

**CONSTITUTION
MID-AMERICA AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

Adopted by MAASA membership on April 12, 2003

Amended on April 3, 2009

Article 1. Name and Purpose

1. The name of this organization is the Mid-America American Studies Association (hereinafter, MAASA).
2. As a chapter of the American Studies Association, MAASA is formed by the merger of the Midcontinent ASA and the North Central ASA approved by the membership on April 28, 1984. Its purposes are to foster the study of American culture in all its aspects, to provide a forum for communication and discussion among its members and the general public, and to promote scholarship by the publication of the journal *American Studies*. These ends are to be achieved by the organization of regular meetings, by recognition of outstanding contributions to *American Studies*, and by cooperation with the national American Studies Association.
3. MAASA is a not-for-profit educational organization incorporated in the State of Missouri.

Article II. Membership

1. MAASA's regional mandate is to serve members residing in the following states: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
2. Membership in MAASA is open to any person interested in the study of American culture, upon payment of one year's dues. The Executive Board is responsible for designating membership categories. Amount of annual dues for each category shall be established by the Executive Board, and a portion of the annual dues, determined by the Executive Board, shall entitle members to receive a one-year subscription to *American Studies*.
3. Members of the American Studies Association who reside in the eleven-state region served by MAASA or who select MAASA membership in their annual ASA dues shall be considered members of the organization. Such members must subscribe separately to *American Studies*.
4. Any not-for-profit educational or cultural institution that shares its interests may become an institutional member of the MAASA upon payment of one year's institutional dues, amount of such dues to be established by the Executive Board.
5. Only MAASA members may vote or serve on the Executive Board of MAASA.

Article III. Officers

1. The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President (who shall be President-Elect), a Secretary, an Executive Director, and the Editor(s) of *American Studies*. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall be elected by a majority of the Executive Board from the voting membership of the Executive Board for a term of office of one year. The Executive Director and Editor(s) of *American Studies* serve at the pleasure of and are appointed by the Executive Board to serve a five-year renewable term of office.
 - A. The President: shall preside at all meetings of MAASA and its Executive Board. She/he will formulate such policies and activities that, if approved by the Board, will carry out the chartered purposes and obligations of MAASA.
 - B. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside at all meetings. Should the Presidency become vacant, the Vice-President shall serve the remainder of the President's term. Besides serving on the Board, the Vice-President shall normally chair the Program Committee for the annual meeting of MAASA. The Vice-President/Program Chair will be responsible to the Board in all program and financial matters connected with the annual meeting.
 - C. The Secretary shall: (1) keep a written record of all meetings and provide a copy of that record in a timely fashion to the members of the Executive Board; (2) handle correspondence with the membership of the executive Board; (3) handle matters related to improving membership, as instructed by the Executive Board.
 - D. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day business of the MAASA, including banking and

disbursing funds. The Executive Director will also prepare a financial statement for the Board's approval at least annually, and will be subject to such internal audits as the Board may deem necessary. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of and is appointed by the Executive Board to serve a five year renewal term of office.

- E. The Editor(s) of *American Studies* shall be responsible for the editorial policies and day-to-day fiscal operations of the journal. She/he/they shall have ultimate authority for the format and content of the journal, subject only to the approval of the Executive Board, and shall work with the Editorial Board. The Editor(s) shall report on the editorial and financial aspects of the journal to the Board at its regular meetings.
2. The officers shall serve without compensation. They may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in service to MAASA when such services and reimbursement are approved in advance by the Executive Board. If such expenses are incurred between meetings of the Board, reimbursement may be approved by agreement of the President and the Executive Director
3. Election of Officers. Officers shall be elected at the Spring Executive Board meeting for two-year terms that will begin on June 1 after the spring meeting. The President and the Vice-President must hold a terminal degree. The Secretary can be any member of the organization.

Article IV. Executive Board

1. The Executive Board of MAASA shall consist of six elected members representing the various geographical areas of the region, the immediate Past President, and four faculty representatives and four graduate student representatives from the American Studies graduate programs within the MAASA region. Each of these members of the Executive Board has voting rights. The Executive Board shall also include the Executive Director, the Newsletter Editor, the local Arrangements Coordinator of the Program Committee, and the Editor(s) of *American Studies* as ex officio non-voting members. The total membership of the Executive Board may be as many as twenty.
2. The six elected members of the Executive Board shall be chosen by the membership at large in the spring. The Nominating Committee shall conduct the election and propose a slate of candidates, subject to approval by the Executive Board.
3. Terms for elected members and for Faculty Representatives from the American Studies graduate programs shall be four years. Terms for graduate student representatives from the American Studies programs shall be two years. In case of vacancies in office, the Nominating Committee will oversee the election of a new elected member at the next regularly scheduled election at the annual meeting, or, in the case of graduate program vacancies, the graduate program in question shall appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

Article V. American Studies

1. The journal *American Studies* is jointly sponsored by MAASA and the University of Kansas, and is copyrighted by MAASA. This is the result of negotiated agreements between MAASA and the University of Kansas, such arrangements being subject to periodic review. The Editor(s) of *American Studies* and any Associate, Assistant, or Consulting editors serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board. Except for such subsidies as are provided by the University of Kansas or any other sponsoring institution, the MAASA, through its Executive Board, oversees the disbursement of funds for journal expenses.
2. The Editor(s) shall recruit new members of the Editorial Board and submit their names to the Executive Board for approval. Members of the Editorial Board shall normally serve five year terms, renewable upon recommendation by the Editor(s) and subsequent approval by the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board of MAASA shall conduct a review of the journal and its editorial staff at least once every five years.

Article VI. Committees

1. Standing Committees are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board. Standing committees consist of: a Nominating Committee, a Program Committee, and an Awards Committee. The Executive Board shall annually at its spring meeting appoint all standing committees for the next year, with their terms to begin on June 1 after the spring meeting.
 - A. The Nominating Committee shall submit annually to the Executive Board a slate of candidates for election to the

Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall conduct all elections, and ensure that notice of elections and names of candidates are circulated to the membership in advance of elections.

- B. The Program Committee shall be responsible for the program and arrangements of the annual meeting. It shall consist of the Vice President as the chair, the immediate Past President, and a local arrangements coordinator from the host institutions who shall be approved by the Executive Board. Should the Vice Presidency or Immediate Past Presidency become vacant, the Executive Board shall appoint new Program Committee member(s) to fill any such vacancies.
 - C. The Awards Committee shall annually handle calls for nominations, evaluations of candidates, and announcements of winners for those prizes regularly awarded by MAASA. The Executive Board may designate that this committee be composed of several sub-committees, each responsible for an individual award competition.
2. Ad hoc committees are appointed by the President and Executive Board as are necessary to accomplish specific tasks. They serve at the pleasure of the Board or the Board's designated representative.

Article VII. Amendments and By-Laws

Amendments to this Constitution and any By-Laws of MAASA must be proposed in writing to the President at least one month before a meeting of the Board. The Board shall consider all such proposals. The Board vote on any such proposal may not occur at the same meeting as first consideration of the proposal. Final approval of such proposed changes or additions must be by a majority of those voting members present at a membership meeting.

Article VIII. Meetings

1. There shall be an annual meeting of the membership. A quorum shall consist of those members in attendance.
2. The times and places of all meetings of MAASA and the Board will be determined by the Executive Board.
3. The Board will meet at least once annually. The Board may meet at such other times as the officers shall deem necessary. A quorum for conducting business shall be 50% plus one.