



# MORTAR BOARD

NATIONAL COLLEGE SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY

**2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

*July 26 – July 28, 2024*

**Guide to Governance**

# ABOUT GOVERNANCE AT THE 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Conference 2024 is an in-person conference taking place July 26 – July 28, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. Each chapter in attendance at the National Conference must have an official delegate.

As a student-governed society, YOU (the collegiate members) conduct the business of the Society. Each chapter in good standing will have one voting delegate at the National Conference. The official delegates shall be responsible for:

- Reviewing the Bylaws and voting on recommendations for changes to the Bylaws.
- Electing two (2) Student Representatives at-Large to serve a one-year term on the National Council. In the election for Student Representatives at-Large, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. If there is a tie that makes it unable to determine the top two vote recipients, a runoff between the tied candidates will be held.
- Receiving the resolutions and recommendations and passing such resolutions and recommendations deemed appropriate to assist the National Council to guide the future development of the Society.

## TIMELINE

### Friday, July 26:

Opening Business Meeting

- Presentation of recommended changes to the Mortar Board National Bylaws
- Casting of votes on recommended Bylaws changes

### Saturday, July 27:

Meetings of the Conference Committees

- Conference Nominating and Credentialing Committee
- Resolutions and Recommendations Committee

Presentation of candidates for position of Student Representative at-Large by the Conference Nominating and Credentialing Committee

Election of two (2) Student Representatives at-Large

### Sunday, July 28:

Closing Business Meeting

- Presentation of received resolutions and recommendations by the Resolutions and Recommendations Committee and subsequent vote

## How to Prepare

1. Put the conference dates on your calendar, determine chapter delegate (and others) to attend, and register for National Conference.
2. Read this Guide to Governance completely.
3. Review the National Bylaws.
4. Watch the presentations of the candidates for election on Saturday.
5. Prepare for questions you might like to ask or issues to raise.
6. Consider volunteering for a Conference Committee.
7. Prepare some thoughts about how your chapter will flourish in the upcoming year.
8. Prepare to hear national updates about the Society, as well as committee reports.

## CASTING YOUR CHAPTER'S BALLOT

Each chapter eligible to vote may cast one vote. The highest officer registered, and in attendance, from your chapter will be considered the official delegate.

If your chapter is present but fails to cast its ballot, the chapter's vote will be cast automatically as an abstention. See the Bylaws Article XIII.

## ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

To be eligible to vote on the issues raised at the National Conference, a chapter must be in good standing. This includes having cleared accounts for any amount due. The National Office will reach out to you if your chapter's account is not cleared. Every chapter must attend the National Conference.

## ELECTION GUIDE

### Electing the National Council

The Society's board of directors is called the National Council. It is composed of 10 elected officers whose terms run for two years, excluding the Student Representatives at-Large. In the case of the Student Representative at-Large, two students are elected annually at the National Conference for a one-year term. 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.

### 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, and 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
- Demonstrates 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

## ELECTION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE AT-LARGE

Student Representative at-Large candidates will be introduced to the delegation on Saturday morning. The election will take place immediately after.

## Qualities Desired in a Student Representative

- Be completely committed to fulfilling all the obligations of a one-year term
- Have strong communication skills
- Exhibit excellent time management
- Possess the ability to work successfully with students, alumni, and administrators
- Be a current collegiate member of Mortar Board

## Responsibilities Include

- Attend the annual National Conference at both the beginning and conclusion of the term
- Participate in every monthly meeting (by Zoom) for the entire one-year term
- Provide input in regular email discussions
- Serve on standing committees
- Advocate for collegiate members in all matters

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS

Proposed amendments to the *Bylaws of Mortar Board, Inc.* for consideration by chapters in July 2024:

### AMENDMENT 1

**Action Proposed:** Change the eligibility for Mortar Board membership to be a more inclusive collegiate membership through the following:

- The addition of juniors to Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society. Students in their sophomore year (or the equivalent status in units or hours) and/or undergraduates who will have completed 50% or more of credits needed for graduation at the end of the term in which they are selected, would be eligible for membership.
- The addition of graduating seniors, not to exceed 25% of the incoming class. Students are eligible to be selected for membership in their final term of college prior to graduation as long as the total number does not exceed 25% of the new initiates.
- The addition of a statement on financial equity and accessible membership. Financial limitations should not be a barrier for membership. Collegiate members would only pay for membership upon entry, despite their length of time as an active collegiate member (i.e., one year vs. two years).

### **Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in bold):**

#### ARTICLE III

#### Section 1 – Collegiate Membership

#### Membership Qualifications

Section 1.2 – Change junior to **sophomore**.

