

DRAFT-VERSION OF BY-LAWS FOR THE
PROPOSED ARNOVA SECTION ON VALUES, RELIGION, ALTRUISM
AND DRAWBACKS ("VRADS")
(9/2/2008V#4-DHS)

I. Purpose and Background

The purpose of ARNOVA's Section on Values, Religion, Altruism, and Drawbacks (VRADS) is to provide a sub-group setting and "social structural home-community" within the larger Association where the importance, both conceptually and practically, of these under-analyzed components of the Voluntary Nonprofit Sector (VNPS) can be explored empirically and new theoretical insights developed regarding all of the time when and space where human beings have existed on our planet. The Section assists individuals with research, teaching, practice, and policy interests related to the role of the full spectrum of values, from positive to negative, in forming and driving the sector (and at times leading to its decline and/or external control). These focal values and related norms are often rooted in the beliefs/faith of religion and in religious ethics/morality of some kind. Values, norms, and practices of altruism are seen as being of special importance in the VNPS, nearly always present to some degree at least toward co-members of one's own VNPS group, and sometimes present regarding all of humanity, all living organisms, our whole planet and its ecosystem, and even the larger universe/multiverse.

As part of study of the "Drawbacks" (which some of us prefer to call the "Dark Side" or "Dysfunctions") of the VNPS, we include not only self-serving variations from the dominant normative system/values of a society (or of emerging global society), which are often seen analytically and labeled as deviance/misconduct, but we also explicitly include deeply-principled system-challenge as (a) occurs collectively in social movements and their nonprofit organizations and (b) occurs individually in "whistle-blowers" and "moral exemplars" speaking out against abuses, injustices, incivility, and other unethical behavior. This in turn leads us to consideration of the increasingly salient, related issues of (i) VNPS accountability and self-regulation vs. government regulation, and (ii) trends in and causes of public trust/mistrust and confidence/non-confidence in the VNPS and its component groups and institutions. The Section also plays a leadership role in the dissemination of resulting Section-relevant information in a variety of forms, both to the Section membership and to the broader community of scholars, practitioners, policy-makers, and societal and world leaders.

The formation of VRADS was the original idea of David Horton Smith, who organized and Chaired a relevant, exploratory, Thursday Luncheon Roundtable Discussion at the 2007 Annual ARNOVA Conference in Atlanta. About a dozen, mostly invited, scholars discussed the pros and cons of formalizing a Section like VRADS and the most appropriate name for the proposed new Section. Discussion continued by email and in-person thereafter. Smith then wrote a lengthy (7,000 word+) "Petition for Formation and

Purpose Statement" of the proposed new ARNOVA VRADS Section, rewriting it and renaming the Section with editorial inputs from Edward Queen, John Messer, Mark Chaves, Joyce Rothschild, Betsy Jones Wade, and others.

Smith then sent the final version of this Petition/Purpose Statement, along with a Summary version, on April 8-10, 2008, by email to past and present ARNOVA members who had expressed interest in one or more aspects of the VRADS component issues, including the full list of ARNOVA 2007 and 2008 ARNOVA members through that date who had indicated a Research Interest in one of the component issue areas on their annual joining/renewal ARNOVA Membership Forms. With no follow-up emails, some 23 current ARNOVA members signed the VRADS Formation Petition by email and indicated their willingness to join the VRADS Section if formed, satisfying the existing ARNOVA Board policy requirements for section formation. Smith prepared the section establishment documents (with the help of Edward Queen, who did a first draft of the By-Laws, using the TIB Section by-Laws as a general model) and sent them all by email to ARNOVA Executive Director Thom Jeavons on the first business day of June 2008 (6/2/08) by 2:00 PM CST, in ample time for due consideration at the June ARNOVA Board Retreat later in the month. The ARNOVA Board approved the new VRAD Section, with the proviso that the name for the negative aspects of the VNPS be "Drawbacks," which the Founding Executive Committee/Officers agreed to.

