

Motion to Restructure the Office of President

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January 1992

Background

At the last meeting of the Policy Council in Bangkok we discussed restructuring the presidency so as to increase continuity in the leadership of the society. This document presents a motion clearly defining the proposed new structure and details the necessary changes to the Bylaws and Policies of the Society.

Because this motion does affect the bylaws of the Society, the Policy Council can pass it only as a recommendation to the Society proper. It must be presented for discussion at the next general business meeting, and voted on by mail ballot (Bylaw X.)

Proposed Structure

The office of President will be held for two years, and at the end of this term the outgoing President will assume the office of Past President for an additional two years. The office of President Elect will be eliminated. The new office of Executive Vice President will be created. The President and Executive Vice President will be elected to office as a pair. The Executive Vice President will be chosen by the Candidate for President with the approval of the Policy Council. Any President, Executive Vice President pair will be allowed to run for office on receipt of the necessary petition as outlined in Policy 7 Section 3.

The election procedures remain unchanged, except that the office of President will only be filled every second year. The Executive Vice President, like all officers, must be a member in good standing of the Society.

President

The office of President remains largely as it currently is except for tenure. The requirement to produce a budget and calendar of activities, which previously fell to the President Elect, will pass to the President, and be due at the end of the first and second years of the President's tenure. Before election to office the candidate for President has the duty of selecting a candidate for Executive Vice President. At the end of her or his term the President will assume the office of Past President for an additional two years.

Executive Vice President

The Executive Vice President shall, in the temporary absence of the President assume the duties of the President. The Executive Vice President will also be second in the order of precedence. At the President's discretion the Executive Vice President may also undertake other duties of the President. The Executive Vice President shall also consult and cooperate with the President in all executive activity.

The office of Executive Vice President is intended to be filled by an individual geographically and culturally close to the President, so there are very low barriers to communication. This will increase the ability of President to manage Society affairs, increases access to the Presidential position, at times when the President is difficult to reach.

Past President

The office of Past President, except for duration, remains unchanged. The Past President will normally chair the Nominating Committee, and be available for Consultation with the President. The Past President is not included in the order of precedence.

Required Changes

Since this is a formal proposal, it is necessary to note the sections of the bylaws and policies affected by the proposal.

Bylaws

Bylaw V. Section 2. Paragraph b Replaced with

b) The Executive Vice President shall serve as a general assistant to the president.

Bylaw V. Section 2. Paragraph Replaced with

c) Vice Presidents. Vice Presidents Additional to the Executive Vice President shall plan and administer the affairs of the Society within their particular areas.

Bylaw V. Section 4. replaced with

Section 4. Precedence. The order of precedence shall be President; Executive Vice President; the remaining Vice Presidents, in the order established by the Bylaws and Policies; and the Secretary.

Policies

The following parts of the Policies need to be changed.

Policy 6: Section 1: Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3. Policy 6: Section 2. Policy 6: Section 3. Policy 7: section 1.

Given the extensiveness of these changes and the less formal nature of the policies, it is not worth going into detailed amendments here. The policies, unlike the Bylaws, can and have been changed by the Policy Council alone. As a procedural point, it is probably worthwhile to consolidate and reissue the policies if not the entire constitution.

Procedure

If the Policy Council at the January 30th Meeting approves this proposal in an amended form then the Society membership will be told of the main content of the proposal in the President's letter. A full discussion of the proposal will be held at the Utrecht conference business meeting, and a mail vote will be made.

The Officer taking office as President in 1993 (Peter Milling) will serve a normal one year term, and then two years as past President. The President Elect for 1993 (Andy Ford) will take office for 1993, and then resubmit his name, and that of an Executive Vice President for election to office in 1994. Starting in 1994 the composition of the Executive will match this proposal.

Comments

The above proposal will be discussed in the Policy Council meeting of January 30 and all comments are welcome.

If you cannot make it to the January 30th meeting of the Policy Council, and have any comments on this proposal, or any other business you would like to have discussed at the meeting, please mail or fax your input to the secretary

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