



**GUIDE TO
BYLAWS AMENDMENTS
AND CANDIDATES FOR
NATIONAL OFFICE**

2021 SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE
BYLAWS OF MORTAR BOARD, INC. AND SLATE OF
NATIONAL COUNCIL CANDIDATES TO BE DISCUSSED
JANUARY 24

MORTAR BOARD
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ABOUT THE SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Special National Conference (SNC) is a **virtual** conference that is held by webinar. It does not require travel. It only requires computer or phone, study of the issues, and being present.

Your chapter must have at least one collegiate delegate present at the SNC. All other collegiate members and advisors are encouraged to attend. [Advance registration is required](#), however, so the Zoom link can be sent to members and advisors only.

During the SNC, chapter delegates talk VIRTUALLY and share information with one another. They—YOU--also conduct the business of the Society.

The SNC has been held every January since 2013, and the 2021 SNC will be the tenth virtual conference. This meeting is interesting and fun, especially if you have all your officers and as many members as possible participate.

Topics related to chapter programming will be on the agenda, and the idea-sharing is vigorous. Come prepared to share and listen!

SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE TIMELINE AND DEADLINES

Timeline

Friday, August 7, 2020

Announcement of the SNC

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Special National Conference is held

Sunday, January 24 (after the SNC ends)

Voting opens by online ballot

Friday, February 5

Chapters must clear accounts to be able to vote

Sunday, February 7

Voting closes

How to attend the Special National Conference

The Special National Conference will be held via Zoom meeting. The time is Sunday, January 24 at:

7 p.m. Eastern / 6 p.m. Central / 5 p.m. Mountain /

4 p.m. Pacific / 2 p.m. Hawaiian

It will be 90 minutes long.



The SNC will be hosted by members of the National Council, and the meeting will be conducted by National President Gail Harrison Corvette.

Preparing yourself for the SNC

1. Put the SNC on your calendar. Get other officers to attend. Confirm your attendance here: [REGISTRATION LINK](#)
2. Read this guide completely. Share the link to it with your officers and advisors.
3. Study the *Bylaws* amendments and review the candidates for election.
4. Prepare for questions you might like to ask or issues to raise.
5. Next, prepare some thoughts about how your chapter will flourish in the upcoming term. This will be the topic of conversation among chapters.
6. Other topics will come from this past summer's National Conference and the resolutions presented by the delegates in August:
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion reports
 - All-chapter fundraising opportunity
7. Make sure the chapter's account is clear so that your chapter will be eligible to vote following the SNC.
8. Review the "join" instructions below.

Instructions for joining the SNC webinar

1. BEFORE the SNC, you will receive a URL and instructions for signing on to the SNC.
2. About 20 minutes before the scheduled start time of the SNC, get ready to log into the webinar from your computer and from a quiet location.
3. Leave your camera on to be seen by your friends around the country. It is an expectation, if at all possible, that you be on camera.
4. You may mute yourself while you are not speaking.
5. You should also be sure to name yourself on screen, using your first and last name, chapter and office.
6. You will enter your presence in the chat with name, chapter and your office title.

7. There is call-in capability if you are unable to use computer audio. While you won't be able to see the screens shared, you will still be able to participate.

Casting your chapter's ballot

After the SNC, your chapter will have two weeks to cast its one ballot on the issues and candidates presented. Each chapter eligible to vote may cast one vote. The highest officer registered from your chapter will be considered the official delegate. Voting will be conducted by electronic ballot using an online survey tool. Voting opens on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 8:30 p.m. Eastern and closes on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. Note the timeline in the first column on the previous page.

If your chapter fails to cast its ballot, the chapter's vote will be cast automatically in the affirmative. See the *Bylaws*, Article XIII.

Eligibility to vote

To be eligible to vote on the issues raised at the SNC, a chapter must have cleared its accounts for any amount due in 2020. The deadline to clear accounts is February 5, 2021, leaving you time to cast your chapter's ballot before the polls close on February 7. Call the National Office at 614-488-4094 to learn about your chapter's account.

Every chapter must attend the SNC even if its account might not yet be clear.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *Bylaws* of Mortar Board, Inc. FOR CONSIDERATION BY CHAPTERS IN JANUARY 2021

AMENDMENT 1

Article IV, National Leadership, Section 1-National Council

Action proposed: Delete the words marked in **bold** strike-through.

Section 1.2 - Only alumni members and honorary members are eligible to be nominated for National Council president-elect, vice president, secretary-treasurer and the two alumni representative at-large positions. All collegiate members ~~who~~

~~attend conference~~ are eligible to be nominated for student representative at-large.

