Constitution and Bylaws

Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers

Section 1. Name

The name of the organization is the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division (GP/RM) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG).

Section 2. Purpose of the organization

The objectives of the GP-RM Division are:

1. to encourage geographical research and scholarship,
2. to provide a forum to share results of that research with other professionals and interested participants,
3. to promote a sense of community among geographers in the region, and
4. to strengthen geographic education at all levels.

Section 3. Authority

This Division is organized in accordance with Article VI of the Constitution of the AAG. Nothing in GP/RM Bylaws shall be construed to contradict that constitution. In case of conflict, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association of American Geographers shall be considered the final authorities.

Section 4. Membership

a) Eligibility: Membership in the Division shall be extended to all members of the AAG without payment of additional dues, providing that they reside within the boundaries of the Division as established by the Council of the AAG (the states of Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). Additionally, members may reside in the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Individuals who reside beyond these boundaries for brief periods shall retain their membership providing their legal address remains within the Division and for long as the Association regards them as members of this Division.

b) Nondiscrimination: In executing its purposes, the Division shall not discriminate on grounds unrelated professional competence, such as age, national origin, handicap, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, and shall promote policies of affirmative action among its members and the institutions with which they are affiliated.

c) Rights: Members in good standing shall have the rights to nominate candidates for the Division’s offices, vote in elections, and hold office, if duly elected.
Section 5. **Officers**

The officers of the Division shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Councillor, and Past Chair, all of whom shall be members of the Division and the Association at the time of election. Each officer will have a voice in decisions made by officers, as described below.

Section 5a. **Method of Nomination and Election of Officers**

Nominations of candidates for the offices of Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Councillor shall be made by division members in response to a call for nominations from the Chair, or from the floor at the annual business meeting. Election shall follow immediately and be decided by majority ballot or voice vote of the members present. With his/her consent, an officer candidate may be nominated *in absentia*. The elevation of the Vice Chair to the office of Chair is automatic. A new Vice Chair is selected each year. The Chair automatically becomes Past Chair upon the election of a new Vice Chair and shift of the past Vice Chair to Chair.

Section 5b. **Term of Office**

a) The Chair, Vice Chair, and Past Chair shall each serve in the specified capacity for a term of one year, holding office from one week after the close of the annual meeting of the Division until one week after the close of the following annual meeting.

b) The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve a term of three years from one week after the close of the annual meeting in which he or she is elected until one week following the annual meeting three years later. The Secretary-Treasurer may be re-elected for subsequent terms of office.

c) The Councillor shall be elected for a term of three years, with the term beginning in July of the following summer, concurrent with other Divisional and National Councillors.

Section 6. **Duties of Elected Officers**

a) Chair. The GP/RM Chair shall:

1) Serve as presiding officer at the annual meeting of the Division.

2) Supervise all arrangements, including publicity, program, and mailings, for the annual meeting of the Division.

3) Appoint members and chairs of such standing committees as may be established by Division action and appoint ad hoc committees as he/she considers necessary, with consultation with and concurrence by the Executive Committee. Such appointments include the regional ‘Geobowl’ coordinator, who will normally serve a three-year term.

4) Attend the Division Chairs meeting at the annual meeting of the AAG.

5) With consultation with and approval by other regional officers, appoint an interim officer when a vacancy occurs between elections.
6) Represent the Division at Council meetings of the Association when the Councillor elected to represent the Division is unable to attend and when such substitution is workable. When called upon to do so, the Chair shall be reimbursed by the Division for expenses not otherwise provided for, in an amount to be agreed upon by the Division officers.

7) Act on behalf of the Division as needed in circumstances not otherwise covered by the Bylaws, with consultation with the other regional officers.

b) **Vice-Chair.** The GP/RM Chair shall:
   1) Act as Chair in the absence of the Chair.
   2) Attend the Division Chairs meeting at the annual meeting of the AAG.
   3) Consult with the Chair and express opinions (with other GP/RM officers) on matters decided by the officers, as led by the divisional Chair.
   4) Perform additional duties as delegated by the Chair.
   5) Assume the office of Chair immediately following the one-year term of office as Vice-Chair.

c) **Secretary-Treasurer.** The GP/RM Chair shall:
   1) Take and maintain minutes of the business meetings of the Division.
   2) File such reports as are required by the Association of American Geographers and its publications.
   3) Accomplish the financial transactions of the Division, being accountable for accurate and timely keeping of the Division’s financial and written records.
   4) Carry on all other correspondence for the Division as needs arise, or as directed by the Chair.
   5) Maintain and pass on to his/her successor, in good order, the records of the Division.
   6) Consult with the Chair and express opinions (with other GP/RM officers) on matters decided by the officers, as led by the divisional Chair.

d) **Councillor.** The GP/RM Regional Councillor shall:
   1) Fulfill the duties of a regional councillor as provided in the National Constitution.
   2) Attend the meetings of the AAG Council and represent the membership of the Division to the Council.
   3) Maintain close communication and coordination with the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Past Chair of the Division.
   4) Consult with the Chair and express opinions (with other GP/RM officers) on matters decided by the officers, as led by the divisional Chair.
   5) Identify potential suitable nominees for officer positions of the region.
   6) Attend the Division Chairs meeting at the annual meeting of the AAG.
e) **Past Chair.** The GP/RM Past Chair shall:

1) Be available to the other officers in an advisory capacity.

2) Consult with the Chair and express opinions (with other GP/RM officers) on matters decided by the officers, as led by the divisional Chair.

Section 7. **Division Meetings**

a) **Annual Meeting.** One meeting of the Division shall be held annually, normally in September or October. Meeting sites shall be determined at least two years in advance, whenever possible.

b) **Annual Business Meeting.** The Division shall conduct an annual business meeting as an integral part of the general annual meeting. The business of the Division, including but not restricted to election of officers, shall be transacted at this meeting.

c) **Annual Officers’ Meeting.** Concurrent with the Annual Meeting of the GP/RM Division, and prior to the Annual Business Meeting, the officers shall meet in executive session to conduct such official business for the organization as the Chair may direct. The Chair, Vice Chair, immediate Past Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Regional Councillor shall constitute the executive committee. The Geo-Bowl Coordinator shall be in attendance.

Section 8. **Supplemental Voting by the Membership**

Should need arise for a vote at a time other than the annual meeting, the form of that vote (e.g., mail, e-mail, or other electronic means) shall be determined by the officers and carried out by the Secretary-Treasurer. Any such decision shall be determined by majority of those voting.

Section 9. **Publication and Research**

The Division may establish research projects and/or publications.

Section 10. **Quorum and Amendments**

A quorum shall be considered as those members attending any Annual Business Meeting of the Division.

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the quorum at any annual business meeting of the Division.

Section 11. **Adoption**

This Constitution and Bylaws shall be considered to have been adopted when approved by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum attending an annual business meeting of the Division.

**Date of Adoption:** 9 October 2010