

ALS Meeting 5.17.17 re: ByLaws – Telephonic

Meeting via phone – 5.17.17; start at 4:34 pm

Jessica

Kim

Sara

Danny

Wynn

Joe – WSBA

Only topic is the by-laws:

Biggest concern is term and composition of the executive committee.

They want longer terms for at large. Concerned that because we're so small, we wouldn't get commitment for that long of time.

Danny – there was disagreement with the committee (Danny, Kim, and Wynn) – there are some good arguments for having only 2 at-large members. The argument against is that it may create a barrier to entry to animal law in WA state, because there are fewer slots open to participate.

Kim – agrees with Danny that we should consider Danny's concern about not barring people from entering the ALS section. Kim says we should have an uneven number ex-comm, because right now we have an odd number.

Joe – there will be an election every year, unless you have something structured differently. The intended structure is to have the officer positions be 1 year positions, and at large be 2-3 years.

Wynn – We have always had a very hard time not only finding people to run for the election, but doing all of the work involved in the elections. We used to have a nominating committee; no longer have. There are very few years where we have more people running than we have had slots. No-contest votes most commonly because we are a small section. Only a few people have the time and energy to do the major lifting. We need to balance number of people on the committee, frequency of elections, and duration of positions.

Jessica would have committed to 2 years.

Dylan wonders if it's just as much work to have a partial election versus a full board election. But worries about a new lawyer not being able to run for office.

Kim says if at-large positions are open every year, new people can run. But we need to balance against not having enough interest.

Joe are having 4-5 officers with 1 year terms, then up to 4-10 at large members who have larger roles. This applies to smaller sections as well. The low bono section is similar to ALS. They struggle to have

quorum at meetings. They have a 15 member executive committee. He encouraged them to consider eliminating some of those positions. They are not all currently filled.

Current bylaws say that you can have their chair serve a 2 year term. Some have an option to renew for a second year. WSBA prefers you have 2 year as opposed to have an option to renew.

Sara proposed having 2 year terms for ex comm and 1 year term for at large.

Wynn says there was a high learning curve for Treasurer, but then it got easier, so she wanted to do it for many terms. She likes the idea of having a 2 year term for treasurer and the ability to run over and over again. She agrees that 2 year term for officer is good. At large – 1 year, so people can break into the section leadership.

Kim is fine with that.

Danny. Jessica. All Fine.

Sara proposed we have separate secretary and treasurer, giving us a 9 person ex comm.

Wynn wonders if we separate the two positions, our bylaws could allow for someone to do both. Kim mentioned that would disrupt voting numbers.

Jessica – why would the past chair not vote? Just for numbers. We need a 5/4 vote.

Sara made a motion: 5 ex comm members: Chair, Chair Elect, Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, each with 2 year terms. 4 at large members with a 1 year term.

Wynn seconded. Unanimous vote. No opposition.

No other issues to discuss. – Except Jessica and Danny are working on CLEs. Danny's will be a member appreciation. Jessica's will be a mini-CLE at lunchtime. Sara suggested Plum. Lots of discussion about restaurants in Tacoma.