

**The Constitution and By-laws
of the
South Central Region
of the
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students**

Approved April 18th, 2021 by the South Central Regional Members at the South Central
Regional Conference::

Chair: Shanita Sanders, Arkansas State University

Institutional Members Present:

Arkansas State University

University of North Texas

Individual Members

Constitution of the South Central Region of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

Article I. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the South Central Region of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, hereafter the Region.

Section 2. The anthem of the Region shall be *This is How We Do It* performed by Montell Jordan .

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the Region shall include:

1. To fulfill the purpose set forth by the Constitution of the National Association of Graduate–Professional Students, hereafter NAGPS.
2. To facilitate communication among members of the Region.
3. To sustain current members and recruit new members to the Region.
4. To promote and coordinate activities within the Region.
5. To represent members and members' interests in NAGPS.

Article III. Membership and Voting

Section 1. The membership and membership eligibility of the Region shall be defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students.

Section 2. Official regional Meetings open to all eligible members of the Region shall be conducted at least twice each year, at the NAGPS National Conference and the South Central Regional Conference.

Section 3. At such Meetings, each eligible member organization shall designate one Voting Delegate to register its vote. All individual members of the Region shall be the Individual Member Caucus, hereafter Caucus, and the Caucus shall designate one Voting Delegate to register its vote.

Section 4. Any person who belongs to a member organization or is an individual member of the Region, and all members of the Regional Board may attend, actively participate, and set motions before the floor during Voting Delegates' Meetings.

Article IV. Regional Organization & Officers

Section 1. An Executive Board (hereafter the Board) shall be created to coordinate all Regional business and activities in accordance with the guidelines established in Constitution and By-laws of the Region and NAGPS.

Section 2. The Board shall consist of the Regional Officers: Regional Director, Regional Assistant Director, Director of Communications/Administration, Director of Outreach, and Director of Legislative Affairs.

Section 3. The Regional Director shall be elected by a majority vote of all Voting Delegates at the Regional Membership Meeting at the National Conference. The remaining Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of all Voting Delegates at the Regional Conference.

Section 4. The term of office for the Regional Director shall be from one National Conference until the end of the following National Conference. The terms of office for the remaining members of the Board shall be from one Regional Conference until the end of the following Regional Conference.

Section 5. Any Offices not filled during regularly scheduled elections may be filled by a majority vote of the Board. Officers so appointed shall serve until the next Voting Delegates' Meeting after their appointment.

Section 5. Any member of the Board may impeach, with formal allegations, another member of the Board based on behavior in Office. Any member of the Board may be removed from Office by a two-thirds majority vote cast by the Board within a one-month calendar period from the date of impeachment. The Board shall immediately make known the outcome of the vote and the allegations to the membership of the Region.

Section 6. If the Regional Director is impeached or resigns, a replacement shall be chosen by the NAGPS Board of Directors to serve until the next Voting Delegates' Meeting.

Section 7. If an Officer other than the Regional Director is impeached or resigns, the remaining members of the Board shall, by a majority vote, appoint a replacement to serve until the next Voting Delegates' Meeting.

Section 8. No person shall hold more than one Office.

Section 9. No member organization shall hold half or more than half of Board positions.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. An absolute majority, more than half, of either Board members or Voting Delegates shall constitute a quorum for all official business meetings.

Section 2. Board business shall be official following approval by an affirmative absolute majority of the Board. The Regional Director may call a vote of the Board without calling to order an official business meeting. In this event, the Regional Director shall inform all Officers of the vote and allow them at least 48 hours to discuss the issue(s) after the last member is informed of the vote.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may only be amended at a Voting Delegates' Meeting.

Section 2. The approval of a constitutional amendment shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Voting Delegates present at the Voting Delegates' meeting.

Section 3. Any member or Officer may propose an amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Board at least one month prior to the Voting Delegates' Meeting. An amendment submitted by a member after the deadline will require approval of two-thirds of the Voting Delegates present to bring it to the floor of the Voting Delegates' meeting.

Section 5. Proposed amendments may be amended during the Voting Delegates' meeting.

Section 6. Amendments to the Regional Bylaws shall require a three-fifths majority vote of the Voting Delegates present.

Section 7. Amendments passed shall become effective immediately unless otherwise specified in the motion to amend.

Bylaws of the Southcentral Region of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

Article I. Responsibilities of the Executive Board and the Officers

Section 1. Executive Board

- A. The Board is responsible for developing recommendations for amendments to the Regional Constitution and Bylaws to better define the roles of the Officers and to optimize the operations of the Region.
- B. Each member of the Board shall prepare an annual report of management procedures and recommendations for succeeding board members one month prior to the South Central Regional Conference.
- C. The Board shall provide an unbiased person, with NAGPS experience, who is knowledgeable of Robert's Rules to preside over the Voting Delegates' meetings.
- D. The Board is responsible for determining the Regional Mission Statement and individual positional objectives one month into the term of the Regional Director. The Executive Board's Mission Statement and positional objectives shall be published immediately, on the Regional website, and through other established communications.
- E. The Board is accountable to all members of the Region as defined by the Constitution.
- F. Members of the Board shall maintain communication with the member(s) of the NAGPS Board of Directors that share similar responsibilities.
- G. The Chair shall be permitted under law to enter into contracts, subject to the approval of the NAGPS National Board of Directors, which are necessary to execute the duties of the Board and its Officers.

