



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

**COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE CHAIR
SPRING 2023 REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Due to SAA Executive Director, SAA Secretary, and Board Liaison on February 6, 2023, for inclusion in the materials for the Spring Board of Directors Meeting. Your report serves to inform the SAA Board of the committee/task force's accomplishments and as background for the action items.

- The Board asks all committee and task force chairs to use this Word document to report to the Executive Director (ona_schmid@saa.org), the SAA Secretary (Kelley.Hays-Gilpin@nau.edu), and your Board Liaison.
- Reports are required in the spring of each year and optional in the fall.
- **Starting in 2022, Coordinator, Membership and Meetings, posts reports on Committee pages to improve transparency and assist incoming future chairs.**
- If you are able to join us in Portland Oregon, Committee and Task Force chairs are invited to join the Board for **breakfast on Saturday April 1, 2023**. I will send an invitation in the first week of February to the breakfast.

Report of the	Committee on Government Affairs
From Chair	Kimball Banks
Date	February __ 2023

1. Membership and terms for your committee:

So that the SAA Office's records are as complete as possible, please list your committee members and their terms here. Please also note if there are anticipated changes in a member's status before their term end date.

Kimball Banks, Ph.D, MA	1/3/2025	Chair
Dan Sandweiss, RPA	Board Liaison	
J. M. Adovasio, Ph.D., D.Sc.,	4/5/2024	
Allyson Brooks	4/5/2024	
Amy E. Gusick, Ph.D.	3/31/2023	
Mark L. Howe, M.A.	4/5/2024	
John W. Martin, RPA	4/5/2024	
Scott C. Phillips, RPA	4/5/2024	
Shannon Plummer, M.A., RPA	4/5/2024	
Julia Renee Prince-Buitenhuys,	4/5/2024	
Michael T. Searcy, Ph.D, RPA	4/5/2024	
David E. Witt, Ph.D, RPA	4/25/2025	
Valerie J. Grussing, PhD	Member, Ex-Officio (NATHPO)	
Shawn Patch	Member, Ex-Officio (ACRA)	
Ruth M. Van Dyke, PhD, RPA	Member, Ex-Officio (AAA)	

2. Executive summary of Committee's/Task Force's activities over the past year:

Please note that the activities summary should not exceed 250 words. Should the committee or task force be responding to a Board request for a draft document or report, refer to it in the summary and forwarded with this form as an attachment. If no such document was requested by the Board, the executive summary should be confined to the word limit.

The Government Affairs Committee oversaw the successful completion of a number of initiatives of the Society's public advocacy program over the fall of 2022. The STOP Act was enacted. The omnibus spending bill for FY2023 was also signed into law, increasing funding for several cultural resources accounts, including for SHPOs and THPOs under the HPF. That measure also included language to create the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program. In addition, Professor Sara C. Bronin was confirmed as chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and SAA leadership held a meeting with her in February 2023.

Other issues that remain ongoing in 2023 include:

- Working as part of the Airlie House 2.0 group to convene a new stakeholder summit in August 2023 to discuss critical topics on the future of archaeology
- Advocating for student loan / debt reform as a means of building the archaeological workforce
- Participating as defendant intervenors in the National Monument lawsuits
- Commenting on the scoping comments on new Bears Ears Management Plan
- Commenting on the Department of Education's initiative for identifying "low value" departments and programs in higher education
- Developing a position for the FY2024 appropriations cycle, emphasizing the need for more archaeologists in the federal agencies
- Monitoring the Manchin energy permitting issue
- Developing comments on the revised Bulletin 38 for Traditional Cultural Properties
- Working with new DCA Kristin Martine on these and other issues

3. Items for Board Consideration, if applicable. These are recommendations and requests that specifically require Board approval.

These items range from statements that you may wish to be disseminated, requests to undertake projects, requests to disseminate results, or any other action for which a committee or task force needs specific Board guidance/approval. Please do not embed such items in your activities summary. These items must be separately listed in this section. These are actions you are asking the Board of Directors to take. Please also include a discussion of fiscal impacts, if any, but note that budget requests occur in advance of the Fall Board meeting (and not as part of this report).

Should you have questions about whether any of your Committee's items require Board approval, please consult with your Board Liaison prior to submitting your report. We also recommend that you run a draft of your report by your liaison before you "officially" submit it.

No request for actions by the Board

4. Draft motions, if appropriate. (Optional)

Drafting a suggested motion or motions for any requests noted above will help the Board more clearly understand your request and increase the “fit” between the request you make and corresponding Board action. Please keep in mind that suggested motions may be revised or not accepted by the Board, whose responsibility it is to consider the full range of member needs. If you choose to include suggested motion(s) with your report, it is essential that you work with your liaison before you submit your report. They will be able to provide examples of motions that you can use as models for the ones you create.

No Draft Motions