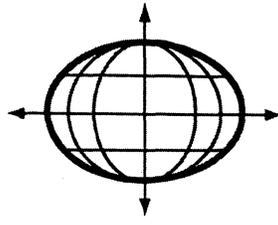


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*The Society for Historians of
American Foreign Relations*

Ambassador Maria E. Brewer
Acting Director
Foreign Service Institute
U.S. Department of State

Dear Ambassador Brewer:

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) has learned from Dr. Sarah Snyder, our representative to the Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation of the State Department (also commonly known as the Historical Advisory Committee, or the HAC), that she has been terminated from her role on the Committee. We were disappointed to learn of her termination and the fact that it was not relayed to her (or to SHAFR) via the appropriate State Department channels. We understand that all other members of the Committee were terminated as well.

Under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-138, 105 Stat. 647, codified at 22 U.S.C. § 4351 et seq.), the Historical Advisory Committee is required to meet at least four times per year. 22 U.S.C. § 4356(d). As our representative has been terminated, please share the schedule for the upcoming Committee meeting(s), so we can ensure SHAFR's representation.

The Foreign Relations Act also requires that one member of the Committee be appointed from a list of candidates nominated by the SHAFR. 22 U.S.C. § 4356(a)(3)(B)(i). Although Dr. Snyder has yet to complete her term, we planned to renominate her for a second one because of her outstanding performance. In light of her termination, please consider this letter to be Dr. Snyder's formal renomination to the Committee. Alternatively, please clarify the appropriate procedure for SHAFR to submit her renomination.

The Historical Advisory Committee is not an optional body. Rather, federal law requires that it "shall" operate "on a permanent basis" in the State Department. 22 U.S.C. § 4356(a). Because it currently lacks any members, the Committee is disabled from carrying out its statutory duties to oversee preparation of the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series, the official historical record of U.S. foreign policy activities dating back to President Abraham Lincoln's Administration. See 22 U.S.C. §§ 4352(a)(1)(B), 4353. Nor can the Committee fulfill its duties to meet for quarterly meetings or advise on the declassification of State Department records. See 22 U.S.C. §§ 4354, 4356(d). All statutorily mandated Committee work has, instead, come to a halt.

Each day that passes makes it harder for the Committee to complete its time-sensitive statutory functions by the end of the year. To ensure that it can, SHAFR requests a response to this letter by Friday, May 22, 2025.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Amy Sayward
Executive Director

Richard Immerman
Executive Director-designate

cc: Adam Howard