II. Membership and Dues

A. VRADS membership is open to all ARNOVA members on an annual basis and is determined by payment of annual Section dues (together with ARNOVA membership dues).

i. These dues are paid by ARNOVA members in conjunction with their annual fee payments to the parent organization and are determined by the ARNOVA Board of Directors.

ii. VRADS funds will be collected, managed, disbursed and audited by the ARNOVA Executive Office in accordance with ARNOVA policies and procedures, with the Section Treasurer making email requests to the ARNOVA Executive Director for disbursements approved by the Section Executive Committee.

(a) A portion of Section membership dues (determined by a vote of the ARNOVA Board of Directors) shall be used to help cover administrative costs of the ARNOVA Executive Office.

(b) Only those expenses derived from VRADS activities or programs (e.g., postage, workshop expenses, copying) authorized in advance by the Section Executive Committee are eligible for reimbursement from Section funds. No member of the Section will be reimbursed for such expenses without documented approval from the Section Chair (or by a member of the Section Executive Committee for the Section Chair's expenses).

iii. A preliminary financial statement covering the previous year and a proposed budget for the next year will be presented at the VRADS Annual Meeting by the Section Treasurer, in consultation with the Section Executive Committee. With appropriate revisions by the Treasurer as authorized by the Executive Committee, a financial statement and budget will be included in the annual report presented to the ARNOVA Board of Directors by March of the following year.

III. Governance

A. VRADS has been formed and operates in accordance with the policies and procedures of ARNOVA in existence and operation during its three months of intensive formation by Smith and the other Founding Officers with help from other interested people (March 2, 2008, to June 2, 2008). Section activities are coordinated by an Executive Committee, which comprises the Officers of the Section.

i. Duties of the five-member Executive Committee include, but are not limited to, forming and implementing relevant sectional policies and procedures, appointing subcommittees, overseeing the annual VRADS membership meeting and other Section-related gatherings at the annual ARNOVA Conference, and organizing and conducting Section-related annual ARNOVA Conference Special Sessions.

B. The Executive Committee is comprised of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator. The leadership of this Section will work to build up a broad base of participation among ARNOVA members and to develop/foster continuing and new future Section leadership. A balance of continuing and new leadership is to be sought, thus preserving significant continuity of institutional memory and leadership skills, while allowing for the infusion of new leadership and new ideas, avoiding long-term oligarchy.

i. VRADS Executive Committee Officers/Members, who must be active members of ARNOVA, are elected for a two-year appointment, with no member serving more than three consecutive two-year elected terms on the Committee without being off the committee for a minimum of two years. All Committee Officers will be elected at the same time every two years, after the initial non-elected two-year terms of the Founding Executive Committee Officers/Members, who were emergent leaders. Except for the Founding Officers (who began serving informally April 1, 2008, and will continue serving, unless they resign or are replaced, until the annual ARNOVA Conference in November of 2010), all Officers begin and end their terms of office at the time of the relevant year's Section Membership Meeting, which will always take place in conjunction with the annual ARNOVA Conference.

ii. The Chairperson is responsible for overall coordination of Section tasks and acts as a liaison to ARNOVA; the Vice-Chairperson collaborates with the Chairperson to manage all Section activities and oversees the Program Committee; the Secretary is responsible for keeping notes on important meetings, section files, membership lists,

mailings, elections and for chairing the Nominations Committee; the Treasurer is responsible for coordinating the Section's financial matters with ARNOVA, for requesting disbursements from the Section's funds by the ARNOVA Executive Director, for the Section's budgeting process, and for the preparation of required financial documents for submission to ARNOVA headquarters/Board, to the Section Executive Committee, and to the Section membership as a whole; the Membership Coordinator is responsible for recruitment of new Section members, retention of existing members, and recovery (re-joining) of lapsed members, for working with the Secretary on keeping Section membership records/lists up to date, and for supervising the establishment and maintenance of a Section computer Listserv.

C. A simple majority vote of current Section members voting is required to elect Executive Committee Officers/Members and to pass any motion before the whole Section membership, except to amend the VRADS By-Laws. In the latter case, a two-thirds majority of the Section membership voting is required for passage of the motion. Section membership voting will usually take place by means of electronic communication/e-mail (or regular mail, if no valid e-mail address exists for any given member), rather than in-person at annual ARNOVA Conferences, to allow for the widest possible democratic participation in the voting process.

