

## **Economic Geography Specialty Group Bylaws**

March, 2004

### *Article I: Name and Purpose*

The name of this organization will be the Economic Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. Hereafter the specialty group will be referred to as the EGSG and the Association of American Geographers will be referred to as the AAG.

### *Article II: Mission Statement*

The objectives of the EGSG will be to facilitate intellectual debate and the exchange of information among its members and other specialists; to stimulate research, teaching, and applications in economic geography; to aid in the advancement of its members and of the field of economic geography; to represent economic geography within the geographic discipline and to related disciplines, agencies in government, the private sector, and the general public; and to maintain relations with other similar organizations. Dues are \$5 for professionals, and \$0 for students.

### *Article III: Membership*

EGSG membership is open to all AAG members in good standing who have notified the AAG of their desire to be EGSG members, subject to the rules of the AAG regarding specialty group membership. Membership in the EGSG is on an annual basis concurrent with AAG membership. Geographers resident at non-U.S. institutions and scholars from other disciplines can hold membership in the EGSG without being AAG members by payment of a fee each year of U.S. \$5.00.

### *Article IV: Board of Directors*

The EGSG is administered by a Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as the Board), consisting of the following officers: a chairperson, a secretary/treasurer, four board members elected at-large, and a student representative elected by student members. The Board may elect ex officio, non-voting members of the Board as it sees fit. No Board member may hold more than one elected position at any given time.

The Board will exercise general supervision over the affairs of the EGSG, legislating policies as seen proper to the mission of the EGSG. The Board will perform its duties and abide by limitations specified in these Bylaws and by the AAG Council. The Board will meet at least once each year before the annual business meeting of the EGSG, and must make a full report of its actions to EGSG members at the annual business meeting. A special mail or email ballot regarding a Board action may be requested by a majority of the members present and voting at a business meeting, or by a petition signed by at least 10% of all EGSG members.

### *Article V: Duties of Board Members*

The Chairperson should preside at all meetings of the EGSG and the Board; serve as an ex officio member of all EGSG committees and task forces except the Nominating Committee; issue calls and notices of EGSG and Board meetings; issue a Newsletter twice annually in collaboration with the secretary/treasurer; convey information about and the views of the EGSG and the Board to the AAG Council; and perform all duties inherent in the office and as directed by the Board.

The Secretary/treasurer should preside in the absence of the chairperson at all meetings of the EGSG and the Board; keep records of such meetings; distribute, collect, and count ballots; and administer the financial affairs of the EGSG.

At-large board members are to serve on the Board and carry out other duties as directed by the chairperson and the Board.

The student member is to serve on the Board, represent student interests, and carry out other duties as directed by the chairperson and the Board.

#### *Article VI: Terms of Board Members*

The chairperson and secretary/treasurer will each serve terms of two years. The secretary/treasurer will be the only nominee for chairperson, nominated by the Nominating Committee. If the secretary/treasurer becomes chairperson in the middle of a term because of the resignation or disability of the chairperson, he/she may be nominated for a full term as chairperson. If the position of secretary/treasurer becomes vacant because of the succession of the secretary/treasurer to the position of chairperson, another Board member will be selected secretary/treasurer. If the position of secretary/treasurer becomes vacant because of the resignation or disability of the secretary/treasurer, the Board will nominate two persons and conduct a special mail or email ballot of the members to serve the remainder of the term.

At-large board members will serve terms of two years. Two at-large board members will be elected each year. Vacancies in at-large board positions will be filled by the Board unless the vacancy occurs within four months of the end of the term, in which case the position will remain vacant until the start of the next term. The student member will serve one year. One student member will be elected each year. If the student member resigns or is unable to serve, the position will be filled by the nominee with the second largest number of votes.

#### *Article VII: Election of Board Members*

The Board will appoint a Nominating Committee for the following year, with members of the Nominating Committee announced at the annual business meeting. The Nominating Committee will be chaired by a board member and will have two other members who are not members of the EGSG Board. The Nominating Committee will solicit nominations from EGSG members for candidates for secretary-treasurer, board, and student board members as needed up for election the following year. The Nominating Committee will nominate the secretary/treasurer for the position of chairperson and two other candidates for all other positions. If the secretary/treasurer declines to be nominated for chairperson or if the position of secretary/treasurer is vacant, the Nominating Committee will select at least two nominees for the chairperson. However, the Nominating Committee shall put forth the entire slate of nominees. Nominations will be submitted to the Board by the Nominating Committee by 15 December. The Board will accept additional nominations by petition for all positions up for election if the petition is signed by at least 20 EGSG members and is received by the secretary-treasurer by 31 January. Election of Board members will be by mail or email ballot, with ballots to be tallied by the AAG Annual Meeting. All positions will be filled by the person receiving a plurality of the votes cast. The secretary-treasurer will inform the board of the results of the election by the annual business meeting. New board members will assume their positions at the end of the annual business meeting.

#### *Article VIII: Business Meeting*

The annual business meeting of the EGSG will be held during the AAG national meeting at the site of the AAG national meeting. EGSG members will be notified of the time and place of the annual business meeting in the AAG Annual Meeting program. Among items to be covered at the annual business meeting are the announcement and approval of the agenda, approval of the minutes of the previous business meeting, announcement of the names of new board members and committee members, announcements of winners of EGSG dissertation and student paper prizes, a financial report from the secretary-treasurer, and a report of board actions and general EGSG activities by the chairperson.

Special business meetings of the EGSG may be called by a two-thirds vote of the Board or by a petition calling for such a meeting signed by at least 10% of all EGSG members. The Board will determine the time and place of such a meeting. EGSG members will be given at least one month notice of the time, place, and purpose of such a meeting. The chairperson will determine the agenda of such a meeting, in consultation with the Board.

*Article IX: Committees*

The EGSG will have three standing committees: a Nominating Committee, a Student Dissertation Competition Committee Prize Committee, and a Student Paper Competition Committee. The composition and duties of the Nominating Committee are described in Section VII of these Bylaws. The Student Dissertation Prize Committee is chaired by the secretary/treasurer of the EGSG, and will be responsible for soliciting entries, including announcing the Student Dissertation competition in the September AAG Newsletter, and for selecting the best doctoral dissertation in economic geography from the entries by the annual business meeting. The Best Student Paper Committee is chaired by an at-large Board member, and will be responsible for soliciting entries, including announcing the Student Paper competition in the September AAG Newsletter, and for selecting the student paper in economic geography from the entries by the annual business meeting.

Other committees of the EGSG may be established by the Board or by a vote of the membership at a business meeting or by mail or email ballot. Members of all committees will be named by the Chairperson, subject to approval by the Board.

*Article X: Annual Report*

The chairperson will make an annual report to the AAG Council in order to claim designated specialty group funds and members of the EGSG on the activities of the EGSG by the deadline stipulated by the AAG. The report should specify the mission of the EGSG, its program of activities and a financial report, and should address any other issues specified by the AAG.

*Article XI: Ratification and Amendment of Bylaws*

These Bylaws will take effect immediately after their approval by at least 60% of all EGSG members voting by special mail or email ballot. Amendment of these Bylaws may be formally proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Board or by a petition signed by at least 10% of all EGSG members. Final approval of any amendment must be by a positive vote of at least 60% of all EGSG members voting by special mail or email ballot.

These bylaws were approved by a mail ballot of the membership, and by a unanimous vote at the 2004 business meeting, Philadelphia, March 18 2004.