Section 1.4 – at least in their ~~junior~~ **sophomore** year or the equivalent status in units or hours, **undergraduates who will have completed 50% of credits needed for graduation at the end of the term in which they are selected.**

Add: **Students are eligible to be selected in their final term prior to graduation as long as the total number does not exceed 25% of the new initiates.**

### Section 1.5

- Change junior to **sophomore**.
- Add: **Students are eligible to apply any term after they have completed at least 50% of credits needed for graduation by the end of the term in which they are selected. (Inclusive of 3+2, 5-year, transfer from community colleges, etc.)**
- Add: **If a student is not selected the first time they apply and/or are nominated, they are eligible to reapply in subsequent selection seasons as long as they have not yet graduated.**
- Add: **Students can be selected for membership in their final term prior to graduation as long as the total percentage of students in their final term does not exceed 25% of the total selected students.**

### Section 1.9

- Add: **Financial limitations should not be a barrier for membership. In addition to the one Gift Membership (Membership Fee Waiver) awarded to each chapter, both payment plans and additional scholarships are available.**
- Strike mention of continuing college member fees. Initial dues payment allows for multi-year participation with no additional fees to be collected.

## AMENDMENT 2

**Action Proposed:** Increase opportunities for chapter membership.

- Allow for the possibility of a National Chapter to provide additional support for students on campuses with a Mortar Board charter, or potential charter, to gain support from Mortar Board Inc. when an active chapter is not currently existing.
- Eliminate the maximum chapter size to allow for chapters to grow beyond 50 members or 1.5% of the current junior class.
- Allow chapters to hold more than one selection annually should they choose as a way to be more inclusive and expand the opportunity for membership.

### **Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in bold):**

ARTICLE III Section 1 – Collegiate Membership  
Membership Qualifications

Section 1.1 – Members are selected by the collegiate chapters **or the national organization,** ~~annually~~ according to the criteria stated in these Bylaws and Mortar Board chapter operational guides.

### ARTICLE VI CHAPTERS

This Society shall be composed of collegiate chapters, alumni chapters, **and a national chapter.** The organization and structure of which shall be set forth herein: ...

### Section 1.2

- Change junior to **sophomore**.
- Strike: maximum (currently 50 members or 1.5% of the student body with junior standing).

### Section 1.5

- Add: **“at least”** prior to once a year.

### AMENDMENT 3

**Action Proposed:** Increase opportunities for chapter leadership with elected officer positions.

- Strike current bylaw that states that only single office holders may be elected, not allowing for co-officers.
- Strike current bylaw that states that any member only present for one semester (i.e., graduating early, off-campus for an internship, or studying abroad) is ineligible to serve in an elected leadership role.

**Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in bold):**

ARTICLE VI

CHAPTERS

Section 1.24

- Strike: Members who will graduate after one semester, study abroad in either semester of active membership, or engage in another all-time-consuming obligation during their active year may not be elected or appointed and may, instead, serve the chapter by active participation in chapter activities and general committee work.

Section 1.29

- Strike: Single office-holder elected. A chapter may not elect co-office holders for an office without the express prior approval of the National Council acting upon the recommendation of the region coordinator.

### AMENDMENT 4

**Action Proposed:** Replace Mortar Board Alumni Association with Mortar Board Alumni and add a statement that all Mortar Board collegiate members become Alumni upon graduation.

Mortar Board has always promoted Society membership as an opportunity to experience lifelong engagement. Offering programmatic and outreach initiatives to a segmented MBAA annual population dilutes our ability to engage all members. This change will instead focus on increasing opportunities for engagement with all alumni.

**Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in bold):**

ARTICLE XII

MORTAR BOARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

~~The Mortar Board Alumni Association (MBAA) is Mortar Board Alumni are part of Mortar Board, Inc. and supports the aims of Mortar Board, Inc. An alumni member of Mortar Board may become a member of the MBAA by payment of dues.~~ **All Mortar Board collegiate members become Alumni upon graduation.**

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

### NATIONAL COUNCIL

**President:** Cassandra Lucas (Purdue University, 1994)

**President-elect:** Nathan Cordle (The University of Alabama, 2011)

**Vice President:** Patience Whitworth (The Ohio State University, 2003)<sup>^</sup>

**Secretary:** Aimee Abernathy (Queens University of Charlotte, 1996)\*

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Birch Szolwinski (Purdue University, 1993)

**Alumni Representative at-Large:** Mohammed Hill (University of California, Berkeley, 1992)\*

**Alumni Representative at-Large:** Wilson Chan (University of Louisville, 1989)

**Student Representative at-Large:** Makayla Johnson (North Dakota State University, 2019)\*

**Student Representative at-Large:** Gabrielle Tessier (University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2023)

**Immediate Past President:** Kathryn E. Chick (Hood College, 2006)

**Foundation Representative:** Barbara J. Arnold (The Pennsylvania State University, 1981)

**Executive Director:** Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)

*\*Term Ending July 28, 2024*

### NATIONAL COUNCIL TERM BEGINNING AT CLOSING BUSINESS MEETING

**Vice President:** Patience Whitworth (The Ohio State University, 2003)<sup>^</sup>

**Secretary:** Catherine Verschelden (Kansas State University, 2002)

**Alumni Representative at-Large:** Leslie Ellis (Lenoir-Rhyne University, 2015)

**Student Representative at-Large:** TBD

**Student Representative at-Large:** TBD

*<sup>^</sup>Re-elected for a second term*

### NATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**President:** Barbara J. Arnold (The Pennsylvania State University, 1981)

