

SE DSI Constitution, Bylaws, and Officers Manual Changes

Background

During Council and Officer meetings at the 2011 SE DSI meeting in Savannah, several changes were proposed to the organization's Constitution, Bylaws, and Officers Manual and a new policy was established for the reimbursement of those SE DSI members who are elected to DSI officer or Board positions. Those changes and the rationale behind them were presented to the membership at the 2011 Business Meeting as information items and to allow those in attendance to comment on the proposed actions. Following the Savannah meeting, the proposed changes were written into the formats that would be needed to have them submitted to the DSI Board for approval and then circulated to the SE DSI President, Quinton Nottingham, and Council Chair, Jim Wynne, for comments and revisions. Subsequently, the revised statements were presented at the unofficial Officers and Council meeting held in early October as part of the 2011 SE Informs meeting for final comments and revisions before being submitted as agenda items to the next formal Officers and Council meeting that would be part of the 2011 DSI meeting in Boston. Assuming that final approval will be forthcoming in Boston the changes would be sent to the SE DSI members in good standing for a formal vote. Assuming that the revisions are approved by the voting members, they would then be submitted to DSI to become an agenda item on either its January or April Board meeting for final formal approval.

Four documents are being presented to you today for consideration. The first of these is entitled "Current SE DSI Constitution and Bylaws Sections" which presents the relevant sections of our current documents which are being discussed. The second item is entitled "Proposed Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws of SE DSI" and represents how the proposed changes would affect the current documents. The third item is entitled "SE DSI Officers Manual Changes" and shows how the sections removed from the Constitution and Bylaws would be incorporated into the Officers Manual which is totally controlled by SE DSI and available on our web site for all to see. The final item is entitled "New SE DSI Policy Concerning . . . Reimbursements" which states the new and revised policies of the organization relative to offering limited reimbursements to those elected to serve in DSI officer positions and as the SE DSI Regionally Elected VP.

Rationale for the Proposed Changes

The changes relating to removing the selection processes for the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) and the Outstanding Institutional Support Award (OISA) came after the processes that had been written into the current Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) were implemented for the first time this past year. While trying to follow the procedures in the C&B, it was discovered that those procedures did not fully work as written from an operational standpoint. Since altering the procedures would require a formal change to the C&B every time it might be required, it was decided that those selection procedures would be removed from the C&B and placed in the Officers Manual which the organization could revise and/or alter as needed in the future without having to go through the C&B revision process. Thus the first three documents cited above show the current C&B, the proposed changes to the C&B, and the new parts that would be

inserted into the Officers Manual. None of these proposed changes hides the selection processes from the members as the Officers Manual is available on the SE DSI web site. Rather they streamline the revision process that might need to be further tweaked in the future.

The new policy statement concerning limited reimbursements to SE DSI members who might be elected to DSI offices and/or Board positions and thus have to attend multiple meetings per year, was based on the belief that some members might not run for DSI offices because of a lack of institutional travel support at their home schools. Since SE DSI already had established a policy of limited reimbursements for a member elected as the Regionally Elected VP to DSI, the current policy addition merely extends that reimbursement coverage to all DSI elected positions with a maximum liability each year. This change is viewed as a positive step toward encouraging more SE DSI members to run for DSI offices and Board positions.

Since the policy changes for travel reimbursement are considered operational items that are already part of the SE DSI Officers' Manual and have been approved by the Officers and Council at its November meeting in Boston, no action on those items is required by the voting members of SE DSI and they are effective as of November 19, 2011.

Requested Action on the Proposed C&B Changes

In order for the changes to the C&B to be submitted to the DSI Board for consideration at its next meeting, they must first be approved by the voting members of SE DSI. As a voting member of SE DSI, the Officers and Council of SE DSI request that you vote in favor of these changes.