

Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

Present: Governors Kevin Fay (chair), Parvin Price, Kari Petrasek; staff liaisons Cate Schur, Darlene Neumann. **Absent:** Francis Adewale, Sunitha Anjilvel, Nam Nguyen, Todd Bloom. **Interested Persons:** Kevin Plachy, Renata de Carvalho Garcia, Julianne Unite, Bobby Henry.

1. Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by the chair.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the February 11, 2026, minutes was made by Parvin Price, seconded by Kari Petrasek. Motion passed unanimously. 3-0.

3. Retired Members and Bar Directory

The committee discussed whether bylaw amendments were needed to allow retired attorneys to appear as “retired” in the directory. Chief Regulatory Counsel Renata de Carvalho Garcia explained that the existing system already allows individuals who previously resigned to request the “retired” label, which is an external directory label equivalent to “voluntarily resigned.”

The committee discussed whether former members—deceased or living—could be listed as emeritus in the Legal Directory. RSD Associate Director Bobby Henry explained Emeritus is an inactive membership status, not available to individuals who previously resigned and are no longer bar members. He clarified that for resigned individuals to become active again, the readmission procedures apply.

The committee determined no bylaw amendment was needed with respect to the “retired” designation.

4. Sections Viability Review

The committee reviewed a draft that would eliminate the viability review provision in the WSBA bylaws. Director of Advancement Kevin Plachy and Member Services and Engagement Manager Julianne Unite discussed current practice for viability reviews and that section activity and financial viability (treasury activity) feasibly could be monitored through existing annual reporting and internal oversight procedures. If issues persist, Advancement staff could involve section liaisons to obtain required section documents. Following discussion, Kevin Fay made a motion, seconded by Parvin Price, to approve sending the draft viability review bylaw for sections feedback. The motion passed. Advancement staff will coordinate messaging to sections. The committee will review the draft communications before distribution to sections.

5. Sections Email Voting

The committee reviewed draft amendments to the WSBA bylaws that would authorize section executive committees to vote by email. Discussion focused on transparency to record who voted and how, recordation of the matter voted on and vote tallies, expanding email voting to other bar groups (committees, councils), WSBA staff overseeing email votes, and staff concerns about increased workload. The chair will revise the draft language and circulate it to the committee before being sent to sections for feedback. The email-voting proposal will be sent to sections together with the viability-review proposal, once drafting is finalized.

6. Further Action

The chair will continue to work on cleaning up the bylaws. No other substantive bylaw changes have been requested by other groups.

7. Scheduling Next Meeting

Some members expressed conflicts with the next regular meeting scheduled for May 13th. The chair requested staff to send a Doodle poll to members for the week of May 4th with Wednesday, May 6th at 3:30 p.m. as the primary option which appeared to work for several voting members.

8. Next Steps

- Chair will revise the draft email voting bylaw and send it to members for review and comment.
- Staff work on a report on quorum requirements for the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.