

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
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2015-2016 Nominating Committee Report

**(Prepared by Nominating Committee Chair Krystal Appiah and Members
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The Society of American Archivists' 2015-2016 Nominating Committee has completed its work, following the Council's approved procedures: 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 2016 slate of candidates:

Vice President/President Elect: Lori Lindberg, Tanya Zanish-Belcher

Council (3-year term): Stephanie Bayless, Robin Chandler, Courtney Chartier, Tamar Evangelista-Dougherty, Erin Lawrimore, Bertram Lyons

Nominating Committee: Melissa Gonzales, Harrison Inefuku, Claire Galloway Jenkins, Jamie Martin, T-Kay Sangwand, Holly Smith

In addition to the offices above, there was a one-year-term vacancy for the Council due to the resignation of Councilor James Roth in 2015. After carefully reviewing the requirements stated in Section V.A.2. of the SAA Constitution, the Council approved a motion outlining the procedure for filling this vacancy. The Council determined that the vacant position—officially a one-year term from August 6, 2016, to July 29, 2017—would be included in the general election to be conducted in March/April 2016. The Council solicited two recent former Council members to run for the one-year term in the 2016 election. The Council then asked the elected individual to be seated immediately following the close of the election so that the Council would be fully populated as soon as possible. The following individuals agreed to stand for the one-year term and were included on the 2016 slate of candidates:

Council Vacancy (1-year term): Geoffrey Huth, Michelle Light

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: The last several Vice Presidents/Presidents-Elect have developed and promoted initiatives that tie into SAA's strategic plan. For example, Kathleen Roe's "Year of Living Dangerously" promoted SAA's advocacy agenda. If you

were the successful candidate, what initiative(s) would you promote during your tenure as president? How would you help SAA fulfill its mission of “promot[ing] the value and diversity of archives and archivists” and inspire the membership to do likewise?

Council: SAA is a member-governed organization that is composed of dozens of constituent groups with a variety of viewpoints. In recent years, SAA’s governance structure has strived to be more transparent and responsive in addressing member concerns. If elected, how would you help insure that the Council continues on this path and represents the broad interests of our diverse profession in a transparent manner?

Nominating Committee: SAA’s strategic plan emphasizes the importance of diversifying the profession using a broad definition of diversity (race, culture, geography, institutional type, sexual orientation, age, constituent group, etc.). How is SAA currently cultivating a diverse group of future leaders for the organization, and how would you strive to represent this diversity within the slate of candidates?

SAA staff administered the election online using the VoteNet online balloting service. Of 5,837 eligible voters, a total of 1,298 ballots were cast (representing a 22.2% rate of participation), as verified by election tellers Julie Graham (chair), Steven Booth, and Kaye Lanning Minchew. 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: Tanya Zanish-Belcher

Council (3-year term): Courtney Chartier, Erin Lawrimore, and Bertram Lyons

Council (1-year term): Michelle Light

2016-2017 Nominating Committee: Holly Smith (chair), Melissa Gonzales, and T-Kay Sangwand

The Nominating Committee notes that we faced some challenges in recruiting a balanced slate of candidates. Many potential candidates, especially those outside of academia, declined consideration due to their employers’ lack of interest in professional service or the vast commitment in personal and professional time required to fulfill the duties of an elected position. Other potential candidates had competing professional interests, such as the need to produce scholarship for promotion and tenure or involvement with regional archival associations and institutional service committees. In order for elected officials to be more representative of the archives profession, SAA may want to consider additional ways to support individual candidates for office as well as to communicate to institutional decision makers the concrete value in investing in professional service for the future of the field.

Many thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for their generosity of time and the efforts that they made during the evaluation and selection process, and the SAA staff for their work in administering the online election. The success of this year’s process owes much to both of these groups.