

Proposed Amendments to ASTR's Bylaws

The Executive Committee proposes the following amendments to the bylaws, the effect of which will be to establish a Vice President for Publications and a Vice President for Awards without expanding the size of the Executive Committee. The current Vice President, as a result of these bylaw alterations, would become the Vice President for Conferences.

The amendments were crafted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Executive Committee Structure (Gay Gibson Cima [Chair], Dorothy Chansky, Brian Herrera, Laura Edmondson, and Sandra Richards), amended by the EC, and passed by unanimous vote on 19 November 2011. The membership will be asked to vote on these amendments at the Annual Business Meeting in November 2012.

Text of Proposed Amendments

The phrase "for Conferences, a Vice President for Publications, a Vice President for Awards" shall be inserted into Article V, Section 1 of the By Laws, as follows: "The Officers of ASTR shall be a President, a Vice President FOR CONFERENCES, A VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS, A VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS, a Secretary, and a Treasurer."

Article V, Section 2b shall be amended as follows: "b) The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall be nominated and elected according to the procedures established for the President. The term of office of the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall coincide with that of the President. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATION SHALL BE ELECTED. A YEAR AFTER THAT, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL BE ELECTED. **The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall not be eligible for election for two consecutive terms.**"

The phrase "Vice President for Publications, Vice President for Awards" shall be inserted into Article V, Section 2c as follows: "The VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS, THE Secretary, and Treasurer," shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, shall be elected by mail ballot of the membership at large for a term of three years, and **may be reelected.**"

The phrase "for Conferences" shall be inserted into Article VI, Section 2 as follows: The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee, and shall be responsible for, oversee, and coordinate planning for the Annual Meeting. THIS Vice President shall chair the Committee on Conferences. The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President if necessary, according to the stipulations of Section 1 of this article. In such a case, the Executive Committee shall have the option of appointing an Executive Committee member for the unexpired term.

The following passage, Section 5, shall be added to Article VI:
"THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATION SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER OF

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND SHALL REPRESENT ASTR IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION. BI-ANNUALLY AND WHENEVER REQUIRED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS SHALL REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERSHIP. THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS SHALL CHAIR THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND SUPERVISE STAFF AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DESIGNATED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following passage, Section 6, shall be added to Article VI:

THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SHALL REPRESENT ASTR IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO AWARDS. BI-ANNUALLY AND WHENEVER REQUIRED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERSHIP. THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL SUPERVISE THE AWARDS COMMITTEES AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND SUPERVISE STAFF AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DESIGNATED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE."

Article VII Section 1 shall be amended as follows: "The Executive Committee shall normally consist of the President, the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and ~~thirteen~~ ELEVEN elected members. ~~four of whom~~ TEN OF THESE ELECTED MEMBERS shall be elected for three-year terms ~~each year~~ by a majority of those members in good standing voting by ballot. THE ELECTION OF THESE TEN MEMBERS SHALL UNFOLD THROUGH A THREE-YEAR ROTATION: FOUR MEMBERS IN YEAR ONE, THREE IN YEAR TWO, AND THREE IN YEAR THREE.

One member OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be a Graduate Student elected for a one-year term, who may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The Graduate Student Representative must be a member of good standing and a graduate student in good standing at the time of the election. If a current member of the Executive Committee is elected President or Vice President FOR CONFERENCES, or if an unexpected vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee, the Committee shall have the option of appointing a replacement for the unexpired term. The function of the Executive Committee shall be to direct the activities of ASTR. The chair of the Executive Committee shall be the President, elected as described in Article V, Section 2a. New members of the Executive Committee shall take office immediately after the conclusion of the annual business meeting of the Society."

The phrase "for conferences" shall be inserted into article XIII in the following passages:

Article XIII: The Committee on Conferences and Its Function

Section 1: The Committee on Conferences shall normally consist of the Vice President

FOR CONFERENCES (three-year term); two Executive Committee members (designated on the ballot as running for the Committee on Conferences, staggered two-year terms); the Program Chair (one-year term); the Immediate Past Program Chair (one-year term); the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES Elect (one-year term); the Graduate Student Caucus member appointed by the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES in consultation with the Graduate Student Caucus Representative for a one-year term; a TLA Representative; and two members elected to the Committee by a majority of those members in good standing voting by ballot. Members may self-nominate to run for election to the Committee on Conferences. If an unexpected vacancy occurs in the Committee on Conferences, the Committee shall have the option of appointing a replacement for the unexpired term. The Executive Committee, as part of its oversight of the Committee on Conferences, shall give consideration to the inclusion of representatives from various geographical areas and professional specialties represented in the membership at large.

This change to the bylaws is intended to solve a number of issues: 1) to acknowledge the work done by people who chair the Publications and Awards and Fellowships Committees, and to give the work the profile it deserves; 2) to ensure that the people in charge of these key areas of ASTR's work are present for Executive Committee decisions that impact their areas; and 3) to acknowledge the fiduciary responsibilities that these Chairs have to the organization.

These proposed amendments will result in no net increase in the number of members on the EC and no extra expense to organization, because they change the title of the current Vice President and replace two members of the EC as now constituted with two new officers. If the membership passes these amendments, then the first VP for Publications would be elected in 2013 and the first VP for Awards in 2014.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

Marla Carlson
ASTR Secretary