

NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
*of* SCHOLARS

**2018**  
**Annual Report**



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# Letter from the President

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2018 was a year of wrath: Campus protesters and college administrators continued their efforts to silence academics and reinforce the intellectual and ideological homogeneity of higher education. Public confidence in our scholarly elites is at an all-time low.

Yet the National Association of Scholars has had a remarkably successful year. Following our ongoing study and reporting about Chinese-backed Confucius Institutes, several senators introduced, and the President signed, legislation preventing colleges that host Confucius Institutes from receiving Defense Department funding. We remain vigilant for efforts to circumvent this regulation, but it seems the public is waking up to the threat of Chinese influence on American campuses—all thanks to our own Rachelle Peterson's tireless research and advocacy.

In April we published *The Irreproducibility Crisis*, a report on the modern scientific crisis of reproducibility—the failure of a shocking amount of scientific research to discover true results because of slipshod use of statistics, groupthink, and flawed research techniques. We launched the report at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC; it was introduced by Representative Lamar Smith, the Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. This project signals our increasing commitment to address the academy's flawed science as well as its abandonment of Western civilization and the liberal arts. We are following up *The Irreproducibility Crisis* with the investigation of four government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency. We are determined to find out just how badly irreproducible science has distorted government policy.

We were pleased to host a wonderful group of speakers at our August conference at Grove City College on Government Overreach in Higher Education. They discussed how government mandates constrict student freedom and increase costs. They also presented ideas for practical measures to fix higher education. We are excited to see where these new tactics take our members.

In October we published our latest *Beach Books* report on college common readings. This year we published eleven years of data, from 2007 to the present. We've looked at 5,000 common reading assignments, which are overwhelmingly biased toward mediocre books that steer students toward progressive activism. But we also found a few colleges that do assign better books. We have highlighted them as models for common reading.

These are just a few of NAS's accomplishments from the past year. Support from our members and our foundation donors made them possible; we thank you for standing with us. We still have much work to do, but we are confident that with your help 2019 will be a signal year for the American academy's recovery of intellectual freedom and rigor.



Peter W. Wood  
President

# *Our Mission*

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

## *Culture*

Endow each coming generation with a worthwhile knowledge of our own civilization and a lively understanding of the broader world.

## *Truth*

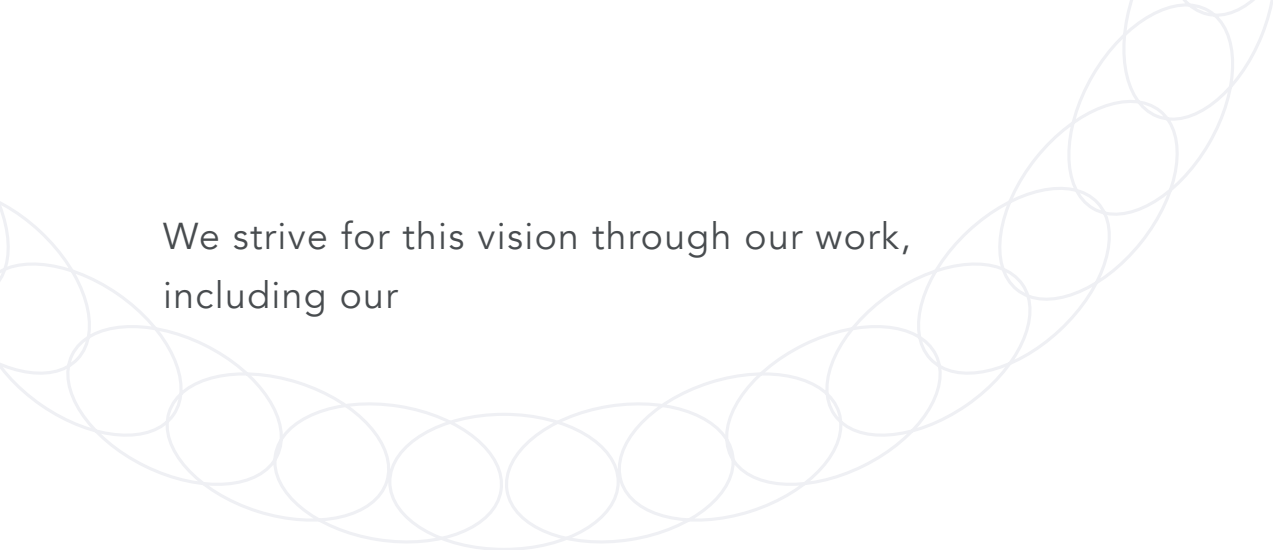
Join each coming generation to the pursuit of truth.

