

Amendments to AAAS Constitution and Bylaws

Proposed amendments to the AAAS constitution must be published in substance at least 1 month prior to the annual meeting of Council at which they are to be considered. The Committee on Council Affairs and the Board of Directors, with advice from the Association's legal counsel and auditor, have prepared a detailed and thorough revision of the constitution and bylaws. With a few exceptions (described later), all of the proposed changes deal with wording and arrangement rather than with substance.

Amendments made over the past several decades have introduced a number of inconsistencies of wording. In some cases, practice requested by Council is not fully consistent with existing bylaws. Some provisions have grown out of date. A detailed rewriting therefore seemed called for, not to introduce substantive changes, but to eliminate inconsistencies, awkward expressions, unduly complex wording, unnecessary duplication, different forms of expression where parallel forms would seem to be called for, and so on. All of these changes have been examined by the Committee on Council Affairs and the Board of Directors, and all have been approved by both bodies.

Four substantive changes are proposed:

1) Under the present constitution, persons, institutions, or organizations may become members of AAAS. The constitution now provides that only individual members may be elected as Fellows or as Emeritus Members but—inconsistently—can be interpreted to permit institutions to become Fifty-Year Members and thus become exempt from further payment of dues. It is proposed that membership be limited to individual persons.

2) In the present constitution there are provisions for the election as Sustaining Members of persons, institutions, or organizations that make contributions, of such size as prescribed by the Board of Directors, to the Association. There are other ways in which benefactors can contribute to the Association. The provision for Sustaining Membership has not been used for decades. It is proposed that the provision be dropped.

3) There is at present a peculiar provision concerning the reelection of members of the Board of Directors, namely: "At any election of members of the Board of Directors, not more than one Fellow serving his fourth consecutive year as an elected member may be reelected." This provision has puzzled the Committee on Nominations and Elections for years, and in different

years has been interpreted differently. It is proposed that the provision be restated unambiguously as: "In any election of directors, the Committee on Nominations and Elections shall not nominate more than one person who is serving for his fourth consecutive year or longer as a director."

4) A major responsibility of the Committee on Council Affairs is to consider matters proposed for presentation at the annual meeting of Council. Prior to the establishment of the Committee on Council Affairs, another committee, the Committee on Affiliation, was created to review applications for affiliation with AAAS. Now that the Committee on Council Affairs is in existence, it believes that it might better assume the responsibility of reviewing applications for affiliation along with its review of other matters to come before Council. It is therefore proposed that the Committee on Affiliation be abolished and that its responsibilities be assigned to the Committee on Council Affairs.

Complete copies of the reworded constitution and bylaws, incorporating the four substantive changes and all the other, nonsubstantive, changes, will be mailed to members of Council early in December. They will be discussed and voted on at the meeting of Council on 30 December.

DAEL WOLFLE

MEETINGS

Gordon Research Conferences: Winter Program, 1968

W. George Parks

The Winter Gordon Research Conferences will be held from 22 January to 2 February 1968 in Santa Barbara, California, at the Miramar Hotel and at the Santa Barbara Biltmore Hotel. The purpose of the Gordon Research Conferences is to stimulate research in universities, research foundations, and industrial laboratories. This purpose is achieved by an informal type of meeting consisting of scheduled lectures and

discussion groups. Sufficient time is available to stimulate informal discussions among the members of each conference. Meetings are held in the morning and in the evening, Monday through Friday, with the exception of Friday evening. The afternoons are available for recreation, reading, or participation in discussion groups as the individual desires. This type of meeting is a valuable means of disseminating informa-

tion and ideas to an extent that could not be achieved through the usual channels of publication and presentation at scientific meetings. It is hoped that each conference will extend the frontiers of science by fostering a free and informal exchange of ideas among persons actively interested in the subjects under discussion. The summer conferences are held in New Hampshire and Washington [*Science* **155**, 1290 (1967)].

Registration and reservations. Attendance at the conferences, limited to approximately 100, is by application. Individuals interested in attending the conferences are requested to send their applications to the office of the director. *Applications must be submitted in duplicate on the standard form, which may be obtained from the office of the director.* The applications will be reviewed by the Conference Committee.

The author, director of the Gordon Research Conferences, is professor and chairman of the department of chemistry at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston.