership no later than May 1 and **must be completed** no later than June 1. The Elections Committee Chairperson shall count the votes, certify the elections results to the Board of Directors, and report the elections results to the members. In keeping **with the Bylaws** Officers shall hold office until their successors have been duly elected and until their terms of office shall have begun as herein provided. One Graduate Student Representative will be elected by the graduate students at the annual Conference each year, at a meeting called for them and chaired by the continuing Graduate Student Representative.

6. Change the name of the Outstanding Student Paper Award to the Barbara Brown Outstanding Student Paper Award. When warranted offer up to two awards, one for a Master level student and one for a PhD student.

#### RATIONALE:

The award name was changed several years ago but never changed in the Bylaws. Committee members have noted that students at various stages of their academic careers often possess different abilities and levels of knowledge. This proposal seeks to codify the practice of recognizing both a Master and PhD level student when there is sufficient quality to warrant two awards.

#### PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE IN THE BYLAWS (changes in bold)

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES Section 1: Standing Committees.

Change committee list to the **Barbara Brown** Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES Section 4: Convention Program Committee.

**Barbara Brown** Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee

At each annual meeting of the Society, the President shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Board of Directors, a **Barbara Brown** Outstanding Student

Paper Award Committee. A Member-At-Large shall be the chairperson and select her/his committee members. A committee of at least three people, including the chair, shall review all papers submitted by graduate students for consideration prior to the deadline announced in the NASSS newsletter and on the NASSS listserv. **One award may be given to a master level student and one to a doctoral student.** The name(s) of the winner(s) will be announced at the Annual meeting of the membership.