About NAS

The National Association of Scholars upholds the standards of a liberal arts education that fosters intellectual freedom, searches for the truth, and promotes virtuous citizenship.

Contents

Vision........................................................................................................................................................... 5
Mission.......................................................................................................................................................... 5
Values .......................................................................................................................................................... 5
1. Journal ...................................................................................................................................................... 7
2. Reports ................................................................................................................................................... 8
   2.1. Trends ............................................................................................................................................... 8
   2.2. Improvements ................................................................................................................................... 8
3. Commentary ............................................................................................................................................. 9
4. Advocacy ............................................................................................................................................... 10
   4.1. Legislation ...................................................................................................................................... 10
   4.2. Legal Cases ..................................................................................................................................... 10
   4.3. Testimony ....................................................................................................................................... 10
   4.4. Public Support ................................................................................................................................ 10
5. Conferences ............................................................................................................................................ 11
   5.1. Discussions ..................................................................................................................................... 11
   5.2. Reforms ........................................................................................................................................... 11
   5.3. Recognition .................................................................................................................................... 11
Administrative Information........................................................................................................................ 11
National Association of Scholars (NAS)

Description:
The National Association of Scholars is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to reform higher education. We uphold the standards of a liberal arts education that fosters intellectual freedom, searches for the truth, and promotes virtuous citizenship. To accomplish this mission we defend the academic freedom of faculty members, students, and others through individual advocacy; investigate issues affecting academic freedom, the integrity, purpose, and neutrality of the university and publish our findings as in-depth reports; educate the public about policies and legislation that would preserve the liberal arts and protect academic freedom. These create three pillars from which our work stands: individual advocacy, research reports, and public advocacy.

Stakeholder(s):
America’s Colleges
America’s Universities
NAS Staff

Peter W. Wood:
President — Peter Wood is the President of the National Association of Scholars. Dr. Wood is an anthropologist and former provost. He was appointed president of the NAS in January 2009. Before that he served as NAS’s executive director (2007-2008), and as provost of The King’s College in New York City (2005-2007). Dr. Wood was a tenured member of the Anthropology Department at Boston University, where he also held a variety of administrative positions, including associate provost and president’s chief of staff. He also oversaw the university’s scholarly publications and served as acting university librarian. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology in 1987 from the University of Rochester. His dissertation, Quoting Heaven, examined the emergence of an American folk religion and pilgrimage center in rural Wisconsin. His undergraduate degree is from Haverford College (1975) and he has a master’s degree in library science from Rutgers University (1977). Dr. Wood is the author of A Bee in the Mouth: Anger in America Now (Encounter Books, 2007) and of Diversity: The Invention of a Concept (Encounter Books, 2003) which won the Caldwell Award for Leadership in Higher Education from the John Locke Foundation. These books extend his anthropological interest in examining emergent themes in modern American culture. In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Wood has published several hundred articles in print and online journals, such as Partisan Review and National Review Online, and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Rachel Peterson:
Policy Director — Rachel Peterson is the Policy Director of the National Association of Scholars. Rachel joined NAS in 2013 as a research associate analyzing the campus sustainability movement. She graduated from The King’s College in May 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics.

David Randall:
Research Director — David Randall is the Research Director of The National Association of Scholars. David earned a Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University, an M.F.A. in fiction writing from Columbia University, a master’s degree in library science from the Palmer School at Long Island University, and a B.A. from Swarthmore College. Prior to working at NAS he was the sole librarian at the John McEnroe Library at New York Studio School.

Glenn Ricketts:
Public Affairs Director — Public Affairs Director Glenn Ricketts joined the NAS staff in 1989. He was the founding president of the NAS New Jersey state affiliate and served for 20 years on the NAS board of directors. A graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, he received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago. He is also a professor of political science and U.S. history at Raritan Valley Community College in Somerville New Jersey, where he has taught since 1982.

Christopher Kendall:
Chief Development Officer — Christopher Kendall joined NAS in 2017 as a Development Associate. He graduated from The King’s College with a degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. Prior to working at NAS, he spent time studying at New College in Oxford University, and served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the Texas House of Representatives.

David Welch:
Development Assistant — David Welch joined NAS in September 2019. A native of Texas, he graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. in Great Texts of the Western Tradition in 2013. David went on to receive an M.A. in Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto and an M.T.S. in the History of Christianity from the University of Notre Dame. Before coming to NAS, he taught history and Latin at a Great Hearts Academy in San...
Stakeholders (continued)

Antonio, Texas, and worked as a research assistant and office assistant at the University of Notre Dame.

