



Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

According to the Society's Bylaws, amendments are recommended by the AMS Council and approved by the members. To gain approval an amendment must have an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting.

The complete Bylaws can be viewed at www.ams.org/about-us/governance/bylaws. The Bylaws are also published in this, the September 2017, issue of the *Notices*.

First Proposed Bylaws Amendment

The AMS has the following officers: president, immediate past president/president elect, three vice presidents, secretary, four associate secretaries, treasurer, and associate treasurer. The current Bylaws specify that all of the officers are ex officio voting members of Council, except the associate secretaries. At any given time, only one of the associate secretaries is a voting member of Council.

The associate secretaries are responsible for all scientific aspects of the AMS meetings program. Each associate secretary arranges two sectional meetings per year. In addition, there is the annual Joint Mathematics Meeting and a yearly Joint International Meeting. The associate secretaries are responsible for these as well, with one associate secretary handling each meeting in a four-year rotation. The associate secretaries work closely with AMS staff, and represent the AMS to members, colleges and universities, and international mathematicians and societies.

The AMS was founded as the New York Mathematical Society in 1888 with the express purpose of holding meetings. It soon began publishing journals as well, with the *Bulletin* dating from 1891. Today, the AMS has a myriad of activities, but publishing and holding meetings remain as two of its most essential.

The proposed amendment addresses an imbalance in representation on the AMS Council. Currently the chairs of eight AMS journal editorial committees are voting members of the Council. However, a single associate secretary represents meetings of the Society on the Council.

With the proposed amendment, journal editorial committee chairs will have eight votes on Council and the associate secretaries responsible for meetings will have four, a more appropriate ratio. There will be 20 elected members and 15 appointed members, preserving the longstanding AMS policy that the majority of Council be elected members.

This change will allow the Council to benefit fully from the experience and perspectives of the associate secretaries while giving the associate secretaries a role in AMS governance that is commensurate with their contributions to the Society and their status as officers of the AMS.

The Council recommends that Article IV, Section 1 of the AMS Bylaws be changed as indicated below to include all four associate secretaries as ex officio members of the Council.

Current Article IV, Section 1. The Council shall consist of fifteen members at large and the following ex officio members: the officers of the Society specified in Article I, ***except that it shall include only one associate secretary***, the chairman of each of the editorial committees specified in Article III, any former secretary for a period of two years following the terms of office, and members of the Executive Committee (Article V) who remain on the Council by the operation of Article VII, Section 4.

The chairman of any committee designated as a Council member may name a deputy from the committee as substitute. ***The associate secretary shall be the one charged with the scientific program of the meeting at which the Council meets except that at a meeting associated with no scientific meeting of the Society the secretary may designate the associate secretary.***

Proposed Article IV, Section 1. The Council shall consist of fifteen members at large and the following ex officio members: the officers of the Society specified in Article I, the chairman of each of the editorial committees specified in Article III, any former secretary for

a period of two years following the terms of office, and members of the Executive Committee (Article V) who remain on the Council by the operation of Article VII, Section 4.

The chairman of any committee designated as a Council member may name a deputy from the committee as substitute.

Second Proposed Bylaws Amendment

In reviewing the Bylaws in connection with the first proposed amendment, it was observed that the Bylaws are gender-neutral, with the exception of three instances.

The Council recommends the following purely editorial change to the Bylaws: The two appearances of the word “chairman” in Article IV, Section 1, and the one appearance of the word “chairman” in Article VII, Section 2, be changed to “chair”.