

Nominations Committee

The Committee on Nominations consists of three persons, inclusive of the chair, who is the immediate past president. The other two members of the committee are “appointed by the President at the time she or he takes office.” The by-laws do not make provision for an alternate chair. At the time the by-laws were passed this lack of an alternate was discussed, and the decision not to permit an alternate was intentional.

The Committee on Nominations is charged with responsibility of providing “a slate of names of at least a sufficient number of candidates to fill all elected positions that will become vacant at the end of its year of service.” Normally this means a President-elect and three Executive Council members. (Mid-term vacancies in the Executive Council are not filled by direct election.) While this technically could be a slate of four persons, for as long as anyone can remember in the history of the ASR (but not the ACSS), *two* candidates have been offered for each vacancy, except for the case of the Executive Officer, where the prior logistical arrangements make the name of a single candidate a practical necessity.

Candidates for election may not be students, and must have held ASR membership prior to their nomination. Candidates should understand that they have agreed to what amounts to a four-year term of service, since they begin their service with the “new” Council meeting the year of their election, continue through two more years of at least two Council meetings in August, and then serve at the “old” Council meeting the fourth year.

The structuring of the committee’s work is largely in the hands of the chair, but that work should be completed before the holiday recess. The chair and committee members should begin to solicit nominations for candidates in September so that by the end of the fall all of the biographical sketches and vision statements can be prepared for publication in the first issue (spring) of *News & Announcements*. It is the task of the Chair to secure nominees’ biographical sketches (and in the case of the Presidential candidates, their vision statements with respect to their anticipated leadership role in ASR). The current format is 200 words for the presidential candidates’ biographical sketches, 150 words for the presidential candidates’ vision statements, and 150 words for Council candidates’ biographical sketches.

After the ballots are tallied, the Chair is responsible for contacting the candidates who received the most votes to inform them of the results of the election and to ask whether they are still available and willing to perform the duties of their offices, including the expectation that they attend the annual Council meetings over the next four years. In the event that a candidate who has received the highest number of votes is unable or unwilling to serve, the ASR Constitution states that “the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the same election shall succeed to the Council.” Once all of those winning the election confirm their willingness to serve the Association, the Chair shall inform *all* the other candidates of the election results.

A vacancy in the Executive Officer’s position requires special effort on the part of the Nominating Committee. Normally an Executive Officer announces his or her intention not to continue in the office in advance and the position is advertised to the membership, which provides the committee with a preliminary set of candidates (though the committee is not limited to this list). Because of its nature (see the position description), this office involves considerable negotiation in advance, and only a single name has ever been placed in nomination.