

STAR Spokesperson Election 2008

Changes to Bylaws and Voting Procedure

Report from discussions of Helen Caines, Peter Jones, Mike Cherney

Proposed Changes to Current Bylaws (19 April 2006 version)

Current text - black, additions – red, deletions – crossed through and green

The Council will make decisions on all issues except elections and admission of new institutions or removal of current institutions, based on a simple majority of all Council members who have voted. Any member may call for a secret ballot. Votes on adding extra members, admitting new institutions, or amending these bylaws must be announced two weeks ahead of time, *as must details of how the voting will take place. Electronic voting on all issues is permissible.* Proxies are allowed for non-election votes, ~~as are electronic meetings and ballots.~~ An absent member may appoint another member of Council, or the Council Chair as a proxy. An absent member can specify how his/her vote is to be cast, or, leave this decision to the member who has been appointed. In any case, an absent member who appoints a proxy should give his/her name to the Council Chair. Absent members who do not appoint proxies will be deemed to have abstained. Meetings via tele- or video-conferencing are permitted.

... (details of Council chair elections)

Voting for Spokesperson will be carried out by secret ballot, and without proxies, at publicly announced Council meetings. *Precise details of how voting for the Spokesperson will proceed must be discussed and agreed upon, by a simple majority of all Council members, at least 3 months prior to the election. A quorum of 60% A minimum of 75% of Council members must be represented vote at the Spokesperson's election* meeting for a valid vote. A candidate for Spokesperson can be elected in the first round of voting only if he or she receives more than 50% of all votes cast, including abstentions. If no candidate obtains this absolute majority, runoff rounds will be conducted for the top vote getters until one candidate obtains more than 50% of the votes cast, not counting abstentions. An individual is eligible to serve at most two consecutive terms as Spokesperson.

Candidates for Spokesperson can be nominated by any member of the collaboration. An ad hoc nomination committee will be established at the Council meeting nominally 6 months before the election of the Spokesperson. The committee, consisting of the Council Chair and *at least* two Council members appointed by the Chair and approved by the Council, will actively seek candidates and solicit nominations. The nomination committee will present the list of candidates to the collaboration at least ~~45~~ *30* days before the election. Further nominations may be made by members of the collaboration until the closing date for nominations which will be ~~two weeks~~ *1 month* before the election. *The* nomination committee will prepare and oversee the ballots when the election takes place.

Voting procedures (as voted at council meeting)

"Postal" votes electronic, in-person votes via paper

"Postal" voting:

- The "postal" vote will be via Email to nomination committee.
- The "postal" vote allows Council members to rank numerically their choice of candidates. 1 – represents preferred candidate, 2 – 2nd choice etc. Council members can rank to any value they like. Should all the candidates that they place a ranking for be eliminated their vote from then on will be "Abstention".
- The "postal" voting will close 1 day prior to the Spokesman election at a previously announced time. This gives 24 hours for people to realize that their vote failed, information of electronic voting to be organized and any problems to be sorted out before actual vote in finished.

"In person" voting:

- This will be done via paper voting and round-by-round (if necessary)

Tallying votes:

- Paper and postal votes are added by previously elected committee. These people must ensure that the details of the ranking of the postal votes are not leaked.

Proposed Election Procedure for Feb. 2008

By August 2007 - Vote by Council on acceptance of new Bylaws to allow electronic voting for Spokesperson.

By August 2007 - Formation of Spokesperson nomination committee (consists of Council chair +>=2 other Council members). The members of the nomination committee will be agreed on via simple majority vote of the Council members. The committee vote is an "all or nothing" vote.

By Nov 2007 - Vote in Council on the Spokesperson election voting procedure, including who will count the in-person votes + postal votes. This needs to be people who will be physically present in India – therefore we need to remember to allow in our "rules for the election" for this to change at time of election in case someone suddenly can't make it.

By Dec 2008 - Announcement of candidates to collaboration. Further nominations can be made up to 1 month before.

1 month before election – Spokesperson candidates submit their manifesto to collaboration. Each Council member is responsible for consulting on these manifestos with the members from their institution and deciding how to cast their one vote per institution. All candidates come to BNL and present to the collaboration members their

manifesto. Candidates will not attend each others presentations. Presentations will be available via vrvs/phone/skype and on the web for those that cannot attend

1 Week before election – Postal electronic voting opened for those not able to attend the Council meeting in India. All possible attempts to actually attend should be made. It should be made clear that any member of the Insitute is valid to attend the Council meeting as their Council member.

Day before election – Postal voting closed. Gives 24 hr to fix problem. Council chair sends Email to all Council members he knows to have postal voted.

Day of Election - Every effort will be made to provide a phone line/vrvs/skype connection for those Council members not physically present at the meeting. However, should these connections fail at the time of the meeting the presentations/voting will proceed.