

**NAGPS Board of Directors Meeting  
Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021**

7-9PM ET / 4-6PM PT / 6-8PM CST

Topic: BoD Meeting

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**Attendance:** [Note here](#)

**[ProTrack](#)**

**Meeting called to order at 5:05PM CST**

1. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion by Dir. Kindred, second by Dir. Miller, approved by general consent
2. Approval of [January 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)
  - a. Motion to approve by Dir. Potter, second by Dir. Wang
3. Transition Updates & Housekeeping
  - a. Transitions conducted, NAGPS roles assumed, official work underway
4. Board Reports
  - a. President Chodur [Report](#)
    - i. EXCOMM meetings took place
    - ii. Meetings with President of Sage on shared advocacy, interests, and cross promotion
    - iii. Meeting with University of Michigan,
      1. Hopeful return to NAGPS
    - iv. Meeting with National Advisory Board
    - v. Emails, emails, emails
  - b. VP Kaashifah Report
    - i. Gathering information on possible Natcon hosts and sending subsequent emails

- ii. Outreach with new potential member schools
- iii. Emails on how NAGPS could benefit members and answering other related questions on memberships
  - 1. Hopeful five (5) schools interested in joining by next month
- iv. Lending input to upcoming outreach committee and initiatives
- c. [Administration Report](#), Dir. Miller
  - i. Email transitions underway
  - ii. Updated Dir. of Legislation's profile page and uploading Feb. Legislative Letters
  - iii. Interested in creating an ad hoc committee for administration
    - 1. Website input
    - 2. Feedback on how to make processes more efficient and accessible
  - iv. Interested in facilitating a meeting between Dir. Admin, Dir. Legislative Affairs, NE Regional Dir., and President to bridge gap between NAGPS, CMU, and MIT
- d. [Communications Report](#), Dir. Wang
  - i. Have been keep contact with regional directors of communications.
    - 1. Had meeting/talk with NorthEast (Caroline Ferguson), SouthCentral (Michele Martise and Shellye Tow), and MidWest (Heather Cowherd).
      - a. Discussed
        - i. priorities and strategies for the year.
        - ii. Need pay more attention to the regions of SouthEast and Western.
  - ii. Worked with Director of Admin:
    - 1. To develop a NAGPS Account Administrative Regulations.
    - 2. To reset/recovery multiple social media accounts for regional directors of communications.
  - iii. Met with Dir. Suri to discuss outreach committee insight/thoughts
  - iv. Updated social media posts
    - 1. LL
    - 2. SC Regional Meeting Promotion
    - 3. UC Webinar Promo
    - 4. SC Regional Conference Volunteer Recruitment
  - v. Produced insight reports for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn
    - 1. Increased followers across the board
    - 2. Varied reach (some up, some down)
    - 3. Varied profile views (some up, some down)
- e. Employment Concerns Report, Dir. Seto
  - i. Potentially resending employment survey
    - 1. Survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete
- f. [External Affairs Report](#), Dir. Kindred
  - i. Fleshing out partnership list

1. Needs responses to the spring tax survey
- ii. Smylen partnership launched
- iii. Seeking out input from member schools regarding sexual harassment on different campuses for evaluation working group
  1. Dir. Potter volunteered to assist with collection
    - a. Dir. Potter to link working group organization chart in agenda below
  2. Dir. Suri volunteered to assist with collection
  3. Pres. Chodur clarified that this info will be useful to address different issues, e.g. power differentials between professors and students, number of instances of sexual harassment vs. number of resolutions
  4. [Working Group Org Chart](#)
- g. [Finance Report](#), Dir. Klein
  - i. Cash flow positive
  - ii. Reminder to Regional Directors that each region does have a \$400 budget revenue goal
  - iii. Fin and Fun approved the budget for the NE Region conference budget
  - iv. Dir. Klein indicated that non-profit status is not yet confirmed and NAGPS is not currently operating as a non-profit and that application is still pending
  - v. Dir. Klein notes that PNC has an internal policy that new signatories to their accounts be added in-person. President and VP do not have local branches. Therefore, Dir. Klein is only signatory to the account at the moment and is working on getting a waiver from PNC to have President and VP added to PNC account via secure mail.
- h. [International Student Concerns Report](#), Dir. Montenegro
  - i. Following issues related to international students very closely
    1. Not many new changes in bills and/or initiatives put forth by the Biden administration related to international students
  - ii. Met with Dir. Suri regarding outreach
  - iii. Provided Dir. Potter with insights from the President's Alliance
  - iv. Planning a tentative meeting with regional directors of international student concerns for March 7th, 2021
    1. Regional directors largely have not yet confirmed their attendance, awaiting responses
      - a. MW Director has confirmed attendance
- i. Legislative Affairs Report, Dir. Potter
  - i. Formal report available [here](#)
  - ii. Legislative Affairs Committee has met per usual practice
  - iii. Slightly increasing application window for assistant director(s)
  - iv. Spring and Fall LADs
    1. Hoping to split the two LADs into different topics
      - a. Spring: Graduate Student Quality of Life?

