

Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group Bylaws *(revised and approved February 2021)*

Article 1: Name The name of this organization is the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (hereafter GFASG) of the Association of American Geographers (hereafter AAG).

Article 2: Purpose and Mission Statement The purpose of the GFASG is to bring together AAG members who have mutual interests in the geographies of food and agriculture. The mission of the GFASG is to be instrumental in creating networking opportunities for students and faculty who study food and agricultural geographies but may be spread across disparate subdisciplines of geography. This specialty group will also provide an intellectual home for the multiplicity of exciting studies being conducted surrounding issues of food and agriculture. The group will also facilitate the sharing of ideas and relevant information among its members and others; stimulate research and intradisciplinary partnerships; and provide awards that facilitate research in the geographies of food and agriculture. The GFASG will also encourage, facilitate and sponsor paper sessions and discussion panels at the annual meeting of the AAG. As a professional group within its parent organization, the AAG, the GFASG implicitly follows the AAG's broader mission statement and its policies and procedures as detailed in the AAG Constitution and Bylaws.

Article 3: Membership GFASG membership is open to all AAG members in good standing. Membership in the GFASG is on an annual basis concurrent with AAG membership. Dues are \$5 for professionals and \$1 for students. Dues may be used to defray the costs of maintaining the GFASG website, for awards, for the provision of food and beverages at the annual GFASG business meeting and, when approved by a majority of the Board, for other expenses incurred by the GFASG.

Article 4: Voting Rights GFASG members in good standing regarding both AAG and GFASG annual dues can vote in the election of the specialty group's Board and vote on any pertinent issues that members bring forth. All votes will be submitted anonymously.

Article 5: The Board

A. Membership: The GFASG is administered by a Board consisting of the following Officers: a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Newsletter Editor, a Website Coordinator, a Food Justice Scholar-Activist/Activist-Scholar (FJSAAS) Liaison, and four Board Members At-Large (including two student members). GFASG members elect their Board via online ballot one month prior to the annual business meeting. An Officer may hold only one elected position at any given time.

B. General Duties: The Board exercises general supervision over the affairs of the GFASG and performs its duties as specified in these Bylaws and the policies of the AAG Council. The Board must make an annual report of GFASG activities to the specialty group members at the business meeting and submit each report, including a financial statement, in a timely manner to the AAG Council. Other than the election of directors, the GFASG Board may conduct specialty group

business throughout the year. With the support of 10 percent of the GFASG membership, a GFASG member can petition the Board to bring any pertinent specialty group issue up for an online vote. The Board will conduct the online poll and the Chair will report the results to all GFASG members.

C. Duties of the Board:

1. Chair: presides at all meetings of the GFASG and the Board; issues notices of GFASG business meetings; acts as a teller in voting; notifies members of vote outcomes; conveys information about and the views of the GFASG to the AAG Council; and performs all duties inherent in the office as directed by the GFASG.
2. Vice-Chair: is the Chair-elect; advises and assists the Chair; presides at meetings in the absence of the Chair; acts as a secondary teller in voting; distributes online voting information and ballots.
3. Secretary-Treasurer: records and reports minutes from conference calls and business meetings; manages the organization and archiving of GFASG documents in the Knowledge Community library; acts as a tertiary teller in voting; and administers the financial affairs of the GFASG and prepares annual financial reports.
4. Newsletter Editor: solicits articles and information and produces in a timely manner the GFASG newsletter two times per year. The GFASG newsletter is a digital document posted to the specialty group's website. The newsletter editor notifies the GFASG membership of the posting of each newsletter issue.
5. Website Coordinator: maintains the GFASG website and social media accounts and publishes the newsletter to the site.
6. Board Members At-Large (2 students, 2 faculty): Advise and assist the GFASG Officers in carrying out their duties and undertake other duties that may arise. Board Members At-Large will guide Working Groups as determined by the Board, and will recruit and coordinate with GFASG member volunteers to assist with Working Groups tasks as needed. In addition to participating in all regular functioning of the board, the two student Board Members at-Large represent student interests.
7. FJSAAS Liaison: Maintain in good standing, with regular participation in FJSAAS meetings and activities (at least 7 per calendar year, or 75%, whichever is less). Report on major FJSAAS activities and updates to GFASG Board during GFASG Board meetings. In coordination with GFSAG Newsletter Editor, write an FJSAAS update for each Newsletter, or designate another regular FJSAAS member to do so. Collaborate with FJSAAS steering committee to decide whether or not to organize an FJSAAS session at each AAG Annual Meeting and identify session organizers, as relevant. Report on major GFASG activities and updates to FJSAAS during FJSAAS meetings, as relevant, and at least 2 times per year. As for all GFASG Board Members, the FJSAAS Liaison must be an AAG and GFASG member.