Petru Kokora:
Controller/Human Resource Director — Petru Kokora joined National Association of Scholars in June 2018. Before joining NAS he served as a Logistics Manager at Thomson Reuters, where he worked for 23 years, and a full time pastor at Church of God of Ridgewood for 10 years. He was born in Uzdin, province of Vojvodina, Serbia. He is a happily married husband and a father of two daughters. Petru attended Technical College in Pančevo, Serbia, and Lee University where he received a Master of Business Administration and studied Ministry Leadership.

Chance Layton:
Communications Coordinator — Chance attended The King’s College in Manhattan, where he studied politics, philosophy, and economics. He is an Intercollegiate Studies Institute Honors Scholar for 2017-18, and one of the founding members of the American Enterprise Institute Council at The King’s College; a student organization that invites speakers to lecture to small groups on topics from international development and poverty policy to understanding Al Qaeda & ISIS.

Teresa R. Manning:
Director of the Title IX Project — Teresa R. Manning is the Director of the Title IX Project at the National Association of Scholars. Teresa graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1993 after completing her first year of law school at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. She also has an M.A. in Western European History from Washington University in St. Louis and her B.A. in Philosophy is from St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto. Before joining the National Association of Scholars, Teresa served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Population Affairs in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Neetu Arnold:
Research Associate, Student Debt & Administrative Growth — Neetu graduated in 2018 from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Communications. Since graduating she has worked as a staff writer for The Daily Caller, where she wrote on education policy and campus culture. While she was still an undergraduate, Neetu was a New York Campus Correspondent for Campus Reform.

Stanley Young:
Director of the Shifting Sands Project — Dr. Young is currently the CEO of CGStat and previously worked at Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences on questions of applied statistics. He graduated from North Carolina State University, BS, MES and a Ph.D. in Statistics and Genetics. Dr. Young worked in the pharmaceutical industry on all phases of pre-clinical research. He has authored or co-authored over 70 papers including six “best paper” awards, and a highly cited book, Resampling-Based Multiple Testing. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an adjunct professor of statistics and biostatistics. Dr. Young is on the Scientific Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Carol Iannone:
Editor-at-Large, Academic Questions

Seth Forman:
Managing Editor, Academic Questions — A Ph.D. in American history with a Master of Public Administration degree, Seth Forman has taught history, political science, and public policy at Stony Brook University, Nassau Community College, Long Island University, SUNY Farmingdale, and Suffolk County Community College since 1993. A long-time regional planner on Long Island, Dr. Forman’s most recent book, American Obsession: Race and Conflict in the Age of Obama (2011), has been called “A terrific, comprehensive telling of Obama’s rise to power,” by Abigail Thernstrom, the Vice-Chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Earlier books include Blacks in the Jewish Mind: A Crisis of Liberalism (NYU Press 1998) and The Fire Island National Seashore: A History 1964-2004 (SUNY Press 2008).

NAS Board of Directors

Keith Whitaker:
Chairman — Keith is President of Wise Counsel Research. He has consulted for many years with leaders of enterprising families, helping them plan succession, develop next-generation talent, and communicate around estate planning. Family Wealth Report named Keith the 2015 “outstanding contributor to wealth management thought-leadership.” Keith has served as a Managing Director at Wells Fargo Family Wealth, an adjunct professor of management at Vanderbilt University, an adjunct assistant professor of philosophy at Boston College, and a director of a private foundation. He was also a special assistant to the President of Boston University.

Steve Balch:
Founder — Stephen H. Balch is the director of The Institute for the Study of Western Civilization at Texas Tech University. He previously served for twenty-five years as the founding president and then the chairman of the National Association of Scholars. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley and was for fourteen years a member of the faculty of the Department of Government and Public Administration of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, part of the City University of New York. In 2007 he received the National Humanities Medal from President George W. Bush. In 2009 he was the recipient of the Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick Academic Freedom Award from the American Conservative Union Foundation and the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.

Daniel Asia:
Professor of Music, University of Arizona, whose compositions include five symphonies, an opera, and numerous other works.

Jay A. Bergman:
Professor of History, Central Connecticut State University, whose research focuses on modern Russian history.