Reason: Mortar Board's recent experiences with virtual meetings have shown that a national conference can be held virtually. The physical presence of a collegiate member at conference no longer needs to be a prerequisite to being slated and running for student representative at-large. Virtual meeting tools allow all collegiate members to be considered for nomination to the National Council as student representative at-large.

AMENDMENT 2

Article V, Meetings, Section 2:

Action proposed: Delete the language indicated with strike-throughs and add the language in **bold**:

Section 2.1 - The National Conference is the ~~physical~~ meeting of the Society and is held no less often than biennially at a time **and in a format** ~~place~~ specified by the National Council.

Reason: Like many organizations and institutions, Mortar Board has grown in its ability to conduct online meetings and conferences. Its members have become more adept at using online meeting tools. The National Council must have the clear authority to make decisions about the whether a conference will be virtual or in person.

GENERAL MODIFICATION REQUEST

The Standing Governance Committee seeks the approval of the delegation make grammatical and style changes that do not in any way affect the meaning or substance of these *Bylaws*.

Continued next page ...

NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION GUIDE

Electing the National Council

The Society's board of directors is called the National Council. It is composed of eight elected officers whose terms run for two years. Each year, Mortar Board's voting delegates are charged with the task of electing members to fill offices that will be vacated due to term expiration. At this SNC, three of the eight offices are up for election.

Responsibilities of national officers

Generally, a member of the National Council should:

- Affirm the mission and Purpose of Mortar Board
- Establish and maintain a comprehensive set of policies and procedures that reflect the Society's governance
- Select the Mortar Board chief executive and review annually
- Accept fiduciary responsibility, approve and monitor the budget
- Promote the organization nationally, regionally and locally
- Contribute to the development of programs

Characteristics of qualified candidates

- Commitment to higher education and to the values of Mortar Board
- Computer literacy and skills to receive electronic communication
- Good communication skills--both verbal and written--and the ability to listen carefully
- Ability to evaluate, research, propose solutions and make decisions with a group
- Demonstrated leadership skills and the ability to work with and attract others to the cause
- Past or current service to Mortar Board, experience with fundraising, donors or volunteer service programs
- Service on other community or national boards

Duties of offices up for election this year (from the *Bylaws*)

President-elect - The president-elect shall perform the duties of the president in the absence or disability of the president and coordinate the work of the standing and other committees. The president-elect shall become National President immediately following their term.

Secretary-treasurer - reviews all financial statements and transactions, reviews the annual budget prepared by the executive director, maintains accurate Minutes of each meeting of the National Council and of conferences, and ensures that investment policies are followed.

Alumni representative at-large - serves as a liaison to alumni members and chapters.

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL

The candidates for National Council slated by the Standing Nominations Committee follow.

PRESIDENT-ELECT



Cassandra L. Lucas

Purdue University, 1994

Degrees: B.A., history and sociology, Purdue, 1995; Ph.D. history, University of Minnesota, 2007

Current job title/employer:

Chief Operating Officer, Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, affiliated with the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

What sets Mortar Board apart on campuses today?

Mortar Board's Ideals of scholarship, leadership and service are critical principles for Mortar Board members now, just as they have been since Mortar Board's founding in 1918. Our purpose, with its focus on promoting equal opportunities among all peoples, emphasizing the advancement of women, and establishing the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas is even more imperative today as our chapters navigate issues of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, citizenship, and community. This purpose sets our chapters apart on campus and is a powerful foundation for their engagement with their chapter members, for service to their alma mater, for commitment to servant leadership, and for dedication to thoughtful scholarship. Our national leadership, advisors, and over 300,000 alumni help support our chapters through our shared legacy into and through our second century and beyond!

Cassandra's service to Mortar Board:

- Alumni Representative at-large, 2019-present
- Section Coordinator, Southwest, 2014-present
- Outstanding Section Coordinator, 2018
- National Conference Chapter Operations presenter 2018, 2019
- Mortar Board National Foundation Fellowship recipient
- Conference Advisory Board 1995
- Collegiate chapter president
- The 1918 Society
- Charter Member, Mortar Board Alumni Association

SECRETARY-TREASURER



Sharon Martin
Central Michigan University, 1988

Degree:
B.A.A., journalism and advertising

Current job title/employer:
Vice President for University Relations & Enrollment Management, West Virginia University

What sets Mortar Board apart on campuses today?

Mortar Board is uniquely positioned as a senior honor society to create meaningful and lasting change on college campuses. As colleges and universities balance the needs of their students with the obligations of providing a quality education in a safe and inclusive environment, the senior leadership often turns to their students for input on how best to meet those needs.