Section 2. The Regional Director shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To create and dissolve ad-hoc committees as needed to organize activities.
- B. To stay abreast of all Board business and ensure the Board acts in accordance with the purpose as stated in the Regional Constitution and the duties defined in these Bylaws.
- C. To coordinate the responsibilities, duties, and activities of the Executive Board.
- D. To act as the official representative of the Region.
- E. To serve as the official representative of the Region on the NAGPS Board of Directors.
- F. To be accountable for progress towards adaptation of outstanding charges or mandates from the Voting Delegates' Meetings.
- G. To manage the Board in a manner that maximizes productivity.
- H. To publish annual objectives for each Officer and the entire Board.

Section 3. The Regional Assistant Director shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To perform the duties of the Regional Director in the Regional Director's absence.

- B. To strive to produce a positive image of the Region by providing assistance to the Regional Director in his/her duty as the official spokesperson of the Region.
- C. To coordinate the election of members of the Executive Board and to establish election procedure.
- D. To oversee the process of amending the Bylaws and Constitution in accordance with the goals of the Association.
- E. To assist the Director of Outreach by being primary contact for internal outreach within the region.

Section 4. The Director of Communication shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To work with the National Director of Communications and serve on the Communications Committee.
- B. To serve as the secretary of the Board.
- C. To record the proceedings of all official business meetings and distribute them to the Board within 5 working days.
- D. To coordinate the Regional social media presence.
- E. To assist the Regional Director, the National Director of Administration, and the National Director of Communications in maintaining an up-to-date Regional website.

Section 5. The Director of Outreach shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To assist the National Director of Outreach and the Regional Director in Regional member recruitment and retention.
- B. To update and maintain a record of Regional member organizations including current leadership and contact information.
- C. To collect annual reports from each Officer.
- D. To publish and distribute a comprehensive annual report at the Regional Conference.
- E. To acknowledge excellence in member activities through an awards programs, the details of which are decided upon by the Board.

Section 6. The Director of Legislative Affairs shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To work with the National Director of Legislative Affairs and serve on the Legislative Concerns Committee.
- B. To report on the activities of the Legislative Concerns Committee to the Region, and bring the issues of the Region to the Legislative Concerns Committee.
- C. To monitor pending federal legislation and provide analysis.
- D. To recommend Regional advocacy efforts.
- E. To issue policy statements or calls to action when needed.
- F. To liaise with the Director of Advocacy on all pertinent issues.

Article II. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. All nominees for Executive Board positions must be a tenured member or a constituent of a tenured member organization.

Section 3. The order of election shall be: Regional Director (if necessary), Regional Assistant Director, Director of Outreach, Director of Legislative Affairs, and Director of Communications.

Section 4. During the elections, each candidate who has not run for a previous position in that same election cycle will be given three minutes to speak on his/her behalf. A maximum of three minutes per candidate will be allotted for questions.

Section 5. If a candidate is not elected for a particular position, he/she shall be eligible to run for another position that has not yet been filled. The candidate will then have one minute to speak on his/her behalf and a maximum of two minutes will be allotted for questions.

Section 6. Prior to voting for each position, a five minute closed discussion will be held by the Voting Delegates. No nominees shall be present during this time. A simple majority vote shall be by secret ballot, the votes shall be tallied in full view of the Voting Delegates, and the results of the election disclosed immediately.

Section 7. Except for the Regional Director, in the event that there are no nominations for a Board position, the Board shall fill this vacant position by a simple majority vote at any Board meeting.

Article IV. Regional Conference Host Selection

Section 1. Organizations bidding to host the Regional Conference must inform the Board in writing at least one week prior to the National Conference and must give a presentation at the Voting Delegates' meeting at the National Conference. This presentation shall include a tentative agenda, facilities available, accommodations, sponsors, and budget. Only tenured member organizations are eligible to host the Regional Conference. Interested organizations shall nominate one of their members to serve as the Director of the Regional Conference.

Section 2. The Regional Conference shall be awarded to an eligible organization by a simple majority vote at the Voting Delegates' meeting at the National Conference.

Section 3. In the event no member submits a bid proposal to host the Regional Conference, the Board shall accept written bid proposals for an additional two months from the original deadline. Bid proposals received shall be distributed to all tenured members for comment. After a two-week period following the extended deadline, the Board shall select a bid for proposal.

Section 4. In the event no member has submitted a bid proposal by the date of the extended deadline as described in Section 3, the Board shall select a Director of the Regional Conference. The newly appointed Director of the Regional Conference shall ensure an opportunity for the Voting Delegates to meet at the Regional Conference.

Article V. Regional Conference Host Responsibilities

Section 1. The Regional Conference Host organization shall assist the Director of the Regional Conference in completing all tasks necessary to carry out conference proceedings.

Section 2. The Regional Conference host organization shall ensure that the Regional Conference occurs between February 15 and April 30 each year.