

Statement on Labor Disputes

(approved by the NCA Legislative Assembly, November 2006)

Whereas public discourse and academic engagement flourish best when the broadest range of participation is permitted and encouraged; and

Whereas as a professional organization, NCA has an obligation to its members to protect and nurture vigorous academic engagement in its meetings and conventions; and

Whereas, at times, labor disputes at hotels or convention centers serving academic conferences or meetings can restrict participation in the academic dialogue because many potential participants might choose to respect a picket line or boycott by refusing to attend and the loss of those voices damages the range of academic engagement and vigorous public debate that NCA seeks to nurture;

Whereas NCA also realizes that cancellation of planned meeting sites and/or changes in location can disrupt appropriate academic engagement and pose significant barriers to the attendance of some members;

Be it resolved that NCA affirms its belief that the academic community has a responsibility to act so as to preserve the integrity of public dialogue, to promote full participation in academic meetings, to preserve a tradition of public discussion and civic engagement and to ensure that those individuals whom it employs, both directly and indirectly, are treated fairly and equitably.

Also, be it resolved that it is the policy of NCA to honor its contracts with hotels and convention sites except under circumstances deemed extraordinary by the Executive Committee

Further be it resolved that NCA will:

- (a) consider whether proposed hotels or meeting facilities can provide an environment that is socially responsible, ethical and diverse, respectful of the rights and dignities of all workers and compliant with the local laws regarding union activity in making decisions about future meeting sites;
- (b) seek to add "labor dispute" as a possible basis for cancellation in all future contracts for any convention hotels and meeting facilities in the absence of compelling justification to the contrary;
- (c) only in the event the Executive Committee deems there are compelling reasons, exercise its right to cancel or reschedule meetings in hotels or meeting facilities where there are pending or active labor disputes; and
- (d) in the event of an ongoing labor dispute at a contracted hotel during scheduled meetings, invite representatives of both sides to present their positions on the issues under dispute in a forum that honors and preserves our institutional commitment to open discussion and civil discourse.