

Getting To Know Your LASA

The call to vote for LASA president and members of LASA's Executive Council (EC) will soon be announced to LASA members. To better inform your vote, we explain here the nomination process and the roles and responsibilities these elected officials will have during their terms of service to our association.

Open Call for Nominations

The LASA Secretariat issues a call for nominations every year. From July through September, the membership may nominate candidates for vice president/president-elect, members of the EC, treasurer, and graduate student representative. All those nominated (by the membership and the Nominations Committee) must have been LASA members for at least one year prior to their nomination. LASA welcomes nominations of members representing diversity in region, discipline, and gender. Nominees should have ample experience in their respective fields as well as in LASA and be willing to serve and advance the mission of LASA.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, appointed by the president in consultation with the Executive Council, prepares a slate (taking into consideration nominations by the membership and nominations by the committee) as follows:

- Two candidates for vice president/president-elect
- Six candidates for the Executive Council (to fill three vacant positions)
- Two candidates for the graduate student representative (every two years)
- Two candidates for treasurer (every two years)

Service Term

Service terms begin on June 1 of every year. The winning candidate for vice president serves for three years (in the first year as vice president, in the second year as president, and in the third year as past president). Executive Council members (including the graduate student representative and treasurer) serve a two-year term.

Elections

The executive director of LASA enters on an official ballot the names of the candidates selected by the above-mentioned procedure together with the names of the candidates nominated during the write-in process. (The write-in candidates must have a minimum of 200 supporting signatures.) The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes serve on the EC for two years. The three candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall be alternates for one year to serve in the event of temporary inability of a regular member of the Executive Council. The candidate with the highest number of votes for the positions of treasurer and graduate student representative serve on the EC for two years. The winning candidate for vice president serves for three years.

Role of the Vice President

The vice president of LASA serves one term of twelve months. During her/his term, the vice president has to perform multiple tasks:

- Designate program chair(s) for the LASA Congress and participate in the Program Committee.
- Define the Congress theme and tracks with the Program Committee and appoint track chairs.
- Chair the EC Subcommittee on Resolutions.
- Nominate committees for the Bryce Wood Book Award, Premio Iberoamericano, Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award, Howard F. Cline Book Prize in Mexican History, LASA/OXFAM America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship, Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship, LASA/OXFAM America Martin Diskin Fellowship, Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History, and Media Award.
- Designate members of the Nominations Committee in conjunction with the EC.
- Chair the Commission on Academic Freedom.
- Chair the LASA-FORD Special Projects Committee.
- Support the president's fund-raising efforts.

Role of the President

The president of LASA serves one term of twelve months and upon retirement she/he remains in the EC and the Ways and Means Committee for one year. During her/his term, the president serves as the chairperson of the EC and has to perform multiple tasks:

- Work on fund-raising efforts for travel grants and other initiatives in conjunction with the Development Committee.
- Chair meetings of the Executive Council and Ways and Means Committee.
- Act as the editor in chief of the LASA Forum (4 issues).
- Inform the members with quarterly reports to be published in the LASA Forum.
- Prepare presidential and invited panels for the Congress in conjunction with the program co-chairs.
- Work on feasibility and implementation of new initiatives for LASA.

Role of the Past President

- Support the president's fund-raising efforts.
- Chair the Kalman Silvert Award Committee.
- Work on feasibility and implementation of new initiatives for LASA.

Role of the Executive Council

The Executive Council (EC) administers the affairs of the association and acts as an elected Board of Directors in the best interest of LASA. The EC meets at least once a year and may, by majority vote, create task forces; the president, with consent of the EC, appoints a chairperson and members of the task forces. The EC also approves the creation of LASA Sections. The EC consist of eleven voting members and ex-officio members with voice but no vote:

Voting Members

- Immediate past president
- President
- Vice president/president-elect
- Treasurer
- Six elected members
- One graduate student representative
- Non-Voting Members
- LASA executive director
- The editor of the Latin American Research Review (LARR)
- The current Congress program chair(s)
- The editor(s) of the Latin America Research Commons (LARC)
- Members of the Strategic Plan Oversight Committee //