

In December 1918, Robert Rienow, the dean of men at the University of Iowa, wrote a letter to Thomas Arkle Clark, dean of men at the University of Illinois, suggesting a meeting that is now recognized as the **founding** of NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The meeting was held at the University of Wisconsin in January 1919, with six men present. In attendance were three deans of men and three professors having campus interests of this type but no title.

In reporting on the **first meeting**, Professor Louis A. Strauss of the University of Michigan referred to it as the Conference of Deans and Advisers of Men. This label became popular and was used until 1929 when it was modified to the National Association of Deans and Advisers of Men (NADAM).

Scott Goodnight, dean of men at the University of Wisconsin, served as host for this historic first meeting. Retroactively, he is referred to as the **first president** of NADAM. The success of this meeting, as participants agreed, suggested that another should be held, with invitations extended to anyone who might be interested. It is clear that the second meeting was pivotal to the life of the organization, and it was decided that future meetings should occur annually on the campus of one of the members.

The 1930s marked the development of the **first formal constitution** of NADAM. The institutional membership was established in 1932, giving each institution one vote but extending an invitation to as many representatives as an institution might wish to send. Any educational institution was eligible for membership upon acceptance by the executive committee.

In 1932, *The Counselor* made a brief and inauspicious appearance, to be followed over the years with continued requests for **publications**. The *NASPA Journal*, as it appears today, was not introduced until 1963. In the meantime, several newsletters found their way to members, with different names at different times.

As early as the 1920s, NADAM played a valuable **placement** role for its members. A network of informal contacts helped newer members become alert to job possibilities across the country. This was a particularly valuable tool during the Depression, and the placement function continues today as an important function of the Association's efforts to assist its members.

Change was in the air as many deans in attendance were not called either "deans of men" or "advisers to men." In a speech given in 1937, W.H. Cowley accurately perceived the emergence of the dean of students as the central officer of the future in student affairs.

One of NADAM's major preoccupations in the 1940s was World War II and its aftermath. The adaptation of campuses to the war effort is reflected in the

conference minutes, and the problems relating to veterans once the war was over took the rest of the decade. The decade was further noted by the presence of Armour Blackburn of Howard University, the first black administrator to participate and the only one to serve on a NADAM executive committee.

Dean Wesley P. Lloyd at Brigham Young University led the way in 1951 to the creation of the **National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)**. Having been defeated in two earlier votes, this time the recommended name change passed nearly unanimously. This broadened the base of the Association and, for the first time, it began actively seeking members. Women would also eventually seek membership in the organization that now promoted itself as the professional home for chief student affairs professionals and their principal assistants. The purpose of the expanded association was "to discuss and study the most effective methods of aiding students in their intellectual, social, moral, and personal development."

The 1960s marked many changes in NASPA. For the first time, **outside funding** was secured for a NASPA activity – educating members concerning drug abuse. NASPA was also an active participant in the development of the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students, which the Association then endorsed in 1968. From 1966 until the end of the decade and beyond, crisis was the most prominent campus issue and the most prominent Association concern.

Almost unnoticed, the **regionalization** of NASPA occurred in the early 1960s when regional vice presidents emerged, eventually playing a dominant role in the executive committee. Seven vice presidents were elected, representing the six national accreditation regions (because of its size Region IV was divided into IV-East and IV-West). O.D. Roberts at Purdue University and Don Marsh at Wayne State University became NASPA's unpaid controllers, and in 1967 a national office was created in Detroit, Mich.

The regionalization of NASPA **heightened opportunities for involvement**, and the executive committee used its at-large seats to give minority and women members increased national visibility. It was during this decade that community colleges also began to make their presence felt in NASPA.

Among the hallmarks of NASPA's development was the selection of Channing M. Briggs as part-time controller in 1970. Briggs eventually became a full-time executive secretary with a small staff, and in 1975 was named the first executive director of NASPA. The Briggs era marked an important period both in terms of **growth** and the **professional sophistication** of NASPA as an organization.

In 1985 the Association voted to **move its headquarters** to Washington, D.C. Today NASPA has a Board of Directors; 1,200 institutional members; over 11,000 individual members; seven regions with active programs; and a bright future.