With membership rosters that are diverse in experiences, passions and expertise, Mortar Board chapters are a microcosm of the environment campuses strive to create. As outstanding scholars, members are dedicated to the ideals and the value of higher education. As emerging leaders, Mortar Board members have the experience and the willingness to improve campus life. And in service, members come together to change lives, empower others and give back to the communities that have supported them. And they do so while learning from each other and respecting the life experiences each brings.

What sets Mortar Board apart on campuses today is the enthusiasm with which seniors come together to serve their institution. They raise awareness on critical issues. They bring joy to others in the outreach they do. But perhaps what sets Mortar Board apart the most is the ability to bring together a group of people with different backgrounds, interests, goals and experiences to create a unified voice that advances the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. It is a unique opportunity for a unique organization.

Sharon's service to Mortar Board:

- Member of Mortar Board National Foundation Communications Committee, 2020-present
- Member of Historical Publication Steering Committee, 2017-2018
- National Director of Communications, 1995-1997
- Section Coordinator, Indiana, 1991-1995
- Central Michigan Alumni Chapter, 1990
- Conference Student Advisor, 1989
- Annual Member, Mortar Board Alumni Association

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE AT-LARGE



Jenni Birch Szolwinski
Purdue University, 1993

Degrees:
B.A., psychology and M.A., organizational communication, Purdue University

Current job title/employer:
Director of Marketing & Public Relations, West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance

What sets Mortar Board apart on campuses today?

Mortar Board is uniquely positioned to make a difference today more than ever before as our Society recommits to uniting for equity, a guiding principle upon which we were founded over a century ago. Mortar Board was established to recognize college senior women at a time in which they were marginalized by administrators, faculty and peers; and our trailblazing founders courageously came together to promote and advance the status of women. Over the last 100 years, Mortar Board has expanded its mission to become the premier

honor society that promotes equal opportunities among *all* people.

As we move into our second century, Mortar Board alumni and collegians have recommitted to the equity themes in our Purpose. We have embarked on a bold new Strategic Plan that seeks to diversity our membership and leadership, beginning with the establishment of a Standing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee that is already hard at work. Mortar Board is also moving toward membership selection by nomination in order to ensure that candidates are selected from across all areas of the institution and accurately reflect the demographics of the entire student body.

In today's turbulent times, Mortar Board's scholar-leaders on every campus can make a meaningful contribution through service to the alma mater that promotes equal opportunities for all people. Programming and practices focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion will leave a lasting impact on our member institutions in the years to come.

Jenni's service to Mortar Board:

- Secretary-treasurer, 2017-present
- Trustee *ex officio*, Mortar Board National Foundation, 2017-present
- Strategic Plan National Council Liaison, Financial Sustainability Committee
- Section coordinator, Southern Ohio, 2012-2017
- Leader of Section Coordinator Team
- The 1918 Society
- Charter Member, Mortar Board Alumni Association

Want to JUMP INTO national

Mortar Board service?

Here's just the form for you: [click](#)



CURRENT NATIONAL COUNCIL

National President

Gail Harrison Corvette (The Ohio State University, 1980)

President-elect

Katie Chick (Hood College, 2006)

Vice President

Sarra Nazem (University of Michigan, 2004)

Secretary-Treasurer

Jenni Birch Szolwinski (Purdue University, 1993)

Student Representative at-large

Brendan J. Wall (Illinois State University, 2018)

Student Representative at-large

Chaela Minor (Purdue University, 2020)

Alumni Representative at-large

Nathan Cordle (The University of Alabama, 2011)

Alumni Representative at-large

Cassandra Lucas (Purdue University, 1994)

Immediate Past President

David L. Whitman (University of Wyoming, 1998)

Foundation Representative

Marty Starling (Kansas State University, 1962)

Chief Executive Officer

Jane A. Hamblin (Purdue University, 1973)

STANDING COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Candi Hironaka Pitts (Oregon State University, 1971)

Gabby Going (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)

Lashanda Jordan (Jackson State University, 2020)

Bre'una Keeton (Washington State University, 2013)

Chaela Minor (Purdue University, 2020)

Nathan Cordle, Liaison to National Council

STANDING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

David L. Whitman (University of Wyoming, 1998)

Joseph Allen (University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2019)

Tyler Hayaski (University of South Alabama, 2014)

Lynn Hendrickson (The Pennsylvania State University, 2000)

Mary Sadowski (Purdue University, 2004)

Angie Schrader (University of Wyoming, 1998)

Margot Smith (San Diego State University, 1965)

STANDING GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Jane M. Beyer (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1980)

Myra Hanson (The University of Northern Colorado, 2011)

Kirsten Hawley (Miami University, 1996)

Cassandra Neel (San Diego State University, 2013)