- b. Fall: Funding
  - v. White paper on Citizenship Act
    - 1. Do not have ready for review
  - vi. Outreach around RISE Act, Support Early Career Researchers with AAU
    - 1. Social Media Outreach similar to that done around the bill [last year](#)
    - 2. Since Spring LAD will not be focusing on funding, would like to have more informal “days of outreach” regarding funding oriented bills
  - vii. CEF Membership Renewal
    - 1. We are exempt from dues since we are a student org, and form can be found [here](#)
  - viii. Spring LAD Advertising
    - 1. Who to contact, where to advertise, when will this happen?
      - a. Dir. Miller: can update website with event info and EventBrite for ticket sales if given appropriate information
        - i. Cost of tickets: \$15 for members, \$25 for nonmembers; confirmed during January BoD meeting
      - b. Dir. Wang: can create posters/advertisements for LAD
  - ix. Repository for NAGPS Members
    - 1. Will build out more during Spring LAD
    - 2. One version of this will be maintained permanently and made available to membership moving forward
- j. [Outreach Report](#), Dir. Suri
  - i. Outreach Committee
    - 1. Hosting with Regional Directors, have had two thus far
    - 2. Had planned one separate meeting with Regional Dirs. to check-in, but cancelled in order to consolidate meetings
  - ii. Membership: 47 Total
    - 1. Individual: 16
      - a. 2 MW
      - b. 3 NE
      - c. 8 SC
      - d. 2 W
      - e. 1 SE
    - 2. Organizational: 30
      - a. 4 MW
      - b. 5 W
      - c. 8 NE
      - d. 5 SC
      - e. 8 SE
    - 3. Affiliate
      - a. 1 SC
  - iii. NAGPS Magazine

1. Biweekly and/or monthly send out
  2. Information specific to events by region
  3. Flip-book style instead of letter format
  4. Will also outline information regarding benefits
- k. Social Justice Concerns Report, Dir. Cartegena
- i. Absent
- l. [Midwest Region Report](#), Dir. Luu
- i. MW Regional conference planning in process
    1. Dir. Klein commented that there were unique ideas to help fund revenue goals beyond ticket sales and will add that funding proposal to the drive for future reference
- a. [Northeast Region Report](#), Dir. Kidder-Wolff
- i. NE Region conference was a hit
    1. During lunch portion, one Pennsylvania member brought up a large host of laboratory-related safety concerns that are impacting their students tremendously
      - a. Dir. Miller indicated that Dean of Students and Board of Regents would be good points of contact for reporting this
        - i. Dir. Kidder-Wolff indicated that the DoS is one of the laboratory conditions perpetrators
      - b. IPP Sommer asked if the school is public vs. private
        - i. Dir. Potter indicated that this would influence if resolution should be pursued internally vs. externally
      - c. Dir. Klein indicated that Kaylynne Glover may have ideas on how to report anonymously
      - d. IPP Sommer indicated that the NAB would be an excellent resource for this
        - i. IPP Sommer indicated that NAGPS is unable to give official advice, but can help connect members with resources, such as those suggested by the NAB
    2. Filled 7/8 board positions during conference
- b. [Southcentral Region Report](#), Dir. Gurung
- i. SC Region Newsletter
    1. Trial issue has been issued for input
    2. Dir. Potter asked if Dir. Gurung wished for him to include the link to this letter in his Legislative Letters moving forward
      - a. Dir. Gurung would be permissible to this for future letters
  - ii. Southcentral Regional Conference Planning
    1. Ticket Interests
      - a. University of North Texas
        - i. Order of 50
      - b. University of Louisiana at Lafayette