## *Character*

Shape the character of new generations so that they become responsible citizens.

## *Vocation*

Prepare each student with the knowledge and skills to succeed in practical careers.



We strive for this vision through our work,  
including our



## Academic Journal

Our quarterly journal, *Academic Questions*, explores of the vices and virtues of the contemporary university as well as its achievements and calamities, and how excellence in scholarship can aid the rescue of our civilization.

## Research Reports

Our in-depth studies examine overlooked aspects of higher education from curricular follies to administrative missteps. We bring these matters to concentrated public attention and propose remedies.

## Commentary

Our staff, board members, and scholar members publish substantial opinion and commentary on developments and trends in higher education, both on our website and in external outlets.

## Advocacy

NAS and our members are involved in efforts to educate elected officials about legislation, file amicus curiae briefs, give testimony before congressional and legislative committees, and engage in public support for reforms.

## Network

We hold regional meetings about important issues and public policy debates in higher education today. These provide an opportunity for members and other attendees to build relationships and strengthen the network of likeminded supporters.

# *The Three Pillars*

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**T**he National Association of Scholars' work stands on three pillars: Individual Advocacy, Research Reports, and Public Advocacy. The following pages contain some of the highlights of our work in 2018 within each area.

## *Individual Advocacy*

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Supporting individual faculty members, students, and others in their attempts to exercise their right to academic freedom.



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## *Research Reports*

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Studies documenting trends in contemporary academia, particularly those that affect academic freedom and the integrity, purpose, and neutrality of the university.

## *Public Advocacy*

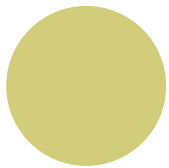
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Educating the public and elected officials about policies and potential legislation that would protect and enhance academic freedom.

# *Individual Advocacy*

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One of the most important aspects of our work is our support of faculty and students who face a tsunami of political correctness, groupthink, intimidation and outright abuse, and must struggle to learn from curricula that aim to propagandize rather than help students to seek out truth. We hear from our members time and time again that, because of NAS, they will have the courage to champion academics, students, Western civilization, and liberty on each of their campuses.



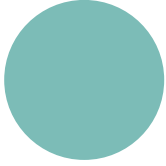
Rachel Fulton Brown

The National Association of Scholars circulated an open letter seeking support for Professor Rachel Fulton Brown, an associate professor of history at the University of Chicago. The letter received 1000 signatories in its first month, including more than 300 university professors, and asks the University of Chicago and the Medieval Academy of America to defend Fulton Brown from a reputational attack launched by her opponents.

Fulton Brown is a highly regarded scholar best known for her books on medieval Christianity. She became a target for academic radicals when she expressed opposition to an effort to make it a moral imperative for scholars to interpret medieval history as essentially a chronicle of racist oppression. Her opponents have said little about Fulton Brown's arguments, but instead have attacked her character, defaming her as a harasser, a racist, and a member of the "alt-right."

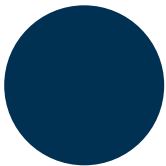
"NAS has a long reputation for supporting academic freedom, and this includes individual advocacy for professors that find themselves the target of slander," said NAS President Peter Wood. "Professor Fulton Brown has shared her opinions and argued them publicly, and because of this now faces attacks on her name and reputation. The institutions of which Professor Fulton Brown is a member should step up, not to silence her foes, but to provide support against scholars who attempt to shame colleagues by ad hominem attacks."





Amy Wax

The National Association of Scholars hosted a sold-out award ceremony to honor University of Pennsylvania Law professor Amy Wax for her academic courage. Professor Wax faced a severe backlash from students and colleagues who took offense at comments she had made about the efficacy of affirmative action. Wax was also vilified for calling for the support of traditional values such as hard work, diligence, integrity, and the family. She was barred from teaching her required first year law course, and her own dean publicly criticized her. With NAS's help, she continues to retell her story and to stand up for the principles of truth and freedom in the academy.



Bruce Gilley

The National Association of Scholars has re-published the most controversial academic article of the last few years, "The Case for Colonialism," by Portland State University Prof. Bruce Gilley. A torrent of protest, including death threats, followed the initial publication of the article in *Third World Quarterly* in 2017.

