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15) Regional representation on the board

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Topic:

Topic author: rjellison

Subject: 15) Regional representation on the board

Posted on: 08 Feb 2009 21:42:04

Message:

While there is no provision for any regional representation on the board, this topic has arisen from time to time. I thought I'd mention it now as the issue of having an early career representative has arisen. Both would require amending the bylaws. The current board makeup is USA (4), Australia (2), China (1), Peru (1), Israel (1), Russia (1). This makeup is fairly representative given the membership.

Replies:

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 08 Feb 2009 21:50:26

Message:

Science has no borders. As long as we take care that the candidates for the next Board will come from all corners of the globe (or at least those corners of the globe where there is interest in salt lakes), it should be OK, and I don't see a need to have provisions in the bylaws for a representative of area XYZ.

I am always surprised to see that Europe is very poorly represented among the membership, although there are salt lakes and solar salterns all around the Mediterranean and elsewhere. I am pleased to see that we have one European - Nikolai - on the Board.

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 11 Feb 2009 04:15:00

Message:

I am of two minds on this matter. Overall I don't think we need specific rules on regional representation, as long as the nominating committee takes some cognisance of the need for a wide representation of members. This was done by the last committee and the result is satisfactory.

Reply author: wurtsbaugh

Replied on: 14 Feb 2009 07:22:03

Message:

I agree entirely with Brian--as long as the nomination process takes regional representation into the process we should be fine.

Reply author: rjellison

Replied on: 15 Feb 2009 07:39:46

Message:

I agree with Brian and Wayne and would encourage future nominating committees to actively recruit nominees from under-represented regions. However, we should be cognizant of the fact that there is no legal basis in our bylaws to exclude applicants from over-represented regions. Although it has not been a problem thus far, the nominating committee does not have the right to exclude candidates on any grounds related to where they come from.

Reply author: mcoleman

Replied on: 17 Feb 2009 14:32:18

Message:

I think that all nominees should be accepted and all members encouraged to nominate themselves if they feel inclined. The members at large will hopefully differentiate the regions. I don't suggest any amendment on this if that is what is being asked in the topic. We don't have the luxury of picking and choosing members who wish to be active in the society based on their region. Although to be candid I did choose people based on my perception of their ability and then on region but really region played little part.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Mar 2009 07:44:43

Message:

Summarizing agenda item 15: we currently have a Board that is well balanced geographically, with 4 North Americans, 2 South Americans (including one non-voting member), 2 Australians, 2 members from Asia and 1 from Europe.

As we are a small society and not all continents are equally represented in our membership (e.g. very few from Europe and Africa), there is probably no need to regulate regional representation in the Board by changing our bylaws.

Reply author: clitchfield

Replied on: 21 Mar 2009 12:14:58

Message:

I totally agree with Aharon.

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