**Vice President:** Karen S. Stiner (San Diego State University, 1987)<sup>^</sup>

**Secretary:** Janet G. Farrington (University of Mississippi, 1964)<sup>^</sup>

**Treasurer:** Craig Evers (The Ohio State University, 2001)\*<sup>^</sup>

**Trustee:** Mary Ruth Carleton (University of California, Berkeley, 1969)

**Trustee:** Joni Comstock (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)

**Trustee:** L. Susan Doss (The University of Alabama, 1985)

**Trustee:** W. David Lasater (Ball State University, 1992)<sup>^</sup>

**Trustee:** Laura C. Simic (University of Oregon, 1985)<sup>^</sup>

**Trustee:** Bruce Ware (University of Mississippi, 1998)<sup>^</sup>

**Trustee ex officio:** Cassandra Lucas (Purdue University, 1994)

**Trustee ex officio:** Jennifer Birch Szolwinski (Purdue University, 1993)

**Executive Director:** Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)

*\*Executive Committee Term Ending July 28, 2024 (remains a Foundation Trustee)*

*<sup>^</sup> Relected for an additional 3-year term*

### FOUNDATION TRUSTEE TERM BEGINNING AT CLOSING BUSINESS MEETING

**Treasurer:** Matthew Ross (The Ohio State University, 2001)

## REGION COORDINATORS

**Region 1:** Hannah Giannini (University of South Alabama, 2020)

**Region 1:** Vedant Kulkarni (Kansas State University, 2021)

**Region 1:** Brendan Wall (Illinois State University, 2018)

**Region 2:** Parker Brown (University of Mississippi, 2023)

**Region 2:** Jaquilynn Huff (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2019)

**Region 2:** Anne Mascia (University of South Alabama, 2021)

**Region 3:** Robbie Kichak (University of Cincinnati, 2014)

**Region 3:** Alexa Murray (The Ohio State University, 2014)

**Region 3:** Kailee Weiker (Ohio Northern University, 2010)

**Region 4:** Carina Huot (University of North Dakota, 2022)

**Region 4:** Kailey Jerome (University of North Dakota, 2019)

**Region 4:** Caitlyn Kant (Illinois State University, 2021)

**Region 5:** Cadence Ciesielski (Kansas State University, 2021)

**Region 5:** McCaleb Hart (Texas Tech University, 2021)

**Region 5:** Reilly Roggendorff (Oklahoma State University, 2022)

**Region 6:** Kara Stogsdill (Illinois State University, 2023)

## NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

**Executive Director:** Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)

**Director of Collegiate Success:** Trish Maxwell

**Membership and Operations Manager:** Ben Flox

**Philanthropy Coordinator:** Liz Cook

**Social Media and Digital Content Creator:** Julia Scharff (The Ohio State University, 2023)

**Special Projects and Events Coordinator:** Lexie Beer

**Outreach and Engagement Liaison:** Cara Lisenby (The University of New Mexico, 2022)

## CONFERENCE ADVISORY BOARD

**Programming and Engagement Lead:** McCaleb Hart (Texas Tech University, 2021)

**Registration and Information Lead:** Caitlyn Kant (Illinois State University, 2021)

**Interactive Engagement Lead:** Elizabeth Payton (Texas Tech University, 2023)

## STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*\*2024-2025 Standing Committee Members will be appointed by the Mortar Board National President after the conclusion of the 2024 National Conference. Current collegiate students are eligible to serve on these committees.*

### Standing Nominations Committee

Kathryn E. Chick, **Chair** (Hood College, 2006)

Jennifer Birch Szolwinski (Purdue University, 1993)

Lynn M. Hendrickson (The Pennsylvania State University, 2000)

Daniel Turner (Northern Illinois University, 1994)

*National Office Representative: Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)*

### Standing Governance Committee

Kirsten Hawley, **Chair** (Miami University, 1996)

Myra Lynn Hanson (The University of Northern Colorado, 2011)

Makayla Johnson (North Dakota State University, 2019)

Kara Stogsdill (Illinois State University, 2023)

Brendan Wall (Illinois State University, 2018)

*National Office Representative: Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)*



## Standing Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEI&B)

Candi Hironaka Pitts, **Chair** (Oregon State University, 1971)

Gabby Going (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)

Bre'una Keeton (Washington State University, 2013)

Tamika Lovelace (San Diego State University, 2021)

Elizabeth Payton (Texas Tech University, 2023)

National Office Representative: *Trish Maxwell*

## MORTAR BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN

**Vision: To be scholars ... chosen for leadership ... committed to service ... united for equity**

### Transformational Imperatives

Emphasize the equity themes of Mortar Board's Purpose

Develop and advance the professional and personal skills of members

Engage members for life

2022-2023 Focus



**MORTAR BOARD**  
NATIONAL COLLEGE SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY

### Goals

Brand Mortar Board to promote Transformational Imperatives

.....

Achieve and maintain financial stability at all levels

.....

Incorporate values of diversity, equity and inclusion into every aspect of Mortar Board

.....

Ensure Mortar Board's Impact

### Strategies

Create & celebrate our history

Increase collegiate membership

Use diversity, equity and inclusion as a foundation for programming

Implement effective advising models at every chapter

August 2022