

WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026

Present: Kevin Fay, Parvin Price, Nam Nguyen, Staff liaisons Cate Schur and Darlene Neumann

Absent: Todd Bloom, Francis Adewale, Sunitha Anjilvel, Kari Petrasek

Interested Parties: Kevin Plachy, Julianne Unite, Andrew Yi

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of July 8, 2026, were unanimously approved.

Court Rules and Procedures Committee Charter

Governance committee members and Court Rules & Procedures Chair, Andrew Yi, reviewed the revision to the charter. Discussion focused on delegation of authority and the possibility of placing the draft charter on the Board's consent calendar. It was agreed that if objections arise regarding delegation, the charter could be approved with those provisions removed. Motion: Parvin Price moved, seconded by Nam Nguyen, to accept the draft charter and include it in the Board's September consent materials if possible. The motion passed, 3-0.

Section Input and Email Voting Bylaw Amendment

The committee, Kevin Plachy and Julianne Unite, discussed the support of the two proposed bylaws amendments by sections members, particularly the email voting provision. Concern was raised about sections potentially not holding meetings if email voting is allowed. After further discussion, the committee determined this would not be a significant issue. Motion: Kevin Fay moved, seconded by Parvin Price, to accept the email voting provision for first read at the September Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Sections Viability Bylaw Amendment and Annual Reports

The committee reviewed the draft Sections viability bylaw amendment. Discussion followed on whether to draft a policy before forwarding the bylaw to the Board. Rather than proposing a policy to accompany the first read materials, the consensus was to solicit input on a policy from the BOG and propose policy to accompany second read of the bylaw amendments if needed. Committee members suggested that the Member Engagement Council be charged with providing guidance to sections in a supportive, oversight role ("section wellness"). Motion: Kevin Fay moved, seconded

by Parvin Price, to present the Sections viability bylaws amendment for first read in September, along with the sections' feedback. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Bylaws Clean-up

Tabled. The chair recommended the clean-up resume after the current proposed amendments are resolved.

Licensee vs. Members Terminology

Members briefly discussed the terms “licensees” and “members” following an earlier discussion by the Board’s executive committee. Concerns by the Governance Committee included legal and practical considerations for making a change. The committee agreed to revisit the topic in a future meeting after further analysis.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm. The next meeting will be September 9, 2026.

Next Steps:

- Court Rules & Procedures Chair, Andrew Yi, will work with staff liaison, Nicole Gustine, to prepare a memo for charter approval
- Governance Committee Chair, Kevin Fay, and staff liaison, Cate Schur, will prepare a memo for email voting and section viability, including section feedback for first read at the September Board of Governor’s meeting.