

APNS Policy for Nominations and Appointments to the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

Mandate

The Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia (APNS) is responsible for appointing five psychologists to the seven member Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology (NSBEP). The APNS Executive Committee has struck an advisory committee known as the Board Nominations Subcommittee (BNSC). This subcommittee of the APNS Elections Committee will be responsible for calling for nominations on an ongoing basis to maintain the complement of five psychologists on NSBEP. The BNSC consists of the APNS Past President (ex-officio), an APNS member who is also a former NSBEP member, and a member of the APNS Elections Committee. A report of the mandate, composition, and activities of the BNSC will be provided at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of APNS.

Nominations Procedure

When necessary, a call for nominations to the Board will be issued by the APNS Elections Committee. An acceptable nomination form will contain the names and signatures of two nominators. The nominee must also sign this nomination form attesting that he or she is willing to be considered for appointment to NSBEP and that he or she is not the subject of a complaint before the Board, nor aware of any pending complaints. The nomination must also be accompanied by a current version of the nominee's curriculum vitae. Eligible nominations must reach the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee within 30 days from the date of mail out of the call for nominations.

All psychologists registered with NSBEP (Register or Candidate Register), regardless of membership status in APNS, will be eligible to be nominators for appointments. Although BNSC members are eligible to nominate candidates they will not themselves be eligible for nomination.

Nominees must be on the Register of Psychologists. In addition, all nominees for appointments shall:

1. Have been in practice a minimum of five (5) years post registration.
2. Have supervised a minimum of two candidates (2), at least one of whom was supervised through to completion of the registration process.
3. Preferably have served as an examiner on at least one oral examination.

Finally, any APNS Executive Committee member shall resign her or his position on the Executive Committee before accepting an appointment to NSBEP.

Prioritization and Appointment of Nominees

The BNSC will meet as soon as practical after all valid nominations have been received to prioritize nominees. BNSC will review all relevant evidence provided by nominees as to qualifications and to how well the nominee meets the current needs of NSBEP (note statement on Board composition below). BNSC will forward its prioritized list as well as all supporting documentation (i.e., nomination forms and c.v.s) to the APNS Executive Committee for the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting. This function will typically be facilitated by the ex-officio member (i.e. the current APNS past president).

The APNS Executive Committee will determine the top choices for appointment to the Board drawn from the list as prioritized by the BNSC. The rank ordering of the potential appointees will be determined by the same general principles as used by the BNSC and the actual

recommendations of BNSC should be considered. Ultimately, however, the APNS Executive Committee has sole responsibility for rank ordering the top nominees. Throughout all processes leading to Board appointments, the APNS Executive and BNSC are encouraged to consult with Board members or the Board Registrar to better understand the current needs of the Board. However, Board appointments are ultimately the sole responsibility of APNS.

Board Appointments

The list of rank-ordered nominees takes force for six months. A Board opening during this time will be filled by nominees in order of ranking. The APNS President will inform the NSBEP Chairperson and the successful nominee of the appointment in writing. Although the list of candidates will likely prove to be a more than sufficient pool of nominees for Board needs during most years, it is possible that emergency conditions could arise that exhaust the list of nominees (e.g. simultaneous resignation of all Board members). In such conditions the APNS Executive Committee may revisit the entire list of nominees provided by BNSC over the last two years and appoint directly from those lists. In exceptional circumstances after the list has been exhausted (e.g., the need to appoint someone with previous Board experience), the APNS Executive Committee may unilaterally appoint one experienced psychologist directly to the Board to meet that exceptional need. The BNSC Committee may also issue a call for new nominees.

When a candidate is completing the unfinished term of a Board appointee, that candidate will be given the option of completing the term and then re-offering for another full three year term, or only completing the term.

Board Composition

Appointments will be made with the overriding goal of selecting qualified psychologists to serve on the Board. Nominations and priority listings should be made within the context that Board membership requires mature professional judgement, exemplary ethical conduct, broad understanding of the practice of psychology and commitment to the regulation of psychologists for the benefit of the public. Nominees ought to have significant professional experience and general positive respect and reputation amongst psychologists. Furthermore, appointments will be made cognizant of the need for diversity in areas including: educational level (i.e., inclusion of both Ph.D. and Masters level psychologists), type of workplace (e.g., inclusion of both academic and clinical/applied psychologists, private and public sector), APNS and non-APNS members, gender, geography, nature of practice, and cultural and ethnic background. The BNSC Committee will also make every effort to have Board appointments staggered such that there will be continuity in Board membership.

Length of Appointments to the BNSC

The composition of the BNSC must follow the guidelines set out in the initial paragraph of this policy statement. Beyond this, the Subcommittee will act under the supervision of the Chairperson of the APNS Nominations Committee with term of appointments as specified for the Nominations Committee by the APNS Constitution. The only exception to this is the exofficio member whose term will automatically expire upon the end of her term as APNS Past President.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed and modified if necessary to enhance efficiency or correct unseen procedural problems, in two years' time by the APNS Past President. The APNS Past President will seek input from the NSBEP, BNSC, and the APNS Executive Committee when reviewing this policy.

Revised January 2005