D. A simple majority of a quorum (defined as either the Chair or Vice-Chair plus at least two other Officers) voting is required to pass any Executive Committee motion before the Committee, which may vote (a) during in-person meetings in conjunction with the ARNOVA annual Conference, (b) during telephone conference calls of which all Officers have been informed in advance by at least seven days electronic/email notice (or regular mail, if no valid e-mail address exists for any given member), or (c) by means of electronic communication (e-mail), whichever is most timely and suitable to the issue at hand and permitted by cost-considerations.

E. Activities outside the scope identified in these By-Laws requiring Section membership approval shall be presented to the Section membership by the Executive Committee through electronic/email ballot (or regular mail, if no valid e-mail address exists for any given member), but may be discussed without binding voting at the Annual Meeting or in any other way or place.

IV. Elections

A. Elections to the Executive Committee will be held biennially by electronic communication (e-mail) if a valid e-mail address exists for a Section member (otherwise by regular mail) beginning at least 10 weeks but not more than four months prior to the annual ARNOVA Conference.

B. The Executive Committee is elected by the dues-paying Section membership following a period of nominations, including self-nominations, publicized in advance at least twice to the full Section membership by e-mail (or regular mail, if no valid e-mail address exists for any given member).

i. All nominees for elected Officer positions who accept a nomination are posted on the e-mail ballots with their brief professional biographies (250 word maximum). A nomination is considered "accepted" when an acceptable brief professional biography is received by the Secretary. Any person nominated for multiple positions on the Executive Committee must select only one position for which to be considered in a given biennial election. The act of accepting a nomination for an Officer position should indicate a "good-faith" commitment to active and involved Section membership and leadership for the full two-year term of office.

ii. Only dues paying Section and ARNOVA members are eligible to serve as Officers of the Section.

iii. During June to August of biennial election years, the Nominating Committee will work to compile a list of suitable nominees (at least two for each Officer position, preferably) for possible election (or re-election) to the Executive Committee, with appropriate attention to diversity issues, especially regarding scholarly disciplines and gender. The list of nominees with brief (250 word maximum) professional biographies will be sent (either by mail or, if possible, electronically by e-mail) to all dues paying members at least two months prior to the ARNOVA Annual Conference, and an electronic (e-mail) election will then be held lasting one month from the date the ballots are sent by e-mail (or, if some member lacks a valid e-mail address, by regular mail). The ballots will be returned by e-mail to the entire Executive Committee, with a copy to the ARNOVA Executive Director, who will confer with the Section Chair to determine the official voting outcome.

C. Announcement of elected Executive Committee members will be sent by e-mail (or, if some member lacks a valid e-mail address, by regular mail) to all members of the Section within one month following the end of the election balloting process. Members of the Executive Committee assume their duties on the day before the first official day of the annual ARNOVA Conference following their election.

D. Should any member of the Executive Committee be unable (because of health, work, or other issues) to fulfill her or his duties and resign from her or his position, the remaining members of the Executive Committee will appoint by majority vote someone for the remainder of the term. An inactive Executive Committee Member may be involuntarily removed (after three months of documented unresponsiveness to e-mails and/or regular mail and/or phone calls with queries or requests from the Section Chair or Vice-Chair) by a unanimous vote of the rest of the Executive Committee. Vacant positions resulting from such removal action may be filled for the rest of the removed Officer's term by appointment of the Executive Committee upon an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the remaining members.

E. The Founding Officers of the VRADS Section will organize and oversee the initial election to be held in the late summer/fall of 2010, the second year following official approval and establishment of the Section by the ARNOVA Board in June 2008.

V. Standing Committees

A. The Nominations Committee:

i. The Section Secretary shall serve as Chair of the Nominations Committee, and in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall appoint four additional members from the VRADS membership. At least two of these four shall preferably (but not necessarily) have long term ARNOVA membership---four or more years of such membership, not necessarily consecutive. The additional four Committee members shall serve on the Committee for a one-year period, beginning with the time of the annual ARNOVA Conference in the year preceding the Section elections.

ii. The Nominations Committee is responsible for forming a ballot of suitable nominees and conducting the annual election, with the help of the ARNOVA headquarters office. Decisions about who is or is not to be listed on the ballot will be made by a simple majority vote of the five-member Nominating Committee, with three members being a quorum. Committee voting can take place by electronic/email means.

