



Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Minutes

Monday, November 9 2015

4 p.m.

National Office

Conference room 1967

100, Queen Street, Ottawa (Ont.)

Present : Emmanuelle Tremblay, Nick Giannakoulis (VP EC - teleconference), André Picotte (VP TR), Shawn Morton (NRCan - teleconference), Laura Smith (Health), Mathieu Stiermann (Industry), Dorin Petriu (Commissioner of lobbying)

Excused : Vanessa Clermont (Status of Women), Tannis Bujaczek (CIC)

Introduction

The CAPE National President, Emmanuelle Tremblay, made a brief introduction to explain to the committee that the National Executive Committee had identified the need for an overhaul of the CAPE governance structure to meet the needs of a democratic and decentralized Association, promoting a greater role for local leadership and reducing the overly concentrated powers in the hands of the Presidency. The Leadership Summit held October 24 2015, proposed some avenues and recommendations that could inspire the Committee in its endeavour.

The objective of this first meeting of the new Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC) are to appoint a Committee Chair and agree on a process for a Constitutional review that is open and participatory.

Discussion

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- We will look at how other organizations are structured, analyze and weigh the pros and cons of different models and discuss / consult members with concrete suggestions based on different models
- The Committee should survey its members about the general principles, values and objectives of the review. Then, the committee will provide the means to meet these principles. For example, if members want more equitable representation in decision-making, the CBC could think of ways to address this need: e.g. via equity committee
- The process cannot be too long and complex
- Exercise should be inclusive and participatory so that members adhere to it
- The process will involve intensive working sessions by the Committee rather than numerous monthly meetings.

- There is a marked difference between an approach to reform that is principle- or values-based and an approach that is rules-based. The Committee shall agree on the approach to favor or should explore a hybrid approach.

Appointment of Committee Chair

Dorin Petriu puts forward his candidacy as chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC).

He is elected to this role by acclamation. The role will begin at the next CBC meeting on a date to be determined.

Suggested process for the Constitutional Review

Members agree on the following process:

- A first intensive weekend meeting to be held in January with a view to:
 - o Identify the main weaknesses to fill in the current Constitution and Bylaws
 - o Review existing models
 - o Identify key questions for the membership
 - o Agree on logistics of the consultation process
- Various consultation activities with the members would be organized over a period of several months
 - o A survey of all members
 - o Focus group discussions (including some in regions outside the NCR)
- A second intensive meeting with a weekend at a date to be determined in order to:
 - o Compile the results of the consultation
 - o Draft the new Constitution and Bylaws

Jessica Squires informed the group that she has already begun to develop graphic models representing different governance options. Members are interested in receiving them for discussion.

According to the NEC strategic objectives, the target date to get members to vote on revised C&B would be within the 3-year term, or at the latest in December 2017. If the process runs smoothly, we can hope that it could be completed for the next Annual General Meeting by November 2016.

Members were informed that a meeting will probably be held before the end of 2015 because the NEC will refer to the CBC the urgent review of Bylaw 5 on discipline. This Bylaw has been very difficult to interpret and to use in a recent situation that required an investigation.

The meeting ends at 16:45