

2020 MO FCCLA Bylaws Amendment Proposal

Frequently Asked Questions

- ❖ **When will the elections process take effect?**
 - The procedure will take place for the election of the 2021-2022 state officers.

- ❖ **What is the difference between the corporate bylaws and the student bylaws?**
 - The corporate bylaws are the bylaws that govern how the board of directors operates. The student bylaws govern how the association operates for local chapters.

- ❖ **What do the changes to the regional adviser and STAR Events coordinator sections mean?**
 - These changes are to allow for growth and to encompass some of the changes that are already happening on the regional level with the hiring of an outside person to manage STAR Events. There is hope that in the future we will be able to establish a hired position for all regions in regards to STAR Events to help reduce the stress of having regional officers.

- ❖ **Do you have an idea of what the district breakdown will look like?**
 - Yes. Based on feedback from the current State Officer Adviser group we have outlined the following breakdown: Regions 1-2; Regions 3-4; Regions 6-8; Regions 10-11; Regions 12, 14; Regions 5, 9, 13. This was based on geographical proximity and current membership. All of the districts would have a rough membership from 1200-1900 students to help make sure that any one district couldn't have more weight for candidates from their district.

- ❖ **Does a district (2-3 regions) need to select candidates to submit for state officer elections?**
 - No, the only purpose of the newly established districts is to create geographical boundaries to use in the election of state officers to help ensure that we do the best we can to get officers from across the state. There will be no responsibilities that come from these districts.

❖ Why isn't there more adviser representation on the board of directors

- We have modeled the composition of the board after the national association and after reviewing what various other state associations do. The board of directors is designed to deal with higher level decisions. There will be a standing committee of the board that will be composed of chapter advisers. The chair of that committee will be a voting member of the board of directors, so that advisers will have a process to voice concerns. There will also be a formal process outlined in the policies and procedures manual where any member, adviser, or administrator can voice concern over a decision that the board has made. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will have the ultimate power to overturn any decision that is made by the board as they are the charter holder for the organization.

❖ In this proposal, does it mean that regions could hold regional officer elections after the state conference?

- Absolutely! With this change, it will allow regions to potentially change their regional elections from January to anytime in the spring. We are hoping that one of the big advantages to this is that it allows chapters the opportunity to get students excited during the spring events (STAR Events or State Conference) about running for a regional office. We are also aware that many students are not thinking about the next school year in December which has been a hurdle for many chapter advisers.

❖ Does this proposal mean that a student could be a member of the State Executive Council and Regional Executive Council?

- Yes. If we move to an at-large elections process a student could hold a position on both councils. For some regions that would help as they frequently have concerns with being able to fulfill their regional officer positions. There was a concern raised about allowing a state officer to hold the position of the regional president or 1st vice-president because of the responsibilities that come with those positions. The decision on allowing or not allowing a state officer to hold those positions would be up to each region. If this is a concern within the region, then the region would need to hold regional officer elections after the state conference.

❖ We need to set the dates for the next school year and with this proposal the timeline of some regional events could change, what do we do?

- Regions can do a couple things. They can decide to proceed for the next year as if nothing has changed and hold regional elections in January. They can also come up with a few possible dates and once the voting has occurred for the bylaws they can make their final decision. In an effort to allow this, we will notify all chapters during the business meeting on Monday evening of the state conference what the vote was on the bylaws so that regions can meet on Tuesday morning and finalize their regional dates.

❖ What about the current regional officer training offered at the State Leadership Conference?

- This is something that would need to be discussed. It could either be a training available for students who are interested in holding a regional office, we could look at moving the training to the Fall Leadership Conference, we could look at holding it during the summer/early fall, or we could look at possibly creating training teams that could visit regions for training on an individual regional basis. There are lots of options, but we do want to continue to support regions in the training of their officers, we just need to find the solution that would be most beneficial.

❖ I'm concerned what the process for state officers will look like since it isn't in the bylaws and the document that would outline it hasn't been released.

- This is a valid concern. There are some potential ideas on what that overall process will look like after discussion with the current state officer advisers, but I want to gather a bit more input before outlining the final process. The complete process will be posted in the fall so that chapters can see what the process will be like from the beginning so they don't start with a candidate and then find out a piece won't work. The current thought is to potentially have students submit an intent to run for in the fall and hold a knowledge test at the Fall Conference in order to advance to the next step of the process. I want to gather information on concerns about this before fully committing to this. In the end we have to get the final number of potential officer candidates down to a reasonable number to participate in the final stage of the elections process. We do not want the elections process at State Leadership Conference to be so long that voting delegates are spending a large chunk of their time devoted to this process.

❖ What is the rationale behind changing the eligibility requirements for a state officer?

- Throughout the last several years there have been issues relating to some officers who do not have a strong basic knowledge of FCCLA. It is difficult for a student to be the face of the organization when they don't know the most basic components about the organization. We are looking to enforce a minimum score on a knowledge test to help ensure this. We also want to make sure that regional associations are supported in relation to regional officer councils so we changed the eligibility from holding a chapter position to holding a regional position. Our most successful state officers have held a regional position prior to becoming a state officer because they have been able to see what it is like to make decisions for a larger membership than just their chapter.

❖ I am concerned that there are several references to a policies and procedures manual, but there isn't even a draft of this posted.

- The policies and procedures manual is a very time consuming item to officially create. It is also an item that will need to officially be approved by the board of directors. There are no plans to overhaul how the organization is currently operating except to add additional accountability pieces in relation to how the state level operates. There are several items that are unspoken rules that need to be written down for clarity and transparency purposes.