

Omnibus (aka Balleisen) amendments summary

The proposed omnibus (aka Balleisen) amendments do not seek to in anyway alter the mission or function of this organization. Instead they propose to improve the functioning of the organization and regularize or realign discrepancies that have grown over the years between the letter of the bylaws and practice. The proposals also seek to fix inefficiencies in the bylaws that have emerged because of changes in information technology and resulting communications practices.

Below we indicate where principal omnibus amendments are made, with a brief outline of the reason when necessary.

Article III: Administrative Structure

III.1 – slight amendment

Article V: Officers

V.1 – minor addition

Article VI: Responsibilities of Officers

VI.1 – minor addition

VI.2 – clarification

VI.3 – minor amendment

VI.4 – deletion

VI.5 – clarification

VI.6 – addition

Article VII: Trustees

VII.4 – addition to reflect changing technology

VII.5 – a significant amendment to realign with practice

VII.6 – clarification

Article VIII: Responsibilities of Trustees

VIII.3 – to align with practice

VIII.5 – to align with practice

IX: Elections

XI.1, 2, and 3 – all to clarify and align with recent practice, reflecting changing technological landscape

X: Print Media

X.2 – to align with practice

XI: Electronic Media

Extensive amendments are proposed throughout this Article, but especially in XI.2 to better reflect how the roles subsumed under this article have grown, developed, and evolved in recent years to better match a changing e-media landscape.

XII: Meetings

XII.2 – to align with practice

XIII: Committees

XIII.1 – deletion to reflect an evolved remit

XIV: Standing Committees

Extensive amendments to XIV.1, 3, 4, 5, and 12 – all to clarify and align with practice

XV: Colloquium

Significant throughout, to clarify the functioning of the colloquium and align with practice.

As noted above the Officers and Trustees also wish to propose amendments to the way in which proposed amendments to the bylaws are processed and approved, that is to Article XVI. The current bylaws state that all proposed amendments may be rejected, amended, or approved by a vote of the membership at the regular members' meeting, which is typically held at the annual meeting. Amendments require a simple majority, provided a quorum is present. Alternatively, Trustees may at their discretion poll members via postal ballot. This last provision is clearly out of line with how the organization conducts regular elections and does not reflect current potential technological capabilities. This section is revised significantly. We propose:

- a clearer process for developing bylaws revision
- allowing the membership to see them and comment on them in advance of a vote
- clarifying that we now use electronic voting
- Establishing a quorum for an electronic vote