



2020 Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Missouri Association Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

Voting on the state bylaws amendments shall be conducted at the assembly of delegates at the 2020 State Leadership Conference, March 15-17, 2020.

These proposed amendments are submitted in this mailing and by electronic means (MO-FACS List Serve) to the chapters more than 30 days prior to voting.

If passed, the newly approved state bylaws, revised 2020, would be effective for the 2021 spring elections for implementation during the 2021-2022 school year.

Please see the full wording changes in the proposed bylaws in a separate document.

Explanation of Proposed Amendments to the State Bylaws

Overall Rationale:

Through the strategic planning process we have identified items in the bylaws that are considered policies and procedures and should therefore be removed from the bylaws and put into a policies and procedures manual. Once these amendments have been approved a complete manual will be created.

These amendments are also being proposed in order to update them to reflect current verbiage and sound operations for the organization.

State Officer Elections:

Over the last couple years there has been a growing concern regarding the state officers. There have been some regions who have been unable to have an interested and/or qualified student run for the position of state officer. This has left some regions unrepresented on the state council. There are other regions who have several interested and qualified candidates who are unable to become state officers because there can only be one officer from that region.

Currently we are the only CTSO in Missouri that does not hold state officer elections through an at-large process. The proposal outlined would reduce the number of officers from 14 to 10. This would save the association approximately \$8,000, which could be redistributed to the

elected officers to help offset expenses that are not currently paid for by the association such as an increase in the stipend for National Leadership Conference. The change in this procedure would still ensure that there was equal representation throughout the state which has been a guiding principal of our elections process. There would be an establishment of “districts” which would be composed of several regions. The current draft indicates the establishment of 6 different districts. The districts would be established with consideration of geographical location and overall membership in an effort to make sure each district was composed of a similar number of student members. The only purpose of these districts would be used in elections for the state level. There would be no officers or responsibilities for this level. When holding elections, there would be at least one state officer elected from each of these districts, as long as there was an interested and qualified candidate. The remaining officers could come from any of those districts.

The voting process for state officers would mirror that of the national level. Each delegate would cast one ballot for a slate of 10 officers. The ballots would be counted and the candidate with the highest number of votes from each of the districts would be selected for the council, then from the remaining candidates, the candidates with the highest overall votes would be selected for the council as well. Their positions on the council would be determined by a nominating committee based on their strengths and skills, which would come from their applications, interviews, and information provided by the student during training at the state conference.

There is an amendment which would make sure that this process was reviewed every 3 years to make sure that the policies and procedures established are in the best interest of the students and the organization. The complete policies and procedures would be outlined in a separate document so that adjustments can be made as needed without requiring a vote by the state membership.

The amendments to the qualifications for state officers is designed to create a stronger state officer council by helping to ensure that candidates are knowledgeable about some basic components of the organization. The hope of requiring them to have held a responsible position on the regional level is to strengthen the regional councils. With this proposal the thought is that it would be acceptable for a state officer to also hold a regional officer position. A region may establish their own guidelines regarding this. Regions may also wish to alter their regional officer elections timeline so that it would be held after the election of state officers at the State Leadership Conference.

Regional Officer Amendments:

The adjustment to the regional officer duties was designed to make it easier for a region to make modifications to their regional officer duties to fit the needs of the region. The regional officer handbook would establish the basic responsibilities for regional officers, but a region would be allowed to petition the state association for an exception in extreme or unusual circumstances. This would also allow there to be modifications made to help strengthen regional councils and provide some consistency across the state to align with sound management of the association.

Board of Directors:

Our bylaws have stated for many years that we were governed by a Board of Directors which was the “Vocational Family and Consumer Sciences Education Advisory Committee”, however we have been unable to find when that council existed last. All non-profit organizations need to be governed by a Board of Directors in order to remain in compliance with the state and federal government. For sound operations, the governing group should be over the age of consent which is 18. The creation of this board is not designed to take away from the student focused leadership of this organization, but to allow the students to focus on other areas of growth for the organization and leave higher level and legal decisions to an adult Board of Directors.

If approved, the process to establish this Board of Directors would start immediately. The current strategic planning committee on the state level would meet with the ex-officio officers outlined to establish an application for potential members and a timeline for their selection. The elected positions would have an initial term that may not be the full 3 years as outline in order to make sure that there was a staggered turn-over rate of the board.