

Association Affairs

AAAS Constitutional Amendments

Two major amendments to the AAAS constitution, plus three more minor amendments made necessary by the two major ones, will be presented to the Council for action at the 1960 meeting.

History

At the 1959 meeting of the AAAS Council, the Committee on Council Activities and Organization recommended a number of changes in Council organization and activities. After substantial debate, Council approved most of the committee recommendations—namely, those portions which recommended (i) codification of the rules governing Council meetings (including some new rules of procedure); (ii) appointment of *ad hoc* study committees to review and to report to Council on such problems as were of interest to Council; and (iii) creation of a standing Committee on Constitution and Rules. Council did not approve the creation of a standing Committee on Council Activities and Organization, but voted to continue the committee of that name through 1960 to enable it to work further on the problems with which it had been concerned. A fuller discussion of the committee report and the actions taken by Council was published in *Science* [131, 504 (19 Feb. 1960)].

During 1960 the Committee on Council Activities and Organization has worked with the Board of Directors in an effort to clarify the functions of the Council and the Board, and the relations between the two bodies, and to define the composition and responsibilities of a standing committee to be called the Committee on Council Affairs. The committee and the Board of Directors have agreed upon the following amendments to the constitution. These amendments are now published so that they can be considered by Council and can be voted upon at the meeting of Council in New York in December.

Major Amendments

Article IV, Section 1

This section now reads: "The Council shall perform duties prescribed in the constitution and bylaws and shall act as an advisory body in matters pertaining to the general policies of the Association."

It is recommended that the following description of the responsibilities of Council be substituted for the above statement.

Responsibility for the affairs of the Association is vested in the Council, which shall have authority to delegate functions to the Board of Directors.

In addition to other powers and responsibilities set forth herein, Council shall:

(a) determine the rights and privileges of members, and prescribe the dues and fees to be paid by members;

(b) elect general officers of the Association;

(c) provide for the organization of the Association in sections in accordance with the fields of interest of its members;

(d) authorize the establishment of regional divisions of the Association;

(e) determine the conditions of affiliation and elect affiliates of the Association;

(f) establish special study committees to report to the Council on any aspect of Association policy or program or on other matters affecting the advancement of science; and

(g) establish committees to aid the Council in the discharge of any of the above responsibilities.

The proposed amendment would bring together in one place statements of the major functional responsibilities of Council and, together with the following amendment, would define more carefully the relationships between Council and Board.

Article V, Section 1

This section defines the responsibilities of the Board of Directors. It now reads: "The Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Association and as such shall have, hold, and administer all the property, funds and affairs of the Association."

It is recommended that this section be deleted and that the following state-

ment be substituted. The new wording brings together from several places in the constitution statements of the major functional responsibilities of the Board.

The Board of Directors shall have, hold, and administer all the property, funds, and activities of the Association. It shall:

(a) take such actions as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the Association;

(b) make recommendations to the Council;

(c) appoint the administrative officers of the Association;

(d) in the event of a vacancy in the office of a general officer other than the office of president-elect, elect a replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of president-elect, replacement shall be by election by the Council;

(e) appoint and supervise the work of all committees except those described in Article IV, Section 1, paragraphs (f) and (g);

(f) determine the time and place of meetings of or meetings sponsored by the Association;

(g) elect Fellows from among the members of the Association;

(h) prepare and publish an annual budget for the Association and arrange for an annual independent audit of the accounts of the Association; and

(i) perform such other functions as the Council may assign to it from time to time.

Compensatory Changes

Each of the above amendments brings together into a single list a number of statements of responsibility that are now scattered through other articles of the constitution. In most cases it seems desirable to allow the duplication to remain. For example, Article VIII specifies that affiliates shall be elected by Council. The proposed amendment to Article IV includes the election of affiliates among the responsibilities of Council. Each article is clearer and more complete if the statement of Council responsibility appears in both.

In two cases, however, there will be simplification if the duplication is removed, and in one case a correction will be required if the two major amendments are adopted. These proposed changes are as follows:

1) In Article III, Section 2, delete the final sentence dealing with the filling of a vacancy in the office of a vice president. The problem will be adequately cared for in the revised Article V, Section 1, part (d).

2) In Article V, Section 2, delete the sentence beginning, "In the event of a vacancy in the office of an elected member of the Board of Directors. . . ." The method of filling such a vacancy is simplified and the procedure defined in the proposed Article V, Section 1.

3) Revise Article V, Section 4, by adding the italicized words so that the section will read: "The Board of Directors shall appoint such committees, *other than those described in Article IV, Section 1, parts (f) and (g),* as may be necessary to aid in the management of the Association. The duties of standing committees shall be stated in the bylaws." This change will remove a possible conflict in responsibility between the Council, which, if the recommended amendments are adopted, will have authority to appoint committees to deal with matters of concern to Council, and the Board, which according to the unrevised wording is responsible for the appointment of all committees.

