

The SAMSG bylaws Amendment Proposals
Prepared by the SAM-SG Board members

Proposal 1

Current:

Article V.1. 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 terms 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.
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Proposed:

Article V.1. Board Members and Terms of Members

1. The SAMSG shall be governed by an elected Board of Officers consisting of the following voting members, all of whom must be members of the SAM-SG: a Chair, a Vice Chair, Directors, and Student Representatives.
2. The number of Board members may be adjusted based on membership size and organizational needs through a Board Member Meeting.
3. All board member positions, except for Student Representatives, shall be held by full-time employees of an institution of higher education, **research institutes, or governments** at the time of their election.
4. The term of board members shall be as follows:
 - 1) **Chair.** The Chair shall serve a two-year term.
 - 2) **Vice Chair.** The Vice Chair shall serve a two-year term. Upon completion of their term, the Vice Chair shall automatically transition into the role of Chair for the subsequent two-year term.
 - 3) **Board Members:** Except student representatives, the term of the Directors shall serve a three-year term. Student representatives shall serve a two-year term.
5. Board members, except for the Chair and Vice Chair, may run for re-election after completing their term.
6. The elected SAM-SG officers will assume office at the end of the first AAG annual meeting following their election, unless a specific start date is provided.

Proposal 2

Current:

Article VI. Responsibilities of Officers

1. The Chair shall preside at all business meetings of the SAM-SG, serve as chairperson of the Board of Officers, exercise supervision over the affairs of the SAM-SG, and perform such other duties as may properly be required of the Chair by vote of the Board of Officers or of the SAM-SG membership. In addition, the Chair shall audit the collection of SAM-SG 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 SAM-SG 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 SAM-SG activities to the AAG.
6. The Student Director shall advocate for the SAM-SG 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 SAM-SG, may meet and declare any position on the Board of Officers vacant by a two-thirds majority vote.

Proposed:

Article VI. Responsibilities of Officers

Common Responsibilities for all board members expected to (1) Actively participate in organizing SAM sessions, (2) Solicit participation from SAM-SG members and external scholars, (3) Post announcements to the SAM Knowledge Community and official social media platforms, and (4) Attend and engage in SAM-SG Board meetings and discussions. Specific responsibilities by the position shall be as follows.

1. The Chair is responsible for overseeing all SAM-SG-related activities. The Chair shall preside at all business meetings of the SAM-SG, serve as chairperson of the Board of Officers, exercise supervision over the affairs of the SAM-SG, and perform such other duties as may properly be required of the Chair by vote of the Board of Officers or of the SAM-SG membership. In addition, the Chair shall audit the collection of SAM-SG 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. The major responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinating the SAM Plenary Lecture and Business Meeting for each annual AAG meeting via liaising with the *Geographical Analysis* Editor.

- Attending all AAG Chairs' meetings and reporting back to the SAM-SG Board.
- Overseeing budget administration and delegating SAM-SG tasks to Board members.
- Coordinating the solicitation of annual awards in consultation with SAM-SG Board members and communicating with election winners with other board members.
- Acting as the tiebreaker in award voting, alongside SAM Board members.
- Overseeing the SAM Newsletter in collaboration with Board members.

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 Chair's absence, and perform other duties as delegated by the Chair. The primary responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinating the SAM Plenary Lecture and Business Meeting for each annual AAG meeting via liaising with the *Geographical Analysis* Editor-in-Chief in the Chair's absence or upon request.
- Managing financial activities, including preparing financial reports, statements, and reimbursements.
- Assisting in soliciting nominations for Board positions, creating the online ballot for elections before the AAG meeting, and counting votes in collaboration with the Communication Director.
- Facilitating the Emerging Scholar Awards, including soliciting nominations, processing applications, and communicating with award recipients.

4. Board Members are responsible for specific tasks related to academic affairs, communication, outreach, and student engagement, as assigned by the Chair and Vice Chair. If necessary, new board roles may be created through a vote at a Board Meeting. While each board member has specific duties, collaboration among members is essential. The key responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

- 1) **Academic Director** Managing the John Odland Student Paper Awards, including: Facilitating the John Odland Student Paper Awards, which includes soliciting the awards, communicating participants, securing the reviewers, reviewing submissions, organizing sessions and leading the sessions for the competition at the AAG annual meeting.
- 2) **Communication Director**: Overseeing communication strategies for SAM-SG, including: facilitating the election of SAM-BG officers (chair, vice chair, Board Members), managing voting process, and reporting election results. The Communication Director also is responsible for maintaining the SAM-SG website in collaboration with a student board member. The Communication Director may appoint one of the student board members on an ad-hoc basis to manage the platforms.
- 3) **Outreach Director**: Leading promotional activities for SAM-SG, including: Managing components of the SAM-SG Newsletter as a role of editor, such as interviews, opinion columns, and organizational updates, and other newsletter content. The Outreach Director is also responsible for managing the SAM Outstanding Service Awards, which includes soliciting the awards, processing applications, and communicating with award recipients.
- 4) **Student Representative(s)**: In general, two student representatives are elected through a board member election. If necessary, the Communication Director may create one ad-hoc student representative to assist in managing services. Student board members are responsible

for engaging with student activities within the SAM-SG group (or with non-members), and facilitating the SAM-SG Student Travel Awards, which involves soliciting nominations, communicating with participants, securing reviewers, reviewing submissions, reporting results, and notifying award recipients.

The Board of Officers, for cause of an emergency in the best interests of SAM-SG, may meet and declare any position on the Board of Officers vacant by a two-thirds majority vote.

Proposal 3

Current:

Article XII. Amendments

The SAM-SG, 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 SAM-SG, at least one month prior to the vote.

Proposed:

Article XII. Amendments

An amendment will take effect immediately upon receiving at least two-thirds approval from: a) the members present at the SAM-SG annual business meeting, or b) the members who participate in an electronic ballot conducted by SAM-SG.