

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
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2016-2017 Nominating Committee Report
(Prepared by Holly Smith (Chair), Melissa Gonzales, Pam Hackbart-Dean,
Michelle Light, and T-Kay Sangwand)

The Society of American Archivists' 2016-2017 Nominating Committee has completed its work, following the Council's approved procedures: From August to December 2016, the Committee assembled a list of nominated candidates, discussed the candidates' qualifications, ranked the potential candidates, and contacted members to verify their willingness to serve. The following members agreed to stand for the respective offices and were presented as the 2017 slate of candidates:

Vice President/President Elect: Terry Baxter, Meredith Evans

Council (3-year term): Sharmila Bhatia, Steven Booth, Mike Bullington, Brenda Gunn, Tomaro Taylor, Audra Eagle Yun

Nominating Committee: Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, Aaisha Haykal, Samantha Norling, Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, Stacie Williams, Samantha Winn

The Committee developed the following questions, which were posed to the candidates and were included with candidate answers on the election website:

Vice President/President-Elect: According to the SAA Mission Statement "SAA promotes the values and diversity of archives and archivists." As president, what would be your plan for fulfilling this mission? What concrete steps or strategies would you use to implement your vision for the organization?

One of SAA's Core Values is its commitment to "social responsibility and the public good." Using this as a framework, please expand on how, under your leadership, SAA will engage in public discourse about events and issues pertinent to the archives profession.

Council: How would you leverage your role on the Council as a liaison to various SAA groups to support their initiatives and encourage the general membership to present new ideas to the Council and be more engaged with SAA leadership?

Nominating Committee: An essential component of the nomination and election process is identification of new leaders within SAA who embody the diversity of the archives profession. Describe what you believe to be the core responsibility of the members of the Nominating Committee, and outline your ideas for identifying the next generation of SAA leaders to ensure that new or distinctive voices and perspectives contribute to the future of the profession.

SAA staff administered the election online using the VoteNet online balloting service. There was a participation rate of 19% in the 2016-2017 election.

Election results were announced via the SAA website and social media, *In The Loop*, and *Archival Outlook*. The results are as follows:

Vice President/President-Elect: Meredith Evans

Council (3-year term): Steven Booth, Brenda Gunn, Audra Eagle Yun

2017-2018 Nominating Committee: Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, Aaisha Haykal, Stacie Williams (Chair)

The Nominating Committee members agreed it was critical to select a diverse and inclusive slate of candidates, reflective of our archival colleagues, the records we assist in preserving, and the communities we collaborate with – a wide array of communities with a number of intersectional identities; diverse with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity to name a few factors. The Nominating Committee also sought to find candidates across different regions and from different types of institutions (academic, corporate, community archives, libraries, museums) as well as engage professionals at different stages in the profession (from early career archivists to long standing archival veterans).

In creating the questions, the Committee wanted to engage the candidates and their ideas about diversifying the archival record and profession, leveraging their positions to encourage participation of the SAA membership in various aspects of the organization, and their roles in supporting an archival sense of responsibility and justice. In January 2017, at the excellent suggestion of committee member T-Kay Sangwand, the Nominating Committee shared with the SNAP Roundtable another question to engage the candidates: How should SAA advocate for records, archives, and archivists under a Trump administration? It was especially important to the committee to have the candidates discuss ideas around supposed archival neutrality and professional responsibility particularly under 45's administration.

Overall, the committee was pleased with the engagement with the candidates, and was very grateful to everyone we spoke with. Often if colleagues declined, it was due to time constraints with other obligations, sometimes with the caveat to approach them the next year or in the future.

The Nominating Committee encourages SAA to continue to think about ways to involve newer archives professionals in appointed and elected committee work, as well as archival colleagues across different institutions (historical societies, community archives, etc.).

A tremendous amount of gratitude goes to the Nominating Committee for their work and the SAA staff for bringing the candidate slate to fruition. A particular thank you goes to Felicia Owens for her graciousness, patience, and direct assistance.