

Operating Process for New Student Representatives on the Executive Council

Approved by Executive Council on April 15, 2026

In October 2025, NASPAA members voted to adopt new bylaws that established two student seats on the Executive Council:

The elective officers of the Network shall be a President, a Vice President, and fifteen members of the Executive Council, and two student members...Members elected to the Executive Council shall serve staggered three-year terms, except for the two student members who shall serve a one-year term... In the case of student representatives, the Nominating Committee will seek nominations from the principal representatives of the Network.

The following policies guide the selection and onboarding of new student representatives to the Executive Council.

Recruitment and Selection:

- The Nominating Committee should send a call for nominations to principal representatives on or around May 1, requesting nominations and information for students to serve on the Council. The application will include questions about the student's readiness to serve and will request a resume. The application will also ask the principal representative to attest to their support of the student.
- The Nominating Committee will review the student nominations in a manner similar to all Council nominations, taking into account any special skills students bring and looking at the overall representation of NASPAA schools on the Executive Council.
- At least one student selected each year should be from a NASPAA-accredited program, to ensure an additional layer of accountability for accreditation activities.
- The Nominating Committee should contact the student chosen to ensure that they agree to serve.
- The Nominating Committee will inform the principal representatives if their candidate was not selected and thank them for the nomination.
- The Nominating Committee should present to the members the student nominations as part of its overall slate of nominees at least 30 days prior to the NASPAA Annual Business Meeting.

Qualifications:

- The individual must be enrolled in a NASPAA member public service degree program at the time of their nomination, although they may graduate prior to the end of their Council term. (If a student graduates prior to the end of the term, NASPAA requests that the school continue to support the student to complete their board term.)
- The student should demonstrate maturity and professionalism sufficient to serve on a high-level global board.
- The student should also demonstrate the integrity and commitment expectations outlined in the existing board call.

Expectations:

- The student will serve a one-year term, starting directly after the NASPAA Annual Business Meeting.
- The Council meets in person twice a year: in October at the Global Conference and in March. The Council also meets several times per year via Zoom. Council members are expected to attend every meeting. The first meeting for incoming Council members will be in Seattle, Washington, on October 2, 2026.
- The student's program should provide travel support to attend the Council meetings.
- The student should abide by all ethical and confidentiality expectations for Council members.

Special Considerations:

- The student members of the Council should be required to attend the same orientations and development activities as all other new Council members.
- The student members will be assigned a mentor on the Council to assist them in understanding board activities as needed.
- The student members of the Council will not be expected to participate in required Council service, such as committee work.