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## 13) Nominations of Officers and Members-at-Large

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### Topic:

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**Topic author:** rjellison

**Subject:** 13) Nominations of Officers and Members-at-Large

**Posted on:** 28 Jan 2008 07:46:12

**Message:**

Our bylaws state:

"Any member of ISSLR may serve as officer or member-at-large of this corporation. The term of office of officers and members-at-large shall be three (3) years and shall commence on January 1 following their election, or as soon thereafter as possible, and shall continue until their successors assume office. The President, Vice-president, and Members-at-Large shall not serve more than two terms consecutively."

Current officers are:

President Brian V. Timms (2nd term)

Vice-President Aharon Oren (2nd term)

Editor Jacob John (1st term)

Secretary-Treasurer Robert Jellison

Members-at-Large:

Javier Alcocer (>2 terms)

Andrei Degermendzhy (>2 terms)

Stuart Hurlbert (>2 terms)

Mark Coleman (1st term)

Mianping Zheng (>2 terms)

Wayne Wurtsbaugh (1st term)

Jasmine Saros (1st term)

I propose we form a nominating committee of interested board members, Brian appoints a chairperson, we solicit nominations at the GSL meeting and immediately after via email, and that we hold online elections sometime later this year, in time for terms beginning January 1st, 2009.

I just now noticed that our Bylaws include "Members-at-Large" within positions not to be held more than two consecutive terms. There are good reasons for this. However, I think we envisioned a more active society with a larger pool of activists when these were written. Several of our members-at-large have served more than 2 terms already. We should either propose a change in our bylaws (this requires a vote of the members) or seek new volunteers. The entire text of our bylaws are viewable on the web site.

### Replies:

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 11:57:30

**Message:**

Oh dear, we really need to change our by laws about members at large being limited to two terms; no need to change the 2 term limit on the President position though.

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**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 13:19:37

**Message:**

Bylaw changes and/or the decision to dissolve requires a vote by members. Changing bylaws to allow more than two terms raises the question of whether we have a viable society. Can we really not recruit 4 or 5 interested persons every 3 years? Is being a board member so easy that persons want to serve in perpetuity? Also, consider that anyone on the current board is more than welcome to assume any amount of labor they wish to further the goals of the society as a committee chair. Just let us know what you want to do and I'm sure we can accommodate you by a chair appointment to an ad hoc committee.

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**Reply author:** shurlbert

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 14:28:42

**Message:**

Operating on the assumption we continue as a separate organization albeit one of moderate ambitions, I suggest that two 3-year terms is a good limit for the members-at-large positions and that rotating more and new people thru them might have an energizing effect on the organization.

Maybe the new wording might be "not more than two terms consecutively," allowing for return from the pasture for those wanted by the organization.

Didn't realize I was on of the ">2" silverbacks. Time flies when you're having fun!

I'm willing to resign now, pending my replacement, so that new blood can start to surge in.

I suggest we get the nomination process going now and would be willing to chair the nominating committee. Might even have the vote before the GSL meeting. Why wait?

As an interim ad hoc measure I suggest we not replace all four "overdue" MAL's now but perhaps only myself and 1-2 more, to maintain continuity better.

Not sure it is necessary for terms to begin and end only in "conference" years, since the conferences do not seem the best place for either the nominating or the voting process.

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**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 14:37:57

**Message:**

I don't think a bylaw is necessarily a good idea at this time. Note the bylaws do say no more than "consecutive terms" and does not preclude rotating back in as Stu suggests. Also, I think the intent was that the two consecutive terms refers to holding any one of the officer positions (President, Vice-P, or Member-at-Large) for more than two terms and does not preclude moving between president, vice-president, and member-at-large positions.

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**Reply author:** mcoleman

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 14:44:15

**Message:**

I assume that the presidential positions are not tied to the members at large. Otherwise the situation would arise where the key members would have no experience of the running of the organisation. I think that we can handle the change over after every two terms. It is just unfortunate that there needs to be four members and the presidential positions changed in one hit. Perhaps this could be better organised. How long does a member need to be a non official before re-entering? I dont think this is specified.