- i. Possible order of 50-100
  - c. Southeast Region Report, Vacant
  - d. Western Region Report, Vacant
- 5. Position Recruitment
  - a. Advocacy Chair
    - i. Dir. Seto interested in position
  - b. Western Regional Director
    - i. VP Kaashifah to head up this search and create application for advertisement of position
  - c. Southeast Regional Director
    - i. Most immediate SE Director had to step down for personal reasons
    - ii. VP Kaashifah to head up this search and create application for advertisement of position
  - d. Assistants
    - i. Assistant Director requests currently issued by Dir. Potter and application window is open for recruitment presently
    - ii. Pres. Chodur indicated that anyone interested in having an AD ought to contact her ASAP to get advertisements and applications rolling
      - 1. Priority is given to whoever the recruiting officer (e.g. Director of Legislative Affairs for LA Assistants) prefers
- 6. Committees
  - a. Dir. Miller indicated that committee reports were covered during individual BoD reports and that this could be removed from agenda for consolidation purposes
  - b. Motion to remove from agenda made by Dir. Potter, seconded by Dir. Kidder-Wolff, approved by general consent
- 7. Strategic Planning [Proposal](#), Dir. Suri
  - a. Dir. Suri indicated that this plan is intended to improve recruitment and retention
  - b. This proposal revolves around a combination of Board Members input and the overarching question posed by members: how does membership benefit universities?
    - i. **Proposed advisors** are President, IPP, SC Regional Director
    - ii. **Permanent members** would be Dir. Finance, Dir. Communications, Dir. External Affairs, and 2 open spots for other interested board members
    - iii. **Temporary members** would be recruited based on projects considered
      - 1. Dir. Administration, Dir. Legislative Affairs, Dir. International Student Concerns, Dir. Social Justice Concerns, Remaining Regional Directors.
        - a. Dir. Administration may become a permanent member
  - c. Currently classified as a task force NOT a committee
    - i. Intended to provide initial structuring and format
    - ii. This designation also removes red tape that committee status involves
  - d. Will involve both short and long-term goals
  - e. Current initiatives are intended to kick this off while larger projects and initiatives are built out

- i. E.g. Dir. Seto's prior suggestion of having a webinar with an immigration services attorney to provide students with information about state/national policies and education
    - f. This will hopefully shift revenue stream from heavily reliant upon membership dues to a mixed model with other streams
    - g. Suggestions/Input/Feedback
      - i. President Chodur indicated that it would be a good idea to reach out to alumni for their assistance and volunteer investment (e.g. Kaylynne Glover, Kristofferson Culmer)
        - 1. President. Chodur indicated high praise for this project structuring and planning
      - ii. IPP Sommer indicated this is thorough, thought out, and organized
      - iii. Dirs. Wang and Gurung expressed positive feedback for this
      - iv. Dir. Klein indicated praise for this plan and also indicated that it would be a good idea to pull this into the Articles of Incorporation for the legal foundations of what NAGPS can and cannot do according to tax laws
        - 1. Dir. Klein to send Articles of Incorporation to Dir. Suri
        - 2. President Chodur indicated that there may be general legal questions for this plan, but that she did not believe there would be extensive legal concerns on this
          - a. David Zook should be able to give any necessary feedback on this
    - h. Motion made by Dir. Potter to approve the Outreach Task Force creation per the proposal put forth by Dir. Suri, seconded by Dir. Potter
      - i. Approved by a vote of 13 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstentions
      - ii. IPP Sommer offered a ceremonial vote of confidence
8. Plans and Goals for the Year
  - a. President Chodur will send out meeting invites to meet with everyone one-on-one
  - b. Dir. Klein
    - i. Hoping to move away from PayPal to avoid high fees
    - ii. Administer ACH payments through Pinnacle
    - iii. Move the endowment to a higher yield percent account
  - c. Dir. Miller
    - i. Not super concrete goal, but desires to build something within this organization that we can each look back on with pride; "we know what it takes to build something we're proud of" --Static-P
  - d. Dir. Suri
    - i. Hope to develop organizational relationships as graduate students among one another and with our members
  - e. IPP Sommer
    - i. Desires to be helpful and watch everyone succeed
  - f. President Chodur
    - i. Hopes not to get on IPP Sommer's bad side (in jest)
  - g. SC Regional Director

- i. Goal to achieve increased membership
  - ii. Foster connection between the SC Region and the Board
- 9. New Business
  - a. Agenda for National Membership Meeting at Spring LAD (Just something to have on the radar)
  - b. Impeachment of Dir. of Social Justice Concerns, Dir. Francisco Cartegena
    - i. Due to Nonfeasance
    - ii. Motion made by Dir. Kindred, seconded by Dir. Suri, voice vote commenced
      - 1. 13 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstentions
- 10. Adjourn
  - a. Motion to adjourn made by Dir. Suir, seconded by Dir. Potter, approved by general consent

**Adjourned at 6PM PST, 8PM CST, 9PM EST**