Proposed Constitution Changes
by
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During the past year the organization has been smoothly shifting the executive secretary's duties and data from Ed Kos at Rockhurst to Marc Roy at Beloit. The plan for the transition engendered last year's constitutional changes. In the process, it became apparent that the constitution had last been reviewed in the mid 1980s and that there was a need for it to be generally revisited and updated by recommendations that are presented to the membership. In this issue we present to you the routine changes in language and our reasons for them. In the issue before the fall meeting, they will be presented again in ballot form.

At the executive board meeting a subgroup reviewed the constitution, the bylaws and their appendices. The constitution is in good shape. In the By-laws, the description of the duties and terms of office are not written in a consistent manner and the appendices that present in detail the duties of each office definitely need to be updated. After a full discussion, we recommend to you that the by-laws should indicate that attendance at the meetings is expected, that positions be generally defined and that the terms of office be specified and that the executive board prepare a handbook of more detailed duties that can be updated without going through the process of amending the constitution. Below is the proposed new language of our bylaws. The changes involve: 1. defining the terms of all officers in SECTION 1 by adding the term description of the executive secretary, 2. the expectation of participation, the generalized description of primary duties and the reference to more detailed duties for each office in SECTIONS 4 - 11. Suggested changes are in italics.

By-Laws

ARTICLE 1. TERMS & DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The term of office . . . . The executive secretary shall serve for a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

SECTION 3. The president-elect, in the absence or at the request of president, shall perform all duties of the president, recommend . . .(rewritten to eliminate the "assumed" he)

SECTION 4. The first vice-president is expected to attend the executive board meetings, be the fall program chair and fulfill duties as outlined in the Executive Board Handbook.

SECTION 5. The second vice-president is expected to attend the executive board meetings and will be responsible for the program the following year and fulfill duties as outlined in the Executive Board Handbook.

SECTION 6. The second vice-president is expected to attend the executive board meetings, serve as the local arrangements at the host institution and fulfill duties as outlined in the Executive Board Handbook.

SECTION 7. The secretary is expected to attend the executive board meetings, keep minutes of the Association and Steering Committee and fulfill duties as outlined in the Executive Board Handbook.

SECTION 8. The executive secretary is expected to attend the executive board meetings, provide information about the state of the organization and fulfill duties as outlined in the Executive Board Handbook. The executive secretary is a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

SECTION 9. The past president is expected to attend the executive board meetings, evaluate the currency of the constitution and fulfill duties as outlined in the Executive Board Handbook.

SECTION 11. The association historian shall maintain a permanent archive of Association publications, minutes and other memorabilia. The historian is a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

As chair of the constitution committee, I will be contacting past officers to ask for their help in preparing the new handbook and making sure that all of our expectations can continue to be met. We hope to have a draft of the handbook ready for next fall so that past practitioners can edit it at the fall meeting. The Steering Committee to would like to approve the handbook at its next spring meeting with the stipulation that it be reviewed every five years.

In addition we will be asking your permission for the Steering Committee to appoint a Web Master to maintain our Web Site as an extension of our authority to appoint a print editor of Bioscience. Last year's addition of an Association Historian reflects our respect for our past and the addition of an Association Web Master reflects our readiness to participate in the technology of the future.