B. The Program Committee: The Section Vice-Chairperson shall serve as the Program Committee Chair and, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall appoint four additional members from the VRADS membership for a one- year-plus-four-days period (so as to last from the beginning of one year's Conference through the end of the next year's Conference being planned and. This Committee will develop and organize VRADS programming and presentations at the annual ARNOVA Conference to which it corresponds. Program Committee terms begin at the time of the official start of the annual ARNOVA Conference prior to the one for which a given Program Committee is responsible for organizing and developing Section programming and presentations.

VI. Meetings, Programs and Activities

A. VRADS will have an Annual Membership Meeting in conjunction with the annual ARNOVA Conference. The Section Executive Committee will hold a separate, annual, in-person meeting during the annual ARNOVA Conference at a time convenient to the participants. The executive Committee may also, as needed, hold official and binding telephone conference call meetings and/or electronic/email "pseudo-meetings" if at least seven day, advance, electronic/email (or, if some member lacks a valid e-mail address, by regular mail) notice is given to all Officers. In addition to these decision-making meetings, VRADS will run scholarly sessions in conjunction with the ARNOVA Conference. Other meetings or Section gatherings may be held as desired and needed, with at least one evening Section member dinner/reception or other social gathering preferable at each ARNOVA Conference. Such social gatherings shall be open to prospective members who pay the appropriate food/refreshments/drinks fees, if necessary.

B. VRADS will attempt to engage in programs that foster the creation, discovery, and sharing of Section-relevant research knowledge and theory, as well as promoting the development of Section-relevant professional networks and inter-communication. The Section will work to foster a sense of community among VRADS members within the much larger context of the annual ARNOVA Conference and in the long time between its annual meetings in order to enhance collaboration and ultimately the greater and faster development of nonprofit and voluntary action research in its substantive areas of focus.

C. VRADS will develop and maintain a computer Listserv, as soon as this is financially and practically feasible, to enable and enhance inter-member communication and general Section announcements between November annual ARNOVA Conferences and annual Section Membership Meetings. Until and unless the Section Listserv is operating reliably, member inter-communication will be fostered by existing group e-mail techniques, especially using a full electronic version of the current Section members names and email addresses for use in email address lines by individual members.

VII. Reporting

The Section Chair and the Secretary will prepare an annual report on Section activities, in consultation with and approved by the Executive Committee. This report will be mailed electronically (or, if some member lacks a valid e-mail address, by regular mail) to all current VRADS members for comments in December of each year. A final annual (calendar year) report will be prepared similarly, revising the initial one, and submitted to the ARNOVA Board of Directors by March of the following year. This report will include a current list of VRADS members and a financial accounting of Section funds, income and expenditures, actual and impending/encumbered.

VIII. Amendments

A. Any member may propose an amendment to these By-Laws, but must gain the documented e-mail support of at least four other current Section members for the amendment to be considered officially by the Section Secretary. Proposed amendments meeting the foregoing requirement may be submitted, with e-mail documentation of a total of five supporters including the initiator of the amendment, to the Secretary at any time. The Secretary will gather such proposed amendments and send them out to the full membership by e-mail (or, if some member lacks a valid e-mail address, by regular mail), if any properly proposed amendments exist, on January 1 and July 1 of each year for a membership voting process that will last 30 days.

B. These By-Laws may be amended, altered, repealed, or enhanced by an affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of at least half the current membership voting in the process for a given amendment. The Secretary, with the consultation of the Executive Committee, will deal appropriately with conflicting amendments to avoid prospective bureaucratic or practical problems if conflicting amendments should be passed in a given amendment voting process (January 1 or July 1 of any year).

C. Any amendment that receives approval shall become effective three months after the voting process ends in which it is approved, unless the motion to amend specifies a different time that the amendment shall take affect. No amendment can take effect retroactively.