D. Terms of the Board: All Officers have two-year terms.¹

¹ Two Board Members at-Large (one student, one faculty) will remain on the Board for an additional one-year term beginning at the 2016 AAG Annual Meeting. This one-time adjustment will allow the GFASG Board to maintain some continuity between elections, to hold elections each year, and to avoid a full transition of the Board every two years.

E. Election of the Board: Every two years GFASG members elect the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Website Coordinator and two Board Members at-Large (one faculty, one student) from nominations they submit. In alternating years, GFASG members will nominate and elect two Board Members at-Large (one faculty, one student), the Newsletter Editor, and the FJSAAS Liaison. The vote takes place via online ballot during the month prior to the AAG Annual Meeting. The Chair reports the election results to the entire GFASG membership. Newly elected Officers assume their positions at the end of the annual business meeting at which they are elected. In the event that an Officer is unable to complete the two-year term, the Board will solicit nominees for the open position from GFASG membership then select the replacement Officer via a Board vote.

FJSAAS Liaison position²: FJSAAS and the FJSAAS steering committee will nominate one or more members in good standing, with regular participation (at least 7 meetings or events per calendar year, or 75%, whichever is less) to run for the FJSAAS position in advance of the election process. The FJSAAS steering committee and/or current FJSAAS liaison will communicate the names and information of the nominee(s) to the GFASG Board ahead of board elections.

In recruiting board member nominations (via the GFASG and other relevant specialty group listservs), the GFASG Board will indicate that if individuals would like to run for the FJSAAS Liaison position they should contact the FJSAAS steering committee and/or current FJSAAS Liaison. FJSAAS and the FJSAAS steering committee will then consider nominations according to the criteria for this position, and either accept or decline nominations. FJSAAS Liaison candidates will be voted via the same online ballot used for election of other board members.

Article 6: Business Meeting The annual business meeting of the GFASG is held during the AAG annual meeting at the conference. The GFASG Chair will notify members of the time and place of the annual business meeting as listed in the AAG annual meeting program. Among items addressed at annual business meetings are announcements of GFASG award winners, a financial report from the Secretary-Treasurer, any voting, and a report of GFASG activities.

Article 7: Working Groups Working Groups (or sub-committees) of the GFASG will be formed on an as-needed basis by the Board.

Article 8: Awards The GFASG will administer up to three annual awards. Contingent upon funding, awards will be awarded in the following priority order:

- (1) Graduate student awards for research expenses (up to \$500);
- (2) An undergraduate or graduate student award to defray the cost of AAG travel (or membership) (up to \$250);
- (3) A faculty award for contribution to food and agriculture studies in geography (\$500).

GFASG Officers, except those who are students, are not eligible to apply for or receive a GFASG award during their term on the Board.

² The process for FJSAAS Liaison election is detailed here since not all FJSAAS members are members of AAG, and because to be an effective liaison, an individual must be active in FJSAAS.

Article 9: Annual Report The Chair provides an annual report to the AAG Council by its deadline. The report should articulate the mission of the GFASG, its program of activities, a financial report, and any other issues that the AAG requests.

Article 10: Newsletter The ~~annual~~ GFASG newsletter is a document posted to the website and circulated to the membership via the knowledge communities. It includes the previous business meeting minutes, highlights about award winners, announcements, articles, a discussion forum for members and other relevant information. It is published twice per year (spring and fall).

Article 11: Website and Knowledge Community The GFASG website and Knowledge Community house the bylaws, the annual newsletter, information about awards, and other timely announcements. The website is managed by the Website Coordinator and Knowledge Community library content is managed by the Secretary.

Article 12: Ratification and Amendment of Bylaws With the support of 10 percent of the GFASG membership, a member of the specialty group can propose at any time an amendment to the Bylaws. A majority of GFASG members at the annual business meeting or via online ballot can approve an amendment. The Chair notifies the GFASG membership of approved amendments.