Peter Berkowitz:
Tad and Dianne Taube Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution at Stanford University, where he chairs the National Security and Law Task Force.

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Vision
... intellectual freedom, search for the truth, and virtuous citizenship.

Mission
To uphold the standards of a liberal arts education ...

Values

Ideals: Our Ideals:

Reasoned Scholarship: The standards of a liberal arts education that the NAS upholds include reasoned scholarship and civil debate in America’s colleges and universities; and individual merit in academic and scholarly endeavor.

Civil Debate

Individual Merit

Academic Endeavor

Scholarly Endeavor
Ideas: We expect that ideas be judged on their merits;

Truth: that scholars engage in the disinterested pursuit of the truth;

Fairness: and that colleges and universities provide for fair and judicial examination of contending views.

Judiciousness

Contending Views

Coherence: We expect colleges to offer coherent curricula and programs of study.

Institutional Integrity: We uphold a view of institutional integrity that includes financial probity as well as transparency in the curriculum and classroom.

Financial Probity

Transparency

Academic Freedom: We uphold the principles of academic freedom that include faculty members’ and students’ freedom to pursue academic research; their freedom to question and to think for themselves; and their freedom from ideological imposition.

Education: We expect colleges and universities to prioritize education as academia’s main purpose. And we understand education in our time and place to entail providing students with a breadth of understanding of core subjects including Western civilization and American history.

Experimentation: We recognize that the vitality of American education arises in large part out of the freedom of colleges and universities to experiment and to offer diverse curricula.

Diversity

Virtuous Citizenship: That robust diversity, however, must be anchored in respect for the abiding ideals of the pursuit of the truth and the cultivation of virtuous citizenship.

Liberal Arts: We view the liberal arts as foundational in higher education. The liberal arts provide the essential intellectual skills, substantive knowledge, and cultural context that underlie every discipline within the university. We expect the university as a whole to abide by the standards enunciated in the liberal arts.

Democracy: We view colleges and universities generally as serving the need to prepare students for virtuous citizenship, which for citizens of the United States entails an understanding of the nature of democratic institutions, including representative government.

Rule of Law: More broadly, virtuous citizenship is upholding the principles of the rule of law and taking a positive role in shaping public life.
1. Journal

*Explore the vices and virtues of the contemporary university.*

**Stakeholder(s)**

**Universities**

We publish a quarterly journal, Academic Questions, which explores the vices and virtues of the contemporary university. Issues are often themed and include scholarly articles, book reviews, poetry, and items of academic interest. A subscription to Academic Questions is included in NAS membership.
2. Reports

*Publish studies that examine curricula and other aspects of higher education policy and practice.*

We regularly publish studies that examine curricula and other aspects of higher education policy and practice.

2.1. Trends

*Document trends in contemporary academia.*

These studies document trends in contemporary academia.

**Stakeholder(s):**

Academia

2.2. Improvements

*Stimulate improvements to the quality of education in our colleges and universities.*

They aim to stimulate improvements to the quality of education in our colleges and universities.

**Stakeholder(s):**

Colleges  Universities
3. Commentary

Publish op-ed articles along with debates and videos.

NAS’s website presents daily opinion and commentary on developments and trends in higher education. A high-traffic destination linked by major online publications, NAS.org publishes substantial op-ed style articles by guest authors and NAS staff, along with debates and videos.
4. Advocacy

Advocate for reform in higher education.

NAS and our members are involved in efforts to pass legislation for true and salutary higher education reform. We file friend-of-the-court briefs in legal cases, defending freedom of speech and conscience, and the civil rights of educators and students. We give testimony before congressional and legislative committees and engage public support for worthy reforms.

4.1. Legislation

Pass legislation for true and salutary higher education reform.

4.2. Legal Cases

Defend freedom of speech and conscience and the civil rights of educators and students.

Stakeholder(s):
Educators
Students

4.3. Testimony

Give testimony before congressional and legislative committees.

Stakeholder(s):
Congressional Committees
Legislative Committees

4.4. Public Support

Engage public support for worthy reforms.
5. Conferences

Hold conferences on issues and public policy debates in higher education.

NAS holds national and regional conferences that focus on important issues and public policy debates in higher education today. At these meetings and conferences, those concerned about higher education convene to discuss issues of the moment, propose reforms, and recognize individual achievements.

5.1. Discussions

Discuss issues of the moment.

5.2. Reforms

Propose reforms.

5.3. Recognition

Recognize individual achievements.