1) Please list your Committee, Commission or Task Force Objectives and Responsibilities as stated in your group’s charge:

Objectives
To organize and recommend candidates for all open, elected AAA positions. The Nominations Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board.

Responsibilities
To organize information regarding candidates that have been nominated for any AAA elected position (nominees can be nominated by any member or any group members of the AAA).

To make sure that all necessary information has been received by the committee in time for the meeting (especially proof that the nominee has agreed to run and, should s/he win, accept the position).

To meet annually to discuss nominations,

To make recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the candidates for each position.

To utilize the specific guidelines established by the Executive Board when making recommendations.

2) Please list your Group’s goals, activities and accomplishments/products for the designated Period in relation to the AAA’s long range plan:

Goal 1:
The nomination committee has been working steadily towards building a culture whereby AAA members nominate themselves for positions and secure their outside letters. The committee has also been looking for ways to make all of the information that they have to work with comparable. To that end, the committee (in conjunction with AAA staff members Kim and Lisa) has redesigned the on-line prompts for candidates. These include providing 2 letters of support (not less, and not more), tailoring their statements more specifically to the positions they wish to run for, and keeping their vita to 3-5 pages.

Activity:
The committee met from 9:00-4:00 on Tuesday November 15, 2011, to make up the slates for 18 positions (thereby utilizing 36 candidates out of the pool of 71 candidates). Two of these slates were for vacancies on the Nomination Committee, and those slates were made by the Executive Board. Because many candidates put themselves up for more than one slate, we were able to present the board with slate that was balanced using a list of criteria (for example, representing all the subfields plus applied/professional, providing diversity in terms of ethnicity and background, sexual orientation, junior, mid-level and senior professional standings, and institutional and other affiliations).

Accomplishment/Product:
The Nomination Committee’s role to the Executive Board is advisory. On Wednesday November 16, 2011, a slate was presented to the Executive Board. After deliberation and some alterations of the pairings to provide more balance, the slate was accepted and the Executive Board also provided slates for the two positions on the Nominations Committee.

Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:
Every year there is tension because the Nomination Committee cannot always easily make slates for every position because of a too-small pool of candidates. This is being addressed with the changes that have been made in the last two years to cultivate a culture of self-nomination. It appears that there are many AAA members who would prefer to be nominated by others. While this is still an option using the on-line process (the nominator simply puts in a letter of recommendation, and signals the nominee to go on line and provide their materials), we hope to make it more and more acceptable to all members that they can make the decision to run without being formally nominated.

Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
The Nomination Committee instituted, after much discussion last year, a decision to be more proactive and energetic in encouraging colleagues and others to nominate themselves. The Executive Board has also agreed to be more proactive in getting individuals in their circles to consider nominating themselves for positions. A large and diverse pool is key to making slates that are balanced, diverse and representative of the make-up of the AAA membership.

3) Provide any additions or proposed changes to goals, activities, products or outcomes for the designated period:

Goals:
The Nominations Committee has made it a major goal to make it easy and stress-free to nominate oneself for open positions. Also, the Nominations Committee seeks to encourage promoting younger scholars and seasoned older scholars to consider themselves for positions. Finally, the Nominations Committee wishes to seek ways to encourage those candidates not used in any given year to apply again in subsequent years.

Proposed Changes:
Not Applicable

Activities:
• Ask nominees to list what they bring to the positions, list AAA Experience, and make it broad to include AAA Committees, workshops, and annual meeting symposia/poster sessions, include meetings attended and not just organized.
• Encourage Sections to appoint un-used candidates (who don’t get selected for the ballot) to something on the Section level. This would be communicated to Section Chairs by the Secretary after the slates have been made public.
• It was agreed that during the nominations meeting itself, reading the committee charge
out loud is useful also reading the members of the current committee is also useful.
• It was agreed that the next year’s list of candidates should be available during the AAA
  meetings the previous year.
• Create a check off box for support letters for indicating if the letter is from a Section or
  else have standard language so it is clear who is writing the letter.
• Nom Com and Section Presidents work to bring in young scholars through the
  nomination/election process.

**Proposed Changes:**

Not Applicable

**Products/Outcomes:**

Not Applicable.

**Proposed Changes:**

Not Applicable

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4) Provide plans for 2012 in relation to existing or new goals/activities and relationship to the
Objective in the Committee's or Commission's Charge and Long-Range Plan Objective (if not
self-evident). Identify if they represent significant changes or elaborations on existing goals,
objective activities, charge etc:

  **Committee/Commission Objective 1:**
  Not applicable

  **LRP Objective 1:**
  Not applicable

  **New Goal and or Activity 1:**
  Not applicable

5) List financial and other resources in hand to complete the proposed work of the Committee,
Commission or Task force for the coming year and explain any additional resources . Please
list separately:

  a. **Resources in hand or being sought independent of the AAA:**
  Not applicable
b. Requests for additional resources from the AAA. Specify clearly which specific
goals/activities etc. require additional resources from each source:
   Not applicable

6) Have there been or do you propose any changes to the Objective or the Responsibilities of
your Committee, Commission or Task Force If so, what are they and what is the rationale for
them:

   **Current Objective 1:**
   Not applicable.

   **Responsibility:**
   Not applicable.

   **Proposed Change:**
   Not applicable.

   **Rational for Change:**
   Not applicable.

7) Are there issues you would like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the
AAA Executive Board related to the work of your committee commission or task force?
   Not applicable.