



NAGC GOVERNANCE POLICY

Policy Manual : 9.1

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POLICY TITLE:	Network Solvency Policy	11/04/08
RESPONSIBILITY OF:	Network Liaison	APPROVED ON: 3/12/11
PREPARED BY:	Green, O-K, Tieso	REVIEWED: 11/12/14
POLICY AREA:	Networks	

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This policy defines the purpose of Networks and the standards by which these communities will be created, operate, and remain viable.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Overview

Networks are created to provide for association of individuals within NAGC who share common interests within the field of gifted education defined by either professional role or personal interest. Each Network shall support the mission, strategic plan, and purposes of the Association through its activities.

a. Formation of Networks

Special Interest Groups, or other like-minded groups who wish to create a new Network, must apply to be recognized as such to the Network Liaison to the Board (Network Liaison). The Network Liaison, who advises the Board of Directors on matters pertaining to Networks and SIGs, will review the application and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. When considering Network applications the Network Liaison will use these criteria:

- There is minimal evidence of conflict of interest or a duplication of goals with any established Network as defined by the mission statement submitted by the Networks or activities in the current yearly action plan.
- There is no evidence that the new Network will jeopardize the fiscal or personnel resources of the Association or any established Network.
- There is clear evidence that the professional role or personal interest focus being considered relates to or supports the field of gifted education in a coherent way.
- A SIG may apply to become a Network one year after being approved as a SIG by the board of directors.

Networks can be formed by any group of at least 100 NAGC members with a common substantive interest that is consistent with the mission and goals of NAGC. The application will be submitted to the Network Liaison and shall include a Mission statement, a statement about the focus of the Network, a designated leader or contact person for the Network, a list of at least 100 NAGC members who plan to participate in the Network, and a list of proposed activities.

The Network Liaison will take her recommendation to the Board of Directors and will be responsible for communicating the board's decision to the Network applicant within 6 months of receipt of the application.

b. Dissolution of Networks

The Network Liaison will be responsible for assisting Networks that are struggling with low membership or failing to meet minimum requirements for services to their members. The Network Liaison will be responsible for preparing a written Network Improvement Plan, communicating with Network leaders and members, and monitoring the progress of the Network towards improvement goals with the help of NAGC staff. Once a Network faces solvency issues (as defined below) for 6 months and has received a Network Improvement Plan, the Network shall have one year to meet the goals of the Network Improvement Plan, after which time a recommendation for action will be brought to the NAGC Board.

At the end of the 12 months allowed for completing the goals of the Network Improvement Plan, the Network Liaison will submit a recommendation to the NAGC Board as to whether or not the Network should be allowed to continue as a Network, become a SIG, be dissolved, or some other action taken. If the Board recommends dissolution, action will include three distinct stages:

- 1) A review of the Network's performance for a period of 12 months
- 2) Dissolution of the Network;
- 3) Informing the Network members of the dissolution.

If at least two of the following criteria exist within a Network for a period of more than six months, it will be evaluated for viability, with dissolution as a potential outcome.

- 1) Inability to attract volunteers to officer positions for more than two concurrent elections;
- 2) Absence of member benefits for up to 12 months.
 - Member Benefits include: member newsletter, electronic communication, contribution to NAGC publications Parenting for High Potential or Teaching for High Potential, NAGC's electronic member newsletter, webinars, joint projects/convention events, etc.)
- 3) Drop in membership below 100 members;

- 4) Lack of participation and interest in the strand represented by the respective Network based on proposals submitted and attendance at convention sessions.
- 5) Inconsistent or nonexistent communication between Network Leadership and the Network Liaison or Network Leadership and Network members
- 6) Consistent issues of concern reflected in Annual Reports to the Board, or reports to the Board NOT submitted

If the outcome is dissolution for any Network, members of that Network will be able to select membership in another Network for the remainder of their membership.

c. Network Name Change

Networks are encouraged to periodically review whether the Network name reflects both its mission as well as current/future language related to its special interest. Should the Network wish to propose a name change, after initial discussions with the Network Liaison, a proposal will need to be brought to the Network Liaison and approved by the NAGC Board of Directors. The proposal must include demonstrated evidence and clear rationale that the proposed name is widely accepted and recognized in related literature within the field, e.g. citations from the field of specialty, related articles, other published documents as relates to the mission of the Network, or a better name selected to reflect a refinement or modification to the mission.

