

Motion to change the ASC Constitution – for ASC AGM 2012

Reason for proposed amendments:

Summary:

The proposed amendments:

- remove the current limit of ten representatives a Corporate Member may nominate.
- enable organisations to gradually add staff to their Corporate Membership in excess of ten nominees without having to start a second Corporate Membership.
- specify how the Corporate Membership fee shall be calculated in excess of ten representatives.
- will still allow a Corporate Member to hold more than one Corporate Membership if they wish. CSIRO currently holds two Corporate Memberships covering different groups of staff.
- do not affect the current starting Corporate Membership fee which is set at six times the Ordinary member rate (6x\$88 = \$528) for up to 10 representatives.
- do not affect current voting rights. Each individual Corporate Membership is still entitled to one vote as stipulated by Clause 4.2.2, which is unaffected by the proposed amendments.

Motion to change the Constitution – Motion made by Jesse Shore and seconded by David Ellyard.

We propose the constitution is amended as follows (note: proposed changes to wording in the current and revised clauses are underlined):

Section 4 of the constitution - 'MEMBERSHIP'

Current wording:

- 4.1.2.1 Corporate Members are entitled to nominate up to ten (10) representatives to enjoy the privileges of Ordinary Membership, including attendance at Meetings at the Ordinary Members' rate of entrance fee according to Clause 5.1.2, but subject to the operation of Clause 4.2.2.
- 4.1.2.2 The membership fee for Corporate Members shall be at the rate as determined by the National Council but not less than 500% of the standard Annual Membership Fee. The rate may be changed once each year to come into effect at the annual membership renewal date or at the beginning of the ASC financial year.

Proposed new wording (changed wording is underlined):

An additional entry to the list of definitions:

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.10 "base membership fee for Corporate Members" means the fee paid by Corporate Members to cover one (1) to ten (10) nominated representatives,
- 2.11 "pro rata rate" means the base membership fee divided by ten (10) and applies only to Corporate Memberships.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1.2.1 Corporate Members are entitled to nominate representatives to enjoy the privileges of Ordinary Membership, including attendance at Meetings at the Ordinary Members' rate of entrance fee according to Clause 5.1.2, but subject to the operation of Clause 4.2.2. The National Council may set a maximum to the number of representatives a Corporate Member may nominate.
- 4.1.2.2 The base membership fee for Corporate Members, for one (1) to ten (10) nominated representatives, shall be not less than 500% of the standard Annual Membership Fee. The fee for more than ten (10) nominated representatives shall be the pro rata rate multiplied by the total number of

nominated representatives. The base membership fee for Corporate Members is determined by the National Council and may be changed once each year to come into effect at the annual membership renewal date or at the beginning of the ASC financial year.

- 4.1.2.3 A Corporate Member may nominate additional representatives during their membership period. Once they have exceeded the ten (10) representatives allotted under the base membership fee they shall pay the pro rata rate for each additional representative, or they may take out additional Corporate Memberships.

For information – other clauses referred to in proposed amendments and which will remain unchanged:

- 4.2.2 Representatives of Corporate Members who are not members of the National Council may participate in debates on matters of business at any General Meeting and one representative (or their proxy) nominated by the Corporate Member shall be entitled to vote.
- 5.1.2 The National Council or Committee shall discriminate in favour of members when charging admission to cover meeting costs.

Background:

Corporate Membership is a rapidly growing membership category of the ASC, increasing from two Corporate Members in 2010 to nine in 2012. This activity both reflects and enhances the ASC's growing profile. It may also indicate that organisations are placing a greater emphasis on communicating science.

We encourage our current Corporate Members to become more involved with the ASC. This includes inviting them to contribute articles about their science communication initiatives and issues and to being involved in branch events and the national conference. In return we seek to ensure that the changing needs of current Corporate Members are being met.

The current wording of Clause 4.1.2.1 limits the number of representatives nominated by a Corporate Member to ten. Clause 4.1.2.2 states how the membership fee for Corporate Members is determined and sets the minimum rate, which is the same whether they have one or the maximum of ten representatives.

The current membership rate for Corporate Members is 600% of the standard Annual Membership Fee. This works out at \$52.80 per member for ten representatives as opposed to \$88 for one Ordinary member.

Changing need:

One of our current Corporate Members, with ten nominated representatives, wants to nominate a few newly hired staff to its number of representatives and pay \$52.80 for each additional representative. The National Executive views this as a reasonable request but at present the only option is for the organisation to take out a second Corporate Membership to cover from eleven to twenty representatives. This is a costly option for one or two additional representatives and is a financial disincentive until at least seven people are nominated.

The proposed amendment provides the ASC with flexibility to deal with the needs of different Corporate Members. It enables a Corporate Member to choose to have more than ten representatives in a single Corporate Membership or to add multiple Corporate Memberships to cover staff from different divisions of its organisation.

The cost per representative becomes more economically attractive for mid-sized organisations and may encourage them to include a greater number of staff as representatives.

Financial benefits to ASC of having Corporate Members:

At present each Corporate Member may nominate up to ten representatives. So far nearly all their representatives are new people to the ASC but include a handful of former Ordinary Members. The net result is to increase both the total number of our members and our membership income.

We expect this welcome situation to continue and that it will be unaffected by removing the limit of ten representatives. If conditions change the amendment empowers the National Council to impose a limit on the number of representatives a Corporate Member may nominate.