

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 24, 2025
Anaheim, CA
Hybrid**

**Section Health Assessment Working Group: Pause Additional
Section Transitions Through Fall 2026**

(Prepared by: Section Health Assessment Working Group: Stefanie Caloia, Alison Clemens, Joyce Gabiola, Michelle Ganz, Mary Grace Kosta, Susan McElrath, Matthew Peek, Lydia Tang, Julie Yamashita)

BACKGROUND

This agenda item is being submitted by the Section Health Assessment Working Group based on their charge. We note that some sections are struggling to meet governance requirements even though they are in a healthy position. For example, some Sections are unable to fill all leadership positions required by their standing rules.

The Working Group requests that for the duration of its charge (through fall 2026), changes to Section status should be paused, unless initiated at the request of Section leadership. During this time, only minimal governance requirements for Sections should be required.

Focusing on these minimal requirements for the Working Group's duration will allow us to dedicate our efforts on supporting Sections while we imagine and propose a new component group model to Council.

DISCUSSION

Focusing on minimal Section governance requirements and pausing any additional Section transitions, mergers, and sunseting until fall 2026 will give time for the Section Health Assessment Working Group to present a new model for Sections to Council by fall 2026. We note that Sections already set to transition still need to conclude this process.

The status of Sections presently undergoing change is:

- The Security Section is being sunset;
- The Government Records and Local Government Sections are merging and have submitted new standing rules;
- The Human Rights Section is transitioning to a Discussion Group;
- The Latin American and Caribbean Archives Section is sunseting.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SAA Council pause additional Section transitions, mergers, and sunseting unless initiated at the request of Section leadership, through fall 2026, and that Council implement the following minimal governance requirements for Sections until fall 2026: Sections should be required to hold an Annual Business Meeting; should be required to submit an annual report; should be required to maintain their standing rules, making updates as needed; and should be responsive to Council.

Support Statement: Pausing additional Section transitions, mergers, and sunseting, and focusing on minimal Section governance requirements for the Working Group's duration will allow SAA, as an organization, to dedicate our efforts on supporting Sections while the Section Health Assessment Working Group imagines and proposes a new component group model to Council.

Impact on Strategic Priorities: Making these adjustments meets goal 4 of SAA's Strategic Plan. GOAL 4: MEETING MEMBERS' NEEDS: SAA delivers outstanding service, fosters a culture of inclusiveness and participation, and is proactive and responsive to member needs.

Fiscal Impact: None. If anything, this pause, and these minimal requirements will reduce administrative effort.