Gilley's article had undergone double-blind peer review before it was first published, but it aroused immediate fury. More than 16,000 people around the world petitioned to have the article censored. They also demanded that *Third World Quarterly* apologize and the editor be fired. Fifteen members of the journal's thirty-four-member editorial board resigned in objection to the article. Initially the publisher stood its ground, but after receiving serious threats of violence against the editor, the publisher withdrew the article. Gilley, the author, was also personally and professionally attacked and received death threats.

The NAS re-published "The Case for Colonialism" to ensure that it will be permanently available to students, scholars, and the general public. Gilley spoke on the NAS podcast "Curriculum Vitae" and was a speaker at the January 2019 regional conference.



# Research Reports

# *Irreproducibility Crisis*

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A reproducibility crisis afflicts a wide range of scientific and social-scientific disciplines, from epidemiology to social psychology. Improper use of statistics, arbitrary research techniques, lack of accountability, political groupthink, and a scientific culture biased toward producing positive results together have produced a crisis. Many supposedly scientific results cannot be reproduced in subsequent investigations.

This study examines the different aspects of the reproducibility crisis of modern science. The report also includes a series of policy recommendations, scientific and political, for alleviating the reproducibility crisis.

NAS's 40 recommendations offer remedies for scientists, policymakers, and the public. They address statistical standards, data treatment, research practices, pedagogy, university policies, government funding, government regulation, federal legislation, state legislation, government staffing, and judiciary reforms.

The report received over 60 media responses, including from *Bloomberg*, *Forbes*, and *Nature*. Accompanying articles appeared in *The Hill* and *The Wall Street Journal*, among other outlets.

# *Charting Academic Freedom*

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**C***harting* compares fourteen published statements on academic freedom in twenty-five categories. We hope it will be helpful not only to scholars interested in how the debate has shifted in the 100+ years following the American Association of University Professors' foundational 1915 Statement of Principles, but to legislators, jurists, all participants in the current debates, and members of the general public. Even those of us who follow these debates closely can struggle at times to recall the many different reasons that have been put forward for protecting academic freedom—or for limiting those protections. Our chart enables the reader at a glance to see who wrote the statement and why; who endorsed it; what key arguments it presents; and where it is meant to apply.

*Charting Academic Freedom* provides the first ready reference to the last century's statements, legal decisions, events, and scholarly works on academic freedom. The NAS offers *Charting* so Americans may know in one useful digest what principles underlie academic freedom—and use those principles in the deepening struggle to defend that freedom against the new threats to academic freedom.

# *Beach Books*

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**H**undreds of American colleges and universities assign a summer reading to entering freshmen—usually one book, which is often un-academic and politically progressive. For many students, this is the only book they will read in common with their classmates. Colleges rarely assign classic texts: the common reading genre is parochial, contemporary, and progressive. This year, *Beach Books* provides eleven years of data about common reading programs, from 2007 to 2017, and makes detailed suggestions for administrative reforms.

Our study of common readings covers 481 colleges and universities for the academic year 2017–2018. For the entire eleven years, it provides data on 732 colleges, 1,664 individual texts, and 4,754 assignments.

Our new information allows us to modify previous recommendations, as we can now pinpoint best practices among common reading programs and recommend them to their peers.

David Randall spoke on “Classic Common Readings, 2007-2017” at the 37th Annual First Year Experience Conference in San Antonio, TX. He also organized the panel it appeared in, “Pushing the Boundaries: Successful Variations on Common Reading Programs.”

# *Public Advocacy*

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**T**he National Association of Scholars' public advocacy brings our research findings to policy debates surrounding higher education. We present in-depth, meticulous research and analysis to policymakers and citizens so they can make informed decisions about higher education's future.

## Amicus Briefs

April 2018: NAS filed an amicus brief along with The Reason Foundation and a dozen legal scholars and attorneys asking the Supreme Court to hear the case of Teresa Manning versus the University of Iowa College of Law and the former Dean, Carolyn Jones. Ms. Manning has argued Jones refused to hire her as a professor because of her pro-life and other socially conservative views, and in doing so, violated the First Amendment.

## Conferences

NAS hosted two conferences in 2018. In February, members and educators met in Phoenix, Arizona to discuss "What is Western Civilization?" The second conference of the year, "Capitol Ideas: Government Overreach and Higher Education," was hosted by Grove City College, in Pennsylvania. Speakers at these events included Steven Hayward, Adam Kissel, Victoria C. G. Coates, and Rachel Fulton Brown.

