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Constitution of the Nepal Studies Association

The Nepal Studies Association seeks to foster the study and understanding of Nepal and to improve communication among all who share this interest regardless of nationality. Association members believe in equal scholarly opportunity, open exchange of information, and full disclosure of the purposes and funding of research.

Membership and participation in Associational affairs is open to all who approve its aims and guidelines.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the NSA is responsible for the general management of Association affairs. It will consist of nine persons chosen by mail ballot sent to all NSA members. Term of office is three years, and a year must elapse before reeligibility. In the first election held under this constitution the three nominees receiving the largest number of votes will serve for three years, the three receiving the second largest for two years, and the three receiving the third largest for one year. The Executive Committee will annually submit a list of nominees for election to the opening seats on the Committee, taking into account availability and the need for representation according to geographical region, academic discipline, age and sex. Any eligible member supported by signatures of five members submitted to the Executive Committee will be included on the list of nominees. The Executive Committee will elect its own Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer.

The Association will meet annually.

Executive Committee Functions

The Executive Committee will seek to maintain and improve communication between the NSA and other organizations with similar goals. If approved and appointed by the Association for Asian Studies, it will serve as the Committee for Development of Nepal Studies in South Asia Regional Council of the AAS.

A foremost responsibility of the Executive Committee is improvement of scholarly opportunity for Nepalese. To further this goal it will seek a) to establish and strengthen facilities in Nepal for collecting, preserving and making accessible scholarly materials; b) to enable more apprentice Nepalese scholars to obtain sound training in their discipline; and c) to enable established Nepali scholars to secure funds for periods of research, writing and related travel. When feasible, it will make acceptance of funds for non-Nepalese scholars contingent on a reasonable matching amount to be used for either a), b), or c).

Other functions of the Executive Committee include:

1. Seeking funds to support an NSA Newsletter and appointment of Nepalese and American co-editors;

2. Organizing and seeking funds to support training or research seminars and workshops in the U.S., Nepal and other countries; and seeking funds to enable distribution of paper abstracts;
3. Organizing and seeking funds to support summer institutes for training in Nepalese languages and culture;
4. Seeking means to assure that results of research done in Nepal, or dealing with Nepal, are available to Nepalese;
5. Seeking funds to enable translation of vernacular materials and wider distribution of documentation from Nepal;
6. Seeking funds to assist publication of worthy manuscripts and materials;
7. Seeking to encourage and find funds to support the teaching of Nepali and other Nepalese languages at appropriate institutions;
8. Seeking funds to support resource centers in the U.S.;
9. Encouraging persons who have lived and worked in Nepal and are interested in furthering NSA goals, regardless of whether they are academically affiliated, to participate in NSA affairs, including seminars and workshops;
10. The executive Committee will allocate the financial resources of the Association and will report annually to the Association on the sources of its funds and the activities supported by those funds.

Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at the annual meeting and if passed by a majority will be submitted to the NSA membership by mail ballot, with majority support from those voting required for adoption.