Following approval by the board, the name change must be approved by a Network membership vote that reflects a two thirds majority of those voting, to take place in conjunction with the NAGC Elections process.

d. Network Mission Statement Change

Networks are encouraged to periodically review whether the Network mission statement reflects both its mission as well as current/future language related to its special interest. Should the Network wish to propose a mission statement change, after initial discussions with the Network Liaison, a proposal will need to be brought to the NAGC Board of Directors that includes demonstrated evidence and clear rationale that the proposed ideas in the mission statement are widely accepted and recognized in related literature within the field, e.g. citations from the field of specialty, related articles, other published documents as relates to the mission of the Network.

Following approval by the board, the name change must be approved by a Network membership vote that reflects a two thirds majority of those voting, to take place in conjunction with the NAGC Elections process

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of Networks

- Networks shall work with the national office to conduct contested elections, in conjunction with the policies of NAGC, to elect a Chair-Elect. These elections will occur at the same time as board members are elected each year. The Chair-Elect automatically rolls into the Chair position after a two-year term. A Network may conduct elections among its members for other officer positions, e.g. secretary, newsletter editor, program chair, as desired and needed
- Networks shall develop and maintain an electronic Policy Handbook, with guidance from the Network Liaison, that defines Network communication, officer roles, and other policies and procedures as needed.
- Networks shall oversee an active proposal submission and review process within their particular strand, topic, or interest area, ensuring timely and relevant convention content.
- Network Chairs shall submit an annual report to the Network Liaison for inclusion as an agenda item for the annual Board meeting, defining the major activities, budgetary allocations, and communication with members for the past year and another for the coming year. This document will also identify the Networks' officers and key members.
- Networks shall hold a formal meeting at the annual NAGC Convention.
- Networks shall work with the national office to plan special Network sponsored activities within the deadlines and guidelines established by the national office regarding funding, feasibility and logistics.
- As a member benefit, Network Chairs (or their designee) will maintain regular communication with members and potential members through convention events or special projects and two newsletters per year or two contributions to an NAGC publication put out by the national office, plus two of the following:
 - Network blog or listserv;
 - Regular electronic communication via email;
 - Active Discussion Forum;
 - Webinars
 - Convention events or special projects

Responsibilities of NAGC (see also Network Convention Policy)

- NAGC will provide meeting space for Networks at the annual convention.
- NAGC will coordinate a Leadership Retreat/Orientation to be held at the annual convention.
- NAGC will provide Network Chairs with monthly membership lists, lapsed membership list, and overall budget parameters;
- NAGC will provide financial support to Network Projects approved within the annual operating budget

- NAGC will coordinate with Network Chairs to schedule Network meetings and events;
- NAGC will provide membership recruitment materials promoting the benefits of Network Membership in NAGC's regular marketing materials;
- NAGC will conduct national elections for Chair/Chair-Elect positions on behalf of each Network
- NAGC will work in partnership with Networks to create and disseminate more general Network information on no less than a bi-annual basis
- NAGC will update and maintain a section of the NAGC website devoted specifically to Network information.
- NAGC will ensure periodic communication with Network leaders about national office operations, Board decisions, key deadlines and potential projects
- The NAGC Board of Directors shall review the annual reports of the Networks to determine success and continued status as an NAGC Network.
- The Network Board representative shall serve as liaison to the Networks.
- If a Network wishes to seek additional program or project funding for a new event or program that is NOT included in the current year's budget, this is possible, pending national office approval.