## Confucius Institute Advocacy

Rachelle Peterson briefed two Members of Congress, one special assistant to the President, and more than 30 Congressional staffers. She also provided counsel for investigations by the Government Accountability and the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

NAS has been cited in at least four letters from Members of Congress (Senator Chuck Grassley to Attorney General Jeff Sessions; Senator Marco Rubio to the president of every Florida university with a Confucius Institute; Senator Rubio to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; Representatives Michael McCaul and Henry Cuellar to every Texas university with a Confucius Institute).

Three bills would enact some of NAS's proposals regarding Confucius Institutes: the Foreign Influence Transparency Act, the Stop Higher Education Espionage and Theft Act, and the Aim Higher Act. The National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law in August, also forbids Pentagon funding to Confucius Institutes.

Peterson submitted a written testimony to the UK Conservative Party Human Rights Commission regarding Confucius Institutes.

## Public Attention

NAS, when necessary, publicizes decisions that infringe on academic freedom, so as to encourage college and university personnel to change their minds. NAS wrote an open letter to CUNY to challenge the de-platforming of Josh Blackman, and another to the University of Houston to challenge a highly influential case of plagiarism in the academy.

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*Outsourced to China* was cited more than 77 times in articles from the *New York Times* to *Foreign Affairs*.

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Recent publications from the Government Accountability Office and State Department have cited our work as the "Peterson Report."

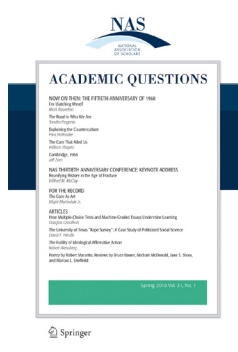
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Lance Hindt plagiarized his Ph.D. dissertation and received a \$800k severance package from a public school district. NAS and the public of Katy, Texas find this outrageous.

# Journal

## Academic Questions

### Spring: “Now on Then: The Fiftieth Anniversary of 1968”



- “Explaining the Counterculture” by Paul Hollander: His escape from communist Hungary in 1956, provides insight into the advent of “the adversary culture.”
- “The University of Texas ‘Rape Survey’: A Case Study of Politicized Social Science” by David F. Prindle: The first of several articles exposing the politicization of sexual harassment on campus.
- “Reunifying History in the Age of Fracture” by Wilfred McClay: Award winning historian calls for revitalizing the study of history, making it part of the shared culture.

### Summer: Can Reason Win?



- “Homogenous: The Political Affiliations of Elite Liberal Arts College Faculty” by Mitchell Langbert: In a comprehensive study of party enrollments, Langbert found that some academic disciplines at elite colleges employ not a single registered Republican. This article was cited widely, including in the *Washington Times*, and on Fox News.
- “Sexual Assault and the Benefit of the Doubt” by Dan Subotnik: In the second article this year on sexual harassment, Subotnik questions the process for assigning guilt in complex sexual interactions.
- “‘Social Justice’ and Its Postmodern Parentage” by Michael Rectenwald: He dissects his highly publicized dismissal from New York University for anti-PC posts to his Twitter account.



## Fall: Identity Politics



- “Can We Talk? Life Under the Frankfurt Rules,” by J. Scott Kenney, Robert Paquette, Elizabeth Corey: Three scholars discuss the chill on free speech imposed on university campuses now under the grip of Frankfurt-school Marxism.
- “Shedding Humanity, Shredding the Humanities” by Anthony Esolen: A personal essay on identity politics and how it has made the “very notion of a common good nearly inconceivable.”
- “Argument by Epithet” by Mark Bauerlein: The first in a feature that follows federal policy and the U.S. Department of Education, Bauerlein analyzes attacks on Secretary Betsy DeVos.

## Winter: Unorthodox Ideas



- “Front and Center: The Place for Western Classical Music in the Curriculum” by Dan Asia: Asia calls for Western classical music to reclaim its rightful place at the center of college music curricula.
- “Race, Crime and Culture” by Barry Latzer: Latzer discusses the now forbidden subject of a black “culture of violence” and exposes the politicization of racial topics in academic publishing.
- “The True Author of Frankenstein” by John Lauritsen: Lauritsen shares evidence for his controversial thesis that Mary Shelley did not write the famed nineteenth century novel, and how fierce the feminist-led attack on him has been for broaching the idea.

