

Rules of Procedure

Anthropology and Environment Section

a Section of the American Anthropological Association

ARTICLE I. Name

The Section shall be known as the Anthropology and Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association, herein referred to as the Section.

ARTICLE II. Mission and Goals

The Mission of the Section is to foster research and communication on issues relating to the interface between culture and the environment (including rural, suburban and urban communities), particularly with how people interact with, respond to and bring about changes in the physical and biotic environment.

The goals of the Section are:

- a. to foster anthropological research on the human/environment interface and comprehensive anthropological approaches to understanding people/environment interactions
- b. to foster cooperation between the AAA and other organizations concerned with environmental issues
- c. to foster development of theories that bear upon how the human species has interacted with, responded to, and brought about changes in the physical environment
- d. to foster and facilitate communication between environmental anthropologists and environmentalists in other fields
- e. to gather and distribute information of value to its members, the discipline, and the public that bears on people and the environment
- f. to serve as a facilitator in the promotion of anthropological contributions to understanding human/environment interactions and ameliorating environmental problems
- h. to foster outreach to, and dialogue with, nongovernmental environmental organizations
- i. to contribute to environmental education
- j. to contribute to the amelioration of problems faced by human populations living in threatened environments
- k. to direct non-anthropologists to colleagues in our discipline who may be able to assist them in environmental research
- l. to be a resource for identifying members of the discipline qualified to speak to environmental issues.

ARTICLE III. Powers

1. The Section may engage in activities within its field that are consistent with the missions of the Association, that are not otherwise reserved by the Bylaws of the AAA, that are not inimical to the Association's interests, or that are not prohibited by law.
2. The Section shall have an elected President, Vice President, and an Executive Committee, and such other elected and appointed officers as set forth in these Rules of Procedure or by a vote of the Executive Committee.
3. The Section is empowered to determine its membership dues, consistent with Association policies.
4. The Section shall determine voting requirements in all Section matters.
5. The Section shall adopt and maintain Rules of Procedure consistent with the AAA Bylaws, and shall file a copy with the AAA Executive Office.

ARTICLE IV. Membership

1. Membership in the Section shall be open to any member in good standing of the AAA who supports the purposes stated in Article II, subject to the payment of Section dues.
2. A Section member in good standing shall be eligible to hold elective or appointive office, receive services, and have one vote in nominating and electing Section officers.
3. For just cause, a Section member may be deprived of membership by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee of the Section, subject to appeal of the members at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V. Dues

1. The Section's Executive Committee shall set the annual dues of Section members and may establish rates for special categories of membership, as approved by the AAA Executive Board.
2. Any member in arrears in the payment of dues shall lose all membership privileges during the time they are in arrears and until reinstated.

ARTICLE VI. Elected Officers

1. The elected officers shall be President and Vice President, who also serves as President-Elect.
2. The President shall be the Section's presiding officer, the Section's representative to the AAA Section Assembly and shall serve on the AAA Executive Board, should the Section qualify for service on the Board.
3. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the event of absence, death, resignation, or incapacity of the President, and shall succeed to the office of President upon expiration of the term of his/her predecessor.
4. The Section shall submit a draft budget for approval by the AAA Executive Board not less than 60 days before the annual meeting. The Treasurer shall have charge of the general records of the Section.

5. The terms of office of all officers shall be two years, commencing at the end of the AAA Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII. Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers and four members elected at large from the membership of the Section.
2. Subject to directives and limitations imposed by the Members of the Section, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to execute on behalf of the Section all powers and functions defined in these Rules of Procedure.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least one annually, at the time of the AAA Annual Meeting, and may meet additionally at the call of the President or a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
4. At-large members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for two-year terms by the membership. Two at-large members shall be elected in each year, except that in the initial election, associated with the establishment of the Section, a; four at-large members shall be elected.
5. The Executive Committee shall make all non-elective appointments, including the Treasurer, and may make interim appointments to fill vacancies in any elective office until the next regularly scheduled election.
6. The Environment Section Executive Committee, in order to promote the greatest collaboration with related Sections may appoint reciprocal liaisons as part of its governance structure as appropriate (e.g. with Culture and Agriculture Section).

ARTICLE VIII. Annual Report

At the time of the Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee shall report its activities to the members and to the AAA Executive Board. The report shall include reports on Section finances, publications, committees, and other activities.

ARTICLE IX. Meetings

1. The Sections shall hold an Annual Business Meeting at the time of the Annual Meeting of the AAA.
2. The place and date of the Annual Meeting shall be disclosed to the members not less than 30 days in advance of the meeting.
3. New legislation or resolutions proposed by members for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting must be received by the Treasurer at least 20 days prior to the meeting to be placed on the agenda. A copy of the agenda shall be furnished to all members attending the Annual Business Meeting.
4. Business conducted at meetings shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order.
5. The Executive Committee shall be the Section's Program Committee for the scientific program of the Section during the first three years. After this period, a separate Program Committee shall be created if membership exceeds 500 members.

6. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or upon written request of five percent of the members.

ARTICLE X. Quorum

1. Five percent of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Business Meeting.
2. A majority of members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.
3. The business of the Section shall be transacted by majority vote unless otherwise provided by these Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE XI. Nominations and Elections

1. A Nominations Committee of three members shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee to assemble a list of potential candidates and to develop slates.
2. Candidates for any elective office may be proposed by the Executive Committee, the Nominations Committee, or by five percent of the members. All candidates must be members in good standing.
3. The Nominations Committee shall propose at least two persons for each vacant position.
4. Five percent of the members in good standing may propose an additional candidate for any office, if received 90 days before the annual meeting.
5. The Chair of the Nominations Committee shall inform prospective candidates of the expectations of the office for which they have been proposed. The proposed candidates shall be formally nominated on receipt by the Nominations Committee of a letter indicating their willingness to assume the duties if elected.
6. The Chair of the Nominations Committee is responsible for providing the AAA Executive Office all required information for Section elections by the date established by the Executive Office.

ARTICLE XII. Balloting

1. A member in good standing shall be entitled to cast one ballot in any Section election or referendum.
2. The election shall be conducted by the AAA Executive Office at the time of elections for other AAA Sections.
3. The candidate with the most votes for a contested office shall be elected. The Executive Committee shall hold a runoff election within 90 days to resolve ties.

ARTICLE XIII. Referenda

A referendum may be conducted by mail ballot at any time upon initiation of the Executive Committee or upon receipt by the Secretary of a petition signed by five percent of members in good standing. A majority of votes shall constitute a favorable vote.

ARTICLE XIV. Finances

1. The budget year of the Section shall be that of the AAA.
2. The Section shall submit an annual operating budget to the AAA Executive Board, which when approved, shall govern Section activities.
3. The income from dues and other sources shall constitute a working fund, available for operating expenses.
4. No financial obligations may be assumed by the Executive Committee or by any officer on behalf of the Section.
5. For the purposes of annual budgeting, estimated receipts from annual dues and other sources for the current year may be considered as available funds.
6. The Section may establish a fund balance for a specific purpose(s) as approved by the AAA Executive Board to be administered by the AAA.

ARTICLE XV. Amendments

1. These Rules of Procedure may be amended by the members by mail ballot, provided that a proposed amendment is approved by 2/3 of the votes cast.
 2. Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by five percent of the members in good standing. The Executive Committee shall have the proposed amendment circulated to the members and it shall allow 30 days for the return of ballots.
 3. The amendments and provisions of these Rules of Procedure shall be effective immediately upon adoption or by the date specified in the amendment, and shall supersede and nullify all previous amendments and provisions, unless otherwise specifically provided in the amendments.
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