

## AAAS Council Meeting, 1973

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The AAAS Council held its 1973 meeting on the morning of 26 June in Mexico City in the ballroom of the Fiesta Palace Hotel, with 62 members in attendance. President Leonard M. Rieser presided.

Reports by the Executive Officer of Association activities at mid-year and by the President of plans for the second Arcen House Conference, scheduled to be held in the spring of 1974, were followed by a report from the Committee on Council Affairs of (i) measures that had been taken to implement the provisions of the new constitution and bylaws regarding enrollment of AAAS members in electorates, representation of affiliated societies on section committees, establishment of the new Section X-General, and procedures for nomination and election of AAAS officers; and (ii) matters described in the following lettered paragraphs.

**A. Section committee elections.** Under the new bylaws, each section committee will elect, at 4-year intervals, a section secretary and, at 3-year intervals, one delegate to the Council from among the representatives of the affiliated organizations. The Council was informed that the Committee on Council Affairs had approved the following guidelines for such elections.

1. The nominating committee of the section committee will consist of the section secretary, who will serve as chairman, the section chairman, the section chairman-elect, and the four committee-men-at-large, except that, in years when a secretary is to be elected and the incumbent wishes to be considered as a candidate, the section chairman will serve as the chairman of the nominating committee and the secretary will not participate in the selection of candidates for section secretary.

2. The AAAS Central Office will develop a timetable for nomination and election procedures.

3. The nominating committee will, by mail or phone, agree on a slate of at least two nominees for each position to be filled.

4. The nominating committee will be responsible for ascertaining that all candidates are willing to serve, if elected, and for notifying the Central Office of the slates.

5. The Central Office will send preliminary ballots to all section committee members; an opportunity for writing in candidates will be provided.

6. If a write-in candidate receives at least three votes, the Central Office will mail a second ballot, including his name, to the section committee.

7. The Central Office will receive and tally the votes and notify the candidates and the section committee of the results.

**B. Election of section chairmen-elect and members-at-large of section committees.** An ambiguity in the bylaws concerning election of section chairmen-elect and members-at-large of section committees was called to the Council's attention. Article III, Section 2 (c) stated that these officers would be elected by their *sections*. Article V, Section 3 (a) states that slates of nominees for these positions will be presented to the members of the *electorates* by the electorate nominating committees. To resolve this apparent contradiction, the Council amended Bylaw Article III, Section 2 (c) by substituting the word *electorate* for the word *section* where italicized in the following sentences: "The Section Chairman-Elect shall be elected annually by the *Section*." "One member-at-large shall be elected annually by the *Section*. . . ."

Following this action, President Rieser requested the Committee on Council Affairs to reexamine the bylaws to determine whether any ambiguities or inconsistencies remained and, if so, to propose to the Council by mail whatever further amendments were needed to eliminate them.

**C. Criteria for election of affiliated organizations.** The new constitution transfers from the Board of Directors to the Council responsibility for establishing the criteria for organizational affiliation. Council adopted, in the following form, a statement of such criteria which had been prepared by the Committee on Council Affairs.

The objectives of the AAAS are: "to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public

understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress." There are many membership organizations and professional societies which have similar aims or have interest in supporting these objectives. Association with each other can be a mutually useful way of furthering these aims. The AAAS has established affiliation of organizations with AAAS as a means of furthering these common purposes. Criteria for such affiliation are set forth below, but final judgment as to whether or not an organization sufficiently satisfies these criteria shall rest with the Council.

1. Its aims are clearly directed toward, or consistent with, one or more of the objectives of the Association.

2. Its program and record of activities demonstrate interest in or substantial support of research, publications, or teaching in science or the advancement of science.

3. It does not discriminate in its membership on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

4. It has a sufficiently large membership (usually at least 200) and has been in existence for a sufficient time (usually at least five years) to give promise of continued support and worthwhile activity.

**D. Criteria and procedures for election of AAAS Fellows.** Responsibility for election of Fellows of the Association, under the new constitution, is also transferred from the Board to the Council, but the bylaws do not provide mechanisms for such election. Accordingly, the Council adopted, in the following form, guidelines which had been prepared by the Committee on Council Affairs.

The Committee on Council Affairs recommends that:

1. Council annually elect up to three tenths of one percent of the membership as Fellows, aiming toward an ultimate fellowship of ten percent of the membership over the next scientific generation.

2. Nominations for Fellows be made to the Council by the Section Committees in proportion to the membership of the Electorates.

3. Each Section Committee be asked to nominate about 25 percent more than its quota, with some indication of priorities.

4. Council appoint a Committee on Fellows to recommend the total number of Fellows to be elected in a given year, and to consider nominations made by the Section Committees.

5. The Committee on Fellows prepare a slate of nominees for election by the Council, the slate possibly to include additional names (up to 20) as nominated directly by the Council Committee on Fellows.