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**Reply author:** mcoleman

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 14:59:55

**Message:**

Sorry Bob you answered the question at the same time I was asking it

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**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 15:16:03

**Message:**

Although I've enjoyed working with all the board members and value their friendship, I do not see a problem with having 4 of 7 new members-at-large. Given the two-term limit that would be the expected turnover rate. None of Brian, Aharon, Javier, Stu, Andrei, or Mianping are precluded from running for a different board position. Also, while only board members have a vote on board actions, there is no reason why other active members including past board members cannot observe and comment at Board meetings. I would encourage outgoing board members to consider some activity they would like to pursue on behalf of ISSLR and we will promptly give you an official title of chair of the appropriate ad hoc committee.

The 2-term limit did not apply to the secretary-treasurer position because of the necessity of keeping books, records, filing tax returns, charitable registry updates, etc. However, I am more than willing to turn some or all of these responsibilities over to someone else. I'm willing to serve in this position at least until the Capetown meeting.

As I mentioned above, I think we should try to recruit persons at the GSL meeting and hold elections later in the year.

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**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 21:00:13

**Message:**

To ensure continuity we surely should encourage as many "old-timers" as possible to stay on the board in a different function, if the bylaws do not enable another term in their current function.

I personally I surely willing to remain on the board, but I will not accept a nomination for the function of president.

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 21:38:21

**Message:**

Yes similarly to Aharon, I am willing to stay on the board but in a different function. So that is two of us '2 termers' taken care of.

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**Reply author:** jalcocer

**Replied on:** 29 Jan 2008 13:57:47

**Message:**

If you think I could be of help, then I would gladly keep on working for the Society in a different function. I think it is good to incorporate "new blood".

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**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 06:52:59

**Message:**

Who will chair the nominating committee? The current terms run until the end of the year (12/31/08). Presumably we'll be soliciting nominations at the meeting and through emails to the membership. The election will be held sometime later this year (October).

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**Reply author:** aoren  
**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 07:14:08  
**Message:**

I propose that Brian should chair the nominating committee, but any of the other board members can volunteer for the job.

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**Reply author:** rjellison  
**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 07:16:32  
**Message:**

I second Aharon's proposal that Brian chairs the nominating committee.

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**Reply author:** btimms  
**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 12:23:10  
**Message:**

In my experience, often nominating committees are chaired by some member NOT on the board and hence not part of the 'club.' Given our small membership and even smaller core of active members, I suppose this ideal is not possible. Perhaps the next best option is to have someone who is ineligible for some positions. On this ground I reluctantly accept the nomination. Most of the work should be done in a couple of months after May.

Brian

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**Reply author:** btimms  
**Replied on:** 01 Feb 2008 00:17:39  
**Message:**

Given Aharon's progress with Springer on publication of the coming conference proceedings, filling the Editor's position becomes easy.

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**Reply author:** aoren  
**Replied on:** 01 Feb 2008 00:24:54  
**Message:**

I will then of course accept the nomination, but it may be nice to have one of the local organizers as co-editor of the book.

Somehow I like editorial work - as editor I handle papers for:

- International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology
- FEMS Microbiology Letters
- Saline Systems

Further I am a member of the editorial board of:

- Extremophiles
- Archaea

and have edited or co-edited the following multi-author books:

Oren, A. (ed.) 1999. Microbiology and biogeochemistry of hypersaline environments. CRC Press, Boca Raton. 359 pp.

Nevo, E., Oren, A., and Wasser, S.P. (eds.). 2003. Fungal life in the Dead Sea. A.R.G. Gantner Verlag, Ruggell, 361 pp.

Gunde-Cimerman, N., Oren, A, and Plemenitalь, A. (eds.). 2005. Adaptation to life at high salt concentrations in Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Springer, Dordrecht, 576 pp.

Rainey, F.A., and Oren, A. (eds.) 2006. Extremophiles - Methods in Microbiology Vol. 35. Elsevier/Academic Press, Amsterdam, 821 pp.

I still think it is fun to do, even if it costs me a lot of time.

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 01 Feb 2008 01:51:17

**Message:**

Thanks Aharon. I agree with the concept of a local organiser as a co-editor.

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**Reply author:** shurlbert

**Replied on:** 01 Feb 2008 13:54:03

**Message:**

It is not completely clear what we are deciding here.

Aaron obviously would be a good editor, but are we now making a clear change in our tradition of having the main organizer of a conference be the senior editor or at least co-editor of the volume? (The Russia meeting was our only departure from that tradition I believe). Or is this an arrangement just for the GSL meeting?

What is the preference of Wayne and his co-organizers in this regard?

What is our preference for future meetings?

As I recall a formal editor's position for the society was originally established only because we were publishing a journal. Now that the journal no longer exists, it may be easiest to deal with this issue in an ad hoc matter every three years and not have a formal position?

Melack might have an opinion on this.

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**Reply author:** Zhengmianping

**Replied on:** 04 Feb 2008 18:20:04

**Message:**

As most of the board members favor option 1, ISSLR needs to enlarge the society's membership. It is not advisable to rotate board members in the next term, which is beneficial to forming a connecting link between the preceding and the following to develop the society. However, there is no need to change the two term limit on the President and Vice-President positions. When the membership is increased in the term after next, only the "overdue" members-at-large should be replaced but also the number of members-at-large should increase. Then more new volunteers should be recruited through 3-year terms so as to improve the vitality of the organization. In addition, we may consider giving a title of "honorary president or member-at-large to the past board members who made contributions to ISSLR.

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**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 04 Feb 2008 20:48:30

**Message:**

"Honorary" titles should be reserved for exceptional cases for people who have made extraordinary contributions to a society, and are not to be used to circumvent the bylaws as a mechanism to keep people on the board who otherwise would not be entitled to stay as board members.

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 05 Feb 2008 00:06:52

**Message:**

I sorry Mianping, despite your good intentions, what you propose is not possible. We have rules in the society for its proper functioning; in this case the 'two term' rule encourages turn over in those running the society and prevents a 'club of old fo-gies' from developing. The only position that is long term is that of the secretary-treasurer; this is needed for continuity of record-keeping.

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**Reply author:** btimms**Replied on:** 15 Mar 2008 18:00:45**Message:**

As nominating committee chairman, I want a small committee that can do much of its work at the Great Salt Lake conference, hopefully in one short meeting (ha!). Hence I am proposing that two conference goers volunteer or are 'volunteered' by colleagues. It would be nice to have at least one lady on the committee and one younger member, and also maybe I should try for wide geographic representation. Thus I may have to enlarge it to five, but absolutley no more than this. But really I prefer a small committee. Any suggestions?

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**Reply author:** mcoleman**Replied on:** 15 Mar 2008 18:30:49**Message:**

I suggest a wide geographic representation plus different interests are perhaps more important than age and gender. Otherwise I agree with Brian.

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**Reply author:** aoren**Replied on:** 15 Mar 2008 21:42:55**Message:**

If you need people for the nominating committee I volunteer.

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**Reply author:** btimms**Replied on:** 01 Jun 2008 12:15:44**Message:**

The nominating committee (Brian, Aharon and Jasmine) recommend the following names to be submitted for election for 3 years from Jan 1 2009:

President: Aharon Oren

Vice President: two names are suggested and the one with the most votes from the membership will be elected: Javier Alcocer (Mexico) and Mianping Zheng(China).

Secetary Treasurer: Robert Jellison

Members-at-large: Nikolai Aladin (Russia)

Mark Coleman (Australia)

Fafu Li (China)

Haydee Montoya (Peru)

Courtney Salm (USA)

Jasmine Soros (USA)

Brian Timms (Australia)

Wayne Wurtsbaugh (USA)

Comments: 1. Two names are suggested for vice president; both have served two terms as members at large and so cannot continue in this function. We decided to let the members sort out who they want as vice president. Democracy at work, at least for this office!

2. There is no provision for a student representative in the constitution, but we felt we needed one. Courtney is be far the best candidate available. Despite her being in the same lab as Jasmine and another American, we decided her qualifications are so good that they override other considerations.

3. You will notice there are three lady candidates. This has nothing to do with Jasmine's presence on the committee, but our collective wish for ladies to be better represented on the board.
  4. We have tried very hard to have representatives from a number of countries, but given the large membership based in USA, China and Australia, it was hard not to have more than one representative from each.
  5. Of course members are welcome to put nominate names. Already there is one from China in the pipeline.
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