Action by Council

The five amendments described above will be submitted to the Council for vote at the 1960 annual meeting in New York. A favorable vote of two thirds of the Council members who are present and voting is required for adoption.

The following recommendations are not for changes in the constitution but are related to the above proposed constitutional amendments. A favorable vote of a majority of the Council members present and voting will be required for their adoption. "Adoption" in the case of all of the following except the recommendation concerning the Committee on Constitution and Rules, will constitute a request to the Board of Directors to make the indicated amendments to the bylaws.

Committee on Council Affairs

As stated above, Council in 1959 voted against the creation of a standing Committee on Council Activities and Organization but did vote to continue the committee of that name for one year. The committee has worked with the Board of Directors in preparing the above recommendations and in redefining the nature and function of the standing committee that Council did not approve last year. The name of the proposed standing committee has been changed to Committee on Council Affairs. The *ad hoc* committee and the Board of Directors agree upon the desirability of establishing the proposed Committee on Council Affairs, and recommend to Council that the following statement of its composition and responsibility be approved. If Council approves, the statement will be formally adopted by the Board of Directors, which has authority to change the bylaws, as a new Section 11 of Article V of the bylaws, the section that lists and describes the Association's standing committees.

Proposed Addition to Article V of Bylaws

Section 11. The Committee on Council Affairs shall consist of: nine members elected by the Council for terms of three years each, the terms of three of whom shall expire on January 14 of each year; the president-elect of the Association, who shall serve as chairman of the committee; and the secretary of the Council, who shall serve as secretary of the committee without vote. The committee shall (a) prepare the agenda for meetings of the Council, (b) receive or initiate, coordinate, and advise on reports of Council committees, resolutions, or actions submitted for consideration by the Council, (c) establish or recommend to the Council the establishment of appropriate study committees to report to the Council on any aspect of Association policy or program or on other matters affecting the advancement of science, (d) recommend to the Council appropriate changes in the constitution and bylaws.

Other Changes in Bylaws

1) If Council approves the above recommendations, the Board of Directors will amend Article V, Section 1, of the bylaws in order to bring it into agreement with the other changes being proposed. The revision can be made by adding the italicized words to make the section read: "The committees shall be standing, as provided in the bylaws, or special, as the Board of Directors *or Council* approve(s). All standing committees, *except the Committee on Council Affairs,* shall report annually in writing to the Board of Directors. The chairmen of committees, *unless otherwise provided for in these bylaws,* shall be designated by the Board of Directors."

2) Already approved by Council at the 1959 meeting were several rules of procedure for Council meetings. These rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors as Article XII of the bylaws. No further action is required.

Committee on Constitution and Rules

At the 1959 meeting, Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Council Activities and Organization that there be established a standing Committee on Constitution and Rules. The Committee on Council Activities and Organization and the Board of Directors, upon further consideration, agree that it is not desirable to have a standing Committee on Constitution and Rules. It seems better to continue to allow both Board and Council to have the authority to initiate recommendations for changes in the constitution and bylaws and to appoint

a special committee for this purpose only when major revisions are required. It is therefore recommended that Council rescind the action it took in 1959 in voting to establish a standing Committee on Constitution and Rules.

Procedure for Amending Bylaws

Article XIII of the bylaws now specifies that "the bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the Board of Directors, provided notification of the proposed amendment has been mailed to each member of the Board at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting." The Committee on Council Activities and Organization recommends that authority to amend the bylaws be transferred from the Board of Directors to the Council. If the Council votes to transfer authority to amend the bylaws from the Board to the Council, the Board will make that transfer by adopting the following statement as a substitute for the wording of Article XIII given above: "The bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the Council at any meeting or by mail ballot."

DAEL WOLFLE

*American Association for the
Advancement of Science*

Programs Planned for the AAAS New York Meeting

Section and society programs in engineering, agriculture, and industrial science are presented here, and programs of some organizations not affiliated with any section. Programs in mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology and geography, the biological sciences, anthropology, psychology, the social and economic sciences, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and the history and philosophy of science have been previously announced [*Science* **132**, 1259 (28 Oct. 1960); **132**, 1318 (4 Nov. 1960); **132**, 1403 (11 Nov. 1960); **132**, 1501 (18 Nov. 1960)].

Engineering

Section M. Panel, joint program of Section B—Physics and M—Engineering, cosponsored by the Society for the History of Technology: "The Place of Nuclear Engineering in the University Curriculum," arranged by Clarence E. Davies, United Engineering Center Project, New York City, with John W. Healy, General Electric Company, as moderator; 30 Dec.

Tau Beta Pi Association. The Association will hold its annual address with the AAAS, with Paul E. Klopsteg, retiring president, AAAS, presiding; 29 Dec. After an introduction by Donald