

2018 – 20 Executive Board Spring Report May 1, 2020 President's Report

Governance

The SGCI Executive Board has spent the past two years evaluating our organization on many levels. Our goal was to make certain that our organization is one of our current time. We must not only continue to strive to meet the goals set by our founders, but also aspire to grow and achieve the needs and aspirations of our current membership while readying ourselves to be a welcoming community for members yet to come.

With this inclusive vision in mind we undertook three interrelated tasks: developing a new strategic plan; editing the SGCI Handbook, the malleable document that guides the functioning of the board; and revising the SGC International Constitution and Bylaws.

New SGCI Strategic Plan

In November of 2018 at our Mid-year Meeting, the SGCI Executive Board began the process of developing a new strategic plan for our organization. This process was started by identifying areas of key importance for SGCI and building working groups to examine these issues and develop goals in each area. The working groups, which were composed of board members and student and professional SGCI members, presented reports in the fall of 2019. These reports became the basis upon which the board structured our new strategic plan.

[The new SGCI Strategic Plan](#) is aspirational and concise. This two page document outlines goals for our organization in specific areas, all of which are aimed at strengthening the whole organization. This plan charts a direction for SGCI without determining a specific path or limiting the potential for new ventures. It is a guide forward to help ensure continuity of vision and continued collaboration.

The SGCI Executive voted unanimously to approve our new strategic plan on May 24, 2020 at the first half of our Spring 2020 Executive Board Meeting. We now present it to the membership for your review and a vote for approval in the coming weeks.

SGCI Handbook Updates

The SGCI Handbook is the guiding document for the work of the executive board, appointments, and our program coordinator. This document expands upon our constitution and bylaws, the legal charter documents that define our organization. The SGCI Handbook is revised periodically as needed to make sure that it reflects the board and organization today within the confines of our constitution and bylaws. At times small changes are made, while at others major overhauls are necessary. Over the last year Nicole Pietrantonio, Valerie Dibble, Sarah Ellis, Margot Myers, Kate McQuillen, and I scoured our handbook to bring it up to date, ensure consistency throughout, and create structure where it was missing. I am indebted to this team for all of the hard work that they have put into this effort. Their focus and wisdom have helped us refine this document into one that is reflective of our organization today.

The SGCI Executive Board voted unanimously to approve the edits to the SGCI Handbook on April 30, 2020. We are pleased to present the incoming executive board with this document that will clearly guide their work.

SGCI Conference Handbook Updates

Valerie Dibble led a similar effort to revise SGCI's Conference Handbook. SGCI's approach to conference planning has evolved continuously over the years, with this document guiding our steering committees through developing and hosting their conference. It, too, had become outdated by big organizational changes and small changes in process that were not reflected throughout the document. It is now in solid shape to help those planning future conferences work with clear direction. Thank you, Valerie, for using your experience as a conference host to ease the path of steering committees to come.

SGCI Bylaws & Constitution Revisions

Amendments to an organization's constitution and bylaws are changes that are not to be taken lightly. These revisions need to be approved by SGCI's Executive Board and its membership, reviewed by legal counsel, and filed with our charter state.

Nicole Pietrantonio graciously dedicated much of her time as SGCI's Immediate Past President to reviewing our constitution & bylaws and helping us to adjust them in several places to support SGCI's current position. In addition to proposing language changes and working with all involved in the revisions of the handbook and conference handbook, she also has created a document that identifies all of the changes and explains the rationale for each change in clear language.

The 2018-20 SGCI Executive Board is handing this work off to the incoming board because there are a few additional potential amendments that are identified in our strategic plan. Before completing the amendment process and incurring the

expenses necessary to amend our constitution and bylaws, we feel it is important to resolve these directives:

- Explore the addition of a second international representative to the executive board so that each representative represents a different region of the world to help SGCI broaden its reach and become even more inclusive.
- Explore the addition of a second student representative to the executive board so that there are both undergraduate and graduate student representatives creating stronger representation for the largest portion of our membership.
- Explore moving SGCI's charter to Georgia so that our address, archives, and charter are consolidated in one state and creating a larger pool of individuals able to serve as our Charter State Member-at-Large.

We look forward to completing these tasks soon and presenting amendments to the membership for review and a vote.