

April 7, 2006

## Report of the NCC Chair Elect Election

According to the NCC Bylaws, Section V. Officers: Article A. Chair requires the new chair to be elected a full year before the expiration of the then current chair term, i.e. by December 2005.

Thus, the NCC's Nominating Committee as constituted was formed in summer 2005 including the members of the Executive Committee; Michael Smitka, Kenji Niki, and Victoria Bestor, plus Sachie Noguchi (chair) and Kristina Troost, both former NCC chairs, with Toshie Marra, current NCC chair, abstaining from the process but continuing to observe.

The committee posted "call for nominations" on Eastlib and H-Japan multiple times. Vickey who was then in Japan solicited nominations from Japanese colleagues. These generated a number of nominations from the field. In addition the committee reviewed the list of past nominees and also consulted past NCC Chairs for their suggestions.

Thanks to your and other nominations, nine good candidates were discussed and prioritized. Agreed upon candidates were contacted by Sachie and Kris on behalf of the Committee in order of priority and asked if they would stand for election. Each of them was asked to provide a copy of their short CV and to prepare a brief statement about their willingness to serve as NCC Chair for the Council to review as part of the election process.

The Nominating Committee nominated the two excellent candidates for the Council's consideration. During the NCC Council Meeting in September 2005, the full council reviewed each candidate and elected by casting a vote **Tokiko Yamamoto Bazzell** of the University of Hawai'i. Many many congratulations to Tokiko! The Chair-elect started to serve as a council member from January 2006 and will succeed full chair in January 2007.

Through the nomination and election this time, two issues were discussed by the Nomination Committee and referred to the full Council for further discussion. One is the question of whether or not candidates from outside the US (from Canada or Japan especially) would be eligible to run for the position of Chair-Elect. The Council agreed that given the need for the chair to be completely current on the US Japanese studies scene and to relate with US based funders, the NCC chair should be from an institution in the US. The second question was the weight that should be placed on institutional duplication; that is should it be permissible for both the Chair and another Council member to be from the same institution simultaneously. The Council agreed to approve such overlap considering the limited pool of candidates for chair-elect.

We all look forward to working with a new chair-elect Tokiko for NCC. Thank you.