

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
May 20-22, 2019  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Increasing Number of Board Members on  
*American Archivist* Editorial Board  
(Prepared by Cal Lee and Teresa Brinati)**

**BACKGROUND**

At the Editorial Board meeting held on August 15, 2018, in Washington, DC, the Editor of *American Archivist* initiated discussion and has since received unanimous support in favor of increasing the number of individual members on the *American Archivist* Editorial Board.

**DISCUSSION**

There are two primary motivations for this change. First, the number of submissions to the journal has grown significantly, overtaxing the existing members of the Editorial Board. We received 23 article submissions in 2017, 32 article submissions in 2018, and we have already received 6 submissions in the first month of 2019. The journal's procedure for peer review is to invite three reviewers for each submission, one of whom is always an Editorial Board member. Given the number of submissions we have been receiving, it is not always possible to assign an Editorial Board member to each one unless we ask them to sometimes review more than one submission concurrently.

The second motivation is to increase the international representation of the Editorial Board. This has been a stated priority of the Editorial Board. The previous two editors, Mary Jo Pugh (2006–2011) and Greg Hunter (2012–2017), have stated in their respective reports to the Council that this is a direction in which the Board should move to enhance the stature of the journal globally, build audience, and reflect readership. Further, not only is international representation valuable in itself, it is also an essential element of journal ranking. Scholars engaged in valuable work currently have disincentives to submit their work to *American Archivist* when they know the publication will not be valued as much by their employers than publication in journals with international editorial boards. Two of our primary peer journals, *Archivaria* and *Archival Science*, have editorial board members from more than one country.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the following revisions to the *American Archivist* Editorial Board description be approved:**

## **II. Board Size, Length of Terms, and Selection**

The Editorial Board consists of the Editor, who serves as chair of the board, the Reviews Editor, and ~~eight~~ ten individual board members.

The Editor is appointed by the Council. The Editor's term is three years and customarily begins on or about January 1; however, the exact date on which the individual selected assumes the responsibilities of editorship is negotiated by the individual and the Executive Director. An incumbent Editor may be re-appointed for one additional term as Editor. An individual may not serve more than two consecutive terms, but may apply for the position at a later time.

The Reviews Editor is appointed for a three-year term by the Editor. The Reviews Editor may serve no more than two consecutive terms. The Reviews Editor is selected based on demonstrated excellent writing and editorial skills and knowledge of current research and writing in the archives field.

The ~~eight~~ ten individuals comprising the board are appointed for four-year terms that are staggered so that one-fourth are appointed each year. Board members are nominated by the Editor and appointed by the SAA Vice President based on the list of nominees. In the event that the Vice President is unable to appoint a person nominated by the Editor, the Vice President asks the Editor to nominate another person for appointment. Individuals serving on the Editorial Board are selected because of their knowledge of archival theory, methodology, and practice; expertise in research strategies and methodologies; and experience in archival research and publication.

The Editorial Board also reflects a diversity of archival institutions and functional expertise and the demographic and geographic breadth of the profession. An individual may serve no more than two consecutive terms on the board.

The chair of the Publications Board serves as an ex officio member of the Editorial Board.

**Support Statement:** Increasing the number of individual members on the board reflects current operational reality as well as reflecting the goals and priorities of the journal.

**Relevance to Strategic Priorities:** Addresses Strategic Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth; Goal 3: Advancing the Field; and Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs.

**Fiscal Impact:** No direct expense in the short term. Estimated 2 hours of staff time to address this change. In the long term, if the Editorial Board holds a mid-year meeting, it will mean budgeting for an additional two board members to attend.