The Committee further recommends that criteria for Fellow status be a body of work on behalf of the advancement of science that is scientifically distinguished or socially highly significant, or both. The Committee suggests that this be the mean-

ing given to the phrase "meritorious contribution" as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws.

To implement these guidelines, the Council adopted the following amendments to the bylaws, which had been formulated by the Committee on Council Affairs.

#### *Article I, Section 2, Fellows*

Delete the section as now worded. ("A Member who has made a meritorious contribution to the advancement of science may be elected a Fellow by the Council upon submission of suitable evidence of eligibility. Nomination for election as a Fellow may be made by a Section Secretary, by the Executive Officer, or by any three Fellows.")

Substitute the following paragraphs:

(a) *Nomination and Election.* A Member who has produced a body of work on behalf of the advancement of science that is scientifically distinguished or socially highly significant, or both, may, by virtue of such meritorious contribution, be elected a Fellow by the Council upon recommendation of the Council Committee on Fellows. Nominations may be made to the Committee by the Section Committees, by the Executive Officer, or by any three Fellows.

(b) *Council Committee on Fellows.*

(i) *Function.* The Council Committee on Fellows shall annually select and present to the Council for election a slate of nominees, numbering up to three tenths of one percent of the membership, whom it recommends for Fellow status. In advance of selecting the slate, the Committee shall invite each Section Committee to submit up to a designated number of nominations. That number shall be the proportion of three tenths of one percent of the membership that is equivalent to the proportion of Members of the Association enrolled in the Electorate corresponding to the Section Committee, plus an additional number equivalent to twenty-five percent of the proportional number. The slate may include up to twenty nominees selected independently by the Committee.

(ii) *Membership.* The Council Committee on Fellows shall consist of nine members: the Executive Officer and eight members elected from among and by the Council delegates, from slates presented

by the Committee on Nominations, for two-year, renewable terms. The terms of four of the eight elected members shall expire on December 31 of each year.

#### *Article V, Section 1 (a), second paragraph*

Add the italicized words: "In addition, the Committee [on Nominations] shall annually present to members of the Council for election by mail ballot at least two nominations for each position to be filled on the Committee on Council Affairs and on the Council Committee on Fellows by vote of the Council."

#### *Article XI, Section 1*

In the list of Standing Committees, as (c), add: "Council Committee on Fellows (see Bylaw Article I)."

**E. Resolutions.** Two resolutions had been submitted to the Committee on Council Affairs for presentation to the Council. No action was taken on one; the other was adopted in revised form, as follows.

*Whereas* there are reports emanating from several countries that scientists whose opinions and activities challenge governmental policies and practices are diagnosed as mentally ill and incarcerated in mental hospitals,

*Therefore Be It Resolved* that the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science request the Board to consider the establishment of a committee to investigate these reports and to report to the Council on their status.

#### **New Business**

A motion that the Executive Officer, on behalf of the Council of the AAAS, convey to the President of Mexico, in his role as Honorary Chairman, and to the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología profound thanks for their gracious hospitality and for their splendid organization of the AAAS-CONACYT meeting on "Science and Man in the Americas" carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

#### **Proposed Amendments to the AAAS Bylaws**

As the result of a reexamination of the bylaws requested by President Leonard M. Rieser (see the paragraph lettered "B" in the above account of the 1973 Council meeting), the Committee on Council Affairs has submitted the following proposed amendments to the Council for mail ballot.

#### *Article II, Section 1*

Delete this section in its present form ["The Electorates shall be the twenty-one Sections of the Association (see Bylaw Article III)"] and substitute the following:

The Electorates shall be subsets of the twenty-one Sections of the Association (see Bylaw Article III), comprised of those Members who are enrolled as voting members of the Sections (see Section 3 of this Article).

#### *Article II, Section 2*

Add the italicized words in the first sentence:

Each Electorate shall be entitled to elect (a) one delegate to the Council plus one additional delegate for each three thousand Members in the Electorate, (b) the six members of its own Nominating Committee (see Bylaw Article V, Section 3), (c) the Chairman-Elect of the corresponding Section, and (d) the members-at-large of the corresponding Section Committee.

#### *Article IV, Section 2*

Add the italicized words and delete the words in brackets:

Membership in the Association shall be a requirement for election or appointment (a) to the Board, the Council, the Section Committees, and the Committee on Nominations [and the Nominating Committees of the Electorates] and (b) as officers of the [Sections, the] Regional Divisions and the Local Branches.

*Membership in the Electorate shall be a requirement for election as Council delegate of an Electorate, member of an Electorate's Nominating Committee, Section Chairman-Elect, Section Secretary, and member-at-large of a Section Committee.*

### **Special Notice to Members: 1973 Fall Election**

Members who have not received the September *AAAS Bulletin*, which contains biographical information about candidates for AAAS offices, should promptly request a copy from the Executive Officer. (This information will not be included with the November ballot.)