# *Publications & Appearances*

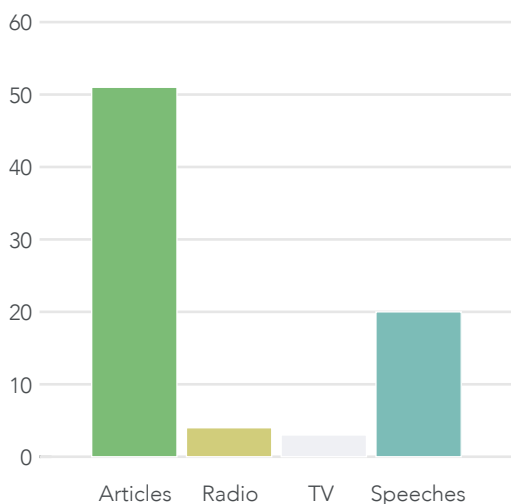
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The National Association of Scholars publishes multiple reports yearly and utilizes media coverage to disseminate our findings throughout the nation. Our efforts to publish essays, secure interviews, and give speeches bring our research findings to policy debates at the kitchen table and the halls of Congress.

In 2018 the staff of NAS published dozens of articles and secured interviews with radio and TV stations across the country. NAS was cited in hundreds of articles and our work became the focus of podcasts, radio shows, documentaries, and television panels.

NAS also launched Curriculum Vitae, a weekly podcast that introduces listeners to people and issues in higher education. The podcast is hosted by NAS president Peter W. Wood.

Staff Publications and Appearances

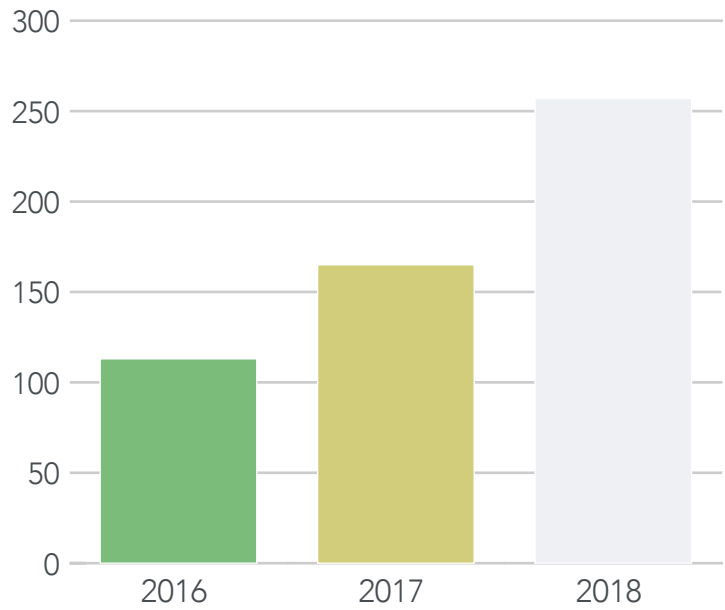


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The National Association of Scholars published 51 articles, appeared on 4 radio shows, 3 TV shows, and made over 20 speeches in 2018.

The National Association of Scholars has increased its public awareness in article citations by 53% from 2017 to 2018.

Articles citing the National Association of Scholars



Citations by Topic Category (pillars)

Academic Freedom

Individual Advocacy

Public Advocacy

Academic Questions

Reports



# 2018 Financial Summary

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<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 799,000	\$ 844,791.41
Insurance	\$ 13,500	\$ 6,104.00
Travel	\$ 30,000	\$ 12,954.51
Sponsorship & Honoraria	\$ 12,000	\$ 9,400.00
Occupancy	\$ 120,000	\$ 112,052.17
Equipment & Supplies	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,087.81
Advertising	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,022.13
Legal & Accounting Fees	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,259.87
Conferences	\$ 50,000	\$ 82,805.19
Springer Subscriptions	\$ 60,000	\$ 33,218.35
Computer Technician	\$ 10,000	\$ 23,961.53
Phone, Postage & Misc.	\$ 25,000	\$ 44,572.76
Fundraising Mailings	\$ 120,000	\$ 129,620.15
Membership Recruitment	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,717.36
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,481.52
Reports	\$ 76,500	\$ 46,641.18
Website	\$ 30,000	\$ 61,629.33
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,423,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,489,319.27</b>

## Revenue

Grants	\$ 750,000	\$ 617,075.40
Contributions	\$ 475,000	\$ 600,442.53
Dues	\$ 160,000	\$ 145,489.76
Conference Registration	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,216.29
Earnings	\$ 25,000	\$ 29,390.16
Springer & Amazon Royalties	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,009.01
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,428,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,415,623.15</b>

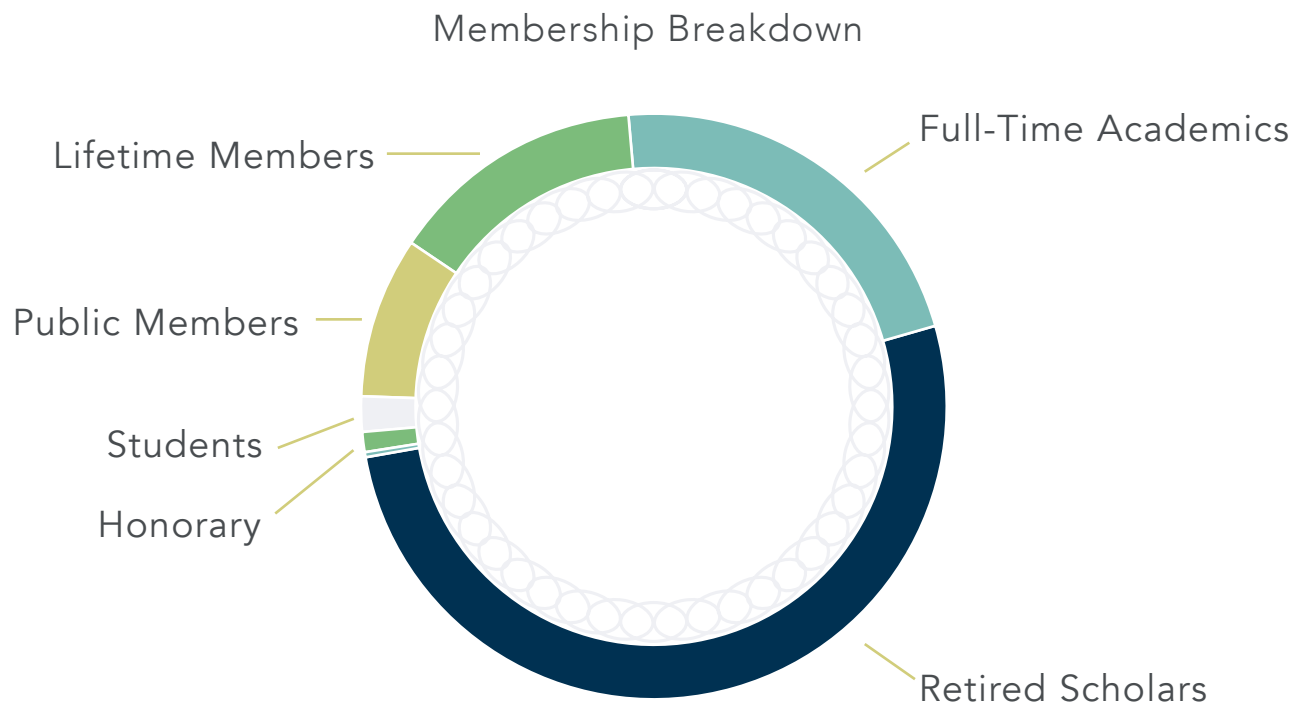
# Membership

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The National Association of Scholars closed 2018 with 2,778 members, nearly 200 more than 2017, and our highest point in decades.

Membership growth is consistent, and with new reports, more outreach to new potential members, and increased visibility, NAS's prospects for membership continue to increase.

At the end of 2017, NAS had 2,591 members. 65% of these 2017 memberships carried into 2018. On January 1, 2019, 71% of our members carried over into the new year.



# *2018 Sponsors*

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**W**e are deeply grateful to the foundations that supported us in 2018. Most Americans understand that there is a crisis on college campuses and our work is essential to showing them what the can do about it.

We looked at American universities and asked: Who is behind the fundamental changes within higher education? What exactly has changed? How did they change it? With the support of the following foundations, we were able to give detailed explanations of some of the most disturbing problems in our institutions of higher education.

## *Foundation Supporters*

Anonymous Foundation

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Ben May Charitable Fund

Diana Davis Spencer Foundation

Donors Trust Fund

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Fred Maytag Family Foundation

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# *Staff and Board*

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## In Memoriam

†Herb London (1939-2018)

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