

Bylaws of the Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers

Approved June 2016

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group (SAMSG) of the American Association of Geographers (AAG).

Article II. Mission

Our mission is to foster and maintain interaction, cooperation and community among individuals interested in the analysis of geo-referenced data, modeling of spatio-temporal processes, and the use of analytical and computational techniques in solving geographic problems. The specialty group promotes the scientific study of physical, environmental, and socioeconomic geography and the development, use, and teaching of analytical cartography, geographic information systems, remote sensing, spatial statistical, mathematical, and computational techniques for spatial analysis.

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of the SAMSG is to

- a. advance the theoretical and applied aspects of spatial analysis and modeling
- b. develop links to related disciplines and professionals through communication and organization

Article IV. Membership

1. Any regular member, student member, and associate member of the AAG may become a member of the SAMSG. Regular members are those who are AAG non-student members and who pay annual dues to the SAMSG through the AAG. Student members are those who have AAG student membership and pay SAMSG dues at the student rate. Associate members are those who are not AAG members but who pay dues to the SAMSG.
2. Any regular or student member of the SAMSG may hold an officer position in the SAMSG if duly elected or appointed.
3. Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold office in the SAMSG.
4. The AAG certifies membership in the SAMSG each year after the payment of related dues.

Article V. Board of Officers and Terms of Office

1. The SAMSG will be governed by an elected Board of Officers consisting of the following voting members, all of whom must be members of the SAMSG: a Chair, a Vice Chair, three Board Members and one Student Representative.
2. All officer positions, except the Student Representative, shall be occupied by full-time employees of an institution of higher education at the time of their election.
3. The term of the Chair shall be three years, preceded by one year as Vice Chair and followed by one year as Past Chair.
4. The term of the Directors and Student Representative shall be three years.
5. The Directors and Student Representative may be re-elected to succeed themselves, but no other officers may succeed themselves in the same office without at least one year intervening between terms.
6. The elected SAMSG officers will assume office at the end of the AAG annual meeting in the year in which they were elected.

Article VI. Responsibilities of Officers

1. The Chair shall preside at all business meetings of the SAMSG, serve as chairperson of the Board of Officers, exercise supervision over the affairs of the SAMSG, and perform such other duties as may properly be required of the Chair by vote of the Board of Officers or of the SAMSG membership. In addition, the Chair shall audit the collection of SAMSG dues by the AAG and shall make disbursements as authorized by the Board of Officers or as legally required of the group. The Chair shall also appoint the chairpersons of all standing and ad-hoc committees and be an ex-office member of all committees.
2. The Past Chair, for the year following his/her term of Chair, shall advise the Chair on current SAM issues, preside in the absence of the Chair or Vice Chair, and carry out such other duties as may be delegated by the Chair.
3. The Vice Chair shall advise the Chair on current SAM issues, preside in the absence of the Chair, and shall carry out such other duties as may be delegated by the Chair.
4. The Academic Directors shall see to the dissemination of announcements pertaining to SAMSG student paper and travel awards at least 180 days prior to the annual AAG meeting. In addition, they shall devise proper mechanisms for the collection of submissions pertaining to such awards and function as members of the Awards Committee if so needed.
5. The Secretary shall compose minutes of each meeting of the Board of Officers and submit such minutes to the members of the Board of Officers, and, where appropriate, to the AAG, within 60 days of such meeting. In addition, the Secretary shall make all required informational reports of SAMSG activities to the AAG.

6. The Student Director shall advocate for the SAMSG to his or her peers and aid in the dissemination of announcement related to the business of the group, in general, and the student paper and travel awards, in particular.
7. The Board of Officers, for cause or emergency in the best interests of SAMSG, may meet and declare any position on the Board of Officers vacant by a two-thirds majority vote.

Article VII. Vacant Officer Positions

If a vacancy on the Board of Officers occurs, the following procedures shall apply:

- a. Office of Chair vacant: the Vice Chair shall assume duties of the Chair and serve the remainder of the current term plus the term of his/her elected term as Chair. The vacancy left by the Vice Chair shall not be filled until the next regular election.
- b. Office of the Vice Chair vacant: any member of the Board of Officers, except the Chair, may be appointed, by approval of a majority vote of the Board of Officers, to serve in the capacity of Vice Chair until the next regularly-scheduled election.
- c. Office of Secretary vacant: any member of the Board of Officers, except the Chair and Vice Chair, may be appointed, by approval of a majority vote of the Board of Officers, to fill the unexpired term of the Secretary until the next regularly-scheduled election.
- d. Office of Academic Director vacant: the Board of Officers, by approval of a majority vote, may appoint any SAMSG member to fill the unexpired term created by the vacancy until the next regularly-scheduled election.
- e. Office of Student Representative vacant: the Board of Directors, by approval of a majority vote, may appoint any SAMSG student member to fill the unexpired term created by the vacancy until the next regularly-scheduled election.

Article VIII. Committees

1. There will be the following SAMSG standing committees:
 - a. Awards
2. The Awards Committee shall consist of at least three officers, all appointed annually by the Chair.
3. The Awards Committee shall be empowered to select the recipients of any awards or prizes established and/or handled by the SAMSG.
4. Additional standing committees may be added by amending the Bylaws.
5. As needed, the Chair may establish ad-hoc committees to address specific short-term needs of the SAMSG.

Article IX. Voting

1. On all matters called for action by the Board of Officers or the SAMSG membership, each eligible member shall have one vote. Voting by proxy is not permissible.
2. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting at the annual business meeting and at any other properly called and announced meeting.

Article X. Dues and Fees

1. Annual dues for the SAMSG paid to the AAG by SAMSG members revert to the group as determined by AAG regulations. Dues and assessments for associate members shall be established by the Board of Officers.
2. Changes in dues and assessments shall be recommended by the SAMSG Board of Officers and shall be decided by a majority vote of those members voting at an annual meeting or by mail or electronic ballot of the members. Dues and assessments may be levied against all members.

Article XI. Meetings

1. The Board of Officers shall meet at least once each year.
2. The annual meeting of the SAMSG shall take place during the annual meeting of the AAG. The SAMSG shall seek to coordinate its program with and participate in the program of the AAG, and shall transact such business and arrange for such activities as are proper to its aims.
3. Other teleconference meetings may be called, as are considered appropriate and feasible, by action of the Board of Officers.

Article XII. Amendments

The SAMSG, by vote of two-thirds of the voting membership present at any annual meeting, or by a majority vote of the membership voting in a mail or electronic ballot, may adopt such amendments to these Bylaws as have been (a) read at the preceding annual meeting, or (b) mailed to the voting membership at least one month prior to the vote, or (c) published in an appropriate communication of the SAMSG, at least one month prior to the vote.

Article XIII. Enabling Action

These Bylaws shall be in force when the AAG and the Board of Officers